

was about to start. That was the very essence of what had been achieved at the Round Table Conference. Indeed, the fortunate conclusion of that Conference implied the handing over by the Netherlands Government of complete and unconditional sovereignty to the Republic of the United States of Indonesia in the very near future. The world would thus be enriched by the establishment of a new political entity, a new country which, Mr. van Heuven Goedhart sincerely hoped, would soon make its entry into the United Nations.

7. Not all the sufferings which the parties to the dispute had caused each other could be instantly forgotten. All would appreciate that the solution reached in The Hague must be followed up by hard work in that same spirit of friendly co-operation on an entirely voluntary basis which, in itself, had contributed so much to the fortunate final results of the Round Table Conference.

8. As far as the Netherlands Government and nation were concerned, Mr. van Heuven Goedhart could assure the Assembly of their firm determination to continue on the road of voluntary co-operation on the basis of complete equality, and he had no doubt that the Republic of the United States of Indonesia was equally aware of the great significance for both nations, as well as for the world at large, of that co-operation.

9. He was not yet in possession of the authentic documents which had been signed that morning by the parties to the Round Table Conference, but they would be handed to the Secretary-General in due course. He did not intend to dwell upon the contents of those important documents at length, but would like to stress the fact that the statute of the union between the Netherlands and the Republic of the United States of Indonesia was a completely unequivocal document to the drafting of which all parties concerned had given the greatest care and which continually emphasized the equality, the equal rights and the full sovereignty of the two partner States.

10. Apart from the transfer of sovereignty, which would take place by a special charter also drafted and agreed upon in The Hague, there had been numerous other problems to solve. He would at that time stress only one, namely, the future financial relations and the settlement of debts

between the new nation and the Netherlands. Difficult and complicated negotiations on the subject had at times created inevitable tension. The solution had been found at last in a considerable reduction of the claims which the Netherlands Government had had against Indonesia. Thus the Netherlands Government was making its contribution towards placing the new State on a sound financial basis, and it would be gratified if other nations which in the recent past had granted credits to Indonesia were to follow that example by playing their part in helping to alleviate the burdens of the young nation.

11. Many delegations would undoubtedly join the Netherlands delegation in its hope and its trust that the leaders of the Republic of the United States of Indonesia, having taken the reins of government into their own hands, would be fully successful in maintaining order and security and in guaranteeing the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in their country, as they had pledged themselves to do. All members of the Assembly were only too well aware that in Indonesia, as in every corner of the world, there were subversive elements to whom the disruption of normal government was a prior condition to the realization of their own dark ambitions. He prayed that the responsible authorities in Indonesia would display the statesmanship and receive the full support of all nations of good will which would be necessary, should such elements endeavour to endanger the peaceful life of the new State.

12. In conclusion, Mr. van Heuven Goedhart expressed the hope of the Netherlands Government that the Republic of the United States of Indonesia would take a place of great honour amongst the nations and he assured the General Assembly that the preservation of lasting, voluntary and friendly co-operation with the Republic of the United States of Indonesia would remain one of the main objectives of the Government and people of the Netherlands.

13. The PRESIDENT stated that he was sure every representative would await with interest the report of the United Nations Commission which was currently at The Hague. He expected that the report would be received shortly.

The meeting rose at 2.45 p.m.

## TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINTH PLENARY MEETING

*Held at Flushing Meadow, New York, on Tuesday, 15 November 1949, at 10.45 a.m.*

*President: General Carlos P. RÓMULO (Philippines).*

### Report of the Trusteeship Council: report of the Fourth Committee (A/1028)

1. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic), Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee, presented the report of that Committee with the accompanying draft resolutions (A/1028)<sup>2</sup>.

2. Nine draft resolutions, which had subsequently been recast or amended, had originally been submitted to the Fourth Committee; they had consisted of proposals on the political

advancement of Trust Territories; economic development, social development and educational development. Finally, there had been a separate proposal concerning the use of the United Nations flag in Trust Territories.

3. A sub-committee had been established to correlate the proposals on political development; it had made recommendations, one on that particular matter and the other on petitions and visiting missions of the Trusteeship Council.

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the fourth session of the General Assembly*, Supplement No. 4.

<sup>2</sup> For the discussion on this subject in the Fourth Committee, see *Official Records of the fourth session of the General Assembly*, Fourth Committee, 88th to 105th meetings inclusive.

4. With regard to political advancement, draft resolution I showed the result of the work of the Fourth Committee.
5. That draft resolution, in the formulation of which the delegations of Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt and India had actively participated, contained specific conclusions in regard to the adoption by the Trusteeship Council of measures favouring the political advancement of the Territories and their preparation for self-government and independence. It was requested that the Council's annual reports to the Assembly should contain a special section in which such measures could be evaluated. Moreover, the Administering Authorities were urged to submit, within one year, their general plans in that regard.
6. Draft resolution II, which had been approved without objections, expressed the opinion of the General Assembly concerning the objectives to be pursued by the visiting missions of the Council and concerning the consideration of petitions.
7. With regard to economic development, draft resolution III, the purpose of which was to establish principles and standards for the economic advancement of the Trust Territories, was based on a draft resolution submitted to the Fourth Committee by the Cuban delegation.
8. The conclusions of the Committee on the subject of social development were contained in draft resolution IV, which was based on draft resolutions submitted by the delegations of China and Cuba. Subsequent amendments submitted by the delegations of Australia and the Philippines had been incorporated in the revised text, which had been accepted by the Committee.
9. Draft resolution V, based on a draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Brazil, concerned educational questions. An amendment of the delegation of Mexico providing for the participation of UNESCO had been incorporated in the draft.
10. Finally, draft resolution VI, based on a draft resolution submitted jointly by the delegations of China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Liberia, Mexico and the Philippines, contained the recommendation that the flag of the United Nations should be flown in Trust Territories side by side with the flag of the Administering Authority concerned and with the territorial flag if there was one.
11. Many delegations hoped that some of the objections advanced in the Committee on technical or legal grounds, particularly in connexion with the wording of the operative part of the draft resolution, would be waived so that the Assembly might approve the draft unanimously.
12. The consideration of the report of the Trusteeship Council and the group of resolutions recommended by the Fourth Committee augured a new phase in the evolution of the manner in which Member States regarded problems which, until a short time previously, had been thought to be exclusively within the competence of a certain group of States.
13. Mr. INGLÉS (Philippines) stated that his delegation would support all the six draft resolutions relating to Trust Territories in the report of the Fourth Committee.
14. It attached particular importance to paragraph 4 of draft resolution I on political advancement, which called on the Administering Authorities to furnish the Trusteeship Council with general plans and an outline of the means they proposed to use, in respect of each Trust Territory, to ensure the speedy and progressive development of the Territory towards self-government or independence. Without any such plan, progress towards self-government would be much slower. Even the recognition of independence would suffer greater delay if no date, however tentative, were set for such a step. The Philippine delegation could not approve of the attitude of certain Administering Authorities which objected to political planning on the ground that they worked on a day to day basis; that implied that they left the political advancement of Trust Territories to improvisation.
15. The experience of the Philippines under United States rule was an illustration of what planning could do to accelerate political advancement and progress. On 4 July 1946, within thirty years of the promise of independence embodied in the Jones Act of 1916, and at the end of the transition period fixed in the Independence Act of 1935, whereby the Filipinos had been enabled to draft their own constitution, the Republic of the Philippines had been inaugurated.
16. As a member of the Trusteeship Council, the Philippines welcomed the constructive procedural recommendations contained in draft resolution II relating to the examination and disposal of petitions and to the terms of reference of visiting missions to Trust Territories. They formed the only direct link between the United Nations and the peoples of the Trust Territories and constituted the very cornerstone of the International Trusteeship System.
17. Draft resolution III, on economic advancement, was noteworthy in that it reaffirmed the principle that the interests of the indigenous inhabitants must always be regarded as paramount in all economic plans or policies undertaken in Trust Territories. The Administering Authorities should welcome that draft resolution as an earnest of their repeated assurances that the old imperialism with its connotation of colonial exploitation was dead and buried.
18. Draft resolution IV, on social advancement in the Trust Territories, reinforced the stand taken by several delegations in the Trusteeship Council, including the Philippine delegation, in favour of ensuring respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Trust Territories without discrimination of any kind, whether of race, colour, sex, language, religion or political belief. The Philippine delegation heartily endorsed any measures by which the General Assembly could strengthen the hand of the Trusteeship Council in ensuring greater freedom for the peoples of the Trust Territories, so that they might rest secure in the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed to them in the Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
19. The Philippine delegation also welcomed draft resolution V, on educational advancement, not because that field was neglected by the Trusteeship Council—on the contrary, it had been of particular concern to the Council and to the

Philippine delegation—but because it focused attention on the advisability of including instruction on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the school curricula in Trust Territories. The Philippine delegation particularly endorsed the congratulations extended to the Administering Authorities, which deserved encouragement for their sincere and intensive efforts in that field.

20. Draft resolution VI requested the Trusteeship Council to recommend to the Administering Authorities that the flag of the United Nations should be flown over all Trust Territories side by side with the flag of the Administering Authority concerned and the territorial flag, if there was one. Such a step would symbolize the deep interest of the United Nations in the welfare of all Trust Territories and would afford a just, if belated, recognition of the important role which the United Nations played in the operation of the International Trusteeship System. The Philippine delegation was not aware of any legal or constitutional objections to that draft resolution. In any case, the five delegations which had voted against the proposal in the Fourth Committee had not been able to give any legal reasons for their action; their opposition had been based merely on the need, in their opinion, for further temporizing.

21. One Administering Authority had, it was true, opposed the proposal on the grounds of political expediency, asserting that the raising of the United Nations flag in Trust Territories would be ill-advised in view of the unsettled conditions in certain regions of the world, particularly in Africa. In refuting that argument, one delegation had asked the significant question whether conditions in Trust Territories had come to such a pass that the hoisting of the flag of peace would be the signal for bloody unrest.

22. Another Administering Authority had objected to being called an agent of the United Nations in the fulfilment of the objectives of the International Trusteeship System, notwithstanding the repeated affirmations of the General Assembly that the supervisory authority over Trust Territories rested with the United Nations. The same Administering Authority, however, had always advanced the argument that the United Nations on the one hand and the Administering Authorities on the other were partners in the noble task of guiding the peoples of Trust Territories towards self-government or independence. If that were so, and the flag of the Administering Authority already flew over a Trust Territory, it was difficult to see why the United Nations flag should not be raised over the same Territory on a footing of equality with the flag of the Administering Authority. Surely the Administering Authorities concerned, being loyal Members of the United Nations, would not wish the flag of the United Nations to be subordinated to their respective flags in the Trust Territories. They had declared publicly, time and again, that they did not claim any sovereignty over the Trust Territories they administered. For one partner to question the right of the other partner to fly the latter's flag over their common ward was, to say the least, to question its own right to do the same thing.

23. A further argument adduced in the Fourth Committee had been that the matter came within the province of the Trusteeship Council and that the General Assembly should not therefore take any action. The Philippine delegation would content itself, on that matter, with drawing attention to the fact that under the Charter the Trusteeship Council acted on the delegated authority of the General Assembly. Moreover, in a matter of such import and significance as the raising of the flag of the United Nations, any action taken by the Trusteeship Council would have to be referred to the General Assembly for approval. There could be no possible objection to the General Assembly itself taking the initiative and leaving the details of its execution to the Trusteeship Council. That was precisely what was intended by the draft resolution. Nevertheless, the draft resolution took due account of the sensibilities of the Powers concerned and simply requested the Trusteeship Council, in recognition of its proper place among the principal organs of the United Nations, to make the recommendation to the Administering Authorities.

24. The Philippine delegation urged the four Administering Authorities which had voted against the draft resolution in the Fourth Committee to support it, not as an act of renunciation of the privileged position they occupied in the Trust Territories they administered, but as a solemn reaffirmation of the distinct legal personality of the United Nations and as a step towards the greatest promotion of the ideals and aims of the United Nations to which all Members had committed themselves when they had subscribed to its Charter.

25. In human affairs, the value of symbols could not be discounted. They gave a heightened colour and meaning to the realities of life. The flag of the United Nations was such a symbol which should spur subject peoples to greater endeavour in the attainment of their cherished dream of self-government and self-determination.

26. The Philippine delegation was happy to have initiated draft resolution VI together with the delegations of China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Liberia and Mexico; it appealed to the General Assembly to support it by an overwhelming vote as a great symbolic act signifying the growing prestige and authority of the United Nations.

27. Mr. D'AQUINO (Brazil) stated that, in his delegation's view, the six draft resolutions approved by the Fourth Committee should be adopted by the General Assembly, since they would make an effective contribution towards the advancement of the peoples of the Trust Territories in the economic, political, social and educational field.

28. Particular attention should be given to paragraph 2 of the operative part of draft resolution I, concerning the political advancement of Trust Territories, which stated that the seat of administration in respect of all Trust Territories should be located inside the Territories concerned. The Brazilian delegation had voted in favour of that paragraph, since it was convinced that the special status of the Trust Territories and their character as separate entities could not be retained if the seat of administration were outside the Territories concerned.

29. Objections had been raised to the inclusion of that paragraph in a resolution concerning the political advancement of Trust Territories. The main objection had been that such a statement came within the scope of the question of administrative unions, which was another item on the agenda. That objection was quite unfounded, as were the others which had been raised. Although the Trusteeship Council had devoted a special chapter in its report to the question of administrative unions, it had not considered it advisable to separate the problem of the seat of administration in respect of all Trust Territories from the study of political conditions in those Territories.

30. In inserting that statement in the draft resolution concerning the political advancement of Trust Territories, the Fourth Committee had simply followed the report of the Trusteeship Council itself, according to which it would be impossible to study political advancement without taking that anomaly into consideration.

31. The Brazilian delegation hoped that the General Assembly would take into account the observations made by the Trusteeship Council and that it would consider, as had the Fourth Committee, that the seat of administration in respect of all Trust Territories should be located inside the Territories concerned.

32. Mr. D'SOUZA (India) stated that his delegation was deeply interested in the report of the Trusteeship Council and had followed the discussion thereon in a spirit of active co-operation. Some of the draft resolutions or suggestions submitted by his delegation had been embodied in the draft resolutions before the General Assembly. But although his delegation had voted for those draft resolutions, that did not necessarily mean that it was satisfied with their wording or that it did not wish to make any reservation regarding one or more of them.

33. The work of the Trusteeship Council was of the utmost importance and its activities and policies were followed with more than ordinary interest by the Government of India, since they concerned peoples who had not yet attained independence and who desired, or would sooner or later desire, independence. India, which had emerged victorious from its struggle for independence, felt the greatest sympathy with those peoples and, in repeated declarations of its policy, had placed their emancipation in the forefront of its foreign programme. India felt that its experience in developing democratic institutions in its own country would be of particular value to those peoples. It should be recalled, in that connexion, that there were groups of backward peoples in India and that the Government and leaders of that country had undertaken the rapid political and social improvement of those groups. The method and spirit with which the Indian Government was pursuing that task should be of some value to the United Nations, which was confronted with a similar task on a larger scale.

34. The draft resolutions before the General Assembly called for some reserve and did not arouse enthusiasm, for they were drafted in a moderate and conciliatory language and would not meet with the approval of many schools of opinion. If India, consistent with its primary tasks and duties, agreed with that moderate and con-

ciliatory approach, in spite of its emphatic adherence to the cause of the political emancipation of all subject peoples and its determination to assist them, it was because it was animated by a profound desire for the peaceful settlement of all international problems and firmly believed in the value of patient and persistent negotiation.

35. India had gained its freedom by peaceful methods. It had parted with its former rulers in a friendly way, leaving no bitterness behind. It therefore sought the establishment of friendly and willing co-operation between the Administering Authorities and the peoples entrusted to their care and preferred that methods and principles should be applied to that end which would make the Administering Authorities convinced believers in liberty for their wards. The Indian delegation, in helping to draw up the resolutions in their final form, especially the series of proposals on political advancement, had wished to abstain from any direct condemnation of the Administering Authorities by citing certain countries. It was known that abuses and shortcomings existed; the positive directives contained in the draft resolutions indicated the existence of shortcomings, if not abuses, which could and should be remedied quickly. At the same time, the Indian delegation had not hesitated to endorse expressions of appreciation where they seemed to be justified. It appealed to the Administering Authorities to accept that appreciation, as well as the recommendations made, with equal readiness, for they could rest assured that the recommendations had been made by those who were not blinded by prejudice.

36. The draft resolutions before the General Assembly were the result of a compromise, and compromises were never very satisfactory. Two points in particular, mainly in draft resolution I but affecting and running through the other draft resolutions, had given rise to opposition and had led to misunderstanding.

37. One was the reference to the seat of administration of Trust Territories, which was in fact a reference to administrative unions. Since that subject had been set down for specific discussion at a later stage, the provision on the seat of administration had seemed to many both unnecessary and premature at that stage. There was force in that argument, but the draft resolution reflected a practically unanimous attitude which had been revealed in the course of the general discussion. It seemed that there was nothing fundamentally wrong in taking cognizance of that fact, and the trend of the discussion on administrative unions had confirmed the opinion manifested in the course of the general discussion. If during those discussions it had become clear that administrative unions could be allowed to continue in their existing form, a way might have been found to maintain them in a form consistent with the spirit or the substance of the draft resolution; fortunately that necessity had not arisen.

38. Another point which had led to long discussions in the Sub-Committee that had drawn up the final text, provoking considerable opposition, was the clause in draft resolution I calling on Administering Authorities to submit general plans and proposals by which they would lead the countries under their trusteeship to self-government or independence. The Indian delegation had voted

for that draft resolution in the conviction that it would be possible to carry it out without causing the Administering Authorities serious difficulty. It was certain that clear-cut and detailed plans, including a rigid time-limit, might be difficult to make and impossible to execute. Time-limits, moreover, could act both as a help and as a hindrance. The Indian delegation could not forget the crucial example of Libya: until the previous year it had been considered that ten years would be required before that country could achieve independence, yet now, with equal and touching unanimity, that territory was judged ripe for independence. The wording of draft resolution I did not necessarily imply the fixing of a time-limit and did not call for a detailed plan. If the Administering Authorities refused to accept that mild proposal, their action would certainly give rise to misgivings and would create a wrong impression of their real attitude, which the Indian delegation believed to be inspired by a genuine liberalism.

39. The former German colonies had been broken up and allotted to different Powers and thus were likely to be subjected to the impact of different ideologies and a varying political development; the United Nations would be in a position to prevent such a threat to the unity of those Territories and to co-ordinate their political evolution if general plans were submitted in good time. The Indian delegation had therefore voted for draft resolution I and invited the Administering Authorities to carry out its provisions in the spirit of their democratic traditions.

40. Mr. D'Souza emphasized that in the evolution of the countries in question, political emancipation should not be dependent on an advanced degree of educational, social and economic progress; such progress, although it was essential and would doubtless keep pace with increasing self-government, could best be judged by the peoples themselves. The Indian delegation could not accept the thesis that self-government should not be granted until illiteracy, for instance, had been abolished. An electorate could be trained and initiated to democratic institutions by radio and films as well as by newspapers and political handbooks; in particular, political meetings, oral communications and contact between leaders and followers were means by which political sense could be developed in an intelligent population.

41. India had experience in such matters and, although illiteracy was as yet by no means eliminated, a constitution had already been drawn up providing universal suffrage. India would proceed with elections, confident that they would express the will of the people. Once political autonomy and self-government were even partially secured, it would be the task of the people to decide what type of education was most acceptable to them, most suited to their needs and in harmony with their genius; it was hoped that in all cases such education would be given in their own languages. India was making an interesting experiment in basic education, which aimed at simplifying and rendering more effective the process of instruction, developing skills until then neglected by primary education, increasing practical capacity and love of physical work, thus giving a stamp to national character along the lines marked out by Mahatma Gandhi. Such education was still at its experimental stage, but the experience and capac-

ity for guidance gained from it would be at the disposal of the peoples of the Trust Territories, if they so wished.

42. In no sphere, however, was progress without self-government so difficult as in the economic sphere. Administering Authorities would always find it difficult to escape the limitations, systems, ideologies, and financial requirements of the metropolis however much they might wish to do so. It would be almost impossible for them to administer a Trust Territory without linking it in some way or integrating it with their own system of industrial production. The tendency, moreover, would always be to make the Trust Territory a producer of raw materials for industry and a market for the finished goods. Experience showed that such had always been the case in colonial and administered territories, and no amount of apparent prosperity resulting from the exploitation of the natural resources of the country and the opportunity for humbler types of employment could prevent the slow impoverishment of the land by a continually unfavourable trade balance. Another result might be large-scale shifts of population from country to town, with the attendant evil effects on the physique and morale of people accustomed to live in the open, insufficiency of food crops as compared with industrial yield, and other evils of centralized industry such as those which had led to the serious social difficulties of Europe.

43. India believed it had a solution whereby that danger could be met. That solution, enunciated in its broad outlines by Mahatma Gandhi, was based on the organization of the village community as the primary unit, on the ideal of self-sufficiency in food production and the introduction of a cottage industry. In other words, the solution consisted in the establishment of a decentralized industry based on a co-operative economy. The implications of such a solution, both for India's problems and for the social and economic problems facing the world as a whole, were far-reaching.

44. In the opinion of the Indian delegation, the draft resolution on social advancement and, to an even greater degree, the draft resolution on economic advancement before the Assembly were rather too vague. The Indian delegation would have preferred to support specific recommendations along the lines laid down above; it realized, however, the need for disseminating such ideas and, in particular, for making available more material from the evolution of movements in India itself. In the meantime, the General Assembly should be guided, in its economic dealings with the Trust Territories, by a spirit of devotion to the interests of the peoples of those Territories, a spirit which was well brought out by the draft resolutions in question. The Indian delegation would therefore support them as general directives pending the formulation of more concrete proposals.

45. It would be tragic if, after the experience suffered by the great industrial countries, the helpless peoples of the Trust Territories, with their simple needs and demands, were thrown into a vortex from which the strongest seemed incapable of emerging. The Indian delegation did not mean that the peoples of the Trust Territories should be kept outside the current of modern

scientific invention and industrial progress. Beneficial inventions must be utilized, the drudgery of purely mechanical work must be diminished and a decent standard of living, with a reasonable degree of material well-being, must be established everywhere, but not at the expense of the physical and moral health of the people or in defiance of their cultural or inherited characteristics. India desired for those peoples, as for itself, a prosperous future. It hoped that their roots would remain firmly fixed in the past but that their gaze would be resolutely turned towards the hopes and adventures of the future. It believed that no human group was so backward or so debased that it did not respond quickly to the idea of personal freedom and dignity and that once that dignity was assured by a régime of political freedom, such a people would know better than others how to guide its own destiny along lines of social and cultural progress.

46. Mr. BIHELLER (Czechoslovakia) stated that his delegation would vote for the draft resolution on the political advancement of Trust Territories as it stood. Nevertheless, he would submit a few remarks for the consideration of the General Assembly.

47. The draft resolution did not express in any way the deep concern and even anxiety felt by most delegations in the Fourth Committee, with the exception of the representatives of the Administering Authorities, with regard to the political development of the Trust Territories.

48. It was clear, and had been proved, that the indigenous populations and non-white inhabitants of the Trust Territories had been denied political rights, in particular the rights to suffrage, and to participation in legislation, in the judiciary and in the administration of the Trust Territories.

49. In some Territories indigenous inhabitants had been nominated to bodies set up by the Administering Authorities, but certain observations must be made concerning those bodies. In the first place, they had a merely advisory character and wielded no power; secondly, the number of indigenous members in those advisory bodies was not in proportion to the number of the indigenous population; thirdly, in the political sphere as in the other spheres of life in the Trust Territories an open and unwritten policy of racial discrimination was practised. The Trusteeship Council report stated, and the debates in the Fourth Committee had confirmed, that a number of Trust Territories under British and Belgian administration had been completely integrated with neighbouring colonies of the Administering Authorities concerned, so that even at the lowest administrative levels that was no legislative, juridical or budgetary autonomy in those Trust Territories, and their very identity was in danger of disappearing entirely. That grave problem, which had been discussed at length in the Fourth Committee in connexion with the question of administrative unions, had dominated all the proceedings of the fourth and fifth sessions of the Trusteeship Council as well as the discussions in the Fourth Committee. Thus in the course of the debates on the working of the Trusteeship System, serious concern had been expressed as to whether the provisions of the Charter, in particular Article 76 b, were being implemented by the Administering Authorities. Yet that concern

regarding the state of political development in the Trust Territories was expressed in the draft resolution only in connexion with the fact that in some cases that seat of administration was outside the boundaries of the Territory concerned.

50. That weakness of the draft resolution was the consequence of the compromise arrived at in the Committee by the proposers of the various draft resolutions. It was a proof of their conciliatory attitude. The draft resolution did not even contain relevant critical observations which were absolutely essential for the appraisal of the functioning of the Trusteeship System, and in particular it did not contain any view on the main issue, namely, whether or not the provisions of the Charter concerning political advancement were being implemented in the Trust Territories.

51. The statements and provisions contained in the draft resolution did not constitute any criticism whatsoever of the Administering Authorities; they could not be considered as implying any censure of the policies of those Authorities in the Trust Territories on the part of Members of the United Nations which desired the implementation of the provisions of the Charter and of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on 18 November 1948 in regard to the Trusteeship System. Nevertheless, while considering the draft resolution to be inadequate, the Czechoslovak delegation held that it was a step forward which would certainly facilitate the operation of the Trusteeship System.

52. Mr. Biheller called attention to paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, wherein it was recommended that the annual reports of the Trusteeship Council should include, in a special section, information dealing with the implementation by the Administering Authorities of the Council's recommendations concerning the measures adopted to grant the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories a larger degree of self-government through participation in the legislative, executive and judicial organs and procedures of the Trust Territories. The usefulness and necessity of that paragraph were obvious in view of the difficulty of finding in the reports of the Trusteeship Council conclusive facts of the achievements—if any—of the Administering Authorities in compliance with the recommendations of the Council.

53. Paragraph 4 of the draft resolution introduced a new and essential measure which would greatly contribute to the attainment of the aims of the Charter. Mr. Biheller recalled that on 18 November 1948 the General Assembly had adopted its resolution 226 (III), recommending that the Administering Authorities should "take all possible steps to accelerate the progressive development towards self-government or independence of the Trust Territories they administer". It was evident that the urgency of the provision of the Charter which required the Administering Authorities to promote the political and other advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence was emphasized by that resolution, which stated in its preamble that that development should be achieved at the earliest possible date and that the Trust Territories should attain self-government or independence as soon as possible. There could be neither doubt nor misunderstanding with regard to the



implications of those provisions of resolution 226 (III.). It was thus perfectly logical and in full accordance with the letter and spirit of the Charter and with fundamental decisions of the United Nations that the General Assembly should call upon the Administering Authorities to furnish the Trusteeship Council with the information requested in paragraph 4 of draft resolution I.

54. The Czechoslovak delegation deemed it necessary, however, to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that the draft resolution, and in particular paragraph 4, had been very strongly opposed by the Administering Powers and one or two of their closest admirers.

55. It might be said that the opposition of the Administering Authorities to the draft resolution was perfectly natural, in view of the fact that the representatives of great Powers, proud of their civilization and culture, had unashamedly voted against the abolition by law of child marriage, corporal punishment and similar barbarous institutions in the Trust Territories and had even voted against the flying of the United Nations flag in Trust Territories under their administration. Nevertheless the Administering Authorities, including the United States, would be acting most unwisely if they were to oppose the draft resolution, which neither criticized nor passed judgment upon their achievements or failures in the Trust Territories. It only asked them to submit to the Trusteeship Council their plans for carrying out the commitments they had undertaken when they had solemnly signed the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreements.

56. It was difficult to see why they should object to that request if, as they so emphatically declared, their intentions with respect to the Trust Territories were fully in harmony with the provisions of the Charter and with the resolutions of the General Assembly, or why the Trusteeship Council—and indeed, the United Nations and the world at large—should not know by what means the peoples of the Trust Territories were to attain what the United Nations had promised to ensure, namely, the progressive and speedy attainment of self-government or independence.

57. Did the Administering Authorities and their supporters wish the United Nations and world opinion to gain the impression, or even the conviction, that they considered their real intentions to be unfit for the scrutiny of the Trusteeship Council in the light of the Charter? That was the question which should be answered by the vote.

58. Some representatives of Administering Authorities had argued in the course of the debate in the Committee that they had no plans and that they administered the Territories under their authority on an empirical basis. Mr. Biheller doubted the accuracy of that argument, in an age of plans limited by time or characterized by the names of their initiators. But even if that argument were accepted, when the welfare and development of Trust Territories was on the agenda that matter was not the concern of the Administering Authorities alone. It was the concern of the United Nations, which as a body and as a comity of individual Member States would be made responsible for the successful implementation of the Charter or for the failure to implement it. That fact should be borne in mind by all delegations when they cast their votes.

59. No valid arguments had been submitted against the adoption of paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. The Czechoslovak delegation was therefore of the opinion that every delegation, when casting its vote, should bear in mind what the resolution would mean for the furthering of the aims of the Trusteeship System, and the fact that its implementation would make possible a real acceleration of the progressive development of Trust Territories towards self-government.

60. Mr. NASZKOWSKI (Poland) recalled that in a statement in the Fourth Committee, the Polish delegation had emphasized that it had no direct interest in the Trust Territories and was guided solely by the desire that the Charter should be respected and by its anxiety concerning the fate of the populations of the Trust Territories. Inspired by those motives it considered that only clear-cut decisions by the General Assembly could produce concrete and useful results in that field. The discussion in the Fourth Committee had only strengthened that conviction.

61. The report of the Trusteeship Council had revealed that the hopes placed in the Trusteeship System had not been fulfilled and that the provisions of Article 76 of the Charter had not been respected. Instead of creating political, economic and social conditions likely to promote the advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories towards independence, the Administering Authorities were applying a system identical with that applied in their colonies; they were keeping the populations in a backward state of ignorance and poverty.

62. Without wishing to recall the criticisms which had been made concerning the operation of the Trusteeship System, he wished to emphasize that the representatives of the Administering Authorities had reacted violently to all those criticisms. They had fought against what they regarded as interference by the United Nations in the affairs of the Trust Territories.

63. Draft resolution VI, in which it was proposed that the United Nations flag should fly over Trust Territories, had met with fierce opposition from the Administering Authorities. Draft resolution IV, which proposed the immediate prohibition of corporal punishment, had let the United Kingdom representative to reply that the practice of corporal punishment was to be regarded as a domestic question which fell within the sole jurisdiction of the Administering Authorities.

64. It seemed to be forgotten in some quarters that an International Trusteeship System had been established and that hence the United Nations, as such, and each of its Members individually were primarily responsible for the implementations of the provisions of Chapter XII of the Charter.

65. Since the Administering Authorities exhibited such tendencies, any vague and ill-defined recommendation, and *a fortiori* any commendation of those Authorities, would clearly be harmful to the interests of the populations of Trust Territories. Yet the Trusteeship Council's report was full of vague phrases and compliments. Unfortunately, during the debate on that report, several delegations had been inclined to ignore the facts in order not to offend the Administering Authorities. Several delegations—in many cases those

which, because of their own past history, should have been greatly concerned with the future of the oppressed peoples—had expressed their hostility to discrimination and colonial exploitation, but had then submitted either compromise amendments or futile and ineffective draft resolutions.

66. The Polish delegation had vigorously opposed such tendencies. That was why it had supported the draft resolution submitted by Czechoslovakia which had correctly appraised the situation and had called on the Administering Authorities to submit plans for the development of Trust Territories. For the same reason, the Polish delegation had voted for the Sub-Committee's draft resolution, although the latter had unfortunately been weaker than the Czechoslovak draft resolution in that the passage criticizing the existing state of affairs in the Trust Territories had been dropped. Again, and for the same reason, the Polish delegation had voted in the Committee and would be obliged to vote in the Assembly against draft resolution V on educational advancement, since in paragraph 5 of that draft the Administering Authorities were congratulated on their alleged progress in establishing institutions of university standard for indigenous students in the Trust Territories.

67. The delegation of Poland felt that such congratulations were incompatible with the true state of education in the Trust Territories, which not only lacked institutions of university standard but in which illiteracy—as in the case of the British Cameroons—was 100 per cent in certain localities. The few scholarships granted to indigenous students for study in the universities of the metropolitan Powers could hardly solve the problem of higher education; rather, they represented yet another means of pressure and subjection.

68. In conclusion, Mr. Naszkowski said that his delegation would support any constructive recommendation likely to promote the advancement of the inhabitants of Trust Territories in conformity with the letter and spirit of the Charter.

69. Mr. PÉREZ CISNEROS (Cuba) expressed his satisfaction with the results achieved by the Fourth Committee.

70. During the current session, the discussions in the Fourth Committee had been particularly heartening. In the first place, the question of colonies had not been used for purposes of political propaganda; secondly, and above all, a greater number of representatives, by their statements and proposals, had made valuable contributions to the work of the Trusteeship Council, thanks to their thorough knowledge of the problems connected with the Trusteeship System and their deep sense of the vital responsibility incumbent upon them, as upon all their colleagues, in connexion with the future of the Trust Territories.

71. In the past there had been a tendency to regard the Trusteeship Council as the only organ concerned with and responsible for trusteeship matters and to think that the General Assembly's approval of the Council's report was simply a matter of routine. Cuba was happy to note, however, that the current session had been marked by a weakening of that tendency.

72. The large number of States which had taken part in the discussion during the current session proved that the General Assembly was

making a determined effort to perform the duties and use the powers assigned to it under Article 85 of the Charter, paragraph 2 of which provided that the Trusteeship Council, operating under the authority of the General Assembly, should assist the General Assembly in carrying out the functions described in paragraph 1. Those provisions meant that under the Trusteeship System, the Trusteeship Council was simply an agent of the General Assembly, to which it was obliged to make an annual report.

73. A glance at the composition of the Council which, under the terms of the Charter, consisted of equal numbers of Members of the United Nations administering Trust Territories and Members not administering Trust Territories, would show that, like a ship at the mercy of conflicting currents, the Council was doomed to remain almost at a standstill. The part of the General Assembly could play in breaking that enforced immobility by its guidance and encouragement was of prime importance.

74. It was for that reason that the Cuban delegation noted with satisfaction that a constantly growing number of Members were taking part in the General Assembly's discussions of the Administration of Trust Territories. It was especially satisfactory to Cuba, as an American country, to observe that foremost among the most active participants in those discussions during the current session, in addition to Cuba itself, were several other American nations, including Brazil, Guatemala and Mexico. Latin America's tenacious and determined efforts to hasten the progress of the hitherto subject peoples towards self-determination were easy to understand in the light of the already historic resolution XXXIII of the International Conference of American States held at Bogotá. In that resolution the comity of American nations had declared almost unanimously that it was a just aspiration of the American Republics that colonialism should be brought to an end and had further stated that the ideal which had inspired the epic of the independence of America would always animate their peoples and Governments, united in their moral pledge to strive by all peaceful means within their power to eliminate from the American continent any status of dependency, whatever its form, political, economic or juridical.

75. As the rapporteur who had submitted that memorable resolution and later as Secretary-General of the American Committee on Dependent Territories, which was its immediate consequence, Mr. Pérez Cisneros could assure the United Nations that if in that text the American Republics had restricted their desire for freedom to the American continent, it was because of the regional nature of the Bogotá Conference; it was nevertheless an absolute principle for those Republics, valid for all the areas of the world where the colonial system of vassalage, with distant metropolitan countries, precarious economies and discriminatory legislation was destined to be completely liquidated, in obedience to the dictates of universal solidarity under which the old and the new world already constituted but one world, as the Foreign Minister of Cuba, Mr. Carlos Hevia, had said.

76. It was thus natural that the Cuban delegation should have felt obliged to play a responsible part



in the work of the Fourth Committee with regard to the report of the Trusteeship Council.

77. It had co-operated in concrete form by submitting three different draft resolutions: one concerning the political advancement of the Trust Territories, another on their economic progress and a third on their social advancement. The Cuban delegation had been gratified to note that the Fourth Committee had given a favourable reception to those draft resolutions, which formed the basis of draft resolutions I, III and IV.

78. One of the principal aims of the Cuban delegation was to see that future reports of the Trusteeship Council, without losing anything of their necessarily complex and technical nature, became easier for the General Assembly to deal with, since the latter, in conjunction with the Administering Authorities, had the chief responsibility for the future of the Trust Territories.

79. It should be recognized, however, that the Governments of the majority of the States which formed the General Assembly did not have departments which specialized in colonial matters. In previous years, therefore, when the report of the Council had been debated in the Assembly, only a few delegations had considered themselves sufficiently prepared to take part in an arid and technical debate, and the result had been a clash as of blind forces between the colonial Powers of Western Europe and the countries of Soviet Europe.

80. The Cuban delegation had therefore asked that future reports of the Trusteeship Council should contain special sections devoted to an analysis and summary of the situation and the progress achieved in the Trust Territories in general, distinguishing clearly between the political, social and economic spheres. The Fourth Committee had agreed to that, and Cuba's proposal had been complemented by the further decision, made at the request of the Brazilian delegation, to insert another chapter regarding the educational aspect of the situation.

81. Thus future reports of the Trusteeship Council would be presented in a much improved form, and would cover the matters described in Article 76 b of the Charter, which provided that one of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System pursuant to the purposes of the United Nations laid down in Article I of the Charter, was to be the promotion of the political, economic, social, and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories.

82. In addition to providing for that improvement of the form of the report, the three draft resolutions submitted by Cuba had dealt with questions of substance; they had provided that the results achieved by the Administering Authorities in the various fields of their administration should be analysed objectively and reaffirmed the general principles of the Trusteeship System.

83. In connexion with the question of political advancement, the Cuban delegation had urged that the Council should call upon the Administering Authorities to adopt measures likely to stimulate the development of the Trust Territories towards self-government. Thus it had maintained that it was essential that the seat of administration should always be located in the Territories concerned. That was unfortunately not the case in adminis-

trative unions, and the political development of those Territories was thus prejudiced. The Cuban proposal had been adopted as paragraph 2 of draft resolution I. Cuba had also supported another delegation's proposal that the Administering Authorities should submit general plans by which they intended to comply with the provisions of the Charter relating to the progressive development of the Trust Territories towards self-government.

84. In connexion with economic advancement, the Cuban delegation had asked for higher standards of living and for higher wages for the indigenous inhabitants, as well as for their greater participation in the management and profits of commercial and manufacturing undertakings in their Territories.

85. The question of economic advancement was more than a humanitarian question affecting the Trust Territories. It was of great international importance because of its possible repercussions on those sovereign States which, in consequence of their geographical position or climate, produced agricultural commodities similar to those produced in the Trust Territories. As long as the standard of living in those Territories continued to be very low and as long as wages were ridiculous, these Territories would compete with certain States on an absolutely unfair basis, without benefit for the indigenous inhabitants.

86. In connexion with social advancement, the Cuban delegation had succeeded in persuading the Fourth Committee to condemn once and for all the practices inconsistent with human dignity which still existed in some Trust Territories. It had also succeeded in obtaining the adoption of a clause recommending the Administering Authorities to abolish discriminatory laws and practices, particularly as they affected racial groups.

87. Cuba wished once again to express its support for all the draft resolutions approved by the Fourth Committee; it hoped that they would also be approved, in full, by the Assembly.

88. The Cuban delegation would firmly resist any attempt to delete clauses which it regarded as essential, for any such deletion would only weaken the draft resolutions.

89. The Members of the United Nations were, in the last resort, the guardians of the peoples of the Trust Territories, and so must zealously and conscientiously watch over the well-being and protect the interests of their wards.

90. Such was the heavy responsibility conferred on the Assembly by the Charter of the United Nations; that obligation would be complied with if all the draft resolutions submitted by the Fourth Committee were adopted.

91. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) said that the views of his Government on the matters covered by the six draft resolutions before the General Assembly had already been explained at length in the Fourth Committee. He would therefore confine himself to brief indications of his Government's position on certain of those draft resolutions, in order that its position, which was so often misrepresented, sometimes deliberately, sometimes unwittingly, might be quite clear in each case.

92. In the case of draft resolution I on political advancement in the Trust Territories, the United

Kingdom was compelled to vote against paragraphs 2 and 4 and against the draft resolution as a whole, if both those paragraphs were not deleted.

93. Paragraph 2 expressed the view that the seat of administration of all Trust Territories should be located inside the Territories concerned. In the case of two of the Trust Territories under United Kingdom administration, the Cameroons and Togoland, it would be impracticable to give effect to that paragraph without contravening the terms of the respective Trusteeship Agreements, which expressly required the Administering Authority to administer the Territory "in accordance with the Authority's own laws as an integral part of its territory". A similar provision had been included in the League of Nations mandates for the same compelling geographical and other reasons. Those two small Territories could be administered in no other way and the seat of administration for the Cameroons was therefore Lagos, the capital of Nigeria; for Togoland it was Accra, the capital of the Gold Coast.

94. Paragraph 4 called upon the Administering Authorities to furnish to the Trusteeship Council, within one year, general plans and an outline of the ways and means by which they intended to comply with the provisions of the Charter relating to the progressive development of Trust Territories towards self-determination—a term which did not appear in the Charter—self-government and independence as speedily as possible. Apart from the fact that the draft resolution was so worded as to suggest that the Administering Authorities were not complying with the Charter, since it referred to their intentions to comply with its provisions, it reflected an entirely incorrect view of the respective functions and responsibilities of the Trusteeship Council and the Administering Authorities. It was not the function of the Trusteeship Council to decide in advance what the Administering Authorities should or should not do. That was the responsibility of the Administering Authorities, which they could not share. The proper function of the Trusteeship Council was to examine and review what the Administering Authorities had done and, if it thought fit, to draw attention to any deficiencies.

95. The United Kingdom Government kept the Trusteeship Council most fully informed of its activities and policies by the submission of annual reports on the administration of the Trust Territories for which it was responsible and by arranging for the attendance of experts from those Territories to supply any further oral explanations which might be required. The United Kingdom Government was therefore giving full effect to the requirements of the Charter, which provided no authority whatsoever for the prior submission of plans proposed in paragraph 4.

96. Mr. Fletcher-Cooke asked that a vote should be taken on draft resolution I paragraph by paragraph.

97. The United Kingdom delegation had various objections to draft resolution II, which related to petitions and visiting missions. Those objections, which were not objections of principle, had been made clear in the Fourth Committee. As in that Committee, the United Kingdom delegation would abstain from voting on the draft resolution.

98. The United Kingdom delegation would vote against draft resolution III, which dealt with economic advancement in the Trust Territories, for the reasons stated in the Fourth Committee.

99. When draft resolution IV, which dealt with social advancement, had been considered in the Fourth Committee, the United Kingdom representative had clearly explained why his Government found itself compelled to vote against it. But since that draft resolution had given rise to some misunderstanding, Mr. Fletcher-Cooke felt that those reasons should be restated in order to place the position of the United Kingdom Government beyond all doubt.

100. Paragraph 1 referred to the absolute prohibition of such uncivilized practices as child marriage in the Trust Territories. The United Kingdom Government was as anxious as any other Government represented in the United Nations to see such practices brought to an end as speedily as possible, but it did not consider that legislation was the best means to that end. There was evidence, which had been set out in the annual reports on Togoland and the Cameroons under British administration for the year 1948, that such practices were rapidly disappearing. The United Kingdom Government considered that legislation, far from eradicating the remaining traces of those practices, was likely to make their eradication more difficult by driving them underground. It preferred to rely on the spread of education, the emancipation of women and similar influences, which it was doing everything in its power to promote and assist.

101. Paragraph 2 referred to the immediate abolition of corporal punishment. Mr. Fletcher-Cooke stated that it was the policy of his Government both in the United Kingdom and in the Trust Territories to reduce as rapidly as possible the number of offences for which corporal punishment might be awarded. There had in fact been no case where corporal punishment had been applied to adults by magistrates in the two West African Territories under British administration during the previous two years, either in awards by courts or for prison offences. The matter was again under review and the Secretary of State for the Colonies had expressed the view that the time had come to consider further limitations on the use of corporal punishment. The United Kingdom Government's policy was to reduce the number of offences for which corporal punishment might be awarded in the Trust Territories to those for which it might still be awarded in the United Kingdom. Although immediate abolition, particularly for prison offences, was not practicable, it was the United Kingdom Government's policy to limit the use of that punishment to the minimum.

102. Paragraph 3 referred to penal sanctions for breach of labour contracts by indigenous inhabitants. In that connexion, Mr. Fletcher-Cooke wished to remind the Assembly that only two States represented in the United Nations had ratified Convention No. 65 concerning penal sanctions for breaches of contracts of employment by indigenous workers, adopted by the International Labour Conference; they were the United Kingdom and New Zealand. That Convention, which had been drawn up as long ago as 1939, and had been ratified in the same year by the United Kingdom, had come into force in 1948, when the

second ratification, that of New Zealand, had been deposited. It had been applied to the three Trust Territories for which the United Kingdom was responsible.

103. Paragraph 4 referred to the abolition of discriminatory laws and practices in the Trust Territories. Two years before the adoption of that draft resolution by the Fourth Committee, the United Kingdom Government had initiated a survey of legislation in Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories with a view to the modification or repeal of any provisions which might involve discrimination. That survey was being carried out as rapidly as possible, but would take a considerable time to complete in view of the large number of Territories and the wide variety of conditions involved.

104. For those reasons, the United Kingdom Government regarded resolution IV as inappropriate at that time and was therefore compelled to vote against it. Mr. Fletcher-Cooke would like, however, to assure the General Assembly that his Government was fully aware of the problems involved, appreciated the motive which had prompted the draft resolution and was taking action wherever and whenever possible.

105. He was glad to state that the United Kingdom delegation would vote for draft resolution V on educational advancement in the Trust Territories, which was based on the draft resolution submitted to the Fourth Committee by the delegation of Brazil, just as it had voted for it in the Fourth Committee.

106. It was clear from remarks made by previous speakers that the position of the United Kingdom Government on draft resolution VI, which related to the use of the United Nations flag in Trust Territories, was still not understood. Although the text on which that draft resolution was based had been introduced in the Fourth Committee after the expiry of the time-limit for the submission of draft resolutions relating to matters arising out of the Trusteeship Council's report, the Committee had agreed to consider it and the United Kingdom had not raised any objection to that procedure. As the United Kingdom representative had stated in the Fourth Committee, however, the matter with which the draft resolution dealt required very careful study and, as far as the United Kingdom Government was concerned, consultation with the local authorities in the Trust Territories for which it was responsible.

107. The United Kingdom delegation had accordingly proposed that the matter should be referred to the following session of the Trusteeship Council which, as members of the General Assembly were aware, was due to take place in January 1950. It could not therefore reasonably be argued, as it had been argued, that such a proposal would lead to lengthy delays. The United Kingdom proposal, however, had been defeated in the Fourth Committee and the United Kingdom delegation had therefore been compelled to vote against the draft resolution. In so doing, it had made it clear that it fully appreciated the importance of instructing the inhabitants of the Trust Territories regarding the United Nations and the special status of the Trust Territories. It had also made it clear that there were other and more appropriate and effective means of conveying that

instruction, means which the United Kingdom Government, as the Administering Authority, was already employing.

108. There were not two Administering Authorities in each Trust Territory, but only one, and hence only one official flag. In accordance with the Trusteeship Agreements, the Administering Authority was the sole responsible authority with full powers of administration, legislation and jurisdiction. The United Kingdom Government could not therefore agree to any action which might derogate from that authority. The United Kingdom delegation would therefore be compelled to vote against draft resolution VI, while reserving the position of its Government on the matter.

109. Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand) pointed out that according to Article 76 of the Charter, one of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System was to promote the progressive development of the Trust Territories towards self-government or independence. Progressive development meant development in stages, step by step, moving forward in each step. Under paragraph 4 of draft resolution I, the Administering Authorities were called upon to furnish general plans and an outline of the ways and means by which they intended to comply with the provisions of the Charter relating to the progressive development of Trust Territories towards self-government or independence; in other words, they were to furnish general plans for all the steps which were to be taken until self-government or independence was attained.

110. The delegation of Thailand was of the opinion that such general plans would be either so general as to be vague and hence of no practical utility, or so definite as to set dates which could not be adhered to with any degree of accuracy, since progress in the development towards self-government or independence depended on the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants, and such advancement in turn depended upon the financial resources available from period to period. On the other hand, the attitude of Administering Authorities was that they were prepared to furnish information only on the steps that had already been taken or were being taken.

111. The delegation of Thailand favoured a middle course. It considered that the Administering Authorities should furnish information not only concerning the steps taken, but also on the steps which were to be taken in the next stage in the progressive development of the Trust Territories towards self-government or independence, in other words, the steps which would be taken for the next period of four or five years. That, broadly speaking, was what had happened in the case of the Philippines. The delegation of Thailand was therefore in favour of calling upon the Administering Authorities to furnish statements of policy for progressive development for each successive stage or period of four or five years.

112. For those reasons it would abstain from voting on draft resolution I on political advancement.

113. The PRESIDENT declared the list of speakers on that item closed.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.