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FOR THE PRESS

Attached are three statements by members of the United States Delegation to the Trusteeship Council in connection with the Marshall Islanders' petition to the Trusteeship Council

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1. Statement by Mr. Mason Sears, United States Representative in the Trusteeship Council.
2. Statement by Mr. Frank E. Midkiff, High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
3. Statement by Mr. Dwight Heine, Adviser on the United States Delegation in the Trusteeship Council and Spokesman of the Marshall Island Petitioners, (including autobiographical material).

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*E. Barnes 4/18/80*

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Statement by Mr. Mason Sears, United States Representative

in the Trusteeship Council

The fact that anyone was injured by the recent nuclear tests in the Pacific has caused the American people genuine and deep regret.

The United States Government considers the resulting petition of the Marshall Islanders to be both reasonable and helpful.

Why -- it may be asked -- should the homes of these people, so far removed from international politics and the cold war become the site for such experiments.

The answer is that the Marshall Islands were selected only after the most careful examination of every possible alternative site.

The United States Government found that there is no other place in the world, over which the United States has jurisdiction, where experiments of this nature could be successfully conducted with less danger.

The question may also be asked whether the United States has the right to conduct such experiments in this area. The Trusteeship Agreement of 1947 which covers the Marshall Islands was predicated upon the fact that the United Nations clearly approved these islands as a strategic area in which atomic tests had already been held. Hence, from the very outset, it was clear that the right to close areas for security reasons anticipated closing them for atomic tests, and the United Nations was so notified; such tests were conducted in 1948, 1951, 1952, as well as in 1954.

As to the question of continuing these experiments, which is also raised in the petition, the facts are unhappily clear.

No one could reasonably contend that the Soviets should be the only nation to conduct nuclear experiments. At issue therefore is not the right to conduct these experiments. The question is whether the United States authorities in charge have exercised due precaution in looking after the safety and welfare of the Islanders involved.

That is the essence of their petition and it is entirely justified.

In reply, it can be categorically stated that no stone will be left unturned to safeguard the present and future well-being of the Islanders.

The United States Government is confident that future tests can be conducted without any untoward incident.

And, finally, the United States Delegation is glad to report that all Marshall Islanders and the American military personnel who were exposed have now recovered.

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Statement by Mr. Frank E. Midkiff, High Commissioner of the  
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

As Mr. Mason Sears has pointed out, there are good and sufficient reasons why the atolls of Eniwetok and Bikini were selected by the United States for some of her experiments with atomic weapons and for learning of the potentialities of nuclear fission. Also he has explained why such experimentation must continue. He has stressed the fact that the Administering Authority has now been able to set up revised specifications for the tests on the basis of experience whereby the safety, economy and comfort of the Marshallese can be effectively preserved in the future.

Guarantees are given the Marshallese for fair and just compensation for losses of all sorts.

No further atolls are believed to be required for these tests. The Uterik people already have been returned to their atoll; the Rongelap people will be delayed on Ejit Island in the Majuro Atoll for possibly another year. During their absence from their home atolls the Rongelap and Uterik people have been given the best of care by top experts in various fields.

Reassurance that these Marshallese will not lose title to and ownership of their lands is one of their major concerns.

It is difficult to say when the people of Eniwetok and Bikini will be returned to their atolls. Meanwhile the Eniwetok people are making a very good adjustment on their new atoll, Ujelang. The Bikini people are established on the Island of Kili which they unfortunately have not found entirely suitable. They come across to Jaliut Atoll to raise their pigs on that atoll and to fish in its lagoon.

In the meanwhile, special assistance now is being given the people of Eniwetok and Bikini; their conditions are being improved, and their just claims will be met. It is believed that within the space of another year, with all working cooperatively, these people will have made a good adjustment in every reasonable respect. Their health is good and they are increasing in number and in skills to deal with their new environments.

During the time they are away from their atolls, they will retain title to their lands which gives them a rental income and also preserves their status in the social hierarchy.

I have with me Mr. Dwight Heine, who was one of the principal draftsmen of the petition by the Marshall Islands people to the Trusteeship Council. He has been invited to come here as a member of the United States Delegation in order to be available to answer questions so that the Trusteeship Council may have first hand information on the petition. His presence will also enable him to follow through to its conclusion the petition which he helped to originate.

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Delegation in the Trusteeship Council and Spokesman  
of the Marshall Island Petitioners

I was born on October 12, 1919 in the Marshall Islands.

My early schooling was at home. My parents were my first teachers. At 14 years of age I attended a mission school where Americans (Missionaries), Japanese and Marshallese teachers were the instructors. The language used as the medium of instruction was Marshallese, but English and Japanese were also taught as foreign languages. This school was located on Jabwar Island, which was the seat of the Japanese Administration for the Marshall Islands. The subjects were about the same as those that are taught in the American elementary school level; but unlike the American schools the ages of the students varied from the early teens to the late twenties. Students promotion from a lower grade to a higher one depended entirely on their speeds. Those who finished the school on Jabwar Island satisfactorily were eligible to go on to the advanced school on Kusaie Island, which is in the Caroline group. Kusaie Island is about 300 miles west from the Marshall Islands.

I went to the school on Kusaie in 1936 and finished it in 1938. It was probably the most advanced educational institution in the former Japanese Mandated Islands, now the present Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. But it was only equal to the American Junior High School, plus a few theological courses. The purposes and aims of this school were to train future native ministers. Upon finishing this school I was sent back to the Marshalls to teach in the school there, the one I previously attended. My teaching career was interrupted after one year when I was recruited by the Japanese to work in a phosphate pit. I spent almost all the war years digging phosphate rocks with picks and shovels.

After the war I received a Navy (U.S.) scholarship and was sent to the University of Hawaii for two years.

Recently, I received a U.N. Fellowship and I went to New Zealand, Samoa and Fiji to study Public school administration.

I have travelled throughout most of the Trust Territory, which comprises the Marshalls, Carolines and the Marianas, an area larger than the United States, but they say that if you take away all the water from the land area the remainder will be smaller than Rhode Island.

Beside travelling throughout the Trust Territory, I have also been to Hawaii, Japan, as well as New Zealand, Samoa, Fiji and now the United States of America. Coming to America is a dream come true. I have always wanted to see the United States since I was a young boy. I read about it, saw pictures of it, studied about it, <sup>was</sup> taught by people from it, and dreamed that some day I would see it.

I am married and have four children. A boy, 14 years old, and three girls 6, 4 and two years old.

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Immediately after the Marshalls were captured by the American Armed forces I went to work for the United States Navy Military Government as an interpreter and guide. I was among several other Marshallese young men who served in this capacity. Our main task was to translate the proclamations, ordinances, and other literary materials, issued by the Navy, into Marshallese. Every now and then we also did intelligence work by going into areas still held by the enemy.

We were under Japanese ruling for over thirty years and the reason we turned against them was because after thirty years of peaceful living and obeying their rules they paid us back by treating us badly, even killing many of our people.

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The Marshallese people were a very warlike people less than a hundred years ago, but since then -- after Christianized and educated by American Missionaries -- we have laid down our arms and never picked them up since. During all this time, we have known of only one murder case and that was over thirty years ago.

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I have come here as a guest of the State Department to answer questions that may arise when the Marshallese petition to the United Nations regarding the last H-bomb test comes up before the Trusteeship Council for discussion. Some of our people were hurt during the recent nuclear test and we have asked the aid of the United Nations of which the United States is a member, and to which it is answerable for its administration of the Trust Territory, to stop the experiments there. Or, if this is not possible, then to be a little more careful. I have noticed that it is illegal to set off fire-crackers in New York to celebrate the Fourth of July. I read in the paper that several people were arrested for violating this safety rule. The H-bomb is a "super-fire-cracker" which needs "super-safety rules" in its handling.

I have great faith in the American people's sense of justice and I have great hope that I will be able to go back and report to the Marshallese people favorable answers resulting from this meeting which I have kindly been invited to participate in by the United States Government as a representative of the Marshallese people.

July 6, 1954

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CLOSING STATEMENT OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR WESTERN SAMOA,  
MR P.A. ELLONDS : 7 JULY 1954.

I should like to thank all the distinguished members of this Council for the sympathetic care and attention with which they have considered conditions in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa and for the constructive comments made both in their closing statements and in the course of the general debate. I need not remind members that the record of this debate will be thoroughly studied both by the Administering Authority and the Territorial Government when they are planning their future policy. I should particularly like to thank members of the Council such as the distinguished representative of El Salvador who were so careful and judicious in their appraisal of the Administering Authority's actions during the year.

I am grateful to members of the Council who have pointed out that there still remain many things to be done in Western Samoa. The administering authority is always aware of this and it never fails to make use of any opportunity of reminding the people of the Territory, in whose hands future developments so largely lie, that there are ahead of Samoa even greater tasks than those that have been performed and greater difficulties than those that have been overcome. This sober note must be sounded - especially after a debate in which I may at times have erred on the side of optimism, or even eulogy, when explaining to the Council the merits of the Samoan way of life and enlarging on these joint accomplishments of which the Administering Authority and the Samoan people are rightly proud.

The Administering Authority will, of course, take due cognizance of the remarks about universal suffrage which various distinguished representatives have made and will bring these remarks to the notice of the people of the Trust Territory. This high liberal ideal must not be forgotten when the future political advancement of Samoa is considered. "Suaviter in modo, fortiter in re" is, it seems, the principle which should inspire the Administering Authority in its policy in the political field, as

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in many others, although in the interpretation of this principle there may be differences of emphasis. As the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom has so shrewdly remarked, problems cannot always be solved immediately with the ideal solution - the ideal must, however, never be lost sight of. Practice must, of course, take cognizance of, and make allowance for, the particular circumstances obtaining at any time. And I need not remind members that conditions in Western Samoa are unique.

Especially welcome are the comments that have been made on the necessity to establish suitable and efficient local authorities in the Territory. As the Council knows, this matter is receiving the energetic attention of the Territorial Government and of the recently established District and Village Government Board.

With regard to recent developments in the judicial field, I should like once again to assure the distinguished representative of China that, in fact, the judiciary in its exercise of judicial functions in the Territory is, at all levels, completely independent of any Governmental influence. This is true even in those increasingly rare cases where an administrative officer may sit as a Commissioner in the High Court. With the increased training and supervision by the High Court given to District Judges, it will soon be possible to build up a more efficient system of lower courts as has long been contemplated. This step will be an important one in the progress of Western Samoa.

The comments made concerning the Development Plan and the way in which the Administering Authority has approached the problem of ensuring that the Samoan people are fully aware of the contents of the Plan have been very interesting even if they have not always been unanimous. They will all receive the earnest consideration of the Administering Authority and will be brought to the notice of the people of the Territory.

With regard to economic matters, the Administering Authority finds itself in complete agreement with the comments made in this Council to the effect that in this vital field lie some of the most difficult problems which the Samoans and their Trustees will meet. It also realizes that the urgency of the danger must be

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brought home to the people of the Territory by all means in its power, as only by a nation-wide effort can this difficulty be overcome. Only on the basis of increased and increasing per capita production can the future state of Western Samoa hope to maintain, let alone improve, its stability, its standard of living and its freedom of action.

Some distinguished members of this Council have mentioned the Territory's customs tariff in the course of the debate. I regret that I have not been able to be more explicit on this point, which is now before the Territorial Government for consideration. I think that I may safely assure the Council that next year a more generally satisfactory review of the position will be given. But this is now mainly the concern of the Samoans themselves, it must be remembered and they are naturally careful when making any radical changes in the tariff schedule, for this is the greatest single source of the Territory's revenue and is likely to remain so for a considerable time. The position of the Administering Authority in regard to British Preferential Tariff in Western Samoa was, of course, made quite clear in the statement of its Permanent Representative at the twelfth session of this Council.

The helpful remarks made regarding the possibilities and advantages of cooperative societies as future production units and alternative forms of socio-economic organization, and regarding the possible scope for the greater use of idle domestic capital are quite in line with the present ideas of both the Administering Authority and the Territorial Government. By whom and how best some of this domestic capital should be used will undoubtedly be a matter of healthy and energetic debate during the next few years. The present domestic market for those products that could be made available by investment in agriculture, pastoral farming and secondary industries is, in most cases, not unlimited: the current high margin of profit obtained for export crops also acts as a deterrent to large-scale investment in what might be called "treatment" industries. But wherever there do seem to be definite possibilities for the profitable investment of even comparatively small sums in certain primary and secondary industries, these opportunities will not be neglected if the Administering

ment in capital works is, of course, steadily increasing.

The need for the early appointment of a doctor with some special training in the treatment of tuberculosis is recognized by both the Territorial Government and the Administering Authority. Their efforts to obtain a suitable officer will continue unflagging. The South Pacific Medical Service may be of assistance in this matter.

As far as education is concerned, I can say without exaggeration that the Administering Authority agrees that in this field a special effort must be made during the next few years. Samoa urgently needs at least a cadre of highly educated men. Dr Beeby's report is, as the distinguished representative of Belgium has said, "deliberately critical", and it is the sort of criticism with the aid of which a more comprehensive system of education may be built. Once again, this is a matter which can be tackled successfully only if the Samoans themselves cooperate fully with the Administering Authority and with their own Government. The Beeby report is, of course, under consideration by the Territorial Government at present.

The remarks made in this Council concerning the need for a Public Library in the Territory will, I know, be read with great pleasure and interest by all those interested in the project, and the Council will be advised next year of what action is contemplated or has been taken.

In many ways the past year has been a year of preparation - of the gathering of data, of the analysis of facts and figures - of planning rather than action, although action itself has certainly not been lacking. As the distinguished representative of the United States has reminded us, basic studies such as the Economic Survey, Dr Beeby's report, and Mr Duncan's report, are essential if planning is to be scientific and fruitful. This is a truth which the impatient may overlook, but which the wise will appreciate. Plans divorced from facts and figures are phantasms - mere wistful dreams or wishful thoughts, signifying very little.

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This is one of the hard facts of life on which enthusiastic Administrative Officers sometimes stub their more ambitious toes. It is heartening to hear that members of the Council appreciate the value, and indeed the necessity, of this preliminary research.

I should like to thank the distinguished representative of India for the interesting and illuminating statement that he made yesterday afternoon. I assure the distinguished representative that his views and suggestions will be carefully studied by the Administering Authority and Samoan leaders. It is not quite accurate, however, simply to say, as I understood him to say, that the Administering Authority is activated by a desire to unload its responsibilities and the Samoans refuse to pick them up. The position is rather that the Administering Authority, recognizing its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement, wishes to give Western Samoa self-government in the best form, and by the best method possible, and the Samoan leaders are pondering on exactly what is the best form for them, or what is the best way to obtain it. Like so many of us they may, as suggested, display at times a desire to both have their cake and eat it - they seem sometimes to want self-government with New Zealand conveniently handy to assist with advice and, perhaps, to assist in more positive ways if anything goes wrong. But they must, I agree, face up to the fact that power carries with it responsibility. In the light of the Trusteeship Agreement, the Administering Authority has to take care not to throw out the baby without his clothes. It cannot simply clear out - it has serious obligations which it must discharge responsibly.

The remarks made by the distinguished representative of India concerning institutional reforms and self-administration were most thought-provoking. It is hoped and expected that some institutional reforms will be one outcome of the recommendations of the Constitutional Convention. As far as self-administration is concerned, I should draw the attention of the

in this Council on the 25th of June 1954. This statement, I feel, shows more clearly than do the Annual Report and the figures quoted by the distinguished representative what progress has already been made towards self-administration for Samoa.

The distinguished representative of Syria considered, as did the distinguished representative of India, that political power should penetrate further into Samoan society. But, as the distinguished representative of Syria so wisely remarked in his interesting statement yesterday, those improvements and reforms which would seem to be in the best interest of the people of the Territory must not be forced upon the Samoans. This is the attitude of the Administering Authority exactly - especially in relation to land tenure where the distinguished representative shrewdly implied there might be resistance. The Samoans are well aware that the Administering Authority has under the Trusteeship Agreement undertaken to respect their customs. Ten years of <sup>non</sup>/co-operation followed the last efforts made by the Administering Authority to go faster in this field than the Samoans thought warranted. The happy mean must be assiduously pursued, although this is constantly modified as circumstances change.

I was pleased to find that the distinguished representative of Syria, in his suggestions as to what must now be done, followed so closely the main projects outlined in the Prime Minister's statement and High Commissioner's address in March of last year, most of which are now receiving active attention.

With regard to land alienation in Western Samoa, I should remind the distinguished representative that the current legal conditions governing alienation of Samoan land are shown not on page 78 of the Annual Report but on page 81. Although no lawyer I am appreciative of the distinguished representative's commentary on real rights created by leases under Roman Law. I hasten to assure him, however, that under the English system of <sup>which applies in the Territory</sup> law/a 40-year lease in Samoa creates no rights of assignment or of sub-letting, user, renewal or compensation apart from those specifically given in the instrument of lease. At the end of

the term of the lease the leasehold property of course reverts to the lessor.

I should also like to remind the distinguished representative that although legislative measures of the New Zealand Parliament are still theoretically subject to the refusal of assent by the Crown and, until fairly recently the Parliament was incompetent to legislate on certain reserved subjects and enactments, no-one suggested that because of this the New Zealand Parliament has, or had, no legislative powers. Perhaps British Constitutional Law is not so rigid in its definitions on this point as are some Continental systems of law. In any case full sovereignty in the Legislative Assembly would surely be logically incompatible with the Trust status of the Territory.

I should like to assure the distinguished representative of the U.S.S.R. that the Administering Authority is at one with him in its desire to see Western Samoa a strong self-governing state. This is clear from the Prime Minister's statement. At times I find I cannot agree with the distinguished representative's arbitrary selection and interpretation of fact. I should like to refer him, to save time, to the relevant parts of this statement and of my answers to various questions for details about Samoans in the Public Service and about the powers of the Legislative Assembly.

I know that he will be pleased to hear that the Assembly which he considers "unrepresentative and undemocratic" appears to enjoy the complete confidence of the people in the Territory and that in the new Legislature the proportion of Samoan to European members is sure to be greatly increased.

I agree with the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union that the Administering Authority should avoid consecrating, or bolstering up, the matai system in such a way as to impede future progress. This is the main reason, of course, why it was decided not to recognize the judicial powers of traditional bodies - although in this the Administering Authority appears not to see eye to eye with the distinguished representative of Syria.

The Administering Authority constantly holds before the Samoan people the advantages of new forms of political representation and of economic organization. In fact, various government officials have incurred at times a certain amount of suspicion from Samoans for the zeal with which they have preached this gospel. But we will persevere, although so many Samoans insist that their form of society is far more truly democratic in spirit and fact than are other systems which claim that noble

epithet.

This reminds me to mention that Samoans are not as ignorant of the outside world as one or two members of the Council assume. Quite a number of Samoans take overseas newspapers and many of them listen avidly to new broadcasts from overseas stations or from the local station. While it is probably true, as the distinguished representative of Syria has said, that in the modern world it is no longer sufficient merely to cultivate one's own garden, the distinguished representative will realize that Samoans are somewhat sceptical of the thesis that outside Samoa all is for the best in the best of possible worlds. Rather do they regard their way of life as the one known island of stability in the wide sea of meaningless flux.

If I may correct the distinguished Soviet representative on one or two points in connection with the Constitutional Convention: as far as I know, it is not intended that any officials should attend this Convention; and as far as I know it has certainly not been decided that only matai should be present at the Convention. I shall not enlarge on the position of the matai in Samoan society but will refer distinguished members to my remarks earlier in this debate.

As far as the economy of the country is concerned the Administering Authority is well aware of the need to improve agriculture in the Territory. In fact the Administering Authority continually stresses this need both in the Territory and in this Council. It has taken and is taking in conjunction with the Territorial Government, steps to improve the position - consider for instance the Economic Survey, the Aerial Survey, the activities of the Departments of Agriculture both in New Zealand and Samoa, the pioneering work of the New Zealand Reparation Estates, the promotion of cooperatives, the building of roads and the other works which directly or indirectly affect the productivity of the Territory.

The distinguished representative of the Soviet Union will be pleased to learn that for many years no Samoan

land has been alienated save to the Government for necessary works and reserves. The indigenous inhabitants own by traditional tenure over 7/9ths of the land in the Territory, and some Samoans own or lease other land by European types of tenure. Large areas of land recently acquired by the Government of Samoa are already being surveyed prior to being opened up for use by Samoans. Considerable areas of Samoan land not at present cultivated are capable of being cultivated as required.

I can assure the distinguished representative that the Prime Minister when referring to the handover of the New Zealand Reparation Estates was not vague. The offer is clearly made subject to temporary safeguards and conditions which are considered necessary, until such time as Samoa is self-governing, in order to avoid too dangerous a divorce between power and responsibility. I have already referred to the establishment of a local Advisory Committee for the Estates and the present stage of negotiations.

I fear that the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union in saying that the Administering Authority should spend the £500,000 reserve of the Territorial Government shows that he has here failed to grasp both the constitutional position and the political reality. This money can be appropriated only by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory - the Assembly which votes virtually all supply and passes virtually all legislation despite the "lack of powers" from which one or two distinguished members of this Council think it suffers. As far as the £200,000 accumulated profits of the New Zealand Reparation Estates are concerned the Administering Authority has undertaken to spend this only after consultation with the Territorial Government which in this case means the Executive Council. And even in this case the local Assembly could object to any proposed expenditure if it wished to.

Fortunately there is trust and cooperation in this Trust Territory - a trust and cooperation which cannot easily be disturbed. And the Administering Authority cannot, and will not, ignore the advice of the Samoans in the Territorial Government, I assure you.

In the field of health I find myself once more on common ground with the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union. More hospitals are needed - they will be built. More staff is needed - it will be obtained. But this cannot be done in a day. Fortunately the transportation of patients is far easier than the distinguished representative imagines. This I have mentioned before.

In the distinguished representative's remarks on education he tried to show that education in Samoa was steadily regressing. He based his argument, it seemed, on a table on page 3 of Beeby's report showing pupils enrolled at Government Primary Schools. Yet on the same page Dr Beeby says that these figures for the earlier years "vary beyond the limits of credibility" and goes on to say that, anyhow, the quality of education was greatly improved and that "the mere counting of heads would give an unfair impression of the growth of the system of primary education".

The distinguished representative completely overlooked these and other similar remarks in Dr Beeby's report and apparently forgot the figures that, at his request, I gave him on 2 July showing the steady progress that has been made quantitatively in education in recent years. He also ignored UNLSCO's comments on education in Samoa. Details appear in Paper T/PV 542.

To say that I am disappointed in this is to say no more than the truth. I am, however, always ready to take the Council through this statistical jungle again, should anyone so desire. Personally, I was pleasantly surprised when I discovered that, if they could provide only 3,000 more places the present mission and Government school

could theoretically educate at the primary level all the children between the ages of 6 and 13 years inclusive. Only 15 per cent. of the children in this age group were not enrolled at a primary school last year.

But I cordially agree with the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union that many more teachers are needed. Steps which I have already mentioned are being taken to provide this much needed staff. Much remains to be done - but in what country does not much remain to be done in this field? The Administering Authority is by no means smug at the thought of past achievements but it expects comment to be fair. Its policy with regard to scholarships, Samoa College and higher education has, I think, been fully covered by me in my answers to questions during the course of the debate. This policy is, in fact, in line with past recommendations of this Council and of UNESCO.

I should probably comment on many other remarks made in the final statements of distinguished representatives, but I think that in most cases - such as the present position with regard to the legal differentiations between persons of Samoan and persons of European status - I have taken up enough of the Council's time. I should like to say, however, that, in view of the export figures for recent years and the Territory's present general prosperity, it is rather overstating the position to declare that agriculture has not gone far beyond the growth of food crops.

It is also mistaken to imply that the importance of the Prime Minister's statement of March 1953 is being in any way minimized; or that the implementation of the Plan is running far behind schedule. When an advance on all fronts on any given objective is ordered, it should not be expected that equal advances will be immediately possible. During 1953 the advance on the objective of self-government for Samoa continued according to plan.

I am very glad that the members of this Council have

pointed out, or rather have agreed with the Administering Authority, that on certain very important fronts greater efforts are necessary. The educative function of the Council is one which should never be forgotten and, if I may adapt a famous phrase, I am sure that for Samoans and others merely to read through the general debate on the Trust Territory will be a liberal education.

It may be because of historical accidents or the socio-political proclivities of the leaders in the movement that the rather vaguely defined nationalist movement in Samoa has tended to crystallize around old Samoan custom. It may be, on the other hand, because such a culture is still suited to this stage of Samoan economic and political development. But the Council echoes the often-voiced opinion of the Administering Authority when it says that some changes are becoming increasingly desirable and even necessary. Let us hope that the Samoans do not lose more than they gain when these changes occur, as occur they must. Perhaps they would come more easily if Samoan custom were not on the defensive.

These are personal opinions and it is on this personal note that I wish to end. I should like to thank you Mr President and all the members of the Council without exception for the courtesy with which they have treated me during the debate and the patience and sympathy with which they have borne with my explanations. They have made of what could have been a harrowing ordeal a pleasant and indeed memorable experience.

Thank you.