

The kind of scheme which is envisaged here--which the government of independent Western Samoa is free to propose or not, as it pleases--has none of the features of a protectorate because Western Samoa would be, at all times, solely responsible for formulating its own international policies. There would be no diminution of sovereignty, and the arrangement could be terminated by Western Samoa at any time. We have been given this assurance both by the Honourable, the Prime Minister of Western Samoa and by the distinguished representative of New Zealand.

To my mind the proposed scheme is an eminently sensible and practical interim arrangement. We have been told by the Prime Minister that the Government of Western Samoa would probably conduct for itself its more important trade negotiations and would probably seek membership in certain international organizations and send its delegates to their meetings. However, because of its limited financial resources and the scarcity of trained personnel, Western Samoa would probably not attempt to establish diplomatic or consular representation abroad except, perhaps, on a very limited scale and it would hope to have its interests watched in various international bodies by New Zealand. This is a system which many small states must necessarily follow; to do so implies no surrender of sovereignty. A decision by which the people of a free and independent state make the best use of their available resources in the fashion best suited to them is itself an exercise of sovereignty, and it would be an unfortunate limitation of such sovereignty to compel a state with limited resources to take on more in the field of external relations than it feels it can manage.

On attaining independence Western Samoa will be free to exercise its complete and unfettered sovereignty in the fashion which best meets its needs. Rather than remain an isolated state in the South Pacific it may choose to conduct its more important international negotiations and to seek membership in those organizations of most interest to it. If it should choose to be represented in other international bodies and to have its own interests cared for and represented in certain countries by New Zealand, then this, it seems to us, indicates an exercise, not a surrender, of sovereignty and a determination to participate in international affairs in the fashion best suited to its present needs.

For these reasons my Delegation gives its full support to the draft resolution now before us, sponsored by Argentina, the Federation of Malaya, Ghana,