

TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENTS FOR NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mr. Max DORSINVILLE (Haiti)

In the course of its forty-third and forty-fourth meetings the Fourth Committee considered a draft resolution which had been presented by the delegation of India (document A/C.4/98) relating to the voluntary submission of Trusteeship agreements for Non-Self-Governing Territories as envisaged in Article 77, 1, c of the Charter.

There was no difference of opinion in the Committee regarding the purely optional nature of this provision of the Charter, nor regarding the desirability of accelerating the evolution of colonial territories toward self-government. Some representatives expressed disagreement, however as to whether autonomy or independence were the only possible results which might be the outcome of the Trusteeship System and also as to whether the Trusteeship System - the means proposed in the Indian resolution for attaining the end in view - was necessarily the best and most desirable means of doing so. On the one hand, it was urged that the Trusteeship System would be a step forward especially for the less advanced Non-Self-Governing Peoples, and that it was important that some recognition should be extended to the provision of Article 77, 1, c. On the other hand, it was pointed out that the Charter provides two systems for dealing with Non-Self-Governing Territories - the system under Chapter XI and the Trusteeship System - and that the desired evolution towards self-government could be equally fostered under one or the other.

The delegation of Guatemala supported the proposal of the Indian delegation, while reiterating the reservation made at the Conference at San Francisco concerning the territory of British Honduras (Belize).

By a roll-call vote of twenty-five to twenty-three, with three

/abstentions,¹⁾

abstentions,¹⁾ the Fourth Committee, at its forty-fourth meeting on 14 October 1947, decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENTS FOR NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES.

WHEREAS at the time of the creation of the United Nations it was intended that Non-Self-Governing Territories be voluntarily placed under the International Trusteeship System by States responsible for their administration and such intention was embodied in Article 77, 1, c of the Charter of the United Nations;

WHEREAS the International Trusteeship System, in conformity with the high principles and purposes of the Charter, provides the surest and quickest means of enabling the peoples of dependent territories to secure self-government or independence under the collective guidance and supervision of the United Nations;

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HOPES that Members of the United Nations responsible for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories will propose Trusteeship agreements under Article 77, 1, c of the Charter of the United Nations for all or some of such territories as are not ready for self-government.

1) For: Afghanistan, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Phillippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Sweden, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstentions: Costa Rica, Honduras, Venezuela.