

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73(e) OF THE CHARTER

First Session

CORRIGENDA TO THE SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Tuesday, 22 August 1950, at 3 p.m.Page 10

Paragraph 29, line 4: Replace the last two sentences of paragraph, beginning "The Chairman...", by the following: "The Chairman had pointed out that the Committee's discussion of economic, social and educational conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories had to be considered against the background that development in those fields was aimed at preparing the people of the Territories for self-government or independence and he had suggested that that background would have to be borne in mind in preparing the Committee's report to the General Assembly. The Philippine representative had suggested that the time was approaching when the Committee would have to consider what recommendations it should make to the General Assembly."

Pages 10-11

Paragraph 30: Replace this paragraph by the following: "30. The Committee was faced with a difficult problem. The Special Committee had been set up by the General Assembly, which was essentially a political body. Nevertheless, the Committee was precluded by its terms of reference from considering political questions, since its task was confined to examining 'the summaries and analyses of Information transmitted under Article 73 (e) on the Economic, Social and Educational Conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories' and submitting 'a report thereon for the consideration of the General Assembly'. It was true that, as the Chairman had indicated, the Committee's deliberations so far might perhaps be regarded as a duplication of discussions which had taken place or would take place in UNESCO. But Mr. Fletcher-Cooke felt that

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"In view of the Committee's terms of reference, this was quite appropriate. The Committee might be regarded, in a sense, as a link between the specialized agencies and the General Assembly as regards developments in the specific fields in the Non-Self-Governing Territories referred to in Article 73 (e) of the Charter. Nevertheless, the representative of the Philippines had suggested that it was the duty of the Committee to consider whether the Administering Authorities were doing enough, and if it decided they were not, to reach conclusions as to what recommendations it should make. In short, he had suggested that it was for the Committee to pass judgment on the administration of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the doctrine of international accountability and to submit appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly. Mr. Fletcher-Cooke said that his delegation wished to reiterate that Chapter XI of the Charter did not confer upon the United Nations or upon the Special Committee the right to supervise the administration of the Non-Self-Governing Territories or to hold the metropolitan Powers responsible for the way in which they administered such Territories."

Pages 11-12

Paragraphs 31, 32, 33: Replace these paragraphs by the following:

"31. He was, however, glad to note that having made this reference the representative of the Philippines proceeded to make a number of useful suggestions which were worthy of consideration. One was the suggestion that it might be possible to establish a general definition of the term 'literacy'. The Philippine representative's other proposals regarding the use of auditory and visual methods of instruction were also worthy of consideration.

"32. Reverting to the Committee's report to the General Assembly, Mr. Fletcher-Cooke wondered whether, in view of the cordial atmosphere which had prevailed during the discussions so far, and having regard to the technical nature of those discussions, the Committee might not consider it desirable to submit to the General Assembly in 1950 a more precise and detailed report than it had in 1949, while at the same time reducing the number of specific resolutions. Such a report would .

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"not only relate to the facts and events of the session but would also deal in greater detail with the substance of the questions discussed. In 1949 the Committee had deemed it necessary to accompany its report to the General Assembly with a considerable number of recommendations. It was true, as had been pointed out by the representative of the Philippines, that under its terms of reference the Committee was entitled to submit recommendations to the General Assembly, and while it might be found necessary to forward a few resolutions on specific points, he felt that generally speaking the Committee's discussions might be more appropriately reflected in a report rather than in the form of a number of recommendations. The Administering Authorities would welcome a report of that kind and would undoubtedly give it serious consideration. The representative of one of the Administering Authorities had emphasized that it was frequently impossible to apply without modification the rigid principles in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that rule-of-thumb methods had often to be used. He felt sure that the Administering Authorities would find much of value in the various ideas that had been laid before the Committee and would be reflected in the report.

"33. In any case, he suggested that further consideration of that question of procedure might be deferred until all subjects under item 5 had been discussed."