



CONTENTS

	Page
Examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa for the year ending 31 March 1950 (T/800)	19
Rural economic development of the Trust Territories (General Assembly resolution 438 (V)) (<i>continued</i>)	22
Membership of the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions	23

President: Mr. HENRÍQUEZ UREÑA (Dominican Republic).

Present: The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Iraq, New Zealand, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa for the year ending 31 March 1950 (T/800)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Powles, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Western Samoa, took his place at the Council table.

1. The PRESIDENT, opening the discussion on the annual report on the administration of Western Samoa for the year ending 31 March 1950,¹ called upon Mr. Powles, the High Commissioner of Western Samoa, to make a statement to the Council on that subject in his capacity as special representative of the Administering Authority for that Trust Territory.
2. Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand) introduced Mr. Powles and paid a tribute to his high qualifications.
3. Mr. POWLES (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that without any doubt the most important event of the year 1950 in Western Samoa had been the visit of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific. The Mission had submitted a report (T/792) to the Council and the Administering Authority had sent to the Council a certain number of observations (T/825) on that report. He would be at the disposal of the Council to answer any questions arising out of those two documents.
4. The report before the Council covered the year ending 31 March 1950. In that connexion he pointed out that the date of the financial year in Western

Samoa had recently been changed and that it now coincided with the calendar year. Hence, the Territory had just had a financial year of nine months, extending from 1 April 1950 to 31 December 1950. All future reports on the Territory would also be compiled on the basis of a calendar year. Consequently the next formal report to the Trusteeship Council on the administration of Western Samoa would cover the period between 1 April 1950 and 31 December 1950 and all future reports would be on the basis of calendar years.

5. He wished to give the Council some indication of the events which had taken place in the Territory during the nine months in question so that it could take that information into consideration when discussing the annual report for the period ending 31 March 1950 and the report of the Visiting Mission to the Territory, together with the Administering Authority's observations thereon.

6. In the political field, the period in question had been marked by the steady and smooth functioning of the new organs of government which had been set up under the Samoa Amendment Act 1947. Those organs of government comprised the Council of State, the Legislative Assembly and its standing committees, and the *Fono* of *Faipule*. During the period under review the Legislative Assembly had held two meetings, one in June 1950 devoted to financial estimates and budgetary questions, and the second in September and October 1950 devoted to the adoption of thirteen ordinances dealing with important domestic matters.

7. One of the ordinances adopted had increased the export tax on cocoa from 3 per cent to 10 per cent, which was the ordinary rate of export taxes. The export tax on cocoa had been fixed at a lower rate previously in order to encourage the production of that commodity. Prices of cocoa on world markets had been so high in recent years, however, that there was no longer any need for a lower export tax to encourage the industry.

8. The Legislative Assembly had also taken steps to change the status of Samoan judges on the Native Land and Titles Court, and had granted them exactly the same legal status as that of the two European

¹ See *Report by the New Zealand Government to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of Western Samoa for the year ending 31st March, 1950*, Department of Island Territories, Wellington, 1950.

assessors on the Court. Other legislation passed by the Assembly dealt with the implementation of certain provisions of an ILO convention on indigenous labour and with plant quarantine to guard against the entry of agricultural pests into the Territory.

9. Generally speaking, the political situation in Western Samoa was characterized by stability and equilibrium between the social forces which tended to preserve the old Samoan way of life and those which accorded with modern ideas in the Samoans' aspirations for self-government. Despite that state of equilibrium, society and politics in Western Samoa were not static, and he hoped that the interplay of the forces he had mentioned would eventually, with luck and proper guidance, lead to the development of real and adequate self-government.

10. The period between 1 April and 31 December 1950 had also been marked by the activity of the Commission of Inquiry on District and Village Government appointed by the High Commissioner to study questions of district and local government in the Territory. That Commission was mentioned in the report of the Visiting Mission. The problem had given great concern to the Administering Authority for some time in the past, and the government had been most anxious to solve all questions of local government in close co-operation with the Samoan people themselves. That was why it had decided that the best procedure would be to appoint a commission of inquiry, composed of six Samoan members selected by the High Commissioner for their personal ability and knowledge of Samoan affairs, under the chairmanship of a specially qualified European official. Since it was essential that the recommendations of that commission should be politically acceptable to the Samoan people, the High Commissioner had also appointed eleven associate members, one from each political district of the Territory, to assist the commission in the preparation of its report. The commission had also had the advice and aid of various consultants. It had travelled all over Samoa and had investigated conditions in all villages. The report had been handed to the High Commissioner in December 1950 and was now being printed. A short summary,² however, had been prepared in the meantime, and would be distributed to members of the Council. It was difficult to express any opinion on the recommendations contained in that report at the existing juncture, because of the little time which had elapsed since its completion.

11. During the nine months under consideration, government revenue had amounted to 471,000 New Zealand pounds and government expenditure to 444,000 pounds; thus, there had been a revenue surplus of 27,000 pounds. The surplus had not been as large as in some previous years, but that was rather a matter for gratification than distress, because revenue was quite adequate, while expenditure was restricted by shortages of raw materials and lack of the necessary skilled labour. Those factors often made it impossible for the Administration to carry out many useful projects in the Territory. Hence, he was extremely pleased that the surplus of revenue over expenditure had amounted to only 27,000 pounds, because it showed that many useful public works had been undertaken.

Funds standing to the credit of the Territory had accumulated to the amount of 733,000 New Zealand pounds, representing total government revenue for nearly two years. The Territory had no external debts.

12. Trade statistics had always been supplied on a calendar-year basis and there would therefore be no change in that field. In 1950 the total trade of the Territory had amounted to 2,500,000 New Zealand pounds, which was a record figure. There had been a slight reduction in exports from the Territory, so that the reason for the record figure had to be sought in the favourable prices obtained for exports and in the increased volume of imports. The total quantity of copra exported in 1950 had amounted to 14,000 tons, representing a decrease of 2,000 tons as compared with 1949; the decrease, however, had been due to shipping factors. Cocoa exports had dropped from 2,800 tons in 1949 to 1,800 tons in 1950, a substantial decrease which had been due to two successive crop failures resulting from bad weather. Unfortunately bad weather had again spoiled the crop in January 1951. Banana exports had gone up again, but had not yet recovered from the interruption caused by shipping difficulties during the war.

13. The Department of Agriculture had been re-established, after a long interval, late in 1949. It was extremely useful in connexion with indigenous Samoan agricultural production. The staff of the Department had been increased and its offices were working in close relationship with the Samoan district agricultural inspectors. The duties of those inspectors had in the past been regarded as rather honorary in nature, but a change had been made and better qualified people were now being appointed to those posts. There had been an increase in the cultivation of food crops, and agricultural inspectors paid particular attention to districts where there had been local shortages of food in the past. One of the causes of those shortages was to be found in the indigenous population's love for entertainment, concert parties and similar activities, which had often led them to neglect their plantations. Under the tactful guidance of Samoan agricultural inspectors, that was now being remedied. Much progress had been made in the campaign against the rhinoceros beetle which attacked coconut palms. Plantation hygiene and biological control were the two main methods used in the fight against that destructive pest. There had been a marked increase in the number of coconut palm plantations and copra trading centres.

14. The Department of Agriculture carried out a very strict inspection of the quality of exports; there had been fifty-five prosecutions in 1950 in connexion with copra exports and thirty-one in connexion with cocoa exports.

15. An agricultural census had been carried out in 1950, with assistance from the New Zealand Government, as part of the world-wide Food and Agriculture Organization census, and its results were now being tabulated.

16. Two senior forestry experts, one from Malaya and one from Burma, had studied conditions in the Territory in 1950 and had come to the conclusion that the forestry resources of the Territory should not be reckoned as one of its main assets.

² Later distributed as document T/L.121.

17. In the field of education, many new school buildings had been completed and work on many others started during the period under review. Plans for the erection of Samoa College had been completed and building would be begun some time in 1951. The number of trainees in the Teachers' Training College had increased to 140, and it was expected that the number of graduates from that college would average between forty and fifty a year. However, since the population was increasing at a rate of almost 3,000 a year, forty to fifty new teachers a year would obviously not suffice to meet all future needs.

18. Adult education had been continued during the year and had enabled many Samoans to pass the public service examination. Two students from the high school in Samoa had passed the New Zealand school-leaving certificate examination, which was usually taken by New Zealand students after four years at high school. That showed that the curriculum in Samoa was in harmony with the curriculum needed for higher education in New Zealand.

19. The question of school-leaving age had again been discussed, but no final decision had been reached on the subject. It was still difficult to arrange for children to start attending school early enough to complete their education by the age of sixteen, but much improvement had been made in that field and adolescents of fifteen and sixteen could no longer be seen attending infants' classes, as had often happened in the past.

20. Fifteen new village schools and two district schools had been established in 1950. The Education Department was responsible for the radio education programme for children, which had proved extremely successful in the Territory. The Department was also preparing and trying out text-books in Samoan for the lower grades.

21. In the field of public health, there had been reasonable activity during the period under review. The medical staffing problems had become less acute. There had been five doctors in the Territory for the greater part of the year, making it possible to appoint one doctor to be Medical Officer of Health and to devote himself to preventive medicine in the outlying districts. The nursing service had been reorganized to enable the matron to spend more time in supervising the District Nursing Service. The appointment of a food inspector had been a further development.

22. With regard to new buildings, a tuberculosis ward had been added to the Apia hospital and would soon be in use. In addition, two district dispensary hospitals had been built outside Apia. The mobile clinics were doing invaluable work, and their operations had been extended.

23. During 1950, the Territory had been visited by a team from the New Zealand Medical Research Council which had conducted research on the treatment of yaws. There had also been a visit by a team from the South Pacific Commission's Research Council, which had studied certain aspects of tuberculosis.

24. The statistics for the last nine months of 1950 showed that as much work had been done in that period as in any other twelve-month period, which was an excellent record.

25. The Territory, like others in a similar position, was always faced with certain difficulties in finding senior medical staff. It had been very fortunate in having five doctors for most of 1950, but that might not always be the case. He was glad to inform the Council that the South Pacific Medical Service had at last started to function and would provide a pool of doctors which the various territories concerned could draw upon in times of need.

26. Turning to the question of public works, he said that steady progress had been made in the construction of roads during the preceding year. It had at last become possible to obtain pipes for water supply and to extend the supply to many districts which had long been awaiting it. A new method for financing water supply had been introduced, and a larger proportion of government funds was now used for the purpose since it seemed better to use those funds for constructive work rather than to leave them in the bank. The Administration was, however, trying to preserve the principle of local contributions for such public works, because the fact of having contributed towards their construction gave the local inhabitants a feeling of responsibility for their maintenance.

27. The Assistant Chief Engineer from New Zealand had visited the Territory during the period under review to report on the possibilities of developing the Apia harbour. It had often been suggested in the past that a deep-water dock should be constructed, but the Assistant Chief Engineer had eliminated that suggestion once and for all by stating that the project would cost far too much and that the current method of loading and unloading by lighters was perfectly satisfactory. At the same time he had recommended certain improvements, such as an increase in berthage for small vessels, better facilities for handling the lighters when they came alongside and the construction of a separate dock for passengers.

28. The new hydro-electric scheme, which had been planned for some time past, had finally started to operate early in December 1950. It had been a great boon to the Territory, but as was always the case with such projects, the demand now exceeded the engineers' expectations and consideration was being given to the possibility of increasing the capacity of the plant.

29. One of the difficulties which the Territory shared with most underdeveloped regions was the shortage of trained craftsmen such as plumbers, electricians and carpenters. As soon as they had been trained in the Territory, they tended to emigrate to Australia or New Zealand where they could earn a much higher wage. A report on training prepared by the South Pacific Commission was being examined and he hoped it would result in co-operation among the Pacific Island territories so that they could all increase the number of tradesmen available. For its part, the Territory of Western Samoa was building a manual training building to form part of the Apia school.

30. The Territory was also short of skilled engineers and technicians, but that again was a problem which was not peculiar to Western Samoa.

31. In response to a request made by one of the members of the Council at the previous session, the text of the budget of Western Samoa had been dispatched

to New York and would be circulated to members as soon as it arrived. He would also be able to distribute copies of the annual trade report and copies of the new newspaper which had recently been set up in the Territory. During the previous session, members had expressed great interest in the new newspaper, and he felt sure they would be interested to see a few copies.

32. The PRESIDENT thanked the special representative on behalf of the Council for his very interesting statement.

33. Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina) requested that a verbatim copy of the special representative's interesting and important statement should be circulated to members of the Council as soon as possible.

34. Mr. ALEKSANDER (Secretary of the Council) replied that that would be done.

35. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom), Chairman of the Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, which had visited Western Samoa, expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Visiting Mission for all the help and hospitality extended by the authorities in Western Samoa and by the Administering Authorities of all the Territories visited by the Mission. He wished to thank not only the Administering Authorities themselves but also their local representatives. He was the only member of the Visiting Mission present, but he wished to express his appreciation before the Council for the excellent work done by the other three members. He also thanked the Secretariat for its inestimable co-operation. He still felt however that the secretariat of the Mission had been unnecessarily large.

36. He hoped that his experience in Western Samoa would enable him to play a useful part in the discussion on the annual report for that Territory and the report of the Visiting Mission.

37. The PRESIDENT reminded members that Monday, 5 February, had been fixed as the time limit for the submission of written questions to the special representative. The discussion on the annual report for Western Samoa would be taken up on Wednesday, 7 February.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and was resumed at 4.20 p.m.

Rural economic development of the Trust Territories (General Assembly resolution 438 (V)) (continued)

38. Mr. LAURENTIE (France) recalled that, when the item on rural economic development had come up for discussion at the 316th meeting, his delegation had submitted a fairly lengthy draft resolution (T/L.117) proposing that a committee should be set up to study the question and laying down detailed terms of reference for that committee. After consultation with other delegations, he had decided to withdraw that draft resolution in favour of a revised text (T/L.117/Rev.1).

39. He wished to explain his reasons for submitting the revised text. In the first place, the General Assembly resolution on the subject had been adopted practically unanimously and he had decided that it was better

to reproduce its terms in the Council's resolution than to present a completely new text. In the second place, it was perhaps not appropriate for the Council to prescribe the methods to be used by the committee in too much detail. Moreover, he had realized that his initial text, while elaborating some of the principles to be followed by the committee, had not been exhaustive. He had therefore thought it better to leave the committee free to discuss its own methods of work. He emphasized however that the withdrawal of the original draft resolution did not mean that his delegation had abandoned any of the principles contained in that text.

40. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) expressed his delegation's full support of the French draft resolution.

41. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) also endorsed the draft resolution, but had two small suggestions to offer. First, there was no reference to co-operation with the committee on the part of the Administering Authorities, and to meet that point he proposed that the following words should be added at the end of paragraph 2: "and to that end requests the Administering Authorities to co-operate with the committee whenever necessary".

42. Secondly, he thought it would be desirable, in order to enable the Council to prepare its report to the General Assembly, that the committee should present its final report not later than 1 June 1951, and he moved an amendment to paragraph 3 to that effect.

43. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) asked for clarification of two phrases in the draft resolution: "the present and future needs of the indigenous inhabitants from the standpoint of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System", used in paragraph 1; and "other sources", in paragraph 2.

44. With regard to the second phrase, he would be obliged to reserve his position if it were envisaged that the sources might include, for example, a visiting mission, not provided for by the Charter, to investigate land questions on the spot.

45. The first of the suggestions made by the Iraqi representative was perfectly acceptable to him. It was in fact necessary that the Administering Authorities should co-operate with the committee, and his government was fully prepared to do so. As regards the second suggestion, he had grave doubts that the committee would be able to present a full report by 1 June 1951.

46. Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina) also supported the draft resolution. He regretted that Argentina had been obliged to request that it should not be proposed for membership of the committee, and explained that it had made that request solely on account of the smallness of its delegation.

47. Mr. LAURENTIE (France), replying to the Belgian representative, said it was his understanding that the General Assembly had believed it necessary to recall that the ultimate aim for the peoples of the Trust Territories was that they should attain independence or self-government. Hence, their present and future economy should be planned with that end in view.

48. With regard to the second point raised, the "other sources" referred to should include other international bodies dealing with the same subject, as for example, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs, and specialized agencies. The committee should also be free to seek information from available scientific literature on the subject. He had had no other sources in mind and that list should be regarded as complete.

49. Turning to the suggestions of the Iraqi representative, he said he had no objection to the proposed addition to paragraph 2 of the draft resolution. He would also be prepared to accept the suggestion regarding paragraph 3 if it were interpreted to mean that the report to be submitted by 1 June 1951 would be on the work that could be completed by that date, and that the committee would carry on thereafter with the remainder of its task. It would be manifestly impossible for the committee to produce a satisfactory report on the study as a whole by that date.

50. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) said he, too, supported the draft resolution and was also prepared to accept the first of the Iraqi suggestions.

51. He did not, however, agree that a time limit should be set for receipt of the committee's report. The study to be undertaken was of the highest importance for the Trust Territories and the committee should be given ample time to complete it. According to the terms of its resolution on the subject, it seemed that the General Assembly scarcely expected a final report at its following session.

52. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) agreed to withdraw his amendment to paragraph 3, on the assumption that the General Assembly did not expect a final report in 1951.

53. Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand) expressed his delegation's approval of the French draft resolution and his appreciation of the fact that Thailand had been named to serve on the committee.

54. He agreed with the French representative's understanding of the reference to "the present and future needs of the indigenous inhabitants from the standpoint of the basic objectives of the International Trusteeship System". In recent treaties concluded by Thailand, in conformity with considerations of public policy, the right to own agricultural land was reserved for its nationals, in order to prevent mass settlement of aliens on such land. He understood that the reference in question was meant to ensure that the interests of the Trust Territories in respect of such considerations should be fully safeguarded, and it was with that understanding that his delegation would take part in the work of the committee.

55. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) was prepared to accept such an interpretation.

56. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said it was the view of his delegation that the Trusteeship Council, in implementing the General Assembly resolution on rural economic development, should give paramount attention to the question of land ownership by the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories. Particular attention should be paid to two points raised by his delegation during the General Assembly: first, in the Trust Territories, land which

had been alienated from the indigenous inhabitants by any means whatsoever should be returned to them; and secondly, future alienation of land from the indigenous inhabitants should be prohibited by the Administering Authorities. Since the French draft resolution did not include provisions on those two points, his delegation would be unable to support it.

57. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) felt the USSR representative's observations were premature. The task of the committee would be to study the factual situation, and afterwards, in the light of its report, the Trusteeship Council would draw its conclusions. It would be prejudging the situation to state at the present moment that all alienated land should be returned. The committee might find that, in certain circumstances, alienation of land had not proved wholly prejudicial to the interests of the indigenous inhabitants.

58. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) replied that his remarks had referred to the work of the Council as a whole, regardless of whether or not a committee was established to study the question. Moreover, there was little likelihood of any responsible committee's reaching such a conclusion as that mentioned by the Belgian representative.

59. The problem of land alienation was by no means a new one. Previous discussions in the Council had shown that the alienation of land from the indigenous inhabitants in the Trust Territories was one of the prime evils leading to the miserable conditions of those peoples. In the past, the USSR delegation had time and again called the attention of the Council to that fact and would continue to do so in the future.

60. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) expressed her delegation's support of the French draft resolution and of the first Iraqi amendment. She also took the opportunity to thank the French delegation for having nominated the Dominican Republic to serve on the committee.

61. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the French draft resolution (T/L.117/Rev.1), with the Iraqi amendment to paragraph 2.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Membership of the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions

62. Mr. MUÑOZ (Argentina) pointed out that the fact that the Philippines was no longer a member of the Trusteeship Council raised a question with regard to the membership of the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions. He had been in communication with the Philippines delegation and had been informed that the Philippines was willing to continue to serve on the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions if the Council so desired. The Philippines continued to have a special interest in the work of the Council and would place itself at the disposal of that body whenever its assistance or participation might be deemed to be useful.

63. The PRESIDENT announced that the question would be taken up at a subsequent meeting.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.