



**TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL**  
**Thirtieth Session**  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS**

Tuesday, 4 June 1963,  
 at 3.5 p.m.

**NEW YORK**

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**President:** Mr. Nathan BARNES (Liberia).

**Present:**

The representatives of the following States: Australia, China, France, Liberia, New Zealand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representative of the following specialized agency: World Health Organization.

*Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru: annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1962 (T/1606, T/1614, T/1616, T/L.1055 and Add.1) (continued)*

[Agenda item 4 (a)]

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE  
 OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. R. S. Leydin, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Nauru, took a place at the Council table.*

1. The PRESIDENT invited the representative of the World Health Organization to make a supplementary statement in connexion with the observations of WHO concerning Nauru (T/1614).
2. Dr. SACKS (World Health Organization) expressed regret for the confusion that had resulted from a typographical error in the WHO report. As he had stated at the 1206th meeting, the second sentence of paragraph 11 should have formed a separate paragraph. There had been no intention of linking the question of phosphate dust with that of water supply.
3. His organization realized that the bare statement in paragraph 11 that the water supply was still inadequate and the storage facilities were poor might be misleading. He therefore proposed to amplify that statement.
4. The question of the water supply in Nauru was a complicated and technical one. The effect of the wide variation in rainfall was accentuated by the fact that the island was an atoll formed of porous coral, overlaid by the phosphate deposits. The only natural source of water consisted of rain which had percolated through the porous material and was held above the sea water by the difference of density between fresh and salt

water. Small quantities of water could usually be obtained from shallow wells but the amount stored underground was limited and as it was drawn upon it became increasingly brackish through an admixture of salt water. That obviously happened more speedily in periods of low rainfall. The problem had been complicated by the increase in the population of Nauru and the increased per caput use of water. In addition to the wells, there were individual storage tanks and district cisterns, but there was a limit to which those could be extended because there was a limit to the length of time for which water could be stored without becoming a danger to health.

5. As stated in appendix XIII to the annual report of the Administering Authority,<sup>1/</sup> during the year 1961-1962 nearly 61,000 tons of fresh water had been imported into the island, which would represent about 170 days' supply for a population of 5,000 people using fifteen gallons per head per day. When the six new storage tanks had been completed it should be possible to store sufficient water for approximately five months, which, in the opinion of WHO, would be adequate to provide for periods of low rainfall. If to that were added the improvements in house storage referred to on page 34 of the report of the Administering Authority, it would appear that the problem would have been largely solved.

6. He was not aware that there had ever been any suggestion that the water within the ground or within the storage tanks was polluted by phosphate dust. If the phosphate material had been sufficiently soluble to constitute a danger to health there was little doubt that in years of very high rainfall the deposits in their natural state would have leached away and have rendered the underground water so bitter as to be undrinkable. The dust in the air formed a film on drinking water, but that was not technically regarded as water pollution. WHO therefore considered that the problem with regard to the water supply should be considered as part of the dust problem as a whole and tackled as such rather than as a water pollution question.

**GENERAL DEBATE (continued)**

7. Mr. CORNER (New Zealand) observed that the Council's work with regard to Nauru during the past few years had concentrated increasingly on the over-riding problem of the resettlement of the Nauruan people. The Administering Authority, the Trusteeship Council and the Nauruans themselves had unanimously agreed that resettlement was the only feasible solution of the problem they faced. It might therefore be well to review the facts which had given rise to the problem and shaped the decision to resettle.

8. Resettlement was not so much the penalty of the phosphate mining as a consequence of its many benefits.

<sup>1/</sup> Commonwealth of Australia, Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru from 1st July 1961, to 30th June 1962 (Canberra, A. J. Arthur, Commonwealth Government Printer, 1963). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1606).

Before phosphate had been discovered Nauru had supported a population of about 1,000 persons at subsistence level. The water supply had been precarious and periods of drought had doubtless brought suffering, famine and death, as they did on other similar islands. When the phosphate was exhausted Nauru would be neither more nor less fertile than it had been before. The population, however, would have multiplied several times and the people would have become accustomed to a standard of living much higher than that of any other South Pacific island. The major source of employment would disappear and large numbers of people accustomed to a semi-industrialized life would be idle. The phosphate ships, which brought supplies of food and water to Nauru, would cease to call. Other ships might call, but Nauru was not on the normal shipping route. In the circumstances depopulation would be likely and there would be a drastic drop in living standards. In past ages such forced resettlement had not been uncommon, for instance when populations had outgrown food resources or when some natural disaster had occurred. The Nauruans, however, had many alternatives open to them. They had time, money, good leaders, a well-educated population and friendly countries to help them. From the several possibilities open to them they had chosen a planned resettlement. The main reason for that choice was that they wanted to stay together. It was not for the Trusteeship Council to construct theoretical solutions or to devise ingenious alternatives; it must build upon the expressed desire of the Nauruans and assist them to translate their wishes into reality.

9. It might appear that there was no urgency in the matter, since it was estimated that the phosphate deposits would last perhaps another thirty years. The reason for the urgency of the task was that, as pointed out in the report of United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru and New Guinea, 1962 (T/1595 and Add.1), the uncertainty of the future overshadowed the present for the Nauruans. Until a new home had been selected and the necessary arrangements completed, the development of the Nauruan people and their planning for the future must inevitably be distorted.

10. Once the basic decisions had been made a gradual resettlement could begin. With ample time resettlement became a relatively painless undertaking; families and individuals would leave when and as they wished and some no doubt would wish to remain for some years yet. Those who left would, of course, retain their legitimate property rights on Nauru. No one resident on Nauru or in the new home would sacrifice his ownership of or benefits from the phosphate lands which remained.

11. The nature of the new home had been thoroughly discussed and the wishes of the Nauruans had been clearly set out. Their list of requirements made an ideal picture and the conditions outlined would not be easy to find in their entirety. Nevertheless, Curtis Island seemed to fulfil the most important of the Nauruans' desiderata. It was an island entity, the ownership and administration of which could be vested in the Nauruan people to enable them to preserve their unity and identity as a community. It was over twenty times larger than Nauru itself, fertile, well-watered, suitable for farming and cattle-raising, with good harbours and good prospects for fishing. If a bridge and causeway were erected it would be within easy walking distance of the mainland. Most important, there were excellent employment opportunities and a

deep-water harbour only a few miles away, and the citizens of Rockhampton had indicated that they would welcome the Nauruans as neighbours. The Nauruans would be able to preserve the kind of life and identity they valued while maintaining, on an island without phosphates, the living standards which the phosphate revenues had made possible. The benefits they would derive from resettlement were perhaps unique. Each Nauruan would receive a home, land and assistance in gaining employment. A town would be laid out, utilities installed, roads provided and public buildings erected. The Visiting Mission had considered the Nauruans' present return on the export value of the phosphate rock to be substantial. To that percentage should now be added the cost of the new home, which had been estimated at from \$20 to \$30 million—a considerable sum for a population of 2,500.

12. Agreement on a site appeared to be close; it now remained to settle the future form of government of the Nauruan people in their new home. The Nauruan leaders had asked for sovereign independence and both the Administering Authority and the Council agreed that their wishes must be given the most careful consideration. If the site selected had been in international waters there might be little further difficulty, but for good reasons the Nauruans had asked for an island close to the Australian coast and within Australian territorial waters. The legitimate wishes of the Australian Government must also be given consideration. That Government had pledged itself to assist the Nauruans in finding a new home, but for constitutional reasons that must fall short of creating a new sovereign international State on its national territory. There was no reason for alarm; it seemed more than possible that the substance of the Nauruans' wishes could be met without any argument about sovereignty. Control of land ownership and perhaps of entry to the island would surely guarantee their right to live as a community. The special representative had emphasized several times that Australia would offer the maximum of self-government that was consistent with its constitutional requirements. Provided care was taken in the selection of an island—and Curtis Island seemed to offer excellent prospects—the Nauruans' hope of maintaining the same standard of living which they now enjoyed should not be too difficult to attain. The other attributes of sovereignty, such as citizenship, fundamental law, defence and external affairs were largely of technical interest for so small a community. The New Zealand delegation shared the Head Chief's hope that it would be possible to arrive at conclusions satisfactory both to the Nauruans and to the Australian Government.

13. In the meantime there had been a steady rise in the material benefits enjoyed on Nauru itself. Political progress had kept pace with material improvements and the steady devolution of responsibility to the Nauruans had been considerably extended. Under the new Nauru Local Government Council Ordinance, the Council had almost full powers over domestic matters. Disallowance was the only legislative power retained by the Administrator and previous experience suggested that it was not likely to be exercised. Progress was being made in training Nauruans for senior administrative positions. The prospective appointment of a Nauruan to the post of Official Secretary was encouraging; increasing administrative responsibility now would equip the Nauruan leaders to deal with the problems of resettlement in the future.

14. Mr. BRYKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed to consider the three related problems of the future of the Nauruan population, the activities of the British Phosphate Commissioners and the living conditions of the Nauruans.

15. At its twenty-ninth session, the Council had fully debated the question of Nauruan independence, and the Nauruans' desire for independence had been categorically stated in a memorandum submitted by the Nauru Local Government Council to the Visiting Mission (T/1595 and Add.1, annex I). The Head Chief of Nauru had confirmed that desire at both the previous and the current sessions.

16. At its twenty-seventh session, the Council had called upon the Administering Authority to "establish realistic targets reflecting a proper sense of urgency for the rapid and planned advance of the Territory in all aspects of its political life" (A/4818, p. 12). Yet in the two years that had elapsed since that time nothing had been done to implement the Council's recommendation.

17. Notwithstanding the Administering Authority's assurances that it was concerned to promote the interests of the Nauruan people, it was clear that it regarded its real task to be the protection of the interests of the British Phosphate Commissioners.

18. General Assembly resolution 1810 (XVII) urged all administering Powers to take immediate steps in order that all colonial territories might accede to independence without delay, yet the Nauruans continued to live in subjection and without any real hope of freedom and independence. The Administering Authority's contention that the problem of independence was inseparable from the problem of the future homeland of the Nauruans was merely a screen for maintaining the island under colonial domination. The discussion of the Trusteeship Council's report (A/5204) in the Fourth Committee (1426th to 1431st meetings) during the seventeenth session of the General Assembly had revealed that the majority of representatives thought that the question of independence should not be linked to that of a future home for the Nauruans and the latter should be granted independence immediately. In resolution 1858 (XVII) the General Assembly called upon the Administering Authorities to take account of the recommendations and observations made during the debate on the report of the Trusteeship Council. Yet that whole question was simply ignored in the most recent report of the Administering Authority.

19. In such circumstances the resettlement of the Nauruans would lead to their disappearance as a people. That view was supported in appendix A to the memorandum submitted by the Nauru Local Government Council to the Visiting Mission in 1962 (T/1595 and Add.1, annex I). If the Nauruans were not granted independence before resettlement, the Trusteeship Council would no longer be able to concern itself with their interests, since they would have disappeared as an entity. The island would then remain completely in the hands of the Administering Authority, in other words, of the British Phosphate Commissioners.

20. As the USSR delegation had pointed out before, it was possible to ensure normal living conditions for the Nauruans on the island in freedom, independence and prosperity. If man could destroy nature, he could also create better conditions. By reasonable mining operations and the restoration of the surface layer of soil, the island could be preserved as a homeland for the Nauruans. That, however, would entail expense

and a reduction in the profits of the British Phosphate Commissioners, so they preferred to resettle the population.

21. Since the island was being turned into a desert, the Nauruans saw their only hope of survival in resettlement. Such resettlement should take into account the express wishes of the population. The Nauruans had put forward three fundamental conditions: that they should be granted full independence, that they should enjoy territorial sovereignty over their new homeland, and that they should retain sovereignty over the island of Nauru. That meant that the property of the British Phosphate Commissioners should be handed over to the Nauruans, as also the profits legitimately due to them, out of which a resettlement fund could be established.

22. The Administering Authority had disregarded its undertakings to the Trusteeship Council regarding, for instance, the setting of target dates for independence or the payment to the Nauruans of an equitable share of the profits from the phosphate extraction. The people of any country had a sovereign and inalienable right to the natural wealth of their territory. Hence the Nauruans had a sovereign right to all the natural wealth of their island, including the phosphates. Moreover, the phosphate deposits had already been worked for nearly sixty years, during which time some 30 million tons of phosphate had been extracted. Those phosphates were of the highest quality, they were mined cheaply and sold at prices below the normal market price. That was the source of the profits which the British Phosphate Commissioners were unwilling to share with the Nauruans, who owned the island. Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom had already derived considerable advantages from those mining operations and their profits had covered their original investment over and over again. All the property, shares and equipment in the possession of the British Phosphate Commissioners should be transferred immediately to the Nauruan people.

23. With regard to living conditions on the island, the questions of the water supply and phosphate dust had long been of serious concern to the indigenous population. The shortage of water had begun after the advent of the British Phosphate Commissioners on the island and it was now necessary to import a vast amount of water to the island. Yet whereas the non-indigenous residents on the island received water free of charge, the indigenous inhabitants had to pay for it. Thus not only were the inhabitants plundered of their riches but they had to pay for the consequences of that plundering. The Trusteeship Council should insist that water should be supplied to the Nauruans free of charge and in sufficient quantities.

24. The question of the prevalence of phosphate dust had been raised by the Nauruans with the British Phosphate Commissioners in 1956. The Nauru Local Government Council had stated to the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, 1959 (T/1448 and Add.1, para. 69) that houses, clothes and foodstuffs were covered with phosphate dust. It was also stated—as the representative of the World Health Organization would be interested to note—that phosphate dust was found in water that was provided for children. Yet nothing had been done to eliminate the problem. That was evidence of the Administering Authority's disregard for the well-being of the people it administered.

25. The USSR delegation considered that the Administering Authority should take urgent steps to eliminate

the problem and that it should pay compensation to the Nauruans for the damages they had sustained at the hands of the British Phosphate Commissioners. In addition, steps should be taken to ensure that the conditions of the Nauruans were not inferior to those of the Australians and other nationals residing in the island.

26. The Administering Authority's failure to implement the very moderate recommendations of the Trusteeship Council was tantamount to contempt for the United Nations in general and for the Trusteeship Council in particular. It was not surprising that the Australian delegation had avoided giving straight answers to clear questions put to it by the USSR delegation concerning the implementation of the principles and recommendations of the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council. If the Trusteeship Council was to be an effective organ and not merely a screen for the actions of the Administering Authorities, it must insist on the implementation in the Trust Territory of Nauru of the aims set out in the United Nations Charter and in the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)).

27. The USSR delegation unreservedly supported the demands of the Nauruan people for the establishment of an independent and sovereign State in whatever form they wished. The Administering Authority should be required to accede to those demands and to take immediate steps to transfer all power to the indigenous population in accordance with the aforesaid Declaration. No foreign administrator could be better acquainted with the situation and the affairs of the Nauruan people than the Nauruans themselves. No decisions or plans for the resettlement of the Nauruan people should be adopted without the agreement of the people, nor should any pressure be brought to bear on them in that regard.

28. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) observed that it was clear from the annual report of the Administering Authority and from the statements of the Australian representative and the special representative that the recommendations of the 1962 Visiting Mission had been given close attention by the Administering Authority and that the great majority of them had been fully met. Where it had not been practicable to comply entirely with the recommendations the reasons had been clearly explained and steps were being taken to bring about the closest possible conformity with the spirit of the recommendations.

29. Subject to the overriding importance of the question of resettlement, many of the recommendations related to economic and social matters and to matters of local government. At the same time, there was the unequivocal statement in the Visiting Mission's report (T/1595 and Add.1) that there was no want or hunger in the island, that social services were extensive and free of charge, that public services were well organized and well run and that relations between the various authorities on the island were on the whole friendly and profitable. It gave the United Kingdom delegation pleasure to note that the wards of the United Nations were in a better material position than many of their guardians. In his delegation's view, therefore, much of what had been said about charges for water, dust pollution and the like was of minor importance by comparison with the need to ensure that the enviable position of the islanders should continue after the source of their prosperity, the extraction of phosphate,

had been exhausted. There was general agreement that resettlement elsewhere was the only solution to that problem.

30. The Administering Authority had made a genuine and intensive effort to meet the Nauruans' requirements for their future home and had proposed several locations which met the great majority of them. The only point of difference which now emerged was the question of sovereignty. The Visiting Mission itself appeared to have foreseen that that question might be a source of difficulty and had spoken of resettling the Nauruans in a way that would maintain their identity as a people, without specifying the form that that should take. His delegation hoped that when a location had been agreed upon the question of the future form of government could be settled by discussion between the Administering Authority and the Nauruan people. He felt sympathy for the Australian Government's view that it could hardly be expected to agree to transfer sovereignty over an integral part of Australia.

31. Since the Council's twenty-ninth session the Australian Government had put forward specific proposals for Nauruan resettlement, including both the possibility of an island home and that of resettlement in a single community centre in Australia, and had recognized the principle that the Nauruans should maintain their identity. Thus all that remained was to solve some matters of practical detail, and in view of the past history of co-operation between the Nauruans and the Administering Authority no insuperable difficulties should arise.

32. It had been asserted that in some way the Nauruan people were not getting a fair return on the phosphate exported from their island owing to the fact that it was being supplied to consumers in Australia at a price below the prevailing world level. In the light of paragraph 112 of the Visiting Mission's report, however, it certainly appeared that there was no question of Australian consumers enjoying an advantage at the cost of the Nauruan producer.

33. Some delegations had taken the view that phosphate extraction, by denuding the island of its only economic asset, had resulted in the exploitation of the Nauruan people and was the sole cause of the difficulties which faced them. In his delegation's view, on the contrary, it was the extraction of phosphate which had made the Nauruans prosperous and healthy and had enabled the population to expand beyond the agricultural capacity of the island. It was the extraction of phosphate that enabled the Nauruans to seek a place for resettlement that was geographically and agriculturally superior to their own island. It could therefore be concluded that the activities of the British Phosphate Commissioners had benefited the Nauruan people. The only argument which could concern the Council was whether the benefit received by the Nauruans from the extraction of phosphate had been as great as it might have been. The United Kingdom delegation believed that a fair balance of benefit had accrued to all concerned.

34. His delegation hoped that the results of the Council's discussion of the question would encourage the Administering Authority and the Nauruans to continue their dialogue on the best geographical location for resettlement and on the future form of government for the Nauruans in the place ultimately chosen, without committing the Council to supporting the initial views of either party. Compromise was obviously going to be needed and his delegation felt that a compromise could be reached which would provide the Nauruans with an

economically sound base for the future and the assurance of their identity as a people.

35. Mr. DOISE (France) observed that while an unduly detailed consideration of the annual report of the Administering Authority would only serve to distract the Council from its main objective, namely the resettlement of the 2,500 inhabitants of Nauru, it would not be fair to disregard the efforts made by the Administering Authority to promote the welfare of the people. Indeed, the Visiting Mission had been impressed by the favourable conditions enjoyed by the indigenous inhabitants, although it had correctly concluded that those conditions could be only temporary in view of the imminent exhaustion of the phosphates which were the source of that well-being.

36. Thus the problem before the Council was the resettlement of the Nauruans and for the first time there were concrete suggestions for its consideration. The Administering Authority had made a thorough study of the possibilities of a number of islands off the Australian coast, taking into account the interests of the Nauruan people, and the choice appeared to have fallen on Curtis Island, which was near enough to Australia to satisfy the Nauruans' expressed wish to be in close proximity to the main trade routes and the Australian markets. It would seem to offer reasonable prospects for the life of a community and he hoped that the Nauruans would not be too demanding and would realize that it was impossible to satisfy all the conditions they had mentioned in one and the same place.

37. Moreover, in thinking in terms of full sovereignty over a territory so close to Australia, and indeed belonging to Australia, they were creating a difficult problem. The Council should bear in mind the size of the Nauruan community and should be wary in its approach to the question of independence and sovereignty. It should endeavour to find practical solutions to the human problems that would arise when the time came for the people to leave Nauru. The education and technical training of the Nauruans should be such as to take into account the future economy of the community. The Administering Authority would no doubt find it useful to increase the powers of the Local Government Council in order to give the latter the opportunity to ensure that that was so.

38. Mr. Chiping H. C. KIANG (China) said that progress had been made in many important fields in Nauru during the year under review. The plan to establish a single integrated primary-school system for children of all races was commendable and it was to be hoped that the training of Nauruan teachers, as recommended in the observations submitted by UNESCO (T/1616), would be given special attention. He also hoped that the recent efforts of the Administration to train Nauruans to qualify for senior posts in the Public Service would result in greater participation by the Nauruans in their own government as soon as possible.

39. With regard to public health, he trusted that the Administering Authority would give due consideration to WHO's suggestion (T/1614, para. 10) for an educational campaign for the improvement of the diet of the Nauruan people.

40. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the recent increase in basic wages in the Territory and hoped that further adjustments would be made from time to time as the need arose.

41. The acceptance by the Administering Authority of the Council's recommendation for annual meetings between the elected Nauruan Government and the representatives of the British Phosphate Commissioners would promote future partnership. It would be useful if the annual meeting could be so scheduled that the results could be made known to the Council in the same year. Pending the outcome of the first such meeting, his delegation would refrain from reiterating the views it had stated previously in the Council and would merely stress that since the phosphate deposits were the only asset on the island, the Nauruans were legitimately concerned in any decisions to be taken on the subject of those deposits.

42. With regard to political affairs, the appointment of additional Nauruans to both the Central Court and the District Court was an encouraging development. His delegation was also glad to note the progress made in the appointment of Nauruan officers to senior positions in the Public Service, as also the commendable plan of preparing a Nauruan to be the Public Service Commissioner. Another welcome development was the amendments proposed to the Nauru Local Government Council Ordinance with a view to removing the restrictions upon the exercise of powers by the Local Government Council. His delegation hoped that the latter would use its powers to the fullest extent, so that the Nauruan people themselves might be better prepared to bear responsibility for the services which the Administering Authority had hitherto provided. He was confident that the people of Nauru would be eager to take every opportunity to practise self-government with a view to the future. They should be given every assistance in participating in the legislature and the administration of the island.

43. The representative of the Administering Authority had given the Council to understand that the proposal for the creation of a sovereign Nauruan nation was unacceptable if the people of Nauru were to settle either on the mainland of Australia or on an island close to the Australian coast. The Head Chief of Nauru had, however, made it clear that the people were adamant in their desire for a sovereign Nauruan nation. As far as the islands themselves were concerned, Curtis Island appeared to be more acceptable than any of the places visited previously. It would no doubt take time for the Nauru Local Government Council to ponder the question and arrive at a decision, just as it would take time for the Administering Authority to discuss with the Nauruan leaders the future form of government of the Nauruan people in their new home. His delegation had, however, been glad to hear the Head Chief say that he saw some progress in the recent negotiations. The Trusteeship Council had full sympathy with the Nauruan people in their desire to retain a national identity. His delegation had been encouraged to hear that upon his return the Head Chief intended to request the Local Government Council to consider seriously the possibility of Nauru's becoming a self-governing entity but associated with a larger independent community, as a practical solution to the problem of the future of the Nauruan community.

44. In conclusion, he stressed that in considering the unique Trust Territory of Nauru the Council must be free from dogmatism and must think of the realities the Nauruan people were facing. He did not propose to discuss the question whether the objective of the International Trusteeship System was independence alone, for the meaning of Article 76 b of the Charter was perfectly clear. Should the Nauruans finally decide of

their own free will to settle in a place of their own choice outside Nauru, with such rights and opportunities as they might wish to enjoy, and come to an agreement with the Administering Authority concerning their native land, including the phosphate deposits, the United Nations would be justified in claiming that the objectives of the Trusteeship System in respect of Nauru had been achieved.

45. Mr. YATES (United States of America) stressed the unique and complex character of the problem of Nauru, for which there was no parallel in history.

46. It was clear that here was a close bond between the Australians and the Nauruans, two diverse peoples whom history had brought together in a challenging partnership. The Australians were to be congratulated on having invited the Nauruans to join them in full citizenship and to share their homeland. They had been very generous in their negotiations and in the opportunities they had offered the Nauruans for educational, social and economic improvement. Indeed, it was hard to conceive of a nation taking a more generous attitude. While the desire of the Nauruans to retain their identity and to attain independence was understandable, his delegation was inclined to agree with the Australian representative that no country could be expected to permit the creation of an enclave within its sovereign borders, for a separate people over whom it would have no control. The question was whether, even though they might not attain full sovereignty, the Nauruans would be able to retain their separate identity. The Australian representative had solemnly pledged that the Nauruans would be able to continue their own way of life; they would be allowed to manage their local affairs, to make their own local laws and regulations and to govern their own community. His delegation was confident that the Nauruans would be given every oppor-

tunity to preserve their own individuality; whether they would be able to do so would be, to a great extent, their own responsibility. In a new home in proximity to modern Australia they would have emerged from the isolation which now enabled them to preserve their traditional ways and it would be difficult for the young people of the community to resist the attractions of a more sophisticated world. Therein lay the task of the Head Chief and the elders of the community and his delegation wished them all success in their efforts to preserve their way of life.

47. His delegation noted with approval the progress made in expanding the powers of the Local Government Council and in advancing Nauruans to positions of responsibility. It was confident that those developments would continue and it considered that the granting of additional authority need not await final arrangements for the new home.

48. The Administering Authority was to be commended for having increased wages, reduced the working week, improved the school system and maintained and improved standards of health and education. It was well that provision was being made for increased consultation between the British Phosphate Commissioners and the representatives of the Nauruan people, for such consultations were essential in order to eliminate the friction which had existed over the years concerning an equitable sharing of the proceeds of the phosphate mining.

49. His delegation had noted with interest the visit of eighty-one Nauruans to relatives and friends in the Marshall and Caroline Islands within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and it hoped that that link would be strengthened with the years.

The meeting rose at 5.5 p.m.