

I. BASIC INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY

Tokelau, a Non-Self-Governing Territory administered by New Zealand, consists of three small atolls (Nukunonu, Fakaofu and Atafu) lying in the South Pacific about 480 kilometres north of the State of Samoa, its nearest sizeable neighbour. Collectively, the three atolls have a total land area of 12.2 square kilometres and the elevation is nowhere more than 5 metres above sea level. Nukunonu, the central and largest atoll

The most unhappy chapter in Tokelau's history began in 1862 when

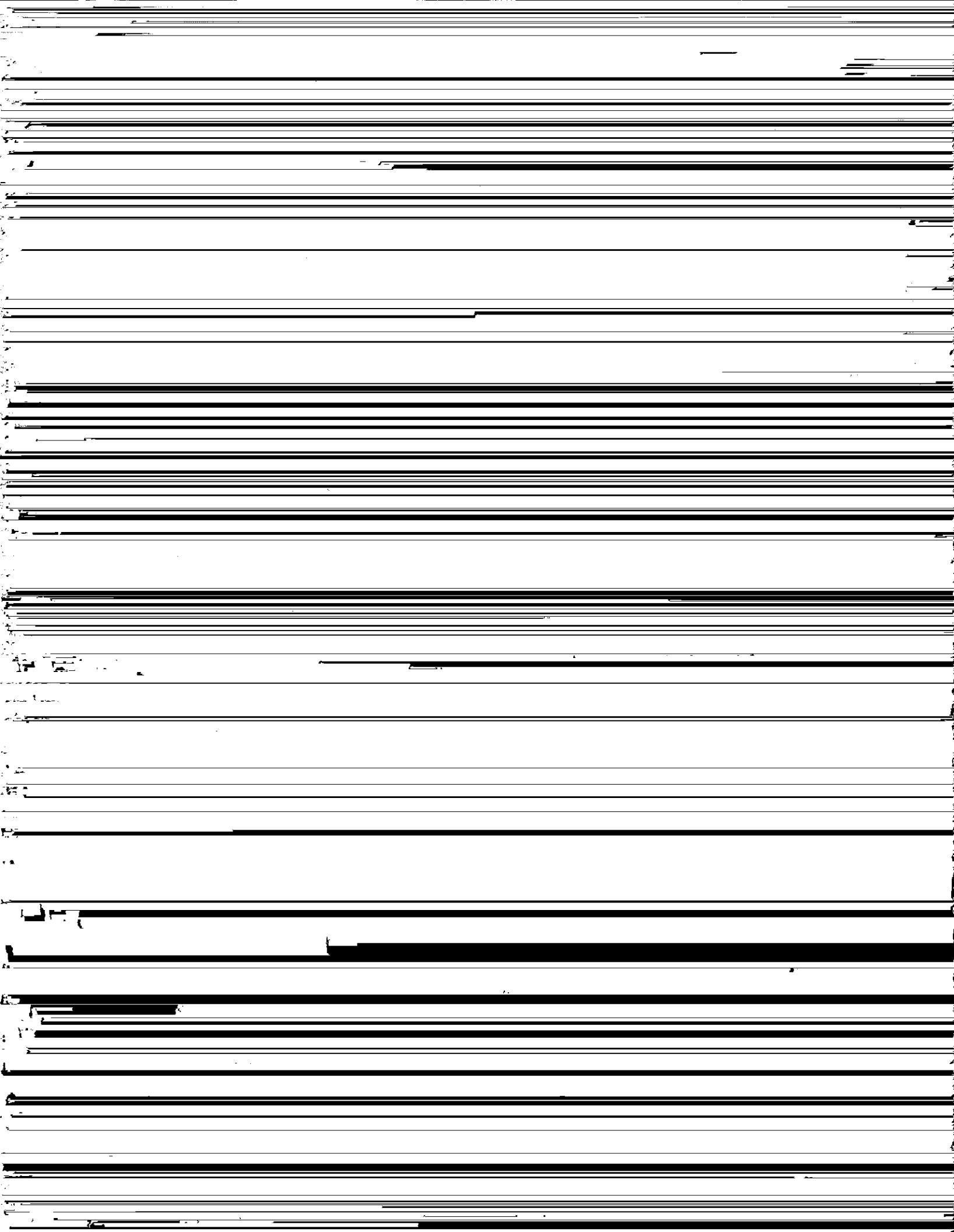
Tokelauan representatives. In July 1986, the first new legislation arising from the project was enacted, known as the Tokelau Amendment Act of 1986. The Act, among other provisions, transferred High Court jurisdiction for Tokelau from Niue to the High Court of New Zealand and specified that appeals might be made to the New Zealand Court of Appeals.

Over the years, New Zealand has delegated increasing responsibility for the internal administration of the Territory to the Tokelauans themselves. The main governing organ for the Territory as a whole, the General Fono, consists of 15 representatives of each atoll chosen by its respective Council of Elders (taunulega). The General Fono usually meets

informed the 1986 United Nations Visiting Mission that there were several



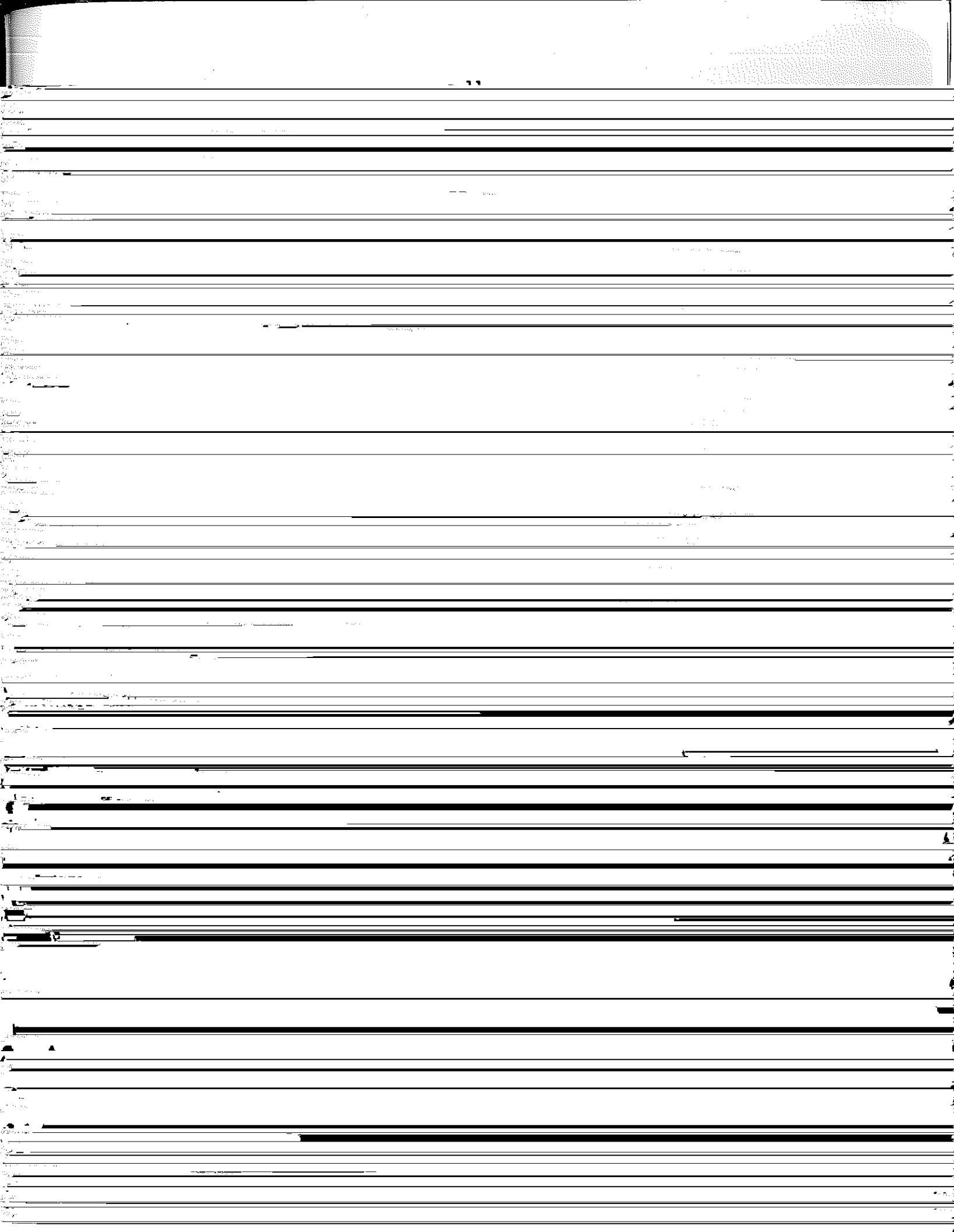






In 1986, the General Assembly took into account the report of the Special Committee, the report of the 1986 Visiting Mission to the

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... for their determination to

