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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Twelfth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 16 May 1961, at 10.50 a.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. SCHURMANN	(Netherlands)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Miss KAMAL	Iraq
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. ROS	Argentina
	Mr. HOOD)	
	Mr. FORSYTHE)	Australia
	Mr. WIJEGONAWARDENA	Ceylon
	Mr. HERRERA CABRAL	Dominican Republic
	Mr. de CAMARET	France
	Mr. YOMEKPE	Ghana
	Mr. RASGOTRA	India
	Miss BROOKS	Liberia
	Mr. MERCADO	Mexico
	Mr. GOEDHART)	
	Mr. de BRUYN)	Netherlands
	Mr. EDMONDS	New Zealand
	Mr. PEREZ RUIZ	Spain
	Mr. THOM)	
	Mr. CHINN)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. BINGHAM	United States of America
<u>Representatives of specialized agencies:</u>		
	Mr. REYMOND)	
	Mr. LLOYD)	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. ACHARYA	Food and Agriculture Organization
	Mr. AKRAWI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	Dr. SACKS	World Health Organization
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. PROTITCH	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

PREPARATION AND TRAINING OF INDIGENOUS CIVIL AND TECHNICAL CADRES IN THE
NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/C.35/L.340 and Corr.1; A/4761) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should reach a decision on the Indian representative's proposal to the effect that the texts of the written and oral statements by the Administering Members in response to General Assembly resolution 1534 (XV) and a study by the Secretariat of the information received or to be received from the Administering Members, together with excerpts from the relevant statements made by the non-administering Members should be annexed to the Committee's report to the General Assembly on item 5 of its agenda.

Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that the procedure outlined by the Chairman was acceptable to his delegation.

Mr. THOM (United Kingdom) asked that the study to be prepared by the Secretariat should carry an indication to that effect so that it should not appear as a Committee document.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should accept the Indian representative's proposals, subject to the request made by the United Kingdom representative.

It was so decided.

Mr. REYMOND (International Labour Organisation) said that the ILO had received no new requests relating to productivity in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It had, on the other hand, a number of projects for 1961-1962 resulting from requests made by the Administering Powers. Among them were eight projects for the West Indies relating to manpower organization, including vocational training, co-operation in handicrafts, and social security; one project for North Borneo on manpower organization, including vocational training; one for Northern Rhodesia on labour conditions and administration; one for Sarawak on co-operation in handicrafts; two projects for Mauritius, one in the field of co-operation and handicrafts and the other in that of labour conditions and administration; and two projects for Singapore, one on labour conditions and administration and the other on productivity and management development.

The CHAIRMAN declared the debate on item 5 of the agenda closed.

EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES
(A/4111, A/4371, A/4754-A/4759; A/AC.35/L.328)

Miss BROOKS (Liberia) said that education promoted mutual respect among peoples and led to better working conditions, a higher level of living and the safeguarding of human rights. The recent rapid development of the dependent peoples had been stimulated by the national aspirations of the peoples themselves combined with new enlightened policies on the part of the Administering Members, and by the pressure of world public opinion. Even in the areas, however, in which educational and economic advances had been steady, the results achieved were not very substantial in view of the fact that the application of the new policies had been preceded by a long period of inactivity.

Although the Administering Members were now paying more attention to education, the basic educational conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories had not changed greatly since the Committee's previous session. The fact that many children did not reach the secondary level or, as stated in document A/4111, did not stay on at school long enough to acquire foundations for permanent literacy offset increased school enrolment. The Administering Members should give immediate attention to that problem.

Discrimination in the schools was still to be found in the United Kingdom Territories - particularly those in Africa - and in the Portuguese territories. In the United Kingdom Territories there were separate primary and secondary schools for Europeans, Asians and Africans. She could not accept the United Kingdom representative's explanation that the differentiation at the primary level was due to language difficulties, as it was precisely at that age that children should be taught new languages. Because of discrimination in primary and secondary schools, not many indigenous inhabitants were capable of passing the entrance examinations into the integrated universities and colleges in the United Kingdom Territories. She was happy to note from the United Kingdom representative's reply to the Indian representative that his Government would take immediate steps to remedy the weaknesses in the educational system and she hoped that it would persevere with its efforts in the knowledge that it was thereby contributing to the fulfilment of the aspirations of large numbers of human beings. She also

(Miss Brooks, Liberia)

hoped that the Administering Members would see to it that girls were not deprived of equal opportunities in education as a result of the feudal customs still surviving in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Although the Committee did not have before it all the statistics required under General Assembly resolution 218 (III) she noted the encouraging information supplied by the United States delegation in respect of its Territories. She hoped at the same time that the United States Government would take the necessary steps to deal with the shortage of classrooms and qualified teachers and would give consideration to the question of higher education.

The Committee had been informed that educational facilities in the Netherlands Territories had been improved and the level of living raised during the past ten years, with the result that there was now one primary school for every seventy-six indigenous children, and that there was no discrimination in the Netherlands Territories. However she found it difficult to assess the situation accurately because the necessary statistics were not available; it would also be desirable to have additional information on the question of higher education.

She was unable to make a proper assessment of the educational developments in the Australian territories because all the necessary data were not available. She hoped that the situation would be remedied at the Committee's thirteenth session.

She believed that the mere elimination of illiteracy was not enough and that education in the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be directed towards the attainment of the objectives of the Charter as laid down in Article 73 a and b and in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

The economic advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories had to be viewed against the background of the low level of living of the mass of the indigenous people resulting from the former policies of some Administering Members and, in some cases, natural forces. Economic development in many Territories was handicapped by official restrictions, lack of planned expansion programmes and technical training, failure of the Administering Members to introduce even small-scale industries, the system of land tenure, lack of balance in international trade, absence of credits, poor co-operative facilities, inadequate housing,

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low sanitary and health standards, and water shortage. As a result of all those factors and despite the vast natural and human resources available in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the majority of their inhabitants were still engaged in subsistence agriculture.

The Administering Members should be fully aware that the interests of the indigenous inhabitants were paramount and that the administration of the Territories in question was a sacred trust. She believed that the problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories could be solved speedily with the help of the specialized agencies.

Where the establishment of the European Economic Community was concerned, she was not yet convinced that its ultimate effect would not be the integration of the associated Territories into the Community, with the result that their industrialization and the diversification of their economies would be retarded. The system of preferential treatment might also lead to the diversion of trade to the detriment of the non-associated States and Territories.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT, INCLUDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/AC.35/L.338, L.342, L.343 and Corr.1, L.344)

Mr. FORSYTHE (Australia) said that his Government continued to co-operate with the United Nations and the specialized agencies through the submission of reports and other information and through the attendance of representatives of the Territory of Papua at meetings and seminars. From the Territory's point of view, international collaboration had been of particular importance in the field of public health. Reports on infectious diseases were sent regularly to the South Pacific Commission and to the World Health Organization. Furthermore, medical specialists from the Territory had attended the conferences on malaria held in the British Solomon Islands, at Manila and at Port Moresby and a WHO regional committee meeting at Taipeh. Physicians and health administrators from the Territory had visited countries in the Pacific, Asia and Africa on WHO fellowships.

The principal organ of inter-territorial co-operation in the region was the South Pacific Commission. The Territory of Papua had in the past two years taken

(Mr. Forsythe, Australia)

part in several activities organized by the Commission; among them were boat-building courses, a visit by a FAO plant-disease eradication specialist, training courses for leaders of women's groups, attendance at a co-operative meeting at Noumea, etc.

There was close co-operation and constant exchange of technical information on their New Guinea Territories, especially in matters of health and agriculture, between the Netherlands and the Australian Governments. The Australian Government warmly welcomed that co-operation, which was a practical and important means of promoting the interests of the inhabitants of the two Territories in accordance with the objectives laid down in Article 73 d of the Charter.

Inter-territorial co-operation also included an exchange of students; Papuan students were at present studying navigation, boat-building, medicine and forestry in the Netherlands New Guinea, the British Solomon Islands and Fiji, while students from those three Territories were attending courses in medicine, nursing and telecommunications at colleges at Port Moresby.

His Government would have no hesitation in seeking the financial and technical help of the specialized agencies and other international bodies in connexion with its development projects, if it considered such help to be necessary, since its aim was the advancement of the Papuan people and the development of the Territory as rapidly as was prudently expedient.

Mr. GOEDHART (Netherlands) remarked that his Government considered international collaboration to be of crucial importance for the rapid development of Netherlands New Guinea towards self-government and self-determination, and had always done its utmost to conform to the provisions of Articles 73 d and 74 of the Charter. It deeply appreciated the valuable assistance of the specialized agencies, contact with which had been maintained and extended. WHO and UNICEF, in particular, had assisted the territorial administration in various aspects of curative and preventive medicine and with campaigns against endemic diseases.

In January 1961, the Administration had initiated an environmental sanitation project at Biak with technical assistance from WHO; the object was to collect data on the techniques and costs of improving sanitary conditions in rural areas. The project, which would extend over two years, included the training of young Papuans as junior sanitary officers. UNICEF and WHO would provide funds and

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(Mr. Goedhart, Netherlands)

equipment for the project. WHO had also loaned an expert to the territorial Government, to give technical advice on the closer integration of preventive and curative services for maternal and child care.

Another form of international collaboration was carried out within the framework of the South Pacific Commission. Under the auspices of that regional organization, experts on such matters as public health, co-operatives, and the fishing industry maintained regular contacts with the territorial authorities. The meeting of the health section of the Research Council of the South Pacific Commission in June 1960 had been attended by a representative from WHO and had considered the problems of eradication of endemic and epidemic diseases and questions of diet, health education, infant mortality and the training of medical personnel. The next triennial conference of the South Pacific Commission at which indigenous delegates from the region would meet to discuss common problems would be held in spring 1962 in Eastern Samoa.

His Government attached great importance to its close collaboration with Australia in promoting the interests of the inhabitants of New Guinea. Regular conferences were held on administrative co-operation. The most recent conference had met in March 1960, and many of its recommendations on various common problems such as administration, economic development, education, public health and communications had already been implemented. The territorial Governments had appointed liaison officers residing at Port Moresby and Hollandia, for the purpose of facilitating the contacts between the two parts of the island, such contacts being encouraged by both Governments. Collaboration included an interchange of students between the two parts of the island.

In the course of 1960, many heads of department and other government officials from both parts of the island, often accompanied by Papuan officials, had had the occasion to meet and confer on problems of medicine, agriculture, forestry, mining and education.

Mr. THOM (United Kingdom) said that his Government was anxious where possible to associate the Governments of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with the work of the specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions in so far as the constitutions of those bodies permitted.

As the Committee was aware, his Government did not regard the independence towards which the Non-Self-Governing Territories under its administration were

(Mr. Thom, United Kingdom)

proceeding as viable until the Territories had been fitted to play a part on the international stage. One way in which the Territories could be prepared for entry into the world scene was to acquire some experience of the working of international organizations.

Of the twelve specialized agencies, the constitutions of seven provided for either associate membership or some similar form of membership. It was the policy of the United Kingdom Government to invite the Territories to consider the question of membership of such agencies, but the actual decision was left to the local Governments themselves.

Mauritius, the West Indian Territories, and Singapore and Sierra Leone, which had not then achieved independence, had been admitted to UNESCO in 1960.

Representatives from various Non-Self-Governing Territories had from time to time participated in the UNESCO Conference as members of the United Kingdom delegation.

Several United Kingdom Territories had joined the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and others were considering associate membership.

Three groups of United Kingdom Territories were associate members of the International Telecommunications Union: the Bermuda-Caribbean group, the British East African group and the Singapore-Borneo group. The Central African Territories were a full member; the High Commission Territories formed part of a United Kingdom colonial ensemble which was a full member of ITU.

The Central African Territories together formed an associate member of the Food and Agriculture Organization; other Territories might consider joining at the November 1961 Conference, which would examine new candidatures. Delegations from Non-Self-Governing Territories occasionally attended the FAO Conference.

The Central African Territories were associate members of WHO. The interests of Territories which were not associate members were watched over by the United Kingdom delegation. At annual meetings of the WHO Regional Committees the policy was for the United Kingdom delegation to be made up of representatives of those Territories.

Several United Kingdom Territories belonged to the World Meteorological Organization. Participation in that agency naturally depended on the extent and nature of the territorial meteorological services.

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(Mr. Thom, United Kingdom)

All United Kingdom Territories formed an ensemble which was a full member of the Universal Postal Union and was normally represented by people from the Territories concerned, together with a representative from the United Kingdom.

Non-Self-Governing Territories did not participate separately in the remaining specialized agencies and their interests were watched over by the United Kingdom delegation. They were represented at the ILO General Conference by observer delegations. Singapore and Hong Kong were members of the Asian Regional Conference; Sierra Leone, Kenya, Uganda and the Central African Territories had attended the first session of the African Regional Conference.

Non-Self-Governing Territories could also enjoy membership of advisory committees and on several occasions in the past territorial Governments had been represented at meetings of industrial committees .

The International Civil Aviation Organization had no provision for associate membership, but the United Kingdom delegation protected colonial interests and the Territories occasionally sent representatives with the United Kingdom delegation.

The International Monetary Fund, the International Bank and the International Finance Corporation also had no provision for associate membership. Colonial interests were not normally directly involved and the United Kingdom delegation dealt with the matters concerned.

All United Kingdom dependent territories within the geographical scope of the Regional Economic Commissions were associate members, with the exception of Mauritius and the Seychelles.

Requests for international aid by United Kingdom Territories must be seen in the context of the United Kingdom Government's increasing efforts to meet their needs. During the past five years United Kingdom assistance to those Territories had risen from £24 million to £41 million and in 1961 would amount to about £86 million, including some £12 million for the cost of the new Overseas Aid Scheme. In proportion as aid had grown, however, so had the needs of the Territories; the more quickly their needs were met, the more rapid progress they would make. The United Kingdom therefore made it a policy to ask international agencies to supplement what it was doing, but knowing how many calls there were on the United Nations it tried to limit applications in cases where it could itself meet the need of a particular Territory.

(Mr. Thom, United Kingdom)

In 1961 the United Kingdom had contributed \$3 million to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. United Kingdom Territories' country programmes attracted about half that amount. Since United Nations assistance was extremely important to the smaller and less advanced Territories, it was obviously right that they should begin early to look to the United Nations as a source of aid and advice.

In 1960 his Government had contributed \$5 million to the Special Fund. Schemes had been approved for United Kingdom Territories costing some \$3.3 million, which would be spread over several years. The Territories themselves made a substantial contribution and his Government welcomed the practical way in which the Fund had begun to operate.

His Government had already subscribed \$30 million as a first instalment to the International Development Association, which it considered would help greatly to pay for basic development in the smaller countries which could not yet finance orthodox loans. The fact that loans would be repayable over fifty years and that they would be interest-free were most welcome features.

Under the 1961-62 programme most of the United Kingdom Territories would obtain considerable assistance from UNESCO. For the same period, there was an impressive list of FAO technical assistance projects to United Kingdom Territories, which included expert advice and assistance to Aden, Kenya, Uganda, Malta, Mauritius, British Guiana, Sarawak and North Borneo.

QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE SUMMARIES AND ANALYSES ADDITIONAL TO THOSE TREATED UNDER PREVIOUS ITEMS (ST/TRI/B.1960/1 to 6; A/4760; A/AC.35/L.341)

Mr. MERCADO (Mexico) said that General Assembly resolution 1514 (XIV) constituted the necessary legal basis for the United Nations to take specific measures to help dependent peoples to attain independence. The granting of independence to colonial countries should in no way threaten international peace and security, but should result in tangible benefits for their peoples. Previously, except in the rare cases when the United Nations had been able to supervise the process, countries had often been artificially broken up into smaller units, or had gained their independence only at the cost of mortgaging their future to the former colonial Powers. He regretted that there had not been

(Mr. Mercado, Mexico)

sufficient time at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly to draw up a blue-print for future action, and he hoped that that would be done at the sixteenth session.

His Government was concerned with the question of colonialism in America. Mexico had always opposed the use of force to subjugate peoples seeking freedom. It was continuing its efforts to eliminate the remaining vestiges of colonialism.

In 1946, the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs had listed Guiana, and the islands of Guadalupe and Martinique as Non-Self-Governing Territories of France, and said that the new French Constitution which would come into force in 1947 would confer the status of metropolitan departments on those three Territories. In 1948, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 222 (III) and the Secretary-General had stated that the transmission of information on those Territories had ceased. At the 1949 General Assembly, France had declared that, because it intended to emancipate the Territories, it did not need to continue transmitting information on them in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter, and that it was responsible for judging the degree of emancipation achieved by the people in those Territories. It had also stated that the French legislation had been extended to cover the Overseas Territories and that the peoples in them exercised all the rights and freedoms enjoyed by the inhabitants of metropolitan France.

The General Assembly had on several occasions, in particular in resolutions 742 (VIII) and 1469 (XIV), declared its competence to determine when territories should cease to be considered as non-self-governing. It had also established guiding rules to determine whether or not an obligation existed to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter. It could not be considered that the French Territories fulfilled the first two qualifications set forth in Principle VI, which stated: "A Non-Self-Governing Territory can be said to have reached a full measure of self-government by (a) emergence as a sovereign independent State; (b) free association with an independent State; or (c) integration with an independent State." Nor was it certain whether there was complete equality between the people of the Territories and those of France and whether they had equal opportunities for representation and participation at all levels in the executive, legislative and judicial organs of government, as specified in Principles VIII and IX.

(Mr. Mercado, Mexico)

His delegation was therefore doubtful whether the French Government was not obliged to transmit information to the United Nations in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter, especially as Principle IV stated "Prima facie there is an obligation to transmit information in respect of a territory which is geographically separate and is distinct ethnically and/or culturally, from the country administering it." It was true that the General Assembly had, in certain cases, decided that Territories geographically separate from the countries administering them had been sufficiently and suitably integrated to justify cessation of the transmission of information. However, no information was available on the French Territories and until the United Nations made a definite statement on the matter, as it had done in the case of other Territories, the Administering Power was still under the obligation to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter. He hoped that the situation would be resolved in the near future, with the co-operation of France, and that the colonial system would entirely disappear from America, so that the peoples of that continent could live in harmony.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) said that the Mexican representative's claims were completely unfounded. France was no longer obliged to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter, and it was participating in the work of the Committee only because it was administering the New Hebrides in conjunction with the United Kingdom.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.