

34. TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT FOR NAURU

Nauru, a small phosphate island in the Pacific about 26 miles below the equator directly south of the Marshall Islands and formerly under British Empire mandate, came under the jurisdiction of the Trusteeship Council when the Assembly, at its Second Session, approved with slight amendments the trusteeship agreement which had been submitted by the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

In the Fourth Committee, where this matter had been discussed, the Soviet, Polish, Yugoslav and Ukrainian delegates had opposed the draft agreement on the ground that it reproduced most of the objectionable features of the eight trusteeship agreements approved by the Assembly in December, 1946. These agreements concerned New Guinea, Ruanda-Urundi, Cameroons (French), Togoland (French), Western Samoa, Tanganyika, Cameroons (British) and Togoland (British).¹ The Soviet delegate offered amendments providing for periodic visits to Nauru by representatives of the Trusteeship Council or the Assembly, "the development of free political institutions" and of "democratic organs of representation", and the inclusion of a reference to Article 83 of the Charter. This was designed to prevent the administering powers from taking any military measures in Nauru unless the island had first been declared a strategic area under the jurisdiction of the Security Council. The three proposed amendments were defeated by large majorities, Canada voting against all three. In place of the reference to Article 83 desired by the Soviet Union, a modification was introduced into Article 7 of the agreement invoking the authority of Article 84 of the Charter for any military measures the administering authority might choose to take in the island. This Article provides that the administering authority must ensure that a trusteeship territory is in a position to play its part in the maintenance of international peace and security.

¹ See *The United Nations 1946*, Department of External Affairs publication, Conference series 1946, No. 3, p. 106.