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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Ninth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York
on Monday, 28 April 1958, at 10.50 a.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. LALL	(India)
Later,	Mr. ALFONZO RAVARD	Venezuela
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. KELLY	Australia
	Mr. CASTRO ALVES	Brazil
	Mr. DURAISWAMY	Ceylon
	Mr. YANG	China
	Mr. de CAMARET)	France
	Mr. LEMERCIER)	
	Mr. URRUTIA APARICIO	Guatemala
	Mr. NATARAJAN	India
	Mr. KITTANI	Iraq
	Mr. VIXSEBOXSE)	Netherlands
	Mr. CRADER)	
	Mr. VAS NUNES)	
	Mr. THORP	New Zealand
	Mr. CASTON)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. CHINN)	
	Mr. MORE	United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. PAYRO	International Labour Organisation
Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Dr. SACKS World Health Organization

Secretariat: Mr. COHEN Under-Secretary for Trusteeship
and Information from Non-Self-
Governing Territories

Mr. PEREZ GUERRERO Director of the Division of
Information from Non-Self-
Governing Territories

Mr. KUNST Secretary of the Committee

SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued):

(f) PUBLIC HEALTH (A/AC.35/L.276):

- (1) POPULATION TRENDS AND PUBLIC HEALTH (A/AC.35/L.266 and Corr.1, A/AC.35/L.275)
- (11) LONG-TERM HEALTH PLANS (A/AC.35/L.279)
- (111) MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (A/AC.35/L.271, A/AC.35/L.272)

(g) RACE RELATIONS: (A/AC.35/L.269)

(h) OTHER QUESTIONS: (A/AC.35/L.273)

Mr. YANG (China) said that the problem of race relations might sometimes be difficult to solve quickly but was certainly not impossible to solve. It was essentially a human problem, the solution of which should be sought by relying on the conscience and noble instincts of mankind. His delegation approached the problem in a spirit of cautious optimism, feeling that it was imperative that, inspired by the spirit of the Charter, a new state of mind should be created in which the peoples of the world could practise tolerance and live together in peace.

The elimination of racial discrimination was essential to the improvement of race relations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories; it was important, however, that nothing should be done to complicate the problem. In the past his delegation had joined with others in calling for the immediate and complete elimination of racial discrimination but it had never underestimated the difficulties involved and had made it known that it would appreciate any earnest efforts to that end. His delegation, like others, wished to see an early end to all remaining discriminatory practices in all the Non-Self-Governing Territories; in particular, it wished to see a harmonious development of race relations in those Non-Self-Governing Territories where there were multiracial communities. The existence of settled immigrant communities in some of the Territories often accentuated racial tension, because of the striking difference between the level of living of the European immigrants and that of the indigenous inhabitants, particularly when a policy of racial discrimination was advocated or practised by those immigrants. The task of the Administering Authorities in trying to diminish those differences and to harmonize African and European interests in the multiracial communities was therefore formidable. While his delegation agreed that the legitimate rights of the European minority must be

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safeguarded, it considered that the immigrant communities must not be allowed to set up barriers to the economic, social and political development of the Africans and that conditions should be established in which a sense of the identity of interests between the two groups could be impressed upon the Africans.

Recent action taken by various organs of the United Nations to prevent or eliminate racial discrimination deserved the attention and support of the Committee. The Commission on Human Rights, for example, had adopted a recommendation that the principles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be a required subject of study in all schools and universities of Member States and of the Territories under their administration. It had also been encouraging to learn that the General Conference of the ILO would shortly take up a proposed recommendation concerning discrimination in respect of employment and that the ILO intended to give further study to the problem of race discrimination as it affected the African Territories.

While progress in improving race relations had been slow in past years there was good reason to believe that the general trend was in the right direction and it was possible to look forward with confidence to the elimination of race discrimination in the not-too-distant future. Many other facts could be adduced to support that conclusion: the harmonious race relations prevailing in the Cook Islands, the proposed establishment of a Federal Office of Racial Affairs in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the Bill approved by the Colonial Council in Brussels making it an offence to foster dislike, contempt or hatred for a racial or ethnic group in the Belgian Congo. His delegation also wished to commend the United States Government for the excellent race relations existing in Hawaii; in particular, the prevalence there of the practice of interracial marriage seemed to deserve careful study in the Territories with multi-racial communities.

Lastly, his delegation regretted the continued existence in some Territories of racial segregation and of segregated schools and trade unions. It hoped that full information would be transmitted on all aspects of race relations so that a comprehensive study of the problem in the Non-Self-Governing Territories could be made for the consideration of the Committee at future sessions.

Mr. KITTANI (Iraq) said that his delegation was fully aware of the complex nature of the question of race relations and the fact that it was one in which sweeping generalizations were particularly dangerous. It recognized also that race problems were not peculiar to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and that a great deal of progress had been made towards solving the problem in those Territories. Nevertheless, it considered that, like all diseases, the malady of racial discrimination was the more easily cured the sooner it was detected and that since the Non-Self-Governing Territories in general represented societies which were at a relatively early stage of development the detection and elimination of the beginnings of racial stratification in them would help to prevent the malady from taking root and causing greater trouble in the future.

That the problem of racial discrimination was subtle as well as complex could be seen from the fact that the Commission on Human Rights had recently attempted, without success, to reach agreement on a definition of discrimination in education. Some members of the Commission had held that only intentional discrimination should be included in the term, while others had felt that unintentional discrimination should also be included. In that connexion, it was encouraging to note that segregation in any form, even when coupled with the provision of "separate but equal" facilities, was now recognized as discriminatory in nature by the authorities in many Non-Self-Governing Territories.

His delegation considered that discrimination in education was the worst of all the forms of discrimination because through it all the other forms of discrimination were implanted in the hearts and minds of men. In that connexion, he felt that two sections of Mr. Ammoun's study of discrimination in education, which was referred to in the Secretariat's report on race relations (A/AC.35/L.269), deserved greater attention. In dealing with conditions in the Belgian Congo, Mr. Ammoun had pointed out that the adoption by the Administering Authority of a policy of gradual integration had led to a progressive decrease in racial discrimination in the field of education. It was a significant step forward that indigenous children were now permitted to enter European schools, even

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though their admission was subject to strict conditions, as was shown by the fact that in Leopoldville only sixteen out of forty candidates for places in European schools had been admitted. Moreover, further progress had been made since the date of Mr. Amoun's report. His delegation was happy to note those advances and would be even happier to see an honest attempt made to establish a fully-integrated school system such as that already existing in the French territories.

The difficulties involved in eliminating discrimination in education were epitomized by the situation in Kenya, as described in Mr. Amoun's report. Although his delegation recognized that the cultural and linguistic differences on which the supporters of segregated education rested their case were indeed great obstacles to integration, it considered that the success of the integration undertaken in the French territories and in some of the newly-independent countries of Asia showed that they were not insurmountable and it hoped that where such segregated school systems existed an earnest and sincere effort to eliminate them would be made by the Administering Powers.

His delegation had been surprised to read in paragraph 73 of the Secretariat's report that the admission of Papuan children to primary school in Netherlands New Guinea was subject to their knowledge of the Dutch language. He himself had attended a primary school in which the language used was not his own and had experienced no difficulty because of that fact.

Reference had already been made to the important recommendation recently adopted by the Commission on Human Rights regarding the teaching of the principles embodied in the Declaration of Human Rights to children in the schools of all Member States. It should be added that it had been at the instance of the Belgian delegation that the recommendation had been introduced.

It was often said of delegations such as his own that they were never satisfied with the amount of information submitted by the Administering Powers. In that connexion he would point out that the Secretariat itself had stated, in paragraph 109 of its report, that a comprehensive and analytical study of race relations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories was limited by the information available.

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His delegation considered, lastly, that one very important aspect of discrimination in education should not be overlooked: the fact that the effects, if not the form, of discrimination might also result from the denial of their rights to entire populations, although discrimination in the narrower sense could not be said to exist in such cases.

Mr. DURAIWAMY (Ceylon) observed that the question of race relations affected all aspects of the development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Of all forms of discrimination, those based on race and colour appeared to be the most deep-rooted and as long as such discrimination persisted it could not be said that the obligations undertaken by the Administering Powers had been fulfilled. The feeling of resentment and frustration which racial discrimination aroused among the peoples of those Territories must inevitably lead to insecurity and fear, which in turn might bring about an explosive situation constituting a threat to peace. It was therefore urgent that the Administering Powers should take active measures to eradicate all vestiges of racial discrimination. The United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights condemned all forms of discrimination. In 1946 the General Assembly had adopted resolution 103 (I) condemning racial discrimination and in 1952, on the recommendation of the Committee, it had adopted resolution 644 (VII) calling for the abolition of discriminatory laws and practices in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

His delegation was happy to note from the report prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.35/L.269) that since 1955 steps had been taken in a number of Territories to abolish discrimination and that in some instances policy statements condemning discrimination had been issued. Particularly noteworthy in that respect were the Bill approved by the Colonial Council at Brussels to the effect that any person in the Belgian Congo expressing, provoking or fostering racial contempt or hatred was liable to punishment, and the statement by the Governor-General of the Belgian Congo that any manifestation of racial discrimination by word or deed was contrary to the general policy of the Government; the official statement by the United Kingdom Government that the aim of United Kingdom policy in all African territories was the advancement in honourable partnership of all communities, without discrimination on grounds

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of race; the steps taken for the reform of the public services in the French Union to facilitate the access of indigenous civil servants to all ranks in the Administration; the principle accepted in the Netherlands that indigenous persons in New Guinea could occupy any post for which they had the necessary education and training; the steps taken by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand to enable the indigenous peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories administered by them to assume increasing responsibility for the administration of their own affairs, and, finally, the example of assimilation and integration in race relations offered by Hawaii.

There was still a great deal to be done, however, to remove all traces of racial discrimination, for the measures applied were both inadequate and unduly slow. One of the aspects of racial discrimination which did most to hamper the evolution of an indigenous industrial society was the policy of maintaining the indigenous population as a source of cheap labour. In the development of modern industry indigenous workers played as important a part as the immigrant Europeans, yet the benefits were not shared equally by the different races. In most of Africa there were different wage scales, different codes of labour legislation and different standards of living, for Africans and Europeans respectively. Generally speaking, the maximum wage paid to Africans did not exceed the minimum paid to Europeans, while the wages of unskilled African labourers barely kept them above starvation level. His delegation felt that the cheap labour policy which was an intrinsic part of the pattern of racial discrimination was detrimental to the economy as a whole and that the Administering Members should take steps to reduce the discrepancy between the wages paid to indigenous and to European labour.

Another field in which the indigenous inhabitants were at a great disadvantage as compared with immigrant Europeans was education. In some Territories separate schools were maintained for the children of each of the largest racial groups and because of the shortage of schools and teachers most African children could be given six years' schooling at the most. The reason given for the failure of some Administering Members to provide adequately for the educational needs of the indigenous inhabitants was lack of funds; yet when the tax systems in force in the Territories were analysed it could be seen that not all sections of the population were taxed equally. A European member

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of the Rhodesian Federal Assembly, for example, had commented on the circumstance that while all Africans were required to pay a poll tax of one pound per year, regardless of their income, Europeans paid no direct tax of any kind unless their income reached a certain level; the result was that only about 30,000 of the total European population of 250,000 paid income tax, although they all made use of the public services, including free education, which were available to Europeans. In addition, they received Government subsidies for building houses, operating farms and so forth. The Africans, on the other hand, paid the major part of the costs of whatever local services they received.

A third area of discrimination was that relating to land. In that connexion he was glad to note that in its report of 1953-1955 the East African Royal Commission had recognized that the retention of the Highlands of Kenya for exclusively European use was contrary to the principles of inter-penetration of land, which was essential to economic production.

Despite the discriminatory attitude manifested by certain individuals and institutions, however, there was a progressive body of opinion in the Territories working for better relations between the races. The Methodist Synod meeting in Northern Rhodesia, for example, had unanimously adopted a resolution which, while welcoming evidences of growing liberal opinion in the matter of race relations in the Federation, expressed the fear that the Federal Government's racial policy was undermining its liberal spirit and inflaming African opinion. Similarly, the joint pastoral letter addressed by the Roman Catholic Church to Catholics of all races in Northern Rhodesia stated that the introduction of legislation which would secure the rights of one section of the community by curtailing the rights of others could not be reconciled with the Catholic conscience and that the concept of a multiracial society was illusory as long as the various sectors of the population were compelled to live segregated from each other.

His delegation had noted with satisfaction that it was the official policy of all the Administering Powers to eliminate racial discrimination and it hoped that more positive steps would be taken to accelerate that process.

Mr. CHINN (United Kingdom), noting the importance of mass communications in community development work and extension work in general, said that in the Non-Self-Governing Territories administered by the United Kingdom a community development officer was expected to be an expert in the use of audio and audio-visual aids and capable of devising such aids as well as using those made available to him by the information services. In some Territories, notably in the Caribbean and East Africa, the departments responsible for social development had special equipment for that purpose and separate units for the preparation of material such as film strips, posters, flannel graphs and even films. The use of the proper mass media was particularly important in connexion with mass campaigns and it was frequently the community development department which advised on the type of material required, in some cases even supplying it. In connexion with informal education and literacy campaigns, the importance of follow-up literature was obvious. The work of the East African Literature Bureau, an inter-territorial organization engaged in preparing and disseminating suitable literature, helped to fill that need. In 1956 a conference on visual aids, attended by social welfare officers, community development officers, educational officers from overseas territories and representatives of non-governmental organizations had been held at the Colonial Office in London. The conference had recommended that a permanent centre should be set up in London to meet the needs of overseas territories for a wide variety of visual and audio-visual aids and material explaining their use. In 1957 the centre had been established with the financial support of the United Kingdom Government and the Nuffield Foundation; it had acquired permanent headquarters and would have a small staff of people experienced in the application of visual aid techniques in overseas territories.

Mr. Alfonzo Ravard (Venezuela) took the Chair.

Mr. DURAISWAMY (Ceylon) said that the use of mass communications media, including newspapers, motion pictures and broadcasting, in enlisting the support of the population for the establishment of a network of decentralized health services

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throughout the urban and rural areas was an example of the way in which such media could be used for bettering social conditions. They could be used also to good advantage in training the local leadership which was essential for the success of any scheme put forward by the authorities for the betterment of the people.

He was therefore glad to note from the secretary's report on mass communications in the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.35/L.273) that there was an increasing demand on the part of the populations of such Territories for effective audio-visual aids as a means of disseminating information and furthering education. There were, however, certain basic problems, such as that of illiteracy, which hindered the effective utilization of audio-visual aids. The Administering Powers should improve and increase educational facilities, particularly at the primary and secondary level, if mass communications media were to be used to the best advantage. It was likewise essential that such media should be used in the language or languages of the indigenous people, in order to reach the widest possible audience, and the indigenous inhabitants should be trained in the technical aspects of their use. It was encouraging to note that experts from abroad had been employed to train indigenous persons in the techniques of radio broadcasting. In the absence of cinemas the use of mobile film units with commentaries in the local languages was useful but he hoped that the building of cinemas which could be used effectively in connexion with mass educational, health and agricultural campaigns would be encouraged. Steps should also be taken to expand the construction and supplying of libraries and to encourage the publication of books in the local languages.

Mr. VIXSEBOXSE (Netherlands) reserved the right of his delegation to reply at a later meeting to the point the Iraqi representative had raised concerning the admission of Papuan children to primary schools for European children in Netherlands New Guinea.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES:

- (a) **QUESTIONS ARISING OUT OF THE 1957 REPORT ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS (A/3647, Part II)**
- (b) **INFORMATION ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE SUMMARIES PREPARED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/3806-3808, A/3809 and Corr.1, A/3810-3816)**

Mr. LEMERCIER (France) said that from the information on foreign trade in 1955 supplied to the Committee in July 1957 it had appeared that the economy of the Overseas Territories, which up to then had shown steady progress, had undergone a certain levelling off as a result of the drop in the prices of the principal export products, despite the general increase in production. The balance sheet for 1956 was certainly more favourable; nevertheless the increase in the value of export products did not reflect the increase in the volume of production. The reason was that the increasing volume of exports was subject to fluctuations in world market prices, which had not been particularly favourable in 1956.

There had been a considerable increase in export tonnage in comparison with 1955 and the value of exports had risen from 178,000 million francs to 197,000 million. The increase in imports had been less marked. It was clear from the figures that business had recovered slowly after the crisis of 1955 and there had been a tendency to liquidate stocks rather than to accumulate new ones. That was confirmed by the trend in 1957: the statistics so far available for that year showed a considerable increase in imports.

The deficit in the balance of trade had decreased from 55,000 million francs in 1955 to 42,000 million in 1956, imports being covered by exports to the extent of 82 per cent as compared with 78 per cent.

With regard to trade with foreign countries there had been an increase in imports from 27.7 per cent in 1955 to 29.6 per cent in 1956, while the percentage of exports had dropped from 28 to 25.7, mainly owing to the considerable drop in the prices of cocoa and coffee on the world market. Those figures led to the conclusion that in spite of the generally unfavourable situation, the volume of trade had continued to progress steadily.

One of the reasons for the increased tonnage of exports from the Territories as a whole was undoubtedly an excellent harvest of groundnuts in Senegal which had followed a particularly bad year and had been due in part to good weather conditions but chiefly to the distribution of new types giving a better yield and to the greater use of suitable fertilizers. During the 1955-1956 season African producers had continued to benefit from the purchase of their crop at a guaranteed price and from a market organization covering the whole production of groundnut and other edible oils in the franc area, with the exception of Morocco, and having available to it the resources of a Fund supported by private subscription and by subsidies from the French budget.

The production of copra in French Polynesia had been assisted in 1956 by a loan France had made through the Fonds national de régularisation des cours des produits d'outre-mer to the Stabilization Fund in the Territory. The loan had been of great assistance to French Polynesia and had enabled the producer's purchasing power to be maintained.

The export of coffee had assumed great importance in the economy of the Overseas Territories in 1956. In the Ivory Coast alone 118,000 tons had been exported, placing that country at the head of all the African coffee producers. Over 90 per cent of all exports had been to the United States. The success achieved was largely due to the considerable efforts made locally to improve the processing of the coffee.

The Committee had been informed the previous year of the loan made by the Fonds national de régularisation des cours des produits d'outre-mer to the Stabilization Fund in the Ivory Coast; it would no doubt be glad to hear that the loan had been repaid in full and that the present resources of the Stabilization Fund amounted to some 2,000 million francs. The collapse of world coffee prices would have been felt more severely in the Overseas Territories had it not been for the action of the Stabilization Funds, for it had been followed at a short interval by a steady decrease in cocoa prices. As in the case of coffee, the Stabilization Funds obtained large loans from the Fonds national de régularisation. The method employed was different from that in the case of coffee, because cocoa was too perishable to be stocked in the ports of export, because two-thirds of the cocoa exported went to foreign countries and because it was not protected by tariffs on the French market. The problem had been to establish an

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effective system while leaving the existing commercial structures as far as possible intact. He explained the method used in the Ivory Coast; it had functioned satisfactorily, as was shown by the fact that for that Territory alone, producing 75,000 tons of cocoa, the producers had received 2,000 million francs CFA more than if they had been paid on the basis, of the world prices prevailing in the 1956-57 season. As in the case of coffee the high prices of the season which had just terminated had enabled the Stabilization Funds to free themselves of their obligations and to build up reserves for the future.

Banana exports had declined slightly in 1956, owing partly to disease. A suitable treatment had been developed and was beginning to give results. At the same time another variety of banana, more resistant to disease, was being cultivated in the Ivory Coast, which had the additional advantage that it could be packed in plastic bags, thus reducing the price by over five francs per kilogramme. Efforts were being made to acclimatize that variety in Guinea.

Another product, of which less was said because its progress was slower, was cotton. It was cultivated in the inland areas of low fertility. For many years the Administration had been endeavouring to achieve a balance in those areas between food crops and export crops. Cotton was one of the latter and the Institut de recherche des cotons et fibres exotiques had concentrated on developing varieties adapted to the climate of the areas in question. Its work had already been crowned with success and, while there had been no marked increase in the area cultivated, there had been a steady progress in exports of the product from the Territories concerned.

Since cotton was cultivated in the least prosperous regions of Overseas France and was, moreover, not protected by tariffs on the French market, the Administration was particularly concerned to protect producers against fluctuations of world prices. In each of the producing territories there was now a Stabilization Fund on the same lines as those for coffee, cocoa and copra. Moreover, in view of the difficulties with which the people in the cotton-growing areas had to contend, the French Government had established a special system for financing those Stabilization Funds. A decree of 13 November 1956 had established a Support Fund for textile fibres from the Overseas Territories. The Fund

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received 30 per cent of a tax levied on finished textile products sold in France and was also given budgetary subsidies. It did not make loans but granted subsidies to the Stabilization Funds. The total subsidies it had granted during the financial year 1956 amounted to over 1,800 million francs for the Territories in question.

Exports of timber in various forms from the Overseas Territories had risen from 827 tons to 869 tons, phosphate exports from Oceania from 207,000 tons to 265,000 tons, and Guinea had sold 832,000 tons of iron ore as compared with 676,000 in the previous year and 457,000 tons of bauxite as against 449,000 the previous year.

The imports chiefly affected by the decline in the price of tropical foodstuffs were those of textiles and hardware. On the other hand, an encouraging factor which denoted that the economy of the Overseas Territories was continuing to develop, thanks to investments by the metropolitan country, was the increase in the value of imports of petroleum products and machinery. The increase in the consumption of cement was scarcely discernible in the import statistics in view of the progress of local production in French West Africa.

The volume of local and metropolitan public investment in the Overseas Territories had amounted to 61,000 million francs in 1956; while local investment had dropped from 30,700 millions in 1955 to 24,500 millions in 1956, metropolitan investment had risen from 33,800 millions in 1955 to 36,500 millions in 1956. The probable explanation of that tendency was the continuing increase in public expenditure in the Territories as they developed socially and economically, needing more and more staff each year.

As an illustration of the economic advancement that was taking place in the overseas countries and Territories, recounted the results of a study, covering the overseas countries and Territories and including Togoland and the Cameroons, of public, private, local and metropolitan investment in 1956. The study was based on the consumption of cement and other imported building materials, investment in materials and tools, and capital investment including the planting of bushes, the preparation of land for food cultivation, the increase in value of farm stock, traditional building, study and research. Total metropolitan public investment had amounted to 81,200 million francs, whereas the total investment of the Overseas Territories had amounted in 1956 to 264,000 million francs.

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He went on to give details of a balance sheet recently drawn up showing the economic development of the Overseas Territories and Trust Territories for the period 1946 to 1956. The figures were most encouraging and bore witness to the economic advancement made by the overseas countries and Territories. They proved that France had not failed in its responsibilities towards the Overseas countries and Territories under its administration.

There had been considerable research in connexion with the development of hydro-electric power and mining. The Committee had been given some information the previous year about the large-scale projects for industrial installations in Africa. Some of those projects were already in operation and others would be starting almost immediately. They would necessitate not only an increased effort on the part of France but large-scale participation by foreign capital and the International Bank. It was anticipated that a total of 534,000 million francs would be invested in such projects.

It had been rightly stated that the establishment in under-developed countries of large industrial combines would create social and economic difficulties unless steps were taken to balance industrial development by increased agricultural productivity. The French Government was well aware of that problem and had recently set up two organs of a new type: the Mission d'aménagement régional in Guinea and the Organisation de la région industrielle du Kouillon. Those organs consisted of experts on economic, agricultural and social questions working for the local Governments; they possessed neither responsibility nor authority, since all decisions in those fields were in the hands of the local Governments. The activities of those organs had given great satisfaction to the local authorities, who regarded them as an essential factor in the harmonious economic development of the Territories.

It might be interesting to review the development of the gross national production in French West Africa and in French Equatorial Africa since 1948. The estimates were based on the production of the four main sectors of local activity: exports, food crops, revenue derived from "economic agents" working in the public sector, and activities connected with public and private investment. The gross national production in French West Africa had risen

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from 349,500 million francs in 1948 to 650,000 million in 1956, an increase of over 80 per cent, and in French Equatorial Africa it had risen from 89,500 million francs to 167,400 million, an increase of 87 per cent. The figures showed the magnitude of the development that had taken place in the past ten years and the efficiency of the methods used.

A general review of economic activities in the Overseas Territories in 1956 revealed a great new advance in the volume of exports, which had risen by 900,000 tons in one year; imports, too, had risen, but to a lesser extent. The activities of the Stabilization Funds had enabled the purchase price of the principal products to be maintained at a remunerative level and had thus contributed to raising the income of the producers. That action had been possible owing to subsidies by the metropolitan country amounting to over 4,000 million francs. The rate of public investment had been maintained in the Territories in 1956. Thanks to that investment it has been possible to proceed with the equipment of the Territories while at the same time embarking upon projects which were the result of long periods of research and prospecting.

Although the world situation in 1956 had been unfavourable for tropical production, the year had nevertheless been one of progress in the Territories for which France was responsible towards a more balanced economy and a better life for their peoples.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.