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132  
SECOND SESSION

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

COMMENTS ON PROVISIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Item 6 of the Agenda

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Trusteeship Council the following communication of 18 November 1947 which has been received from the Government of the United Kingdom. This communication is in reply to the Secretary-General's letter of 29 May 1947 transmitting the Provisional Questionnaire to the Government of the United Kingdom as the basis for the first annual reports on Trust Territories under British administration, and inviting comments or suggestions for the revision of the Questionnaire, in accordance with the decision taken by the Trusteeship Council at its first session.

/No. 154  
(219/4/47)

C O P Y

UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
NEW YORK

No. 154  
(219/4/47)

18th November 1947.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 1503-3-4/R.J.B. of May 29th last addressed to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a memorandum containing the comments and suggestions of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom on the Provisional Questionnaire drawn up by the Trusteeship Council in the course of its first session. This memorandum has been drawn up after consultation with the local authorities in the Trust Territories for which His Majesty is the Administering Authority.

2. I would request that the memorandum, together with any other comments that may be made by members of the Trusteeship Council, may be circulated promptly to all members in order to expedite early approval of the Questionnaire, so that Administering Authorities may proceed as quickly as possible with the preparation of the first Annual Reports on Trust Territories.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(s) Alan Burns.

His Excellency  
Monsieur Trygve Lie,  
Secretary-General,  
United Nations,  
Lake Success.

/MEMORANDUM BY GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM BY GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Suggested Revisions and Amendments  
to Provisional Questionnaire of  
Trusteeship Council  
(United Nations Document T/44 of  
8th May, 1947).

(1) Question 19.

It is suggested that this question be reworded to read: "Give details of police and gendarmerie. What are the manners of recruitment, conditions of service and nationality of all locally raised forces."

(2) Questions 26, 27 and 121.

It is felt that the wording of these questions is too general and that it would be an improvement if they were to be amalgamated to form a revised question 26 as follows:

"Indicate the principal indigenous groups with a brief note on their social, religious and customary background. To what extent are these factors provided for in legal and administrative measures designed to assist the advancement of the inhabitants towards self-government or independence as required by the Charter?"

(3) Questions 76 and 168.

It is suggested that question 168 be deleted as a separate question and transferred to form a second paragraph to question 76.

(4) Questions 81 to 89.

It is suggested that this section of the questionnaire dealing with land and natural resources be amended as follows:

(a) Question 82. Measures for the conservation of forest resources should be specifically exempted from this question as they are more appropriately described under Question 90.

(b) Questions 83, 85 and 89 might with advantage be grouped serially.

(c) Question 84. It is suggested that, to avoid possible ambiguity in the present wording, this question be reworded to read:

"Explain the laws governing tenure of land by the non-indigenous population of the Trust Territories, registration of their titles (if any), and the conditions imposed upon transfer of or other dealings in their interests in land. Describe also measures taken to protect the tenure of the indigenous population."

(d) Question 86. The meaning of "general conditions" controlling the power to acquire land for public purposes is not felt to be sufficiently clear and it is suggested that this question be reworded to read:

"What powers, statutory or other, does the Administering Authority exercise to acquire land for public purposes? To what extent and for what purposes has such land been acquired during the past year?"

(5) Questions 90 and 91.

It is felt that the questions in this section relating to forests are inadequate in their present form. It is suggested that they be replaced by the following which it is thought would provide a more adequate survey of the subject:

- (a) "Approximately what area and what percentage of the territory is under forest? State the area of each type of forest."
- (b) "What area of each type of forest is definitely allocated to the permanent forest estate of the territory? Express the answers also as percentages (a) of the total area of the territory and (b) of the total forest land. State whether any further additions to the permanent forest estate are expected."
- (c) "What area of the permanent forest estate is under proper management plans? What area of the estate has been regenerated? What area of plantations exist?"
- (d) "What are the main provisions of the forest law? Does it provide for the protection of forests and for the reafforestation of cleared and waste lands?"
- (e) "What are the most important forest products in the economy of the territory for export and for domestic use? Give a brief note of their importance in the economy of the territory."

(6) Question 113.

It is suggested that the following sub-sections of this question be amplified as follows:

- "(b) Telephone and radio telephony
- (c) Telegraph, cable and wireless telegraphy
- (d) Broadcasting, radio receiving and radio redistribution".

(7) Question 222.

This question might be expanded to read "Is there a body or code of laws and regulations governing education in the territory? What educational legislation or other measures have been passed during the year?"

(8) Question 223.

For "school building programmes" read "school building and/or equipment programmes."

(9) Question 225.

It is suggested that this question be reworded to read "What types of official or unofficial organizations other than the Central Government control schools? How many schools are controlled by each type of organisation and of what grades are they?"

What conditions are attached to any grants made to non-governing schools? On what basis are the grants made?"

It is suggested that a new question be inserted in the Section on "Schools and Curriculum" to read as follows:

"What is the system of grading in the schools of each category? What is the approximate range of ages in each grade?"

(10) Question 227.

It is suggested that an additional paragraph be inserted as follows:

"To what extent are indigenous languages studied as school subjects and used as vehicles of culture?"

(11) Question 230.

Add a sentence: "What fees are charged at different levels?"

(12) Question 239.

After "libraries" insert "and reading rooms".

(13) Question 241.

It is suggested that this be amended to read "How many cinemas, including travelling cinemas are there? Give some estimate of their cultural influence. How many theatres are there? Estimate their cultural influence."

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