

NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TRANSMITTED

UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER

Summary Record of the Twentieth Meeting, held at Paris,
on Thursday, 23 September 1948 at 4.30 p.m.

Present:

<u>Chairman</u>	Mr. Cheng Paonan (China)
<u>Rapporteur</u>	Mr. H. Lannung (Denmark)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. J. Plimsoll (Australia)
	Mr. P. Ryckmans (Belgium)
	Mr. Perez-Cisneros (Cuba)
	Taha Bey el Sayed Nasr (Egypt)
	Mr. R. Garreau (France)
	Mr. B. Shiva Rao (India)
	Mr. W.H.J. van Asch van Wyck (Netherlands)
	Mr. J. Reid (New Zealand)
	Mr. S.J. Sodderblom (Sweden)
	Mr. A.G. Kulajenkov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic)
	Mr. Fletcher-Cooke (United Kingdom)
	Mr. Benjamin Gerig (United States)
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Dr. Victor Hoo, Assistant Secretary-General
	Mr. Benson (Committee Secretary)

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/THE RAPPORTEUR

THE RAPPORTEUR reminded the Committee that a certain number of amendments proposed by the Soviet representative had previously been found unacceptable as they would have unbalanced the Report. Since then the Soviet representative had submitted new proposals, superseding the former ones, which were brief, concrete, and did not seem to give rise to counter statements. He recommended the adoption of these new amendments.

MR° KULAGENKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) asked to have the following amendment inserted in document A/AC.17/W.13, page 6, after the speech of the representative China. "The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic stated that Article 73 and the Resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had laid down the principles underlying the policy of the United Nations with regard to Non-Self-Governing Territories; that the transmission of information should be considered as one of the means of carrying out this policy. The Committee, in his opinion, should examine the information in substance and prepare appropriate recommendations for the General Assembly. He objected against attempts to limit the activities of the Committee to procedural questions. The information concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories was incomplete and did not give a complete picture of the situation and in particular did not throw light on the question of the progress of the participation of the local populations in local organs of self-government. The Secretary-General should have the right to add to the information received from official sources, information from private persons and local groups or organizations and also by sending annually to the Non-Self-Governing Territories representatives of the United Nations to study the situation on the spot."

THE CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of China, felt that the amendment was a true reflection of the Soviet representative's view as expressed in the Committee, which he could accept.

MR. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) agreed with the representative of China, but pointed out that Under Section V of the Report no reference had been made to the United Kingdom point of view which was diametrically opposed to the Soviet representative's view. However, he was satisfied that his own amendments in other parts of the Report covered this point.

Mr. RAO (India) suggested minor drafting changes in the Soviet representative's amendment, line 8, to substitute the word "to" for the word "against", and the word "scope" for the word "activities".

Mr. KULAGENKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) referring to document A/AC.17/W.13, page 7, asked to have the word "still" in line 8 from the bottom deleted, and the word "Ultimate" in line 2 from the bottom deleted. On page 8 he asked for deletion of the word "still", line 6 from the top,

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and for a substitute paragraph in place of the second part of the first paragraph starting with the words "the pattern was to preserve cheap labour" to end of paragraph. The substitute paragraph was to read: "A characteristic feature of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was the preservation of a system of cheap labour and the acquisition of large profits on the part of foreign capitalists. The problem of industrialization should be solved both by the methods of the mobilization and utilization of the resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories themselves as well as by means of assistance from more industrially developed states, such assistance not to be accompanied by demands which might hinder the achievement of independence on the part of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to be granted through the United Nations. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic emphasised that the basic factor hindering the economic development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was their political dependence".

MR. BENSON (Secretary) in reply to the representatives of the United Kingdom and France pointed out that the reference to the United Nations in the Soviet representative's amendment was not new, but had been contained in the original text of the Rapporteur's report, document A/AC.17/W.13, page 8, paragraph 1.

MR. KULAGENKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) regarding document A/AC.17/W.13, page 12, asked for the insertion of the following sentence after the first sentence of paragraph 1: "The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic considered the information transmitted on health conditions insufficient."

At the end of the same paragraph he asked for the insertion of a sentence to the effect that the Soviet representative pointed out the insignificant per capita expenditure on public health services, and cited comparative statistical data of metropolitan and Non-Self-Governing Territories, adding that the population in some Non-Self-Governing Territories was physically weak and dying out.

MR. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) pointed out that the Soviet representative in referring to per capita expenditure had been guided by figures in the Secretary-General's analysis. If the amendment were accepted, he wished to have a remark included to the effect that the United Kingdom representative stated that per capita expenditure as shown in the analysis did not take into account capital expenditure on hospitals, clinics, etc. since such expenditure was shown under public works rather than medical expenditure.

MR. GARREAU (France) stated that the population in some French territories, especially French West and French Equatorial Africa, was increasing rather than diminishing. He wished this statement included in

the Report if the Soviet representative's amendment were accepted.

The RAPPORTEUR asked the Soviet representative to delete reference to diminution of populations, since this reference would call for counter statements. This view was supported by the CHAIRMAN.

MR. RYCKMANS (Belgium) asked that since the Committee had decided not to return the Report to the Rapporteur for revision, the Soviet representative confine himself to replacing the Rapporteur's summaries of his statements by his own, keeping them to approximately the same length.

MR. TAHA-BEY-EL-SAYED-NASR (Egypt) suggested that a small drafting sub-committee deal with the Soviet representative's amendments.

MR. KULAGENKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed to reconsider and abbreviate his last mentioned amendment. Regarding document A/AC.17/W.13, page 14, he asked for deletion of the word "however" in the first line of paragraph 2, and for substitution of the phrase "relationships between the workers and plantation owners", line 3 of paragraph 2, by the words "labour legislation". In the same paragraph he asked for the deletion of the words, line 7 and 8, "this guidance by Europeans was required by law" and for the insertion in line 7 after the word "Europeans" of the words "for instance". This change was accepted by Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium).

At the end of the second paragraph, page 14, the Soviet representative wished to have the last sentence replaced by a sentence to the effect that the Soviet representative stated that there was racial discrimination and the labour policies of the European powers in Non-Self-Governing Territories were contrary to the Charter of the United Nations.

Regarding document A/AC.17/W.13 Addendum 2, page 3, paragraph 3, he wished to substitute this paragraph by a sentence to the effect that "certain other representatives noted that the information transmitted was incomplete".

MR. GARREAU (France) could not recall that other members had voiced any such criticism.

MR. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) associating himself with the representative of France felt that the Soviet representative's criticism was already expressed in Section V of the draft Report.

The CHAIRMAN in reply to the representative of Belgium, felt that there had been no general dissatisfaction regarding the information transmitted except in the field of Social Welfare, which both the representatives of India and China had regarded as incomplete. He asked the Soviet representative to withdraw this amendment.

MR. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) pointed out that withdrawal of the amendment would imply deletion of the entire paragraph on page 3 of Addendum 2.

MR. KULAGENKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) did not wish to change the paragraph but merely to correct inaccuracies. The representative

/of France

of France had pointed out that the information in 1948 showed gaps.

MR. GARREAU (France) said the amendment would have to be redrafted, so as not to imply criticism but rather the desire for more complete information in the future.

MR. GERIG (United States) explained that more information had been transmitted than the Secretariat had been able to analyse. It was, therefore, wrong to criticise the transmission of information. This view was supported by Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium).

MR. REID (New Zealand) suggested that since decisions in principle had been taken on the amendments of the Soviet representative, the Report be adopted on condition that the Rapporteur include the appropriate amendments after consultation with the Soviet representative, that the Report be then circulated to all Members and regarded as approved unless any member called for a new meeting of the Committee within 24 hours of receipt of the Report.

The RAPPORTEUR asked the Soviet representative to agree to the deletion of paragraph 3, page 3, document A/AC.17/W.13/Addendum 2.

MR. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) felt the Committee could only vote on the Report when it was before it in due form.

MR. BENSON (Secretary), at the request of the CHAIRMAN, explained that unless the New Zealand representative's suggestions were adopted, the Committee might impede the time-table of the General Assembly. Referring to the experience of the ad hoc Committee in 1947, the procedure which had been followed was that the Report had been approved provisionally and subsequently circulated to the Members with the assurance that any Member had the right to call for a new meeting within 24 hours of receipt of the Report. If no such request were received, the Chairman and the Rapporteur could then assume approval of the Report and forward it to the General Assembly.

MR. PEREZ CISNEROS (Cuba) in support of the Secretary stated that this method had given good results in 1947, avoiding lengthy arguments and counter arguments. This view was also supported by MR. RYCKMANS (Belgium).

MR. KULAGENKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regarding document A/AC.17/W.13/Addendum 1, page 2, wished to have a sentence added to paragraph 2 to the effect that according to draft Resolution II, extended time limits were granted for the receipt of information; the Committee was regarded as a temporary body and limited to 1949 in spite of the fact that Resolution 146(II) made no mention of the Committee's temporary character, and the Soviet representative could, therefore, not vote in favour of resolutions I and II.

In the same paragraph line 2, he wished the word "draft" replaced by the words "first two", and line 8 to read "participation of their people
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in the administration".

MR. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) pointed out that in the United Kingdom's view the existing Committee was not a permanent body, but in fact would come to an end very shortly. This Committee, therefore, had merely asked for a new Committee to be constituted for 1949, without prejudice as to the future. He maintained that the existing Special Committee had been created for 1948 only. He asked that the amendment should state clearly that the Soviet representative did not regard the Committee as temporary.

MR. KULAGENKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) stated that in the Soviet delegation's view General Assembly Resolution 146 (II) provided for a permanent body, while Resolution II, adopted by the Special Committee, contained restrictions which violated the letter and the spirit of Resolution 146 (II) as well as the Charter. While the membership of the Committee might change, a Committee of this kind would and should always exist.

The Representatives of Belgium and France supported the suggestion made by the representatives of New Zealand and Cuba to adopt the Report provisionally, leaving all adjustments to the Rapporteur.

THE CHAIRMAN explained that he had promised the Committee would consider all amendments submitted by the Soviet representative.

MR. KULAGENKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) regarding A/AC.17/W.13 Addendum 2, paragraph 2, stated that he had voted against draft Resolution I but had abstained from draft Resolution II in the drafting Sub-Committee.

Regarding document A/AC.17/W.13 page 20, the last sentence on the page should be replaced by the sentence to read: "Educational standards had been kept low to assure the privileged position of the citizens of metropolitan powers".

The same document, page 24, paragraph 1, after the first sentence, sentence to be inserted to the effect that the Soviet representative pointed out the obligatory character of political information to be transmitted on the basis of Article 73.

THE CHAIRMAN requested that the Report be adopted as amended, including the amendments in Addenda I and II, excluding paragraph 3, page 3 of Addendum 2.

MR. KULAGENKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) stated that he would have to abstain from voting on the Report, as he did not know whether his amendments had been accepted.

THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that since the Report had been approved provisionally, there had been no vote, and there could therefore be no abstention.

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After some discussion in which the representatives of Belgium, Cuba, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, participated, Mr. KULAGENKOV moved that the Committee vote on the provisional acceptance of the Report.

MR. GARREAU (France) pointed out that since the text was provisional it could not be voted upon. This view was supported by MR. PEREZ CISNEROS (Cuba) who pointed out that provisional acceptance would have to be unanimous, but that if there were objections to the final text of the Report any Member was free to call for a subsequent meeting of the Committee, at which time a vote could be taken.

The representatives of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America preferred to have an additional meeting called at which a formal vote would be taken.

THE CHAIRMAN asked for a vote on the procedure suggested by the representative of New Zealand to have the Report adopted provisionally and circulated for final approval, giving members 24 hours in which to call a further meeting if so desired, this procedure having been supported by the representatives of Cuba, Belgium and France, as well as by the Chairman.

DECISION: The committee sustained the procedure suggested by the representative of New Zealand by 10 votes to none, with three abstentions.

MR. KULAGENKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wished it noted that he had abstained from the provisional adoption of the Report.

The meeting adjourned at 7.30.
