

Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Council has paid growing attention to the question of preparing the trust territories for self-government.

At its thirty-third session, held in New York from May to July 1966, the Council welcomed the establishment in 1966 in Nauru of a partially elected executive council and a legislative council as an important step in the direction of self-government. Recalling that the people of Nauru had freely expressed their wish to achieve independence by January 31, 1968, and that this wish had been endorsed by the twentieth session of the General Assembly, the Council recommended to the administering authority that it give serious consideration to granting independence by that date. The Council also discussed the economic future of Nauru, an isolated islet whose only resource, a phosphate deposit, will be exhausted in 30 years.

With regard to New Guinea, which is administered jointly with the Australian territory of Papua, the Council commended the administering authority on its social, economic and educational development programmes and on its efforts to respond to the political aspirations of the territory's inhabitants. It noted that the twentieth session of the General Assembly had called for the fixing of an early date for independence in accordance with the freely-expressed wishes of the people, and that a member of the territory's House of Assembly had stated before the Council that the people of Papua and New Guinea were not ready for self-government at this stage; it also drew to the attention of the administering authority the need to keep constantly before the people the choices for the future open to them, including independence.

In its consideration of the Pacific Islands trust territory, or Micronesia, the Council noted with satisfaction the constitution of a national legislature on the basis of universal adult suffrage as a major step towards self-determination. It drew the administering authority's attention to the need for a systematic long-term health plan for Micronesia, as suggested by the World Health Organization following an investigation of a petitioner's complaint about the territory's health services. The Council decided to despatch a regular visiting mission to the Pacific Islands in 1967, with a broad mandate to investigate and report on the territory's advancement.

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established in 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations to replace the Permanent Court of International Justice, and its Statute is annexed to the United Nations Charter, of which it forms an