

77. The Committee discussions centred around an examination of a paper submitted by the Australian delegation covering the fields of health and economic and social development. An attempt was made to specify the various projects which were considered to be of the highest importance so far as the economic and social welfare of the inhabitants of the island territories are concerned. These were not to be taken as in any way covering the whole question, but it was hoped that they might serve as a guide to the Commission when it began its work. It was considered inappropriate to incorporate the final report of Committee V in the actual text of the Agreement for the establishment of the Commission, but the findings of the Committee were drawn up as a list of recommendations from the Conference to the Commission. The Resolution Concerning Immediate Projects is appended to this report.

78. All delegations co-operated whole-heartedly in offering suggestions regarding problems thought to be capable of regional treatment, and the Committee was able to profit from the practical knowledge of men drawn from all parts of the South Pacific area.

79. The New Zealand delegation, for its part, was able to offer many suggestions deriving from New Zealand's knowledge of the problems in her own island territories. Thus, in the field of health, a New Zealand suggestion that, in view of increased air transportation especially, quarantine regulations should be reviewed, was accepted.

80. The New Zealand delegate also strongly supported a proposal to encourage women's organizations, citing the successful operation of such women's committees in Western Samoa and the Cook Islands.

81. The importance of the fisheries in relation to nutrition was stressed by the New Zealand delegation, which pointed out the importance of raising the standard of living in the islands as an essential step to the enjoyment of a better life.

82. With regard to the subject of labour conditions, New Zealand submitted a proposal, which was finally accepted, suggesting a study of labour conditions in the territories with a view to improvement on the lines suggested by the I.L.O.

83. The report of Committee V, which appears as a Resolution Concerning Immediate Projects, should be of the greatest value in indicating to the Commission certain projects which it might undertake as soon as possible as being essential for the advancement of the peoples of the South Pacific Territories.