

PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CONCLUDES DEBATE ON TRUST TERRITORY OF PACIFIC ISLANDS

Marianas

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, June 21 . . . The U.N. Trusteeship Council concluded its general debate on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands on June 16. It heard the statements of the Representatives of Australia and New Zealand, and also the Special Representative of the United States. (U.N. Press Releases TR/1915)

Trust

Ponape

Following the general debate, the Council turned its attention to a petition complaining about the irregularity in the field service trips in the Marshall Islands District of the Pacific Islands and to a discussion of the implementation of various General Assembly resolutions concerning Trust Territories.

Marshalls

Views of Australia

B.B. Hickey (Australia), said that adequate communications were vital to the development of the Territory, and he urged that roads--especially those that would stimulate the economy--be given top priority. The local governments should participate in this area of development, similar to what prevailed in the Australian-administered Trust Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

Yap

Palau

He said that shipping and air services should also be developed. By accepting most of the Nathan Report, in his view, the Administering
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Authority indicated that it did not wish to keep the Territory permanently dependent.

His delegation welcomed the introduction of the Peace Corps into the Territory, but had some reservations about the number of volunteers that would be there by the end of the year. In his view, the Administering Authority should make sure: that the volunteers were made aware of and taught to respect the values and mores of the local society; that the Administering Authority kept an observant eye on the relations between the volunteers and the permanent civil servants; and that the number of volunteers did not tend to decrease the self-sufficiency of the Micronesians.

In the field of education, the Representative of Australia said that his delegation was glad to note that the Administering Authority was re-evaluating the educational system, but he would like to see it use the services of the United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization (UNESCO), as suggested in the Visiting Mission Report. In his view, steady progress was being made in the field of education.

His delegation was pleased to hear of progress in the settling of unpaid war claims. His delegation had reservations about allowing civil servants to be politicians.

He felt that the Congress of Micronesia should meet more often. The Congress should study and debate the budget before it was submitted

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to Washington, he said, adding that his delegation believed that, in the future, the legislature should have greater control over the budget.

The time had arrived when the Micronesians should take a larger role in the executive branch of government, he went on.

In his view, the Administering Authority was making steady progress in all areas.

Views of New Zealand

David Keith McDowell (New Zealand) said that the basic differences between the United Nations Trust System and the League of Nations Mandate System was the present ability to dispatch a Visiting Mission, and the right of petition which allowed the Trusteeship Council to be informed directly about the feelings of the people.

He observed that Micronesia would soon be ready for self-determination.

Referring to the Nathan Report and the report of the Visiting Mission, he said that while both reports suggested stimulation of the Territory's economy, they suggested that it be done through the importation of foreign capital, labor and skills. His delegation felt that these should be carefully curtailed to ensure that the Micronesians participated in the economic growth. The Micronesians should be provided with the technical advice necessary to enable them to improve their output.

Regarding the Congress of Micronesia, he said that such laws as those on land ownership and elections were significant and would shape the society.

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Micronesia had now reached a stage where it needed full-time legislators, the time had come for the Micronesians to exercise greater power in making executive decisions.

Views of Mr. Norwood

In his statement, W.R. Norwood, Special Representative of the United States, said that the United States hoped to provide the Micronesians with a physical, economic and political environment that would assure them of a rewarding future. In his view, there appeared little disagreement among the members of the Trusteeship Council on the conditions in Micronesia. Where there were differences of opinion, they were, in the main, over how rapidly the Administering Authority should move, but much still remained to be done.

No one single program in the areas of health, education, transportation, communications and political, economic or social development could stand alone. "All are inter-dependent," Mr. Norwood stated.

He said that the Congress of Micronesia had enacted legislation establishing land commissions. Over the years, the Government had tried to determine the ownership of disputed lands, so that now most of the land used by the Government was not subject to claims by Micronesians.

However, he said, the Government would probably have to acquire some additional land now privately owned. This would be used to provide the various governmental services that would be required by Micronesia's rapidly growing population.

The Nathan Report had provided helpful guidelines for the economic development of the Territory, the Special Representative of the United

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States went on. The recommendations of this report were studied, and the Administering Authority planned to distribute a summary of it throughout the Territory to stimulate discussion and create a broad understanding of what must be done to develop the economy.

He said that the time had come for the Micronesians to assume more responsible roles in the administrative, as well as in the legislative branches of Government. Some procedure needed to be devised to allow the Congress of Micronesia to participate more directly and influentially in the formulation of the annual budgets and allocation of funds.

Views of Mr. Kabua

Amata Kabua, Special Representative of the United States and member of the Senate of the Congress of Micronesia, said that his people were confident that the Administering Authority and the High Commissioner would recognize the need to allow the Micronesians to move into positions of authority on their way towards self-determination.

Petition on Marshall Islands

Following the conclusion of the general debate on the item, the Council turned its attention to a petition concerning transportation in the Marshall Islands District.

Pavel Fedorovich Shakhov (Soviet Union) asked if the United States could indicate more specifically what it was going to do about the conditions mentioned in the petition. The petitioners, he said, had been complaining for three months, and nothing had been done, he said.

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Mr. Norwood, Special Representative of the United States, said that plans were being made to acquire more vessels, and that he was negotiating with the United States Coast Guard to supply some of the needed services.

Mr. Shakhov (Soviet Union) said that this answer was too general and did not fully answer the questions raised.

Mr. Kabua, Special Representative of the United States, said that, formerly, Navy planes had been used to remove patients from the outer atolls. These services were no longer available, and the vessels used in the field trip services had to be used, thus interrupting the normal work of the field services.

In addition, demands for these field services had increased, while two of the vessels used had recently spent almost three months in dry-dock, creating further irregularities in the field services.

Mr. Shakhov (Soviet Union) said the explanations given could scarcely be considered satisfactory. He asked the Council to consider a proposal that the Administering Authority take immediate steps to fulfil the requests mentioned in the petition.

In response to a question from John Shaw (United Kingdom), Mr. Kabua said his Government was trying to see that the services were improved, but that it was financially restricted.

Mr. Shaw (United Kingdom) said that Mr. Kabua had misunderstood his question. He asked how seriously the inhabitants of the atoll were in danger of running out of food when the field trip services stopped.

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Mr. Hickey (Australia) asked if it was true that the school on the islands had to close down.

Mrs. Eugenie M. Anderson (United States) said, in response to the proposed resolution of the Soviet Union, that, according to the rules of procedure, such proposals should be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General and circulated 24 hours in advance of a meeting.

Mr. Shakhov (Soviet Union) said he was willing to do that, but added that, if the United States would explain what it was going to do about the situation mentioned in the petition, the resolution might not be needed.

Mrs. Anderson (United States) requested that the Soviet Union put its resolution in writing.

Mr. Norwood, in response to the questions of Australia and the United Kingdom, said that the economy of the islands was basically of a subsistence nature. He did not doubt that there were shortages in some food-stuffs or that the school was closed because of the disruption in the field service trips. Before he had left Micronesia, he said, the Administering Authority had been searching for additional vessels to relieve the situation.

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