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Chairman: Miss Angie BROOKS (Liberia).

AGENDA ITEMS 40 AND 41

Preparation and training of indigenous civil and technical cadres in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/4785, A/4851) (continued)

Racial discrimination in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/4768, A/4785, A/C.4/L.707) (continued)

1. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) said that his delegation fully agreed with the recommendations concerning racial discrimination which the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had set forth in paragraph 191 of part two of its report (A/4785). It was firmly opposed to all forms of racial discrimination in any field, and considered that States Members of the Organization should be guided by the principles embodied in the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

2. In its resolution 1536 (XV) the General Assembly had recommended that the Administering Members should immediately rescind or revoke all laws and regulations which tended to encourage or sanction, directly or indirectly, discriminatory policies and practices based on racial considerations. He regretted that the United Kingdom, which was responsible for the administration of about forty Non-Self-Governing Territories, had not voted in favour of that resolution. The Committee's report indicated that discriminatory practices on grounds of race continued to exist in all colonies, particularly in Africa where the European minorities still enjoyed political, economic and social privileges out of proportion to their size. His delegation considered that it was high time to launch an effective attack upon the problem and take steps to ensure that the indigenous inhabitants were no longer treated as inferiors. One solution would be to extend to them the exercise of all the basic political rights. However, according to paragraph 170 of part two of the report, the information

transmitted by the Government of the United Kingdom, contained no reference to political rights or the right to vote. The fact was, as Iraq had indicated in the Committee on Information, that the exercise of those rights was denied to the indigenous inhabitants; and implementation of General Assembly resolution 1536 (XV) in certain Territories, such as the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, was scarcely possible in view of the vigorous opposition of the local authorities.

3. Replying to an observation made by the representative of the United Kingdom at the 1210th meeting, he said that he did not think the Moslems had considered Sir Hugh Foot, then a young official in the Middle East, inferior because of his religion; rather they had seen in him the instrument of the British policy which, in pursuance of certain secret agreements, was aimed at dividing the Arab world into French and British spheres of influence.

4. The difference between the policy of racial discrimination pursued in British East Africa and the policy of apartheid in South Africa was simply one of degree. Mr. Kenneth Kaunda, the President of the United National Independence Party of Northern Rhodesia, had recently stated that the indigenous Africans were fourth-class citizens to whom the law denied all the fundamental human rights and privileges, and that the so-called multiracial partnership of which so much was made in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland was in reality like the partnership between a horse and its rider. In the modern world it was no longer possible to preach the doctrine of the supremacy of the white race over other races, and the United Nations should therefore urge all the Administering Members to take the necessary steps to revoke laws which tended to encourage or sanction discriminatory practices. He reserved the right of his delegation to speak again on that matter.

5. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) set forth his delegation's views on the preparation and training of indigenous civil and technical cadres in Non-Self-Governing Territories. Fulfilment of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) required that in territories which were still dependent there should be an adequate number of indigenous inhabitants capable of assuming the responsibilities of government when those territories acceded to independence. With the Declaration in mind, moreover, the General Assembly, at its fifteenth session, had voted in favour of resolution 1534 (XV), which dealt specifically with that problem. Certain unfortunate experiences attributable to the lack of training of responsible indigenous inhabitants had shown that it was imperative to implement that resolution to the fullest possible extent. The United Nations was accordingly entitled to draw on the experience and advice of all Member States.

6. He noted in that connexion the example of his own country. When at the end of the nineteenth century the Philippines had passed under the control of the United States, the latter had solemnly declared—some twenty-five years before the Covenant of the League of Nations had proclaimed the principle of the "sacred trust of civilization", still later enshrined in the United Nations Charter—that it had come to the Philippines only to assist the Philippine people to accede progressively to self-government and ultimately to independence. Immediate steps had then been taken to promote economic and educational advancement and progress in other fields. In the space of a few years the United States had trained enough instructors to teach English to the Filipinos and to bring education within the reach of the entire population. Similarly, Italy had undertaken in 1949 an accelerated programme for educational advancement and had established schools for the training of administrators in Somalia, which had then been under its trusteeship.

7. What had been done in Somalia, the Philippines and other countries could likewise be done in all the Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories and in South West Africa. The support and experience of all Member States could be of considerable assistance to the countries responsible for the administration of dependent territories in implementing to the fullest extent the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

8. Mr. DIALLO (Mali) introduced the draft resolution concerning racial discrimination in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.^{1/} That text arose out of the Assembly's decision to eliminate once and for all the most degrading scourge of the twentieth century—racism. Eight delegations had taken part in drafting it and three others, those of Bolivia, Venezuela and Guatemala, had expressed the desire to join in sponsoring it, for which he thanked them.

9. The current discussion showed that the problem of racial discrimination and that of the preparation of indigenous cadres in the Non-Self-Governing Territories were simple, and that the prospects opened by the adoption of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples should make it possible to solve them without difficulty. The draft resolution was chiefly aimed at associating the Administering Members with the United Nations effort to prevent complications from arising after the accession to independence of territories where discrimination had not yet entirely disappeared.

10. The first preambular paragraph rightly indicated that the resolution had been drafted within the framework of the Declaration on the granting of independence. The third preambular paragraph noted the findings of the Committee on Information, stated in its report, to the effect that racial discrimination still existed; that further steps should therefore be taken to achieve concrete and perhaps final results. The statements of certain delegations justified the inclusion of the fourth preambular paragraph, for they had confirmed that racial discrimination could spring from misunderstandings between certain groups of individuals, but also that it could not be dissociated from colonialism. Sir Hugh Foot's allusion at the 1210th meeting to his own experience, to which the

representatives of Yemen and Iraq had replied, was a case in point. The nearer a territory was to independence, the better it could solve the problem of racism. The fifth preambular paragraph linked the draft resolution closely to the resolution which the General Assembly would adopt on the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, while making clear that the draft resolution had a more particular scope and that within the framework of the Declaration the Administering Members had a role to play in regard to racial discrimination.

11. Operative paragraph 1 called for no particular observations; at a time when the Special Political Committee was adopting draft resolutions condemning the policy of apartheid (A/SPC/56, A/SPC/57), the sponsors of the draft resolution before the fourth Committee also wished to condemn practices which affronted human dignity.

12. In operative paragraph 2 the sponsors associated Administering Members with the anti-discriminatory measures which should be adopted, because of their moral and political responsibility towards the peoples whom they were called upon to lead to self-government and independence. In sub-paragraph (a) the sponsors addressed their recommendations directly to those Members, since in some Territories there were still laws which encouraged or sanctioned—in other words, approved discriminatory practices. The sponsors had been concerned to go further than usual, since all democratic States stated clearly in their national constitutions that they disapproved of discriminatory practices; in Territories which were to accede to independence and had no special law on the matter, it would therefore be desirable for the law to cover cases of racial discrimination and establish judicial sanctions against them. Sub-paragraph (b) of operative paragraph 2 was very important, since General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) laid down the principle that, in order to end colonialism, it was necessary to end all practices of segregation and discrimination associated therewith. Fulfilment of the Declaration on the granting of independence would be impossible wherever discrimination continued to prevent the full exercise of basic political rights. The provisions of that sub-paragraph were a guide-post which must be set up even before independence was granted to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

13. Operative paragraph 3 was designed to ensure that the text of the resolution would be brought to the knowledge of the peoples it concerned, who would thus be able to prepare themselves psychologically for the important measures which the United Nations was adopting to alter the political map to change the face of the world.

14. Mr. TAYLHARDAT (Venezuela) said that he had not yet been able to consult his Government and was therefore not authorized to add his delegation's name to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution. That did not mean that he dissociated himself from the draft; he supported it unreservedly and would vote for it.

15. Mr. DIALLO (Mali) took note of the Venezuelan representative's statement and thanked him for his support.

16. Mr. AZAMBUJA (Brazil) said that it was fitting that the Brazilian delegation should be one of the sponsors of a draft resolution which so aptly reflected

^{1/} The text of this draft resolution was subsequently circulated as document A/C.4/L.707.

the sentiments of the Brazilian Government, which consistently opposed all manifestations of racial discrimination. The draft resolution appealed to principles which were not controversial, but did not confine itself to restating truths for the benefit of those who stubbornly refused to adopt anti-discriminatory policies: it approached the problem in the light of resolution 1514 (XV), and condemned racial discrimination in the Non-Self-Governing Territories not only as a social evil but also as a major factor impairing the progress of those peoples towards independence.

17. Operative paragraph 2 was particularly important because it indicated the most suitable measures for combating racial discrimination in the Territories. He hoped that its provisions would commend themselves to the whole Committee and be firmly supported by the Administering Members, on whom the effective implementation of the measures depended.

18. He recommended the adoption of the draft resolution by the Committee because it was designed to eliminate without delay one of the evils associated with colonial rule, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter, and to create at length communities which would never have known those evils--two aims which the Brazilian delegation held ever in view.

19. Mr. FOURNIER (Spain) said that racial discrimination was radically opposed to Spain's concept of the world and to the Christian principle of human brotherhood. His delegation would therefore vote for the draft resolution.

20. Mr. HU NIM (Cambodia) noted with regret that, according to the report of the Committee on Information (A/4785), discriminatory practices persisted in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In that regard he referred to the pertinent comments in paragraph 163, part two, of the report. He noted particularly that the European community often enjoyed special political, social and economic privileges which were denied to the indigenous population, and that discriminatory treatment was particularly apparent in regard to the exercise of political rights. Such discriminatory practices not only violated General Assembly resolution 1536 (XV) but also human rights. It had been encouraging to hear the representative of the United Kingdom, at the 1210th meeting, say that

his Government was endeavouring to remove all traces of racial discrimination, but the information transmitted by the Administering Members did not give the Committee a firm assurance that such discriminatory practices were disappearing completely. It could be doubted, for example, whether the effects of the application of the Township Ordinance mentioned in part two, paragraph 178, of the report had completely disappeared.

21. The spiritual worth and technical abilities of a people did not depend on its colour, which was no more than the consequence of climatic and geographical factors. The coloured people possessed the most ancient civilizations. The Cambodian delegation was opposed not only to practices involving discrimination between peoples on the ground of colour, but also to any arbitrary measure affecting an ethnic minority or a community living in a foreign country. In points 8 and 9 of their Declaration, the countries participating in the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries held at Belgrade in September 1961 had condemned unanimously, not only the "apartheid" policy pursued in South Africa, but also all discrimination practised against ethnic and religious minorities, who ought to be protected against the crime of genocide and all other violations of basic human rights.

22. He mentioned as a case in point the 600,000 Khmers Krom Cambodians, who were subjected at the present time, in the Republic of Viet-Nam, to arbitrary rule of the worst kind. He quoted the statement in which the Head of State of Cambodia, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, had spoken in the General Assembly on 22 September 1961 (1011th plenary meeting) of the extremely harsh emergency measures taken against them. Thousands of persons were attempting to flee from that oppression to refuge on Cambodian soil, and he hoped that the United Nations would give attention to this minority problem, which was not unique, and would endeavour, as the Cambodian Head of State had urged in his statement, to protect more effectively the rights of human groups helpless under arbitrary rule.

23. The Cambodian delegation associated itself with the condemnation of all discriminatory practices pronounced in the draft resolution before the Committee, and requested that Cambodia's name should be added to those of the sponsors of the resolution.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.