



Monday, 11 February 1957,
at 3.20 p.m.

New York

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Chairman: Mr. Enrique de MARCHENA
(Dominican Republic).

AGENDA ITEMS 34 AND 35

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter: reports of the Secretary-General and of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/3105 to A/3109, A/3110 and Corr.1, A/3111 and Add.1 and 2, A/3112 and Add.1 and 2, A/3113 and Corr.1, A/3114 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/3115, A/3127, A/C.4/L.471) (*concluded*):

- (a) Information on educational conditions (A/3165 and Corr.1 and Add.1 to 3) (*concluded*);
- (b) Information on other conditions (*concluded*);
- (c) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information (A/C.4/331 and Add.1) (*concluded*)

Progress achieved by the Non-Self-Governing Territories in pursuance of Chapter XI of the Charter: report of the Secretary-General (A/3196, A/C.4/348, A/C.4/L.471) (*concluded*)

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE
(A/C.4/L.471)

1. Mr. SOWARD (Canada), speaking as Rapporteur, presented the Committee's draft report on agenda items 34 and 35 (A/C.4/L.471) and drew attention to certain minor corrections that were necessary.

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2. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) pointed out that in the Spanish text of paragraph 4 the words "*Honduras británica*" should be enclosed in parentheses, and should be preceded by the word "*Belice*", since that was the word which his delegation had used in expressing its reservation.

There being no objection, the draft report (A/C.4/L.471) was adopted.

The meeting was suspended at 3.35 p.m. and resumed at 4 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 36

Election to fill vacancies in the membership of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories

3. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the terms of office of Burma and Guatemala on the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had expired, and that the Fourth Committee had the task of filling the two vacancies. The vote would be taken under the provisions of rule 94 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Pachachi (Iraq) and Mr. Vixseboxse (Netherlands) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	73
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	73
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	73
Required majority:	37
Number of votes obtained:	
Guatemala	69
Ceylon	40
Philippines	31
Indonesia	1
Japan	1
Syria	1
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	1
Uruguay	1

Having obtained the required majority, Ceylon and Guatemala were elected members of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/3170, A/C.4/350, A/C.4/L.472) (*continued*)

4. Mr. TAZHIBAEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the independence movement which had followed the Second World War had resulted in the liberation of a large number of Asian and African peoples. Despite that veritable ground-swell, which seemed to sweep all obstacles before it, vestiges of the shameful system of colonialism persisted. The

States which had championed that system and had refused to give it up were now seeking pretexts to justify the extension of their policy to the Trust Territories. In support of colonialism, they drew attention to the economic backwardness of the countries in question, or to the alleged communist threat and the necessity of establishing bases. They even went so far as to assert that they were carrying out a mission of progress and civilization.

5. In reality, the backwardness of indigenous populations was only a myth kept alive for ulterior motives. When the colonialists spoke of the age-old stagnation of Africa they forgot that in the fifteenth century that continent had had an outstanding culture, superior even to that of many European countries. It was the colonialists and the slave-traders who had halted the progress of Africa.

6. In the nineteenth century, the imperialist Powers had literally carved up the African continent for their own profit. Those Powers, whose only goal was the exploitation of natural resources, asserted that the indigenous inhabitants were divided among themselves and did not form nations, and that they therefore could not be granted independence. In reality, they had striven from the outset of the colonial era to create such division by setting up barriers between tribes and doing away with every vestige of local administration. Having done that, the colonialists pointed to the inexperience of the Africans and asserted that anarchy would ensue if they granted the indigenous inhabitants self-government before they had served their apprenticeship in democracy.

7. It was evident from the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/3170) that the progress of the Territories towards self-government was too slow. The Administering Authorities were unwilling to fix a date for the emancipation of the indigenous inhabitants, despite Assembly resolutions 558 (VI), 752 (VIII), 858 (IX) and 946 (X) to that effect. They preferred to continue their exploitation of the Territories, and they advanced arguments of all kinds to prove that they were unable to set a date for the attainment of self-government or independence.

8. In the Territories which formed part of an administration union, political progress was even slower; under cover of such unions, the Administering Authorities were applying a colonial policy which was incompatible with the objectives of the Trusteeship System.

9. The various reports and the petitions received showed how little effect had been made in the sphere of political advancement. In Tanganyika, the Executive and Legislative Councils were only consultative bodies; the Governor held the reins of power. The Africans had no real representation; they were kept out of important posts, and if they were civil servants were not allowed to join political organizations. In New Guinea, Australia asserted that the indigenous inhabitants were backward; but it had apparently done very little to improve the situation in the forty years during which the Territory had been its responsibility, and the wish of the inhabitants to take part in civic affairs was blocked by the Administration. In Ruanda-Urundi, Belgium distinguished between the "civilized" inhabitants and the rest of the population.

10. In the Cameroons under French administration, serious disturbances had taken place in May 1955 and

December 1956. The Administering Authority had used force to suppress them, and had dissolved such democratic organizations as the Union des populations du Cameroun, the Jeunesse démocratique du Cameroun and the Union démocratique des femmes camerounaises. In its report on the Territory (T/1231) the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British Administration and the Cameroons under French Administration, 1955, has expressed regret that universal suffrage did not yet exist, that the Territorial Assembly had no legislative powers, that all authority was in the hands of the High Commissioner, and that the Administering Authority had not consulted the population. A new statute was to have been adopted in January 1957, but the United Nations had not yet received any official word in that connexion. Furthermore, it appeared from news dispatches on the subject that the Cameroons was not to be granted full self-government; the High Commissioner would be all-powerful, and would appoint half the membership of the Government Council.

11. The Administering Authorities were adopting no measures which would enable the Territories to attain political independence, a *sine qua non* of economic, social and cultural independence. Nor, however, were they pursuing the objectives of the Trusteeship System in the latter spheres, since they were making no effort to develop industry, train leaders or improve the living conditions of the people. Foreign companies continued to play a predominant role, and the economy of the Territories continued to depend on the export of products of the soil and the sub-soil and the import of goods manufactured in the metropolitan country. The policy of expropriation was still being applied in Tanganyika, as a petitioner from that Territory had pointed out to the Committee, and even in such Territories as Ruanda-Urundi, where the indigenous inhabitants had insufficient land. Furthermore, although the Territories suffered from a shortage of specialized personnel, secondary education was inadequate and higher education non-existent, and the Administering Authorities prevented the inhabitants of the Territories from visiting other countries to study. Thus, no indigenous inhabitant had been able to take advantage of the fellowships offered by the USSR, which covered the student's entire expenses both during the preliminary period while he was learning the language and during the ensuing period of study. The General Assembly should recommend the Administering Authorities to allow students to make use of the fellowships offered by Members of the United Nations, and should ask the Secretary-General to present a special report on the matter at the twelfth session.

12. The report of the Trusteeship Council and the annual reports of the Administering Authorities showed that living conditions were poor. For example, a curfew still existed in New Guinea, and corporal punishment was still being imposed in many Territories, despite the disapproval expressed by the General Assembly. Similarly, no serious effort was being made to combat discriminatory measures, which continued to increase in number, as could be seen from the report of the Trusteeship Council and from the petitions received. The Trusteeship Council itself was too lenient; the praise that it bestowed on the Administering Authorities in its report was unwarranted, and might well mislead public opinion. The Administering

Authorities were making no effort to solve the problems, and had taken no notice of the General Assembly's resolutions.

13. The value of the Trusteeship System must be judged by the extent to which it permitted the creation of institutions in the Territories and to which it satisfied the aspirations of the inhabitants. The Trusteeship Council had been established for the purpose of speeding the development of the Territories towards complete independence. In the opinion of the Soviet delegation, the time had come for the General Assembly to set time-limits, so that some of the Territories might become independent within a period of three to five years. Accordingly, it was presenting the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/L.472. It had previously, at the seventeenth session of the Trusteeship Council (671st meeting) submitted a draft resolution (T/L.641) which had been supported by all the non-administering members of the Council. However, the administering members had opposed it, and the draft resolution had not been adopted.

14. The main purpose of the draft resolution (A/C.4/L.472), which reaffirmed the objectives of the Trusteeship System and the resolutions previously adopted by the General Assembly, was to recommend the establishment of a time-limit of three to five years for the attainment of independence by the Trust Territories of Tanganyika, the Cameroons under British administration, the Cameroons under French administration, Togoland under French administration, Ruanda-Urundi and New Guinea. It raised no questions of principle to which there could be any reasonable objection. There might possibly be some disagreement on the period envisaged; that was a point which might usefully be considered by the Committee. In his delegation's view, the period stated was perfectly acceptable as far as the Territories mentioned in the draft resolution were concerned. The draft resolution was in keeping with the aspirations of the peoples, who were impatiently awaiting their liberation, and he hoped that the Committee would adopt it.

15. Mr. ABIKUSNO (Indonesia) explained that as his country was not represented on the Trusteeship Council, he would refrain from discussing the Council's report in detail, and would confine himself to making a number of observations on the role of the United Nations, in particular, the General Assembly, and on the Organization's objectives.

16. Although the role of the United Nations in respect of Trust Territories was merely one of mediation, it exercised sufficient influence on the policy of the Administering Authorities to affect the well-being of the peoples in the Trust Territories. It could take decisions on the basis of the Council's report, because while the report reflected primarily the views of the Administering Authorities, it also contained the views of other Powers. Moreover, through its detailed examination of the annual reports, the United Nations was in a position to ensure that the inhabitants of the Trust Territories were able to express their wishes freely, through democratic processes.

17. In discussing the Council's report, the General Assembly should proceed on the basis of two fundamental principles: the first, that the interests of the indigenous inhabitants were paramount, and the second, that means must be provided whereby their political aspirations could be realized. His delegation

noted with satisfaction that those principles had been embodied in the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council to the Administering Authorities, together with suggestions concerning measures for their implementation, such as separation of the judiciary from the administration, enlargement of indigenous participation in the judiciary, and elimination of racial discrimination in all fields. It disagreed entirely with the arguments adduced by certain Administering Authorities to justify their discriminatory policies, particularly with regard to employment and wages. It was convinced that differences in economic and social status originated in educational conditions, and that the eradication of discrimination in education was therefore a matter of urgency.

18. His delegation was convinced also that target dates should be set for the constitutional development of the Trust Territories, since most of the those Territories were being administered either as an integral part of the metropolitan territory or in administrative union with a Non-Self-Governing Territory, so that the implementation of political, economic or social programmes affecting them was subject to the limitations of the Administering Authority's constitutional law. His delegation could not agree to the argument that no target date should be set for any of the Trust Territories because they lacked a sufficiently large body of properly educated people to fill public offices, or because they were economically incapable of providing funds for the maintenance of public services, or because it might create disorderly and unbalanced conditions among the indigenous inhabitants themselves. It might be wondered whether the unwillingness of some of the Administering Authorities to include in their annual reports conclusions relating to constitutional progress in their respective Territories did not indicate their desire to act unilaterally with respect to the Territories under their administration, and to meet possible popular unrest by a policy of suppression rather than conciliation.

19. The General Assembly should therefore seek to strengthen the links between the inhabitants of the Trust Territories and the United Nations. The increasing number of petitions and of hearings of petitioners revealed unfavourable conditions in most of the Trust Territories. It seemed that no substantial changes had been effected in their political structure, and that the administration still rested primarily in the hands of those whose interests were diametrically opposed to those of the indigenous population. In the economic field, a subsistence economy still appeared to prevail in most of the Trust Territories, and any reform in that field would be dependent on political reform. Judging from the report of the Trusteeship Council, the slow rate of progress might be due to lack of co-operation from the indigenous population in the implementation of political, economic, educational and social programmes. His delegation therefore fully endorsed the Trusteeship Council's recommendations to the effect that, before embarking on any substantial programme, the Administering Authorities should consult and secure the assent of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, and that they should create conditions conducive to the attainment by the Territories of self-government or independence. It was convinced that only when the peoples of the Trust Territories were given their proper share in the development of their countries would more speedy advancement be possible in those Territories.

20. His delegation would support the recommendation of the Council that the Administering Authorities should include in their next annual reports concrete proposals regarding the future of the Trust Territories concerned. Such information was essential if the possibility of the General Assembly's being faced

with a *fait accompli* was to be avoided. The Indonesian delegation would welcome any proposal embodying constructive steps towards the attainment of the objectives it considered indispensable for the harmonious development of the Trust Territories.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.