

59. The *Fono* is the body which allows regional representation to the Samoan people. In its advisory legislative capacity it can give all the Samoan groups the chance to have their views heard in accordance with Samoan customs, and without the members being called upon to possess technical legislative experience such as is needed for members of the central Legislature. As proved by experience to date, this body gives the opportunity for a common Samoan opinion to crystallize. It can help the central legislative body and the Government generally to understand the trends and aspirations of that opinion through motions which may then serve as the basis for legislative or executive action. The *Faipules* represent district opinion, while the Samoan members of the Legislature would represent the Territory as a whole.

60. The *Faipules* have also acted since German days as representatives of the Government in their constituencies, and in this respect are a part of the executive authority. As a part-time paid official a *Faipule* is expected to serve as an intermediary between the central administration and the people of his constituency. It is customary for him to meet with the local leaders to discuss matters relating to the Government before attending the *Fono*, and to report to them on his return.

61. The fact that the *Faipule* acts both as representative of his constituency in the Government, and as representative of the Government in his constituency, is quite in accordance with Samoan tradition. The *Faipules* can be of great help in the civic education and political training of the Samoan people, and their work and importance could profitably be strengthened.

62. The present method of electing the *Faipule* according to Samoan custom, whether by nomination or election according to the wishes of the constituency, seems to be working satisfactorily. Formal confirmation of nominations by the New Zealand representative should no longer be held necessary.

J. CENTRAL EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT

63. It is essential that for the present the executive Departments should be under the supervision and authority of the New Zealand representative. This will be necessary until such time as a tradition of Public Service has been developed both among the leaders and among public servants, and it will circumvent the danger that officers may be unduly influenced by considerations of rank and of "duty" towards relatives. The New Zealand representative, in consultation with the High Council, should have the power to appoint the heads of the Departments.