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TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Statement by Mrs. Edith S. Sampson, United States Alternate
Delegate to the General Assembly, on Committee IV Resolution on Land Use
in Trust Territories.

When I took a trip around the world in 1949, I had the opportunity of visiting and talking with people in all walks of life. I spent considerable time with those who till the soil and learned something of their needs, hopes and aspirations. Therefore, when at a meeting of the Trusteeship Committee of the General Assembly, on Friday, October 20 a resolution was approved by a vote of 48-0-2 asking the Trusteeship Council to study problems of distribution and utilization of land in Trust Territories, I was indeed gratified. This is a step of great importance. Some 18,000,000 indigenous inhabitants will be directly affected. The areas in question are certain islands of the Pacific, Italian Somaliland, the Camercons and Togolands of West Africa, Tanganyika and Ruanda Urundi. The work of the Council, and the results it achieves will be watched by hundreds of millions of people in the world for whom the land is the sole source of livelihood.

The second part of the resolution is of vital importance. It asks the Trusteeship Council to make its recommendations serve the purpose of economic and social development. In doing so it goes to the root of the complicated, basic problems which now handicap these people.

They have been suffering from insecurity. They need to develop qualities of self-reliance and self-sufficiency. There is no better way than to give them assurance that the land they till is their own and will continue to be their own; that the fruits of the land will not be taken from them unjustly.

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