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President: Mr. Miguel Rafael URQUIA (El Salvador).

Present:

The representatives of the following States members of the Trusteeship Council: Australia, Belgium, China, El Salvador, France, India, New Zealand, Syria, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of New Guinea: (a) annual report of the Administering Authority (T/1114 and Add.1, T/1122, T/1124); (b) petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure (continued)

[Agenda items 4 (c) and 5]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. J. H. Jones, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of New Guinea, took a place at the Council table.

GENERAL DEBATE (concluded)

1. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) was surprised that, at the previous meeting, the USSR representative had stressed the need to replace the head tax by a progressive income tax, in view of the fact that, according to the annual report,¹ no head tax was levied in the Territory.

2. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that his remarks had related to page 24 of the annual report, on which reference was made to the rule passed by the Baluan Village Council concerning the levying of taxes during the financial year 1953. That rule prescribed three rates of taxation for the male population; it also required women who wished to become eligible to vote to pay a special tax.

¹ See Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of New Guinea from 1st July, 1952, to 30th June, 1953, Commonwealth of Australia, 1953.

Such taxes were undoubtedly a form of head tax. Since such a tax was not just, the USSR representative in his statement had suggested that the head tax should be replaced by a progressive income tax or at least by an income tax which would take into account the capacity of the indigenous people to pay. He further noted that the Belgian representative had seemed to be satisfied with that answer.

3. Mr. FORSYTH (Australia) regretted that members of the Council still had some doubts on that delicate issue; he would be glad if the special representative for New Guinea could be given an opportunity to make the position clear.

4. The PRESIDENT invited the special representative for New Guinea to make a statement on the understanding that members of the Council would have an opportunity, if they so wished, to make further observations and to exercise their right of reply, either on the conclusion of the statement or at the time the Council was considering its draft report.

5. Mr. JONES (Special representative for New Guinea) was glad that most members of the Council had recognized the difficulties facing the Administering Authority by reason of the fact that New Guinea was by far the most backward of all Trust Territories, a fact which should be borne constantly in mind, particularly in any discussion of the political advancement of the indigenous population. The observations on that subject made in the report (T/1078) of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Pacific, 1953, were relevant in that connexion.

6. Many representatives had praised the work of the exploratory patrols, through which those parts of the Territory which had not hitherto been penetrated were gradually but successfully being brought under the influence and control of the Administration. The Administration would ensure that the remaining restricted areas were brought under its control as soon as possible. It would, however, be inadvisable and ill-judged to alter the methods which had proved successful in undertaking that hazardous and important task in the hope of making more rapid progress. The only delegation which had criticized the Administration's work in the restricted areas had been that of the USSR, whose attitude, despite the views expressed by two visiting missions and the information given during the examination of annual reports, showed a determination to ignore the facts and to paint a picture of the situation entirely at variance with the facts.

7. Some representatives had noted with concern that only two members of the indigenous population were associated with the work of the Legislative Council and that indigenous representatives were not included on the non-statutory district and town advisory councils. The Administering Authority fully appreciated and shared their concern, but it considered that any attempt to bring about the participation of the indigenous population in the political organs of the Territory at the present stage would be premature and unwise. In that connexion, attention should be drawn to the fact that the interests of the indigenous inhabitants were safe-

guarded by the presence in those political organs of official members of the Administration. The situation in New Guinea was such that the population needed guidance and experience before they would be able to participate fully in the political life of the Territory; it was precisely for that purpose that the Trusteeship System had been established.

8. The Administering Authority was fully conscious of the necessity of training the indigenous population in political matters and had already prepared and put into effect plans with that end in view. The best evidence that that was the Administration's objective was the increasing number of statutory village councils. The Administration felt that such councils, which could gradually replace the existing tribal structure, were an appropriate point of departure in leading the indigenous people to a greater comprehension of political institutions. The number of councils would rapidly increase as soon as the indigenous inhabitants showed themselves capable of conducting their own affairs efficiently, with adequate supervision and guidance.

9. One important aspect of political progress had not yet been mentioned — the efforts of the Administering Authority to weld the numerous tribal groups of New Guinea into a single people speaking a common language. It should not be overlooked that New Guinea was inhabited by very diverse peoples, each with its own language and customs and, before the advent of the Europeans, continually at war with one another. At the present time, in all areas under control of the Administration, the indigenous inhabitants mixed together and considered themselves as members of one people. Two factors had contributed to that result — the efforts of the Administration to teach the people the basic principles of citizenship and the rudiments of morality, and the spread of Melanesian Pidgin English, which it was hoped sooner or later to replace by English.

10. The Syrian and USSR representatives had expressed the view that the administrative union between Papua and the Trust Territory was not in the best interests of the latter. The Australian representative had already explained the advantages of that administrative union; Mr. Jones would therefore merely add that it was the most efficient method of administering the Territory and was authorized by the Trusteeship Agreement.

11. The representative of Syria had suggested that the jury system should be introduced in court cases involving members of the indigenous population. While the Administration hoped to introduce that system in New Guinea, it felt that its proper functioning required of jurors greater knowledge and experience than the indigenous inhabitants at present possessed. The question of granting legal recognition to indigenous tribunals was under consideration, and the Council would be kept informed of any decisions taken.

12. Some representatives had referred to the desirability of drawing up a comprehensive development plan for the Territory. The Administration was fully aware of the need for adequate planning, but considered that the method it was at present following was the most appropriate in present circumstances in view of the fact that the surveys and studies being undertaken to determine the Territory's resources had not yet been completed and some time would elapse before a complete picture of New Guinea's economic potential could be obtained.

13. The Administering Authority was very satisfied with the development of the co-operative movement in the Territory and would continue to foster and encourage it to the fullest possible extent. It regarded the co-operative movement as the best method of ensuring greater participation of the indigenous population in the economic life of the country.

14. It had been suggested that the taxation system should be reformed with a view to increasing the Territory's revenue. The Administration had been considering the question of taxation with particular reference to the need to increase the Territory's revenue without diverting investments by reason of excessive taxation or duties. The Administration felt that for the time being it would be inappropriate to alter the incidence of taxation. Where the imposition of direct taxation on the indigenous population was concerned, it must be borne in mind that the Territory still had essentially a subsistence economy; the only direct taxes were therefore those which the indigenous inhabitants themselves imposed through the village councils. In reply to the USSR representative, he wished to make it clear that the taxes levied by village councils took into account capacity to pay and were applicable principally to landowners and residents of villages who could meet the payment without hardship; special rules were applicable in cases where indigenous inhabitants had difficulty in paying their taxes. When the village councils had informed the Administration of their wish to establish their own treasuries and to impose the rates and taxes within their areas, the Administration had explained to them exactly what that decision involved and had stated that it was prepared to approve any rule made by the councils, provided that it did not inflict financial hardship on the inhabitants of the village. Wherever that system was applied, the indigenous inhabitants expressed great satisfaction at the way in which it functioned.

15. Contrary to the Syrian and Soviet Union representatives' belief, the Territory's fiscal system did not benefit only the European companies, and the aim of persons investing capital was not simply to exploit the Territory's human and natural resources. Most underdeveloped countries welcome the investment of foreign capital; in New Guinea such investment was essential if the Territory's natural resources were to be adequately developed.

16. The USSR representative had alleged that land had been alienated to Europeans against the interests of the inhabitants. Mr. Jones wished to reiterate that the indigenous people's rights were fully safeguarded and that land was never alienated without the indigenous owner's express consent. It should also be stressed that only 2 per cent of the cultivable land had been alienated; most of that land had been leased and would eventually revert to the Administration and be available to the indigenous community if at some later date it was needed.

17. With regard to social advancement, several representatives had suggested the abolition of corporal punishment. The laws relating to that punishment had been amended; corporal punishment had been abolished for all but four offences. The Administration hoped that it would be possible further to restrict the classes of offences for which corporal punishment might be ordered.

18. With regard to restrictions on the indigenous population's movements, the laws had been changed, so that such restrictions now applied only to certain

towns, a list of which was issued from time to time by the Director of District Services and Native Affairs. Thus, the restrictions were now imposed only where necessary in the interests of good order and public welfare.

19. The Administering Authority was fully conscious of the need to improve medical and health facilities in the Territory; it had made very great efforts in that direction. The Administration was proceeding as rapidly as possible with its hospital-construction programme. It was doing its utmost to reduce the incidence of infant mortality, in particular by extending the infant and maternity welfare services to the more remote areas, where the infant mortality rate was highest.

20. Certain representatives had stated that wages paid to indigenous workers were excessively low. He had already explained that the figures quoted by those representatives were the minimum rates, and that few, if any, workers received only the minimum wage. It should not be forgotten, too, that there was no compulsion on the indigenous inhabitants to engage in any form of work; they were subject to no pressure, either administrative or economic; if they agreed to work, it was because they thought working conditions satisfactory. The average cash wages for some occupations was as high as £13 per month, plus free rations, clothing, equipment and hospital services. They were also entitled to free transport from their home to their place of employment. Wives and children, when accompanying the head of the family, were entitled to the same benefits in kind. It would be interesting to calculate how much was left to workers in other countries after they had paid for items such as food, clothing, rent, etc.

21. With regard to educational advancement, the Administering Authority believed that the essential thing was to lay firm foundations, namely, to increase the number of primary schools and teacher-training institutions. The development of secondary education and higher education would of course follow that of primary education.

22. The representatives of Belgium and France had drawn particular attention to the position of religious missions in education and had suggested that the Administering Authority might consider granting greater financial assistance to them. He was sure that the Australian Government would give that suggestion the most serious consideration. Missions were represented on the Education Advisory Board and so could express their views on all aspects of educational advancement.

23. The representative of China had referred to the slight decrease in the expenditure on education. The assurance could be given that the Administering Authority would not wish to retard the pace of educational development by any lack of funds; as soon as it was possible to use further budgetary allocations effectively, that would certainly be done.

24. The representatives of Syria, India and the Soviet Union had expressed the view that it should not be necessary to maintain separate schools for indigenous children. He had already had occasion to explain that, for the time being, differences in language, attainments and receptivity to instruction made the present arrangements necessary. It should not be forgotten, however, that the standards were the same in all schools and that the indigenous inhabitants might receive scholarships for higher education in Australia.

25. The Soviet Union representative had stated that only one fifth of the population of school age was attending school. That was incorrect. His mistake was no doubt due to the fact that he was comparing the number of pupils to the total number of children, not to the number of children of school age.

26. In conclusion, he hoped that further study of the annual report and of the information supplied during the discussion would enable the Soviet Union representative to revise his statement that the situation in the Trust Territory was unsatisfactory in all respects. He appreciated the many constructive suggestions made in the course of the general debate and thanked the members of the Council for their courtesy and consideration.

27. After Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) had stated that he wished to comment upon the special representative's reply, Mr. FORSYTH (Australia) recalled that the USSR representative had already spoken in the general debate and stated that if any member of the Council took the floor to reply to the special representative, the Australian delegation reserved the right to speak again.

28. The PRESIDENT expressed the opinion that in the interests of the Trust Territories the Council's debate should be as thorough and complete as circumstances required. The debate did not necessarily end with the special representative's reply; all members of the Council were entitled to comment on that reply, and the Administering Authority and the special representative were entitled in turn to advance all the considerations to which those comments had given rise.

29. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed with the President and reminded the Council that that was the procedure followed so far.

30. Commenting on the special representative's statement, he said that the Soviet Union delegation had to point out every year that the situation prevailing in the Territory was unsatisfactory because the data supplied by the Administering Authority and the visiting missions revealed that the situation had not improved, that if there were any changes they were mainly for the worse. Like the special representative, he would like to hope that his delegation would not have to point out once again at the next session that the situation was not satisfactory in any respect. However, it was for the Administering Authority, not the Soviet Union delegation, to see that that hope was fulfilled. If no improvement was shown, the USSR delegation would not hesitate to declare that the situation was not satisfactory in any respect, because that would be the truth, as it was the truth about the year under consideration. An examination of the information on the Territory's political, economic, social and cultural conditions supplied by the Administering Authority itself and which it could not therefore challenge would convince anyone of that fact. The Administering Authority's representatives said that they put no faith in information gleaned from the Press and tried to cast doubts on its reliability or simply repudiated it.

31. The special representative had tried to create the impression that the Soviet Union delegation was the only one which thought that the so-called administrative union of New Guinea and Papua was contrary to the principles and purposes of the International Trusteeship System. That was not so: at the 544th meeting, the Syrian representative had expressed the same opinion. It was not really an administrative union, but a complete merger, involving the Territory's economic

and political life; in the Administering Authority's annual report as in Australian legislation, a single Territory was referred to—the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. No provision of the Trusteeship Agreement authorized the Administering Authority to make such a merger between the Trust Territory and the colony of Papua. The Administering Authority alleged that the Trust Territory benefited from it. That was not so; actually, the union hampered New Guinea's political advancement. It was enough to recall that of the 29 members of the joint Legislative Assembly of Papua and New Guinea only two represented the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory to realize what the true situation was.

32. The Soviet Union delegation had not been alone in protesting against the continuation of corporal punishment in New Guinea; many other delegations in the Trusteeship Council and in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly had expressed similar views. The Assembly and the Council had adopted several resolutions requesting its immediate abolition. Quite obviously, if corporal punishment had not been abolished before the Council's next session, the Soviet Union delegation would once more criticize that barbarous practice and demand its immediate abolition. The Administering Authority, far from abolishing that system, stated only that it would be possible to restrict its application as the people progressed. Did the Administering Authority consider such an iniquitous practice an effective means of promoting the advancement of the population?

33. The USSR delegation had studied the reports carefully, and had come to the conclusion, after mature consideration, that the situation in New Guinea was unsatisfactory in every field, a view which was confirmed by the information supplied by the Administering Authority itself. In the political field, the people had no share at all in the conduct of their country's affairs. The Territory's economy was characterized by a backward agricultural system, practised by the indigenous inhabitants according to the most primitive methods and with the most rudimentary equipment. In the social field, the wages of indigenous workers were extremely low. The Administering Authority's report showed that the number of deaths due to malnutrition had increased. The standard of living of the indigenous inhabitants was so low that according to an article published in the Australian Press prison meant to them not a punishment but a place where they could receive some food and shelter. As for conditions of health and hygiene, data compiled by an eminent ethnologist employed by the Administration showed how backward they were: in 1950-1951 the population of New Ireland had been 27.1 per cent lower than in 1929-1930. According to figures supplied by the Administering Authority itself, the infant mortality rate in that area was 195 per 1,000. In the western islands of the Trust Territory the rate was 230 per 1,000 and in the Sepik area it reached the enormous figure of 454 per 1,000. In the educational field, the Administering Authority itself had reported that the illiteracy rate was high, and in uncontrolled areas absolute. The special representative had attempted to show that the number of schools run by religious missions had increased; however, he had forgotten that the number of pupils in such schools had decreased, as had the number of children attending the Administration's schools — facts which were clearly confirmed by figures quoted in the UNESCO report (T/1124) — and that

in any event the United Nations had placed the responsibility for education of the population on the Administering Authority, not on religious missions.

34. Thus, the only conclusion that could be drawn from the Administering Authority's reports was that the situation was highly unsatisfactory in every respect. However, the USSR delegation had not confined itself to criticism, as the special representative had suggested; it had recommended to the Council the adoption of a number of constructive measures which would improve the position of the indigenous population and ensure the attainment of the purposes of the Trusteeship System and the practical implementation of the principles on which they were based.

The meeting was suspended at 4.5 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

35. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) said he wished to comment on the replies the Australian representative and the special representative had given to his observations on the situation in New Guinea. The statement he had quoted at the previous meeting concerning the future of the Territory was certainly an official one, having been made by Mr. Anthony, at that time Postmaster-General of Australia and in that capacity a member of the Australian Cabinet. True, Mr. Anthony's statement had not been couched in rigid terms but it was none the less calculated to create some misgivings about the way in which the future of the Trust Territory was viewed in certain official circles; and Syria, as a member of the Trusteeship Council, had the right and the duty to voice any misgivings, however slight, which it might feel.

36. With reference to the special representative's reply, the Syrian delegation's statement that it intended to criticize rather than to praise had been prompted solely by its desire to share in the responsibilities laid upon all members of the Trusteeship Council by the Charter. Criticisms levelled at the Administration of a Territory were made in a constructive spirit, and should in no circumstances be misconstrued in a way which might offend the perhaps unduly sensitive susceptibilities of some members of the Council.

37. The explanations offered by the special representative in reply to Mr. Tarazi's comments on the tax system in New Guinea had failed entirely to convince him. The special representative did not seem to have understood the scope of the questions. He had said that there were import and export duties, but such duties were obviously borne mainly by the consumer, and their existence in no way invalidated the point that so long as there was no income tax, companies trading in the Territory suffered no taxation at all.

38. The special representative's statements about the administrative union between Papua and New Guinea were equally unconvincing. The union in question was not an administrative one; it was a political union, indeed, a federation, in the strict sense of the term.

39. Mr. Tarazi once again assured the Council and the special representative that his criticisms had in no way been intended to embarrass the Administering Authority or the Administration of the Trust Territory of New Guinea; they had been prompted solely by his sense of duty.

40. Mr. JONES (Special representative for New Guinea) thanked the Syrian representative for having clarified his previous remarks.

41. He had listened carefully to the USSR representative's statement, but had found nothing new in it. The facts described in the annual report illustrated the

progress accomplished in the Territory clearly enough to render unnecessary a point-by-point refutation of the USSR representative's arguments.

42. After a brief exchange of views on the further order of the discussion on the Trust Territory of New Guinea, in which Mr. MENON (India), the PRESIDENT and Mr. FORSYTH (Australia) took part, the PRESIDENT pointed out that he did not intend to restrict the discussion in any way.

43. Mr. MENON (India) again reserved the right to speak again during consideration of the draft report.

Mr. J. H. Jones, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of New Guinea, withdrew.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON NEW GUINEA

44. The PRESIDENT proposed that a committee, composed of the representatives of China, Syria, the United Kingdom and the United States, should be appointed to prepare the chapter in the Council's report dealing with New Guinea.

45. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) said that his delegation would not be able to be represented in the committee owing to pressure of work.

46. The PRESIDENT suggested that India might be a member of the committee.

47. Mr. MENON (India) said he must decline. The special representative's reply and the reservation made by the Australian representative made further debate necessary. If the drafting committee was made up as the President had suggested, the majority of its members would represent a certain point of view and its report would not reflect the opinions of other delegations. Either membership of the committee should be better balanced, so as to include, for example, the USSR representative, who had made a large number of criticisms, or the representative of El Salvador, or the Indian delegation would prefer to retain a free hand and state its views during the debate on the committee's report.

48. The PRESIDENT proposed that the drafting committee should be composed of the representatives of China, the United States, the United Kingdom and El Salvador.

49. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he considered it necessary to point out that at the present time there was no representative of China in the Trusteeship Council. Accordingly, the USSR delegation would vote against the appointment to the drafting committee of a person who did not represent China and who was illegally occupying the seat of China on the Council.

50. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) said the USSR representative was well aware that the validity of the Chinese delegation's credentials had repeatedly been confirmed by the various organs of the United Nations.

51. The PRESIDENT proposed, in view of the USSR representative's objection, that the Council should follow the procedure it had adopted in the past in similar cases and should vote separately on each nomination.

The nomination of China was approved by 7 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.

The nomination of El Salvador was approved by 9 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The nomination of the United Kingdom was approved by 8 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

The nomination of the United States was approved by 8 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

52. Mr. FORSYTH (Australia), explaining his vote, said that he had abstained from voting on the election of members to the Drafting Committee because the discussion on New Guinea had brought out certain differences of view.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa: annual report of the Administering Authority (T/1119, T/1122, T/1126) (continued)

[Agenda item 4 (b)]

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

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND REPLIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (continued)

53. Mr. ROBBINS (United States of America), reverting to the question of co-operatives raised at the previous meeting by the Syrian representative, asked whether the Registrar of Co-operatives called for under the Co-operative Societies Ordinance had taken up his duties.

54. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that the ordinance in question, which had been adopted in 1952 and promulgated in 1953, was mainly designed to prevent any organization or group from illegally assuming the title of "co-operative". In 1953 Mr. Surridge, adviser on co-operatives to the British Colonial Office, had visited the Territory and had given advice on measures to be taken to inaugurate a system of co-operatives. He had suggested that the Administration should proceed very cautiously during the initial years, so as to give the co-operative movement a good start, and had advised that no attempt should be made to register co-operatives before the services of an experienced registrar had been secured. The Registrar appointed had taken up his post only three months previously. At the time when Mr. Edmonds left, the Registrar had been preparing a set of regulations on co-operatives, which had probably come into force since. The way was now open for the registration of co-operatives in accordance with the provisions of the ordinance and the regulations.

55. Mr. ROBBINS (United States of America) asked whether the Administering Authority had taken definite action to encourage the formation of co-operatives, and whether the Samoan people showed interest in the movement.

56. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that in 1953, before the Registrar of Co-operatives had been appointed, the Government had done some initial propaganda work by radio. The public had thus been informed, and were very interested at the time when Mr. Boyan, the new Registrar, arrived in the Territory. After making a number of trips around the Territory, Mr. Boyan had found that there were 19 groups who wished to form themselves into co-operatives. The only disappointing feature, in Mr. Boyan's opinion, had been that the great majority of them proposed to organize trading rather than producer co-operatives. Some of the groups had already begun commercial activities. Unfortunately, they had not been successful, and Mr. Boyan intended to get the groups into a more businesslike form of organization.

The Registrar had a Samoan assistant, who was of great assistance to him.

57. In reply to another question by Mr. ROBBINS (United States of America), Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) confirmed that the Planters' Association still had only one Samoan member. Most Samoan planters were *matais*, and they were therefore not in the same position as leasehold plantation operators. It was also possible that the Samoans felt no need to join the Association since it never refused them its advice and assistance.

58. Mr. ROBBINS (United States of America) asked whether systematic forest utilization would not be advisable in view of the small area of the forest reserve.

59. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that was a very important point. At the present time, there was no great forest industry in the Territory, though it had some timber resources. The trees were too scattered to permit of intensive exploitation. Nevertheless, a topographic survey of the Territory was being made to ascertain whether large-scale forestry reserves could be established in certain areas. Furthermore, a Department of Agriculture experimental station at Apia was conducting research on the types of trees best suited to the Territory. Experiments had also been conducted, though with unsatisfactory results, in construction of banana cases from local timber.

60. Mr. LOOMES (Australia), proceeding to the question of investments dealt with on pages 68 and 69 of the annual report, asked for particulars of local and foreign investment.

61. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said the question was the concern not so much of the Administering Authority as of the Territorial Government. Applications for the investment of capital from abroad were addressed to the Government, which referred them to the Executive Council for its advice. In recent years, such applications had almost always been favourably received. It must be pointed out, however, that some Samoans were hostile to foreign investment, which they considered harmful. The Administration hoped that once the economic survey at present being made was finished, it would be possible to assess more exactly the amount of local capital lying idle and advise the holders of such capital on its investment. Perhaps some local capital would also be absorbed by the growth of co-operatives.

62. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) asked for information about the damage caused by the rhinoceros beetle.

63. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said it was difficult to give an exact estimate. In his economic survey, Mr. Stace, of the South Pacific Commission, put the proportion of the copra crop destroyed at 30 per cent; however, some planters estimated the destruction at 15 or 20 per cent. The insect attacked one area after another, and it was difficult to get a complete picture of the destruction. Some years previously, a government entomologist had introduced a wasp which, it was hoped, would prey upon the larvae of the beetle.

64. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) said he had noted from page 72 of the annual report that the production of rubber had practically ceased owing to a sharp drop in world prices, and asked whether it would be possible to increase productivity or take steps to encourage production.

65. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that at the present time copra, and, even more, cocoa, yielded larger profits. That explained the decline in the production of rubber. However, the trees had not been felled and production could be resumed as soon as conditions were more favourable.

66. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) asked about the prospects for the cattle industry.

67. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that two Samoans had recently taken up cattle raising, and it was hoped to interest local co-operatives in that branch of activity, but the main herds of cattle were still owned by the New Zealand Reparation Estates.

68. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) asked what was the reason for the maintenance of price controls, and wished to know whether the controls were only temporary.

69. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said the controls were among those war-time measures which tended to continue indefinitely. However, following a request by the Legislative Assembly for an investigation, the Executive Council had decided to confine price controls to some two dozen products and services regarded as essential.

70. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) asked whether an attempt had been made to grow pepper.

71. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that, in co-operation with the New Zealand Reparation Estates, the Administration had recently imported several pepper plants and seed from the Fiji Islands, but it was still too early to assess the results.

72. Mr. QUIROS (El Salvador), noting that the cultivation of coffee was still at the experimental stage, asked for information about the results already obtained and the prospects for that crop in the future.

73. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that coffee could become one of the Territory's most important crops. Before the Second World War, a German planter had imported plants from Liberia, and since then he had tried to cultivate robusta as well as Arabian coffee. The New Zealand Reparation Estates had also planted Liberian coffee trees, and both these and the robusta were giving excellent results.

74. Mr. QUIROS (El Salvador) asked whether the indigenous inhabitants took any interest in growing coffee, and whether the Administration was encouraging them in that direction.

75. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said he did not think the people had yet begun to produce that crop. However the German planter of whom he had spoken had been settled in the Territory for fifty years, and his wife was Samoan and his children half-Samoan. Other planters in the same position were planning to follow his example. Lastly, the New Zealand Reparation Estates were in process of being transferred to the Samoan Government and could not be regarded as a foreign concern.

76. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested information about the time and form of the transfer of the New Zealand Reparation Estates.

77. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that the Prime Minister of New Zealand had proposed, in the statement he had made on 19 March 1953 (T/1079, annex I), the establish-

ment of a national undertaking to be called Western Samoa Trust Estates, which would take over the ownership and control of the land and property of the New Zealand Reparation Estates. The undertaking would be conducted by Samoans and by a representative of the New Zealand Government, who would be withdrawn when the Territory attained self-government. The concurrence of that representative would be required, so long as he continued to hold office, for any act undertaken by the Estates. The profits of the undertaking would be used to finance projects for the Territory's economic and social development. Lastly, present lessees of New Zealand Reparation Estates land would, under certain conditions, be given twenty-five-year leases with the right of renewal for one further twenty-five-year term.

78. The Executive Council had given favourable consideration to the suggestions made by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, but had not yet reached a final decision. The Administration had approved the idea of an advisory committee to advise the general manager of the national undertaking. While the composition of the committee had not yet been decided, it would include a majority of Samoans and probably also the Director of Agriculture. No time had yet been set for the transfer. When it would take place would

largely depend upon the conclusions reached by the Executive Council on the question how the handing-over should be effected.

79. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what was the total income of the New Zealand Reparation Estates and how it was used.

80. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that the undertaking's profits had been £59,000 in 1951, £86,000 in 1952 and £83,000 in 1953. Up to December 1952, the funds expended from the undertaking's accumulated profits had amounted to £290,000. The money had been used to finance projects for the Territory's advancement. In 1953, the sum expended for that purpose had been about £34,000.

81. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what was done with the unused part of the undertaking's income.

82. Mr. EDMONDS (Special representative for Western Samoa) said the profits accumulated and to some extent represented a capital reserve at the Samoan Government's disposal. When the national undertaking was transferred, the balance of the unused funds would itself be transferred to the local authorities.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.