

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL

MEETING

OFFICIAL RECORDS



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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 the Pacific Islands for the year ending 30 June 1950 and of the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/808, T/820 and T/789) (*continued*)

At the invitation of the President, Rear Admiral Fiske, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, took his place at the Council table.

1. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands), in reply to a question asked by the USSR representative at the previous meeting, said that elections in the municipalities had been conducted in more than half the cases, and were rather simple inasmuch as the people themselves were simple: the people usually filed in front of a representative of the civil administrator and merely indicated the candidates they preferred.

2. In reply to a further question by Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that the ballot was not secret in the sense accepted in Western democracies, but that it was secret so far as the voters themselves were concerned. Over half the municipalities had elected their officials by so-called secret ballot during the year under review.

3. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) referred to page 16 of the annual report,¹

¹ See Report of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for the period July 1, 1949 to June 30, 1950, transmitted by the United States to the United Nations pursuant to Article 88 of the Charter of the United Nations, Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C., 1950 (OPNAV P22-100-J).

which stated that the Marshallese Congress had been established "as an advisory body to the Civil Administrator". He wanted to know what questions the Congress had discussed during the period under review.

4. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that during its first session, between 4 and 14 July 1950, the Congress had adopted twenty-seven resolutions dealing with such matters as the formation of an export-and-import co-operative association for the islands, price control by atoll municipal councils, community support of schools, aid to war-devastated atolls, payment and division of taxes between municipalities, rights and obligations of the *Iroi* and of the atoll councils, business activities of schools, nomination of judges and clerks of courts, settlement of land claims, use of government land, flow and division of trade goods, investigation of conditions of workers at Likiep, preservation of order and respect for customs, and distribution to the people of the records of the Congress.

5. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether any of the advisory recommendations had been implemented by the Administration.

6. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that the recommendations were purely advisory, and were being considered by the Administration. Speaking of the recommendation regarding the chartering of a Marshall Islands export-import company, he said the charter was now being drafted by the High Commissioner. Many of the recommendations were addressed to the municipalities and the people themselves, asking, for instance, for greater local support and interest in the school system.

7. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said it would be most useful if the Council could obtain the records of the meetings and discussions of the Marshall Islands Congress.

8. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said he

would convey that request to the Administering Authority.

9. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked to what extent the indigenous inhabitants were prepared to participate in the administration of the Territory. The United States had been responsible for the Territory for six years; during that time, people could have been trained for a greater degree of participation in the Territory's government. He wanted to know either the approximate number, or else the percentage, of indigenous inhabitants who had had secondary or higher education and who could therefore take an active part in administrative affairs at a higher level than municipal government, for example, in the congresses or in the so-called youth unions.

10. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that the percentage of people who had had higher or even secondary education was exceedingly small. A few of those who had had a secondary education were now attending the Pacific Islands Teacher Training School and the newly instituted School of General Education. Others, who had had an elementary education, were attending medical and dental schools. Very few played any active part in the administration of the districts. The superintendents of schools in each of the six districts were indigenous inhabitants, as were the administrative assistants to the Native affairs officers. Thirty-nine students from the Trust Territory were attending high school in Guam or the United States. Eleven were attending colleges or universities.

11. The government had been actively fostering the education of indigenous inhabitants and preparing them for participation in their own administration. Very few, however, could as yet be entrusted with full responsibility, even in minor positions. Participation would increase with education and training.

12. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China), turning to economic questions, asked for the Administering Authority's opinion on the Visiting Mission's suggestion (T/789, para. 87) that "the Administering Authority should consider (if politically practicable) lifting the ban on Japanese participation in fishing on such conditions as will ensure an adequate participation by the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory in the industry".

13. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that during the previous year the Administering Authority, in consultation with the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan, had sanctioned Japanese fishing expeditions into the waters surrounding the Trust Territory as far south as the equator, but without access to the territorial waters of the atolls or dry reef areas. The Administering Authority had not yet seen fit to sanction Japanese fishing enterprises based on shore in the Trust Territory. Invitations to American and European fishing interests to negotiate fishing contracts based at suitable locations on shore in the Trust Territory had met with no response, presumably because they were not of sufficient economic interest.

14. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) referred to the problem of Japanese bonds, savings and currency described in the Visiting Mission's report (T/789, paras.

54-60). His delegation shared the Visiting Mission's concern over that problem, which greatly affected the welfare of some of the indigenous inhabitants.

15. With regard to the bonds, the Visiting Mission agreed with the Administering Authority that the latter should press the claims against the Japanese Government and insist that they should be taken fully into account in the peace treaty with Japan. At the same time it suggested that to assure the people that their requests were not being neglected, they should be informed of what was being done towards reimbursing them for their losses in bonds and postal savings.

16. With regard to the unredeemed Japanese currency, the Visiting Mission agreed that the United States Government had never promised to redeem it, and was therefore under no legal obligation to do so. The Mission felt, however, that the Administering Authority would be well-advised to reconsider the whole question in a sympathetic spirit.

17. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that the Administering Authority had considered the question in a sympathetic spirit from the outset, and a survey of all claims was now being made throughout the Territory. The position of the United States Government would undoubtedly be influenced by the provisions of the peace treaty with Japan. If those provisions did not cover the claims of the inhabitants of the Territory, the United States would consider whether the claims should be made the subject of bilateral discussions between the United States and Japan.

18. Mr. LAURENTIE (France) wondered whether the Administering Authority could not give some satisfaction to the holders of Japanese currency while avoiding the difficulty of a complete or immediate refund. For instance, part of the capital of certain companies, such as co-operative societies, could be subscribed in yen, and the United States would afterwards become responsible for that part of the capital.

19. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that the Administering Authority would consider that suggestion.

20. Mr. LAURENTIE (France) said that the Visiting Mission had been informed by the Administering Authority that the restoration of the sugar industry in the Northern Mariana Islands was economically unadvisable. What were the reasons for that decision?

21. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that sugar was essentially a large-plantation project, which required a considerable labour force and modern machinery. The economy of the Trust Territory, however, would remain for some time to come on a subsistence basis, each family producing its own food. Sugar production costs, even under intensive Japanese cultivation, had been higher than world prices would warrant.

22. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) said that in 1948 the Island Trading Company had made a profit of \$100,000, which it had paid to the Treasury. In 1949 the profit had been even higher. He wondered whether the profits

of the company were not a little too high for a people of such small means.

23. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) emphasized that the Island Trading Company was an agency of the civil government of the Trust Territory, not of the United States, and that its sole purpose was the economic development and self-sufficiency of the people. The profits were considered as belonging to the people, and were used for the Territory's economic development.

24. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) said that the Visiting Mission's report indicated (T/789, para. 79) that the copra industry, which was the main source of wealth in the Territory, was threatened by pests. He asked whether anything was being done to save the industry.

25. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that the Administration was taking all the steps within its power to overcome the menace of the coconut beetles through the introduction of parasites. That course had been successful in the Saipan area, but results in the Palau district had been somewhat discouraging. The Administration was also combatting the pest by means of a sanitation programme, which involved cleaning up the beetles' breeding places. The Insect Control Committee of Micronesia, a voluntary association under the auspices of the Pacific Science Board, had been set up, and other means of combatting the pest were under consideration.

26. Mr. CRAW (New Zealand) said that Western Samoa was also trying to combat coconut pests by means of biological controls, and suggested that the authorities of the Pacific Islands and of Western Samoa should exchange information on that subject.

27. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) pointed out that copra was very dependent on the fluctuations of the world market. He wondered whether an agency like the Gold Coast Cocoa Marketing Board had been set up to protect the growers.

28. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that in the Pacific Islands the difficulty had been met by the institution of the Island Trading Company, which had been appointed as the sole exporter of copra. The Island Trading Company, which was a government organization, handled all the copra and sought the maximum returns from any part of the world. The price to the producers had been stabilized, and had been raised recently in view of the more favourable prices on world markets. The Administration had set up a stabilization fund during the past year to provide against the possibility of a depression.

29. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) said that, according to the Visiting Mission, the indigenous population was not very much interested in fishing. If the peace treaty with Japan provided for lifting the ban against Japanese fishermen, would the Administration have any objection?

30. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that the Administering Authority was anxious to protect the people of the Trust Territory against foreign exploi-

tation; hence, it was very careful about licensing any foreign enterprises, including those of the United States. The Administering Authority should take a long view in helping the people to use their own land and resources, rather than a short view which would permit them to be exploited by foreign enterprise.

31. Mr. HAY (Australia) asked for details of the method used by the Economic Development Fund to determine the projects to be financed. Was the decision taken on the basis of projects submitted by prospective indigenous *entrepreneurs*, or did the initiative come from the fund itself?

32. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that the Economic Development Fund had been set up a few months previously, with a capital of \$100,000, from the profits of the Island Trading Company. The High Commissioner had asked civil administrators, the technical staff in the field, and through them the indigenous people, for suggestions. The suggestions were still coming in, and were being examined; some of them had already been approved. The Administering Authority took the utmost care to ensure that projects were sound before financing them. After the High Commissioner had approved a given recommendation of the Economic Development Board, the project was supervised either by the Board or by the Island Trading Company until it was completed. Usually it took the form of a pilot project under the local supervision of the civil administrator, assisted by a special project manager. The intention was eventually to turn the projects over to the indigenous people themselves.

33. Mr. CRAW (New Zealand) asked whether it would be possible to have figures of indigenous deposits in savings banks.

34. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) did not know whether it would be possible to obtain such figures. The Bank of Guam, which undoubtedly had a number of indigenous accounts, had been sold to the Bank of America. Late in 1950 the Island Trading Company had finally received permission to operate a savings bank branch. A nominal interest was paid in the hope of inducing saving among the indigenous population. It was to be hoped, therefore, that some figures of deposits might be available in the following year.

35. Mr. CRAW (New Zealand) referred to the customary tribute mentioned in the annual report. He wondered whether that was a general practice, whether the Administering Authority had to guard against abuses of the system and whether it was disappearing with the spread of education.

36. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that the practice had been general in Micronesia, although not in the Marianas, and that the Administering Authority was not aware of any abuses. The practice was gradually disappearing. It was not harmful and merely represented a nominal traditional gesture.

37. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) referred to the Visiting Mission's statement (T/789, para. 44) that: "Although most islands produce sufficient subsistence crops, many communities do

not produce enough export crops to satisfy their needs." He asked what assistance such communities received from the Administration to improve their conditions and whether they would be able to expand their production for export purposes.

38. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that the areas in question would probably include Palau, where copra production had been cut in half; naturally, the dollar income of that area was not as great as that of islands rich in copra. Exports of copra from Saipan had been affected by the pests he had already mentioned. Furthermore, the very large military establishments formerly maintained in Saipan had been removed, and that had obviously meant a loss of income for the inhabitants.

39. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked for additional explanations of the following statement on page 31 of the annual report: "Products of the territory are presently subject to the same customs duties as products of other foreign countries; exports from the United States to the territory are free of export controls."

40. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that, from the legal point of view, the Trust Territory was foreign territory so far as the United States was concerned. Consequently, metropolitan laws pertaining to customs had been applied. The High Commissioner had told the United States Government that it would be desirable to relieve Trust Territory imports of those duties, and the matter was under consideration. No import duties were charged in the Trust Territory on goods from any foreign country, because virtually none of the imported articles could compete with any product or manufacture of the Trust Territory.

41. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether any country could export anything to the Trust Territory without any control whatsoever.

42. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said there were no customs duties to restrict the flow of goods, but there were security regulations against dangerous products, such as narcotics.

43. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the list of private corporations operating in the Trust Territory which appeared on page 31 of the annual report, asked how many were operated by indigenous inhabitants and what was the amount of their capital.

44. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that the last six of the nine corporations listed were operated by indigenous inhabitants. Flores Bros. Inc., Bordallo Inc. and Mid-Pacific Inc. were shipping companies incorporated under the laws of Guam. He regretted that he did not have any information on the capital of all the firms listed, but would ask the United States Government to include that data in a subsequent report. The capital of the Truk Trading Company had been less than 40,000 dollars when the company was organized and it had been reported as 75,000 dollars when the Visiting Mission was on the island.

45. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it would be noted from the annual report that in 1949 the Administering Authority owned more than 450 square miles of land in the Trust Territory while the indigenous inhabitants owned 240 square miles. Part of the land owned by the Administering Authority had been taken from the indigenous inhabitants by colonizers, especially Japanese colonizers. He wished to know what the Administering Authority had done to meet the demands of the indigenous inhabitants for the return of their land.

46. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said the Administering Authority was seriously concerned over the question of the return of land to its owners. A series of land claim regulations had been promulgated recently and the Attorney-General's staff was dealing with the problem of claims. Very little land would be kept by the Administering Authority for military and civil administration purposes. The Navy Department had recommended that several million dollars should be appropriated to pay for occupation rents, damage to land, severance fees and compensation.

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

47. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the USSR representative's questions regarding the expropriation of land at the 18th meeting of the fifth session of the Trusteeship Council, said that the United States representative had replied at that time that the inhabitants of Bikini had been permanently resettled on Kili and were very happy, as Kili had greater agricultural possibilities than Bikini. The United States representative had also stated that the population of Bikini had been consulted before they had been transferred to Kili.

48. In the Visiting Mission's report (T/789, paras. 96-98) it was stated that Bikini had an extensive lagoon with good anchorage for ships and a much greater land area than Kili, to which sea communications were difficult as there was no lagoon or anchorage. There were no big reefs and lagoons at Kili to furnish an abundance of fish, and the cultivation of food plants, which did not exist on Bikini, must be learned. The report further stated that the Bikini people had not made a satisfactory adjustment to their new home. The copra yield was being divided among all the people, but would not provide enough money to pay municipal taxes, medical fees and the salaries of school teachers. The Administration hoped to give the Bikini people the Jaluit Atoll for an anchorage, and a boat was being constructed for them in order that they might transport supplies and copra to and from Kili.

49. On page 39 of the Administering Authority's report it was stated that the Bikini people were restless because they wished to break away from the established Marshallese customs of land ownership and use.

50. Mr. Soldatov felt that the passages he had quoted showed that the United States representative's statement that the Bikini population was satisfied with living conditions on Kili was incorrect.

51. He wished to know what action had been taken to alleviate the difficult living conditions of the former population of Bikini and of other peoples who had been transferred from their islands.

52. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands), after explaining the difference between the geographical position of Bikini and that of Kili, said that the United States representative's statement that the people of Bikini were well satisfied with Kili was true. After having been transferred from Bikini to Rongerik and then to Kwajalein, they had voted by a two-thirds majority to go to Kili. They had had to make certain changes in their cultural customs, however, and, as there was no lagoon at Kili, had had to adopt different fishing techniques. The Administering Authority had continued to help them and had given them two small islands in the Jaluit Atoll. The people were still undergoing a psychological adjustment, but they had now been given a deed in perpetuity to Kili, which had better agricultural possibilities, and it was hoped that they would take a greater interest in that island and regard it as their home. The civil administrator and his staff visited the island frequently and advised the people on their problems. The civil administration paid the salary of a school teacher and the Island Trading Company had extended generous credits to the islanders.

53. The Administering Authority did not feel that Kili was a worse place for the people of Bikini to live in. Before they had been moved there, a school and a dispensary had been built for them. During the first year after the move the Administering Authority had supplied them with thousands of dollars worth of food-stuffs. Now that they had their own boat, they were able to sell copra from plantations planted by the Japanese, which they had had to clear of tropical vines and undergrowth. They were probably living under better conditions than the people of the northern Marshall Islands, where there was less rainfall and where the atolls were meagre and had little arable land.

54. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom), speaking as Chairman of the Visiting Mission, emphasized that it was perfectly natural for the people of Bikini to retain an affection for their former home. No matter how much was done to make them comfortable elsewhere, they had a nostalgic longing for their island and perhaps tended to give it an exaggerated value now that they had lost it. They had received great help from the Administering Authority and had been moved to an island which had considerable advantages over Bikini, but they felt that the United States Government owed them something in return for their having given up their island. They had received a great deal and were asking for more. By emphasizing their longing for their own island they hoped to secure sympathy from all sides. That was quite natural. He was sure, however, from that he had seen in the Trust Territory, that they would finally settle down quite happily under the generous and helpful guidance of the Administering Authority.

55. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the special representative's reply and the comments of the Chairman of the Visiting Mission, pointed out that the island of Kili had not been populated before the people from Bikini had been moved there. It was poor, distant and inconvenient; it had no lagoon and no anchorage, and it was smaller than Bikini. The people of Bikini had therefore had to change their way of living and their occupations.

They had had to cultivate various plants which had not been cultivated in Bikini and the island of Kili did not provide them with sufficient food. The Administering Authority had not taken adequate measures to improve their situation, nor had it preserved their original social system.

56. He wished to have information from the special representative on the discontent in Kili in 1948, and also on the living conditions of the people of Eniwetok on Ujelang Atoll.

57. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) replied that the people who had been transferred from Eniwetok to Ujelang seemed to be fairly contented, as the agricultural conditions of the latter were very similar to those to which they had been accustomed on the former. The new home had been uninhabited because it had formerly been a Japanese plantation, and had therefore fallen into the public domain.

58. The people on Kili, on the other hand, had admittedly been puzzled about the reasons for their transfer from Bikini, and had for two years hoped eventually to return to their original home. They had at last realized that that would be impossible and had received their title deed to Kili, a boat, homes for each family, gardens and the means to produce copra and subsistence crops—a suitable basis for a new life, although one somewhat different from their old one. True, there was no anchorage on Kili; but small boats could be beached, and the people had been given a harbour and land for their warehouses on Jaluit. Kili had not been inhabited at the time of the transfer because the Japanese had taken over a former German coconut plantation for the commercial production of copra. The land was rich, and the Administering Authority had no doubt that the people from Bikini would enjoy a fuller life there than they had had on their original land, once they became reconciled to the idea that they could never return home.

59. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wished to know what percentage of the net profit of the Island Trading Company had been spent in the Trust Territory area, what taxes the company paid and for what purposes the taxes were used.

60. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) promised to provide the figures at the Council's next meeting.

61. Mr. HAY (Australia), turning to social advancement in the Trust Territory, asked whether the frame and corrugated iron homes referred to on page 39 of the annual report were built by private enterprise and how they were financed.

62. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) explained that such homes had been built from materials salvaged by individuals at the end of the military occupation. While it was inevitable that a certain amount of Western-style dwellings adapted for the tropics would be built around the civil administration headquarters in imitation of the styles prevailing there, the Administering Authority did not feel that such a trend should be encouraged, as the available materials had been exhausted and the cost of importing more of the same kind would be excessive. The Administering Authority hoped that the inhabitants would return to the indi-

genous style of building, which was better suited to the means of the inhabitants and to the climate and materials for which were in ample supply locally.

63. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) requested details on the problem of the manufacture and use of alcoholic beverages in the Territory, in connexion with the petition from the women of Palau (T/Pet.10/3) submitted to the Visiting Mission.

64. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) explained that the petition had been presented to the Palau Congress in April 1950. Influential men had disagreed with the women about the evils of drink, and, after considerable discussion, it had been decided that prohibition should be a matter for local determination by the municipalities. The drink problem was no more serious in Palau than elsewhere in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Administering Authority had rejected requests for permission to import beer into the districts, except in Saipan, where the people were more cultured than the Micronesians. A district order to control excessive drinking had been promulgated and applied with some success. It would probably not be feasible to prohibit the manufacture and consumption of intoxicants throughout the Territory, as local spirits were so easy to produce that there might be illicit distilling and consumption on a large scale.

65. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) said that the Visiting Mission had received a request (T/Pet.10/6) for cement to build rain-water tanks, as the people feared that they might not be able to continue to afford the water supplied by the Administering Authority. If they were unable to do so, he wondered whether the Administering Authority would either supply the water free of charge or be able to make the requisite cement available.

66. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) replied that the water system on Saipan was very extensive. Originally constructed for military needs, it had been taken over by the civil administration, which sold the water to the municipality and it in turn sold it to the families. In the spring of 1950, the inhabitants had been disturbed by the withdrawal of the military authorities and the probability that economic stress would ensue, but the conditions anticipated had not occurred. The civil authorities, by a general programme of encouraging production, had averted the danger of economic difficulties and the people, within the framework of that development programme, had prospered sufficiently either to pay for their water supply or to buy cement from the Island Trading Company.

67. Replying to a question from Mr. HAY (Australia), Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) explained that a seemingly inconsistent reference to labour laws and regulations in the fifth paragraph on page 41 of the annual report was simply a reply to question 153 of the Provisional Questionnaire.

68. In reply to a question from Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) concerning the closing of the classes for training medical and dental assistants at Guam, Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) explained that some fifty-

five students concerned had been flown by chartered aeroplane on 24 January 1951 to Suva, in the Fiji Islands, where they were continuing their studies at the Central Medical College, a centre with a fine reputation. That method was regarded as imposing a smaller burden on the administrative finances of the Territory and as being more efficient.

69. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wished to know the number of indigenous workers currently employed at the Angaur phosphate mines and details concerning their conditions of work and living and their wages.

70. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that about 40 indigenous inhabitants were employed at the mines at wages of approximately 30 dollars a month. It was to be presumed that the local economic and social system would not permit the employment of more men, as it seemed likely that the Japanese Phosphate Company of Angaur would wish to employ as many men as possible.

71. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether there was any system of sick pay or social security in force at the phosphate mines and, specifically, whether a worker received compensation when he was absent owing to illness not directly incurred at work.

72. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) replied that there was not, to his acknowledge, any system of social security as such. The company furnished some medical assistance on the spot and the United States employees' compensation laws applied in case of injury. The worker received no pay unless he was actually working. The people were not compelled to work, but were eager to earn some additional income. If they absented themselves from work, either voluntarily or because they were ill, they simply returned to their families and did not receive such additional pay. The family in the Trust Territory was itself the most effective social security system. In addition, the inhabitants could avail themselves of the Trust Territory's medical programme, with its dispensary and periodic visits by medical officers to all the 370 inhabitants of Angaur. Since the civil administration representative from Koror was likely to pay a visit every few weeks, the worker's interests would be safeguarded if he had any complaint against the mining company.

73. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) drew attention to the statement in the sixth paragraph on page 37 of the annual report that the benefits of the social welfare programme were available to all. That appeared to be untrue in the phosphate mines, where, apparently, no social welfare programme existed.

74. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said that the Administering Authority had not found any need for an extensive social security system because its equivalent was supplied by the family or clan system of the indigenous inhabitants themselves. The social welfare programme referred to in that part of the report was the health and education programme. The

indigenous inhabitants were not subjected to abuse either by other inhabitants or by outside influences.

75. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) failed to see how the situation was consistent with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter. The Charter called for the social advancement of the peoples of the Trust Territories. Yet obviously life in the Pacific Islands was still primitive, backward and tribal in organization. Hence, it was hard to understand any justification for the statement in the fifth paragraph on page 37 of the annual report that there was no apparent need for further extension of social service work in the Trust Territory; that so thoroughly was the problem of social security solved by the people themselves that investigation had uncovered little reason for the Administration to enter the field or make plans for its improvement. Such a statement seemed so inconsistent with the requirements of the Charter that it appeared as if the Administering Authority had simply decided to do nothing for the indigenous inhabitants and to pursue its own objectives, which had little connexion with the interests of the inhabitants, except that it deprived them of two-thirds of their land.

76. Rear Admiral FISKE (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) stated that the Administering Authority had a very real and lively concern for the welfare of the people entrusted to it and was making a sincere and rather effective effort to implement the Trusteeship Agreement.

77. It was true that the indigenous inhabitants lived a primitive life at the subsistence level, but they had ample food and were virtually free from all the mental and moral disturbances which plagued more complex civilizations. The Administering Authority was making an honest endeavour to supply them with education, social services and sanitation, to maintain public order and to obtain the acquiescence and eventually the co-operation of the indigenous inhabitants without arbitrarily disturbing their natural way of life. The Administering Authority was lavishing its own funds on such projects, placing particular emphasis on those points of detail which would best be adapted to an all-embracing programme.

78. It was also true that a considerable amount of land was not currently available to the indigenous inhabitants individually. A great deal of that land was in the public domain, acquired in trust by the Administering Authority and belonging to the whole body of the inhabitants, to whom it would be transferred in due course. Some of it was currently being given to those dispossessed

by the military forces in 1944 and 1945 or by the civilian administration headquarters.

79. Owing to the success of the health projects introduced by the Administering Authority, the population might be expected to double itself in thirty years, so that the high lands held in the Northern Marianas and other islands would be extremely useful for parcelling out in homesteads. The Trust Territory would perhaps eventually be able to support three times its current population.

Request for an oral presentation before the Council

80. At the request of the PRESIDENT, Mr. ALEXANDER (Secretary of the Council) read a cablegram dated 17 February 1951 (T/Pet.6/226-T/Pet.7/183) from a number of organizations in the Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration, requesting a hearing on the Ewe question. The organizations were the Togoland Congress, the Togo Union and the Togoland Youth Organization.

81. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) observed that the documentation on that question was extremely confused and excessively detailed, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a simple working paper embodying the essential points in logical sequence and in the context of the relevant resolutions of the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly.

82. The PRESIDENT said that he was informed that the Secretariat could provide such a document.

83. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) thought that the petitioners should be heard by the Council, but that organizations holding other views should also be given the opportunity to address the Council if they so desired, so that any impression of undue influence by one party would be avoided.

84. Mr. LAURENTIE (France), Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) and Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) agreed in principle that all organizations wishing to speak in connexion with their petitions on the Ewe question should be heard by the Council.

85. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) proposed that the Council's decision should be in the following form:

"In view of the fact that a number of groups have made a request for an oral presentation before the Council, the Council decides to hear their representatives."

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.