The Canadian delegation welcomes the recent advances made in the Trust Territory of New Guinea in the political, economic, social and educational fields. Australia, as the administering authority, is to be congratulated on the constitution of the Legislative Council of Papua and New Guinea, which has made provision for the election of indigenous members from the Trust territory and is a significant step towards the creation of a political consciousness among the people of the territory. We also welcome the administering authority's plan to extend full administrative control over the entire territory by the end of 1963. The setting of this target reflects a proper sense of urgency for the rapid and planned advance of the territory.

Likewise the announcement by the administering authority that it is now engaged in the preparation of a comprehensive programme of economic, social and educational advancement in New Guinea from which it will be possible to derive target dates in these various fields is very much to be welcomed. We are confident that the administering authority will pursue these plans with vigour and that the "leap forward" in the overall development of the territory, which is reflected in the Trusteeship Council's current report, will be further accelerated in the coming year.

The problem of the Nauruans, in human terms, is a peculiar and tragic one. It seems clear that there will be a probable need for resettlement of the Nauruan community elsewhere, due to the exhaustion of the phosphate deposits; the population increase if these people should remain on their remote island in a steadily contracting economy if no other means of livelihood can be found for them. Whatever solution is found, whether by resettlement of Australia, New Zealand and Britain, or on another island, we hope that the Nauruan people will be enabled to preserve their own traditions and identity. We have the promise of the three governments that any solution concerning a future home for the people themselves based on the freely expressed wishes of the people.

It seems to my delegation that we must keep in mind this assurance of self-determination; that we must allow the Nauruan people sufficient time to weigh the difficult choices with which they are faced, and hope that in the end a consensus of opinion about their future will emerge from their own counsels. In the meantime it is surely premature to force a solution on a people who are not ready for it or to debate procedures whereby the Nauruans would be asked, here and now, to decide their destiny. The choice is for them to make when they are agreed on their future. In conclusion, my delegation hopes that the 1962 visiting mission to the future of the people of Nauru