



United Nations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNRESTRICTED

A/AC.28/SR 5
1 September 1949

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TRANSMITTED

UNDER ARTICLE 73 (e) OF THE CHARTER

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York
on Monday 29 August 1949, at 3 p.m.

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	Mr. TUNG TSENG LI	China
	Mr. SVEISTRUP	Denmark
	Mr. de MARCHEMA	Dominican Republic
	Mr. FARRAG	Egypt
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	Mr. SHIVA RAO	India
	Mr. SPITS	Netherlands
	Mr. LAKING	New Zealand
	Mr. CLAES WOLLE	Sweden
	Mr. SOLDATOV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. FLETCHER COOKE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. STOLK	Venezuela

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Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. METAIL	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Miss WEHRWEIN	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. CORTESAO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. HILL	World Health Organization (WHO)

Secretariat:

Mr. HOO	Assistant Secretary-General
Mr. BENSON	Secretary of the Committee

ITEM 5 (b) OF THE AGENDA: SOCIAL CONDITIONS

(1) Health (A/921)

The CHAIRMAN opened the debate on social conditions in the non-self-governing territories and suggested that the members of the Special Committee should begin by discussing document A/921, which dealt with public health.

Mr. SPITS (Netherlands) wished to draw attention to an error on page 28 of the document. It said there that the latest information stated that there was no training of nurses in Curacao; the information given on page 5 of document A/921, however, showed that there were courses of instruction for nurses.

Mr. TUNG TUNG LI (China) stated that although document A/921 showed that there had been some improvement in the field of public health, there was still a lack of trained personnel and medical equipment in the non-self-governing territories.

At the last session of the Special Committee, the Chairman had suggested that the situation might be remedied by calling upon the doctors who were then in displaced persons camps. The Secretariat representative had said that the Administering Authorities might consider sending doctors trained abroad to the non-self-governing territories. Document A/921, however, did not make the slightest reference to those suggestions.

He asked the Secretariat and the representative of WHO to give him some clarification on the matter. He himself thought that the question would have to be studied by the General Assembly before the doctors in question could be sent to the non-self-governing territories.

/Mr. SHIVA RAO (India)

Mr. SHIVA RAO (India) wished to reply to certain remarks made by the Belgian representative with regard to item 5 of the agenda.

Mr. Ryckmans had said that the analyses drawn up by the Secretariat were not very useful, since they placed the non-self-governing territories in a category apart and did not compare them with other countries of the world. Thus, although he had not criticized the Secretariat's work, Mr. Ryckmans had seemed to cast doubts upon the value of the Special Committee.

Mr. Shiva Rao did not share that opinion. In preparing the analyses and drawing certain conclusions from them the Secretariat had carried out a very important piece of work. There were a certain number of defects in the documents prepared by the Secretariat, but they could be explained by the extremely limited time which the latter had had at its disposal and also by the nature of the information transmitted to it by the Administering Authorities. In order to satisfy Mr. Ryckmans, the Secretariat would have had to go beyond Chapter XI Article 73 (e) of the Charter, which it obviously could not do. It was clear, however, that within the limit of its functions it had achieved an excellent piece of work.

In that connexion, Mr. Shiva Rao thought that the specialized agencies might supplement the information given to the Secretariat by passing on to it the data at their disposal.

The specialized agencies should also be entrusted with the task of drawing comparisons. If the Secretariat had to do that work it would constantly come up against very delicate political problems. The specialized agencies, however, were international bodies fully qualified to consider the facts with complete objectivity. The Secretariat could only formulate its conclusions after receiving their reports.

If Mr. Ryckman's point of view were adopted, Chapter XI and the Special Committee would cease to have any *raison d'être*. In his opinion, on the contrary, the Committee should be transformed into a permanent body, whose basic task would be to ensure the ever-increasing application of Article 73 and thus to promote the prosperity of the non-self-governing territories.

Turning to document A/921, Mr. Shiva Rao proceeded to quote infant mortality statistics to show that the demographic statistics given in the document were incomplete. That seemed to indicate that statistical work in the non-self-governing territories was still poorly organized. He therefore requested WHO to consider the problem.

He considered, furthermore, that in drawing up mortality statistics the Administering Authorities should make a distinction between rural and urban populations, since it would be interesting to study the possible effect of industrialization and over-crowding in the large urban centres on the spread of diseases such as tuberculosis, typhus and yellow fever.

He complained that document A/921 contained very little information on the problems listed in section II of the standard form (resolution 142 (II)). In that connexion, he referred the Committee to the United Kingdom report on its territories, which gave interesting details of its achievements in the field of preventive and social medicine. The report also contained valuable information on dietary medicine, a subject which had been completely neglected by the authors of document A/921. There were a great number of studies in existence which attempted to establish connexions between the population's food standards and the spread of disease. Mr. Shiva Rao therefore thought that WHO should make a **study** of the mal-nutrition diseases prevalent in the non-self-governing territories.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that WHO, whose objectives were set out in the last part of document A/921, would begin to put that programme into effect before long. International collaboration would have to be called upon if the lack of qualified personnel was to be remedied, but at the same time the importance of training native personnel should not be neglected. In the fight against yellow fever in southern Asia, for example, the employment of outside personnel who knew neither the habits nor the way of life of the local population often made it impossible to obtain the desired results.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) wished to make it clear that if he had criticized the document submitted by the Secretariat, it was because it regarded the problem of public health from the too limited angle of the non-self-governing territories.

/He was in

He was in complete agreement with most of the suggestions put forward by Mr. Shiva Rao but he thought that the problem of public health should be examined in relation to many other problems.

The shortage of personnel and medical equipment was due as much to the impossibility of providing for the technical training of local personnel as to the inadequate financial resources of the territories in question. The problem was therefore bound up with the question of increasing the productivity of labour and raising the national income of the territories in question.

Furthermore, the problem was common to all under-developed countries whether sovereign or non-self-governing. It should therefore be studied on a world-wide scale and an attempt should be made to establish each country's needs and resources with regard to medical personnel. If the non-self-governing territories were considered separately, the result would be absurd and it was for that very reason that he had stated at a previous meeting that studies of that nature should be undertaken by the specialized agencies. WHO, for example, might be asked to draw up a general plan for a reasonable distribution of medical personnel among the countries needing them. Moreover, in view of the shortage of trained personnel WHO might relax the standard of professional qualifications required of persons who wished to practise medicine or dentistry.

With regard to the comparisons to be drawn between different countries, Mr. Ryckmans agreed with Mr. Shiva Rao that the Secretariat was not in the best position to accomplish that work, since it might be interpreted in a political sense. That was a further reason for entrusting that task to the specialized agencies.

The representative of India had also stated that WHO should endeavour to improve the quality of statistics from the non-self-governing territories and to study diseases due to mal-nutrition in those countries. Those problems arose in numerous other territories and they should therefore be studied on a much broader scale. As to the improvement of statistics, Mr. Ryckmans pointed out that doctors were often too busy to be able to carry out systematic statistical work. That was another problem which was common to all countries and not only to the non-self-governing territories.

It was obvious, therefore, that the Special Committee, which was not composed of specialists and whose terms of reference were limited to the non-self-governing territories, was not qualified to undertake work covering such a vast field.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of the United States thought that so far as the training of medical assistants was concerned, there was often a tendency to lay stress upon the importance of preliminary education. The United States had set up a school on the island of Guam for the training of assistants. The majority of the students recruited had had very little education and had not even been able to speak English. Nevertheless, by the end of four years those young people had acquired sufficient technical knowledge to provide medical and dental services in the villages.

Mr. FLETCHER COCKE (United Kingdom) stated that the shortage of medical personnel was felt ^{not} only in the Non-Self-Governing Territories but also in countries such as the United Kingdom. The British Government was doing everything possible to remedy the situation and it had established special schools, in Singapore, Hong Kong, the West Indies and East and West Africa among other places.

With regard to document A/921, he wished to correct certain errors which had crept in: (a) it was not true that the training of indigenous nurses was entrusted exclusively to the mission hospitals, ^{as} was stated on page 5; the British authorities themselves were responsible for the training in their own territories; (b) the information on the University of Ibadan given on page 14 was not accurate; (c) the 1945 figures of the number of medical students in the United Kingdom, given on page 16, were too low.

He agreed with Mr. Shiva Rao on the part which should be played by the specialized agencies, but he thought that certain problems which arose in the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be studied from a broader angle, as they were common to other countries.

He wished to assure the Indian representative that the United Kingdom authorities were doing everything possible with regard to demographic statistics. He pointed out that the statistics on the spread of malaria in the island of Mauritius showed a disproportionate increase for 1947 and 1948; that could be explained by the fact that a special study on the question had been undertaken during those years. The statistics should therefore be regarded with extreme caution.

The United Kingdom had provided a mass of information on the questions listed in section II of the standard form, but it was obvious that the Secretariat could not include in a working document all the information it received.

/He agreed

He agreed with the Indian representative that it was essential to train indigenous personnel. As an example he mentioned Cyprus, where a team composed exclusively of indigenous personnel had conducted a successful campaign against malaria.

He agreed with Mr. Ryckmans that the collaboration of the specialized agencies could be valuable but he thought they should carry out their studies on a very wide basis and not limit them to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and they should transmit the results of their work directly to the Administering Authorities.

Mr. BENSON (Secretary of the Committee) was anxious to offer explanations in connexion with certain remarks that had been made.

The representative of China had raised the question of the employment of foreign doctors in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, a matter which was not dealt with in the Secretariat's analysis. The Secretariat had, of course, studied the legal provisions in connexion with the problem, but it had to be recognized that the way in which they would be put into effect, which formed the crux of the question, depended upon the Governments concerned. The IRO had stated that the employment of foreign doctors in the Non-Self-Governing Territories appeared unlikely to give rise to any objection of principle.

As for the utilization of comparative data, the Secretariat had made the fullest possible use of all the information at its disposal. It has taken as its basis the information transmitted by WHO and in a general way on all the publications of the appropriate organs of the United Nations. The Secretariat would be glad to receive any corrections which might be presented by Governments, for in view of the mass of documents which the Secretariat had had to analyze and the short time at its disposal it was possible that certain mistakes had been made.

With regard to the role of WHO or of the specialized agencies as a whole, Mr. Benson drew attention to the remarks concerning the standard form for the preparation of information to be transmitted under Article 73^a of the Charter, contained in General Assembly resolution 142 (II), which stated:

"It is also to be hoped that international bodies requiring information on Non-Self-Governing Territories, including those to which reports are made under international conventions, will co-operate as may be necessary and desired in order that their informational needs may be satisfied through the information, including supplemental data, supplied under Article 73^a to the Secretary-General of the United Nations".

/The representative

The representative of the United Kingdom had pointed out that certain figures and conclusions were not correct. Mr. Benson wished to make it clear that the Secretariat had utilized whatever data had been available at the time that it was preparing the analysis, and that in the case of the figures relating to the chief diseases it had made all the necessary reservations. For example, the Secretariat had pointed out that "some of the figures...often show apparent substantial increases in the incidence of a disease, whereas in fact they mean that the extent of the disease has been more accurately established." The information about the University of Ibadan had been taken straight from a communication from the United Kingdom Government.

The representative of India had been surprised that the analysis prepared by the Secretariat did not contain any information or comments on the question of malnutrition. Mr. Benson explained that the Secretariat had had to confine itself to summarizing and analysing the information transmitted under Article 73 (c), and to dealing with only the general aspects of the question of public health.

Mr. de MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) said that his Government was keenly interested in the information transmitted under Article 73 (e), particularly in the part concerning public health. The Dominican Republic was devoting large sums to the development of public health services. Furthermore, its geographical situation and climatic conditions were comparable to those of many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He felt that ⁱⁿ the utilization of comparative data his country could provide a particularly interesting example.

With regard to the statement in the analysis prepared by the Secretariat to the effect that Puerto Rico had neither a school of medicine nor a school of dentistry, he felt that mention should have been made of the fact that many Puerto Rican medical students were attending the course of the Santo Domingo Faculty, completing their medical training in their own country at the Institute of Tropical Studies.

Mr. de Marchena considered that the Special Committee should recommend that the WHO should study the question of the establishment of universal standards which would make it possible for the public health services in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to be improved.

Mr. HILL (World Health Organization) said that the principles of collaboration between the WHO and the United Nations had been established in 1948 by the first WHO Assembly.

/The WHO

The WHO was endeavouring to carry on its work without regard to political frontiers. It considered that it should deal with the technical aspect of the problems which had to be studied, leaving the other aspects to the various organs concerned. There was complete agreement on those points between the Secretariat of the WHO and the Secretariat of the United Nations.

The WHO was a relatively new organization, and was not yet in a position to present its final conclusions on such questions as the employment of foreign doctors in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It should be pointed out, however, that the solution of that problem was primarily a matter for the countries concerned.

In reply to a remark by the representative of India, Mr. Hill stated that WHO was constantly enlarging its staff and its activities. It would shortly have at its disposal the services of several experts on public health matters in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and it had three regional offices which would deal with matters concerning those territories. The offices were in New Delhi, Alexandria and Washington.

The question of the most important diseases, as also that of statistics, was being studied by a WHO committee.

WHO had always emphasized the importance of preventive medicine; the study of that question seemed to WHO to be particularly desirable, in view of the fact that the most important diseases were especially rife in under-developed areas. WHO hoped to achieve excellent results in that field.

The matter of malnutrition was being dealt with by an organ of the WHO working in close collaboration with the FAO. The WHO was of the opinion that malnutrition was one of the evils from which the present-day world suffered most.

WHO had prepared a programme of technical assistance which would be incorporated in the general programme drawn up by the Economic and Social Council.

In conclusion, Mr. Hill stated that the WHO had done all in its power to serve as a guide and a help to all its members. It asked for general co-operation, including that of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, because it was only in that way that it could provide really efficient services.

(2) Labour (A/920)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up the examination of document A/920.

/Mr. SHIVA RAO

Mr. SHIVA RAO (India) observed that the document contained no information on the fixing and payment of salaries, although he personally had stressed that aspect of the problem the previous year.

With regard to salaries, it would be interesting to know whether workers in seasonal industries received unemployment pay during the off-season, whether salary levels had risen in proportion to the cost of living in Non-Self-Governing Territories, whether workers were obliged to incur debts, and if so, what means they took to obtain money. It would be well for Administering Authorities, in collaboration with WHO, to study workers' diets and occupational diseases.

On the subject of the migration of labour, he drew the attention of the Committee to paragraph 2 on page 4 of document A/C.20, in which it was stated that an intensive recruitment of labour could only have the result of attracting too great a proportion of the male population to the labour centres, whereas it was necessary to retain enough men in the tribes and villages to perpetuate the race and to perform local work.

It was encouraging, on the other hand, to learn that in several territories the labour code had been revised and modernized and that the collective contract was a recognized practice. The application of labour legislation and the inspection of undertakings were very important questions in those territories and it would be helpful to receive additional information on those points. Referring to the activities of communists in the trade unions, he explained that if the difficulties liable to arise in that field were to be avoided, the best policy would be to encourage constant progress in the social and economic conditions of the workers.

Mr. FARRAG (Egypt) agreed with the representative of India. He recalled that the ILO had undertaken a study of migrant labour, a question which concerned millions of individuals; he hoped that the Committee would be informed of the result of that work.

Mr. GARREAU (France) declared that the French Government was keenly interested in the problem of labour legislation in Non-Self-Governing Territories. The conventions drawn up by the ILO were applied in all the territories administered by France, and the rights of trade unions were also recognized, so much so that the indigenous working population took an active part in public life. That policy had given excellent results and had proved particularly successful in North Africa.

Mr. FLETCHER COOKE (United Kingdom) stated, in reply to the representative of India, that the United Kingdom Government and the local authorities were fully aware of the difficulties presented by labour migration and were doing their best to reconcile the need for labour with the need to leave a sufficient number of workers in the areas where recruitment was carried on.

In regard to labour legislation, the summary appearing on pages 13 and 14 of document A/920 was not complete, much information on that subject being contained in annual reports which had been prepared but which were not yet in the hands of the Secretariat.

As for the question of the importance given to trade unions, to which the Indian representative had referred, Mr. Fletcher Cooke stated that 21 persons who had in the past played an active part in the trade union movement in the United Kingdom, as well as other labour officials, had been sent officially by the United Kingdom Government to the Non-Self-Governing Territories under its jurisdiction. He further indicated that the United Kingdom Government had received compliments from the ILO Committee of experts on the information it had furnished concerning the application of the conventions in those territories.

Mr. de MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) drew the attention of the Committee to document A/AC.28/W.9 (page 11), where the possibility was considered of inviting the ILO to communicate to the General Assembly the conclusions of its survey of the application of international labour conventions to Non-Self-Governing Territories. Mr. de Marchena considered that those conclusions might prove of great interest.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) stated, in reply to the representative of India, that certain information obviously did not appear in the very brief summary prepared by the Secretariat, but it could be found in existing documents, such as the annual reports.

Mr. BENSON (Secretariat) explained that the Secretariat had tried to sum up each question in as concise a form as possible, and had therefore been obliged to make a very limited selection from the information at its disposal. There were, moreover, certain gaps which were due to the lack of recent information at the time of the preparation of the document, as was the case in the question of the application of international labour conventions. He recalled that the ILO had set up a committee to study

that question and was proposing to examine it in 1950 from the particular point of view of non-metropolitan territories. Another committee of the ILO was devoting a special study to the question of the migration of labour in Africa.

The ILO had promised to let the Special Committee have reports on the subject. Generally speaking, it could be said that real progress had been achieved in the matter of collaboration between the Secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. If, however, the Special Committee wanted the specialized agencies to undertake any additional work, it must make a specific request to them.

Mr. METALL (International Labour Organisation) stated that collaboration between the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation was an established fact, by reason of the agreement concluded between the two organizations.

Any country which was a member of the ILO and which administered Non-Self-Governing Territories was bound to communicate periodical reports on the application of labour conventions in those territories. The Committee of Experts of the ILO had decided to subject those reports to a more detailed study in 1950.

In reference to the various questions mentioned by certain members of the Committee, Mr. Metall made it clear that the ILO had been interested in them ever since its establishment. A commission had recently been established to study the question of labour on the plantations; a regional office had been set up in India to deal with the occupational training of labour, and the ILO had drafted a convention relating to occupational diseases; the last two annual conferences had dealt with the question of trade unions and the next would study more particularly the question of salaries. He was glad that the Committee had brought those important questions to the attention of the Organisation.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.