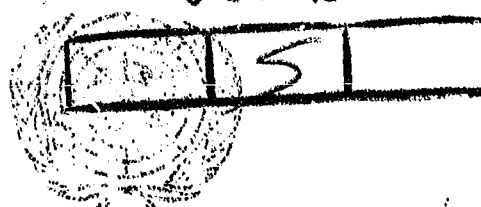


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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Third Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Monday, 15 September 1952, at 2.30 p.m.

CONTENTS:

Economic conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories. Secretary-General's summaries of information transmitted under Article 73e of the Charter:

- (a) Secretary-General's summaries of information concerning agricultural and industrial production (A/AC.35/L.102, A/AC.35/L.109);
- (b) Questions arising out of the special report on economic conditions and development adopted by the General Assembly in 1951 (A/1836) (continued).

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Mr. BUSTAMANTE

Ecuador

Mr. FAHY

Egypt

Members: (continued)

Mr. PIGNON	France
Mr. SHIVA RAO	India
Mr. TAJIENAPIS	Indonesia
Mr. SPITS	Netherlands
Mr. DAVIN	New Zealand
Mr. ROSCHIN	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. MATHIESON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. GARGO	United States of America

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Mr. DESTOMBES	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. STOCK	World Health Organization (WHO)

Secretariat:

Mr. BENSON	Secretary of the Committee
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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES. SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SUMMARIES OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73e OF THE CHARTER:

(a) SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SUMMARIES OF INFORMATION CONCERNING AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (A/AC.35/L.102, A/AC.35/L.109);

(b) QUESTIONS ARISING OUT OF THE SPECIAL REPORT ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND DEVELOPMENT ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1951 (A/1836)(continued)

Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) thanked the Indian representative for pointing out that it was essential to the Committee's work to know what steps the Administering Powers were taking to give effect to its recommendations and decisions. That was a question which had been raised by the Egyptian delegation the previous year.

/It was

It was the Committee's function to study, in keeping with its own and the Organization's programme of work, the information transmitted by the Administering Powers in order to ensure that the objectives laid down in Chapter XI of the Charter were attained. Its work involved a study of the advances made in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as the General Assembly itself had recognized expressly when approving the revised Standard Form, for section C of the form invited the Member States concerned to provide a survey of the principles and practical measures showing general trends in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

For a proper appraisal of the progress achieved, a study should first be made of what had been done and then of what remained to be done, in the light, firstly, of the purposes and principles of the Charter, secondly, the good will of the Administering Powers, and - last but not least - the Special Committee's conclusions. He was convinced that, by virtue of the spirit and letter of its terms of reference, the Committee was qualified to study the progress made in the Non-Self-Governing countries as evidenced by the information before it and to express its opinion on what remained to be done.

The Committee was far from holding its final session, and in order to avoid any controversy regarding section C of the Standard Form, his delegation intended to submit a proposal, in the form of an amendment to that section or as a separate draft resolution, inviting the Administering Powers to report what action they were taking pursuant to the Committee's conclusions. However, before submitting such a proposal, the Egyptian delegation wished to know what the members of the Committee thought of it, especially the representatives of the Administering Powers, who, he hoped, would display their usual helpful approach. It was fully in keeping with the obligations laid down in Chapter XI of the Charter to transmit that information; he pointed out that the Organization was becoming greatly interested to know what action was being taken to give effect to recommendations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The representatives of the United Kingdom and United States had submitted a joint proposal confirming a resolution on that subject adopted by the General Assembly. The question of sovereignty had not been raised at the time when the resolution was discussed or when the joint proposal was discussed.

While not wishing to discuss the difference between Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, he stressed that the questionnaire drawn up by the Trusteeship Council requested Administering Authorities to submit information on the steps they were taking to carry out the Council's recommendations. He thought that that question could rightly be asked in connexion with the Standard Form, and his delegation intended to raise the matter in the Fourth Committee if the Committee did not make any recommendations on that subject.

He wished to make only a few comments on economic conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, since the main question to be studied by the Committee at the current session was the social situation in those Territories. Yet, it was one of the objects of the Committee's discussions to elicit additional information or clarification of the information transmitted.

For example in the summary of information submitted by the Belgian Government he noted that the estimates for teaching indigenous inhabitants of the Belgian Congo had fallen from 700 million Belgian francs in 1950 to 34 million in 1951, while estimates for the territory's defence had risen from 18 million in 1949 to 66 million in 1950 and 540 million in 1951. He enquired if the information was really correct. If so, it would be difficult for him to reconcile that state of affairs with the Special Committee's recommendation that economic development should not suffer as a result of defence programmes (A/1836, paragraph 19).

Turning to the summary of information submitted by the United Kingdom Government, he was sorry that the Secretariat had insufficiently stressed one of the main obstacles to economic development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories administered by the United Kingdom, whereas the annual report of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Colonial Development Corporation's report contained relevant information; development was hampered by the steps taken in the British Colonies to ensure that they helped to strengthen the pound sterling. Those steps included restriction of investments, a deflationary credit policy and a considerable reduction in imports from zones outside the sterling area to restore the balance of payments, even though the Non-Self-Governing Territories administered by the United Kingdom had as a whole a favourable trade balance as they produced raw materials. Those reports also showed that the interest on the loans made by the Government to /the Colonial

the Colonial Development Corporation had risen from 3 per cent in 1949 to 4.25 per cent in 1952. According to the Corporation's report such steps would divert its activities from their main objective - the development of the Territories in question.

Such a policy was bound to hamper the economic development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and was by no means consistent with the Committee's views, especially as regards the financing of economic development. The only way to remedy such a situation was to encourage the inflow of foreign capital, especially dollars, and to open the frontiers to foreign undertakings.

Proceeding to discuss the land question, he recalled that an entire chapter of the Committee's report was devoted to the distribution of land and to the system of land tenure. He asked, with reference to the Non-Self-Governing Territories administered by the United Kingdom, whether it was true that under certain regulations the indigenous inhabitants had no right to own and occupy land. He also enquired if the Administering Powers had considered the possibility of setting up one or more African commissions, similar to the Caribbean Commission or to the South Pacific Commission, which had done splendid work for the peoples in those areas.

Lastly, he asked the Secretariat if it had received any information under section C, paragraph (a), of the Standard Form (participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the study of questions relating to the economic, social and cultural development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories) as he had been unable to discover any such information except that transmitted by the French Government.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand) referred to the Indian representative's remark, made at the previous meeting, that it would be useful to know how the Administering Powers were carrying out the recommendations contained in the Committee's special reports. His own delegation for its part had transmitted the 1950 report on education and the 1951 report on economic conditions and problems of economic development to the proper authorities, who had studied them thoroughly.

/As regards

As regards the suggestion that the Administering Powers should be requested to supply information on the action taken and the progress achieved, with special reference to the General Assembly's recommendations, he pointed out that the reports adopted by the General Assembly were the result of an interchange of ideas and information based on experience, and that, in the final analysis, the solution of the problems raised by the advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was the responsibility of the Administering Powers. The Committee should not expect to find any new truths in those exchanges of ideas, nor should it expect a magical improvement because an international body had approved a report based on principles and experiences already shared by those who are to act on them. He pointed to the difficulties confronting colonial administrators, who often had to apply limited resources to unlimited ends. As a rule improvement could be achieved only by experiment and the passage of time. The reports to which the representatives of India and Egypt refer the Administering Authorities were helpful inasmuch as they were a synthesis of the possible solutions for particular problems. But in the long run those solutions were dependant on the good will of the Administering Authorities and on the skill and knowledge of the colonial officials. Under Article 73 of the Charter the Administering Authorities had accepted as a sacred trust the obligation to promote the well-being of the Non-Self-Governing Territories; their task was difficult enough as it was, and the Committee should trust them and permit them to find ways of fulfilling their functions. He was pleased to note that the Committee had not hesitated to praise the Administering Authorities but he warned its members of the danger of adopting a consistently critical attitude developed on the basis of unfortunate past experiences but which was no longer justified.

His Government was deeply interested in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their advancement. Under resolution 327 (IV) the Administering Authorities were voluntarily transmitting statistical and technical information, and he was sure that in future those data would show that account had been taken of the recommendations contained in the special reports and in the resolutions of the General Assembly.

/Mr. ROSCHIN

Mr. ROSCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that under Article 73 of the Charter, Members of the United Nations which assumed responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories had recognized the principle that the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories were paramount and had accepted as a sacred trust the obligation to promote their well-being and to ensure their political, economic, social and educational advancement, treating them with justice and protecting them against abuses. The Administering Authorities had also undertaken to develop the ability of the peoples to govern themselves, to take due account of their political aspirations and to assist them in the progressive development of their free political institutions. It was the Committee's task to study the information transmitted by the Administering Authorities and to gather therefrom how they were administering the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their charge.

Though the information concerning economic conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories was insufficient, it indicated that the conditions under which the inhabitants were living were unsatisfactory and that the Administering Powers were not fulfilling their sacred trust.

Those Powers were exploiting the Territories under their administration on an ever-increasing scale, trying to extract the utmost profit possible at the expense of the indigenous population. The volume of exports far exceeded that of imports but the profits so earned went to the metropolitan country instead of being employed in the Territory. The favourable trade balance in those territories sufficed to show how far they were being exploited. In Malaya, for example, imports had totalled 956 million Straits dollars in 1949 whereas exports had amounted to 1,324 million. In 1950 imports had risen to 1,324 million and exports to 2,609 million. In 1951 imports had reached 1,864 million and exports 3,380 million. That situation was not unique. In Sarawak, in 1949, imports had amounted to 110 million Straits dollars, with exports totalling 188 million. In 1951 imports had amounted to 384 million and exports had amounted to 508 million. In North Borneo, in 1950, imports had totalled 46 million Straits dollars with exports at 92 million. In 1951 imports had risen to 70 million and exports to 114 million. In the Belgian Congo imports in 1950 had totalled 9,000 million Belgian francs and exports had amounted to 13,000 million. In



1951 imports had increased to 15,000 million and exports to 20,000 million. Incidentally, the figures for the balance of payments of the Belgian Congo did not take account of the working of the uranium mines. Similar conditions prevailed in Northern Rhodesia, the Gold Coast, Uganda, the Solomon Islands, at Zanzibar, St. Helena, the Seychelles Islands and in other territories. Thus, a large part of the surplus of those territories was exported to the metropolitan country in the form of dividends or profits for business corporations. As a result, the indigenous inhabitants were underpaid, their living conditions were very unsatisfactory and their diet, lodgings and public health services were deficient in many respects.

A similar situation obtained with regard to public finance. Revenue in the Territories was well in excess of expenditure, a fact which should enable the Administering Powers to apply whatever funds were necessary to education, public health and the development of social services. But the Administering Powers were not doing so, and they were therefore not discharging their obligations under the Charter. In Malaya for the financial year 1951 receipts had totalled 733 million Straits dollars whereas expenditures had amounted to only 438 million. Almost half the available funds, therefore, had not been used despite the extremely low level of education and public health. In Sarawak, in 1950, receipts of 30 million Straits dollars had been noted as against expenditures of only 16 million. In 1951 receipts had totalled 45 million and expenditures only 21 million, or less than half of the total receipts. In Hong Kong receipts had totalled 194 million dollars in 1949 as against expenditures of 159 million. In 1951 receipts had amounted to 201 million and expenditures to 251 million. In the Gold Coast, receipts had totalled 21 million pounds sterling in 1950 as against expenditures of only 14 million. Similar conditions prevailed in Northern Rhodesia, Kenya the Seychelles Islands, Mauritius Island and Uganda. In French Equatorial Africa receipts had amounted to 7,700 million francs and expenditures to 5,100 million. Those figures showed that the Administering Authorities' policy in respect of public finance was incompatible with the interests of the indigenous inhabitants and served only to enrich the metropolitan countries to the detriment of the advancement of those territories.



In many territories a head tax and a tax on housing were still being collected, and indirect taxes were levied on essential food commodities. That was the case in the Belgian Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Nyassaland, in French West Africa, Madagascar and Aden. In that respect, too, conditions left much to be desired.

A study of the system of land tenure showed that the Administering Authorities were proceeding systematically to alienate large areas of land belonging to the indigenous population. The indigenous population actually owned little land but large tracts were being granted to settlers. In Northern Rhodesia, for example, 6,500 square miles of land had been transferred to Europeans and 10,500 to the Crown. Two-fifths of the farms belonging to Europeans had an area of more than 10,000 acres each and half of them were each from 1,000 to 5,000 acres in area. The area of unalienated crown lands was 1,534,000 acres in 1947 and 4,378,000 acres in 1951. In North Borneo, where the total European population was only 1,200 the Crown had appropriated 578,000 acres of land whereas the indigenous population totaling 334,100 people had only 128,000 acres open for settlement. In Kenya the Administering Authority had alienated considerable areas (52,300 square miles). Under the pretext of setting up forest reserves, the Administering Authorities were alienating vast stretches of territory. In Western Nigeria, for example, 16 per cent of the land had been alienated for that purpose. The same thing had occurred in French Equatorial Africa. In the New Hebrides the indigenous inhabitants who constituted 93 per cent of the population owned less than half of the land. The English and French, who represented only 3 per cent of the population owned 712,000 hectares of land, only 30,000 being under cultivation. That information showed that the Administering Authorities' policy in the distribution of land did not take the indigenous population's interests into account. It tended solely to enrich the metropolitan countries at the expense of the development of the territories under their administration. As a result the output from indigenous agriculture was low. For example, in the Belgian Congo European enterprises had produced 152,000 tons of palm oil in 1950 whereas indigenous plantations had the market production of only 28,000 tons. In Kenya, the food production for sale of European estates had

/reached

reached 13.5 million tons as opposed to 4 million produced by indigenous farmers. In French West Africa, a distinct decline in livestock had occurred. The number of head of cattle had dropped from 6.3 million in 1949 to 5.9 million in 1951. During the same period the number of horses, donkeys and mules had dropped from 1.1 million to 751,000. The situation was not very different in several other Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The Administering Powers were taking no action to promote the development of the conversion and engineering industries in the Territories which they administered. On the contrary, certain industries had declined or had even disappeared completely owing to the competition of imported products. The indigenous populations were given no opportunity to participate in the existing industries. In the Gold Coast, Kenya, Malaya and elsewhere, all mines were foreign-owned. In spite of the abundance of raw materials, certain processing industries were in jeopardy; that was the case of the macaroni and chocolate industries in Madagascar, the fruit preserves and chocolate industries in Morocco and the footwear industry in the Belgian Congo, where production had fallen from 1,093,000 pairs in 1950 to 625,000 in 1951. A characteristic of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was the absence of engineering and heavy industry; that was one of the reasons for the poverty and insecurity which prevailed in those territories and for their poor economic development, despite their ample resources and manpower. Consequently, standards of living and wages were extremely low. In British Somaliland, a labourer had to work 20 days to buy 10 yards of cotton tissue to clothe him. In Kenya, indigenous labour was subject to discrimination and indigenous wages were much lower in comparison with those of European labour. Thirty-six per cent of the indigenous wage earners received under £24 per year and only eleven per cent received over £60; the average wages of Europeans, however, were between £600 and £1,200, only 30 per cent of them earning less than £600 and 15 per cent more than £600. Malnutrition was widespread in Kenya and hence infant mortality was high (A/2134, page 70). In Nigeria, the average wage for indigenous labour was between 10d. and 1/- per day and meat cost 1/6d. a pound. The same ratios prevailed in Nyassaland and Uganda. In Northern

Rhodesia, in the mining industry the average wages of Europeans varied between £75 and £90 per month and those of the indigenous inhabitants between £2 and £5; in Madagascar, the average wage of the indigenous unskilled worker was 120 francs per day and a kilo of meat cost 220 francs. In Aden, the daily wage of an indigenous worker was insufficient to buy a pound of meat.

Unemployment was rife in many Non-Self-Governing Territories; in Puerto Rico 121,000 persons had been fully unemployed and 195,000 partially unemployed in 1951; 24,500 persons were unemployed in the Gold Coast.

The Administering Powers were responsible for the extremely unfavourable economic situation which prevailed in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, since they had not fulfilled their obligations under the Charter.

The information they had transmitted was inadequate, especially with regard to budgets and the administration of public funds. That was especially true in the case of the United States of America. However, even the deficient information supplied showed that the Administering Powers were not fulfilling their obligations. The activities of the United Nations, the obligations undertaken in pursuance of Chapter XI of the Charter and the work of the Special Committee had wrought no change in the colonial system which prevailed in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Mr. TAJIBNAPIS (Indonesia) said the Indian representative had spoken very pertinently at the fifty-third meeting, when he had said that it would be most helpful if the Administering Powers could give particulars of the implementation of recommendations and resolutions of the General Assembly and of the progress achieved by the Non-Self-Governing Territories in economic, social and educational matters. In that connexion, he would support the Egyptian representative's proposal. The Indian and Egyptian representatives' statements were in full conformity with the spirit of General Assembly resolution 332 (IV), which laid down the terms of reference of the Committee and provided, in paragraph 3, that the Committee should examine any reports or information on measures taken in pursuance of the resolutions adopted by the

/General Assembly

General Assembly concerning economic, social and educational conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He was convinced that a study of the measures taken in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to give effect to Assembly resolutions would make it possible to find ways of improving conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Hence the Committee should follow the suggestions of the Indian and Egyptian representatives, either immediately, or during the consideration of agenda item 9, ("Future of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories").

He had been favourably impressed by the studies prepared by the Secretariat concerning information on agriculture (A/AC.35/L.102) and on the development of industrial production in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.35/L.109). Real progress seemed to have been achieved in industry; in particular the timber industry in Nigeria had expanded. Nevertheless, he was not sure how far that progress had really bettered the position of the indigenous inhabitants; the Administering Powers could presumably provide information on that point. For example, it would be interesting if the Administering Powers could state whether the head offices of the companies were in the metropolitan State or in the Non-Self-Governing Territory concerned. That information would be valuable in determining the direction of the flow of the foreign currency derived from the sale of the products obtained. It would also be interesting to know whether the companies concerned were governmental, private or mixed undertakings and whether they exercised a monopoly or competed with other enterprises. Lastly it would be desirable if the Committee were informed in the future of the conditions under which indigenous capital participated in the financing of industries in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Mr. SHIVA RAO (India) agreed that the information supplied to the Committee might be supplemented. For example, the Secretariat's study on agriculture in the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.35/L.102) would have been more complete if it had given particulars of the measures taken to improve yield per hectare by means of the use of artificial or natural

/fertilisers

fertilisers. It would also be interesting to know in detail the reasons for the difference between the yield of European and indigenous production of palm oil and coconuts in the Belgian Congo (A/AC.35/L.102, page 4); the answer might offer a clue to the remedy. In that connexion, he enquired if indigenous farmers had selling organizations for disposing of their products under favourable conditions, so that they did not have to employ middlemen who made exacting demands. He also thought that the Secretariat should in future devote a special chapter to the opportunities of obtaining credit available to indigenous undertakings, to co-operative organizations and to insurance. It would also be desirable to devote a separate chapter to irrigation and to the use of hydro-electric power for industrial and agricultural purposes.

He had studied with interest the information relating to livestock and fisheries. Those questions required detailed attention; much remained to be done in connexion with the dairy industry, and fishing in tropical regions gave rise to special problems of conservation which should be studied carefully. The World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization might make useful contributions to these studies.

He was glad to see that the Secretariat had devoted a special study to industry for the first time and agreed with the Indonesian representative that the document might well be supplemented by information on the extent of indigenous investments, the banking system, indigenous credit funds and seasonal or permanent unemployment.

The report on the colonial territories administered by the United Kingdom was extremely interesting. The chapters dealing with long-term economic development, financing and the improvement of social services were a credit to the authors of the report and to the officials who administered the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the principles and in the spirit of the United Nations Charter.

Nevertheless the report revealed one weakness: restrictions on imports from areas other than the sterling area had led to disequilibrium in the balance of payments of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those Territories were finding it difficult to obtain the necessary capital goods in the sterling area.

/Accordingly,

Accordingly, they were building up sterling balances, in exchange for which they could obtain only paper money, but no strong currency. He wished to draw the Committee's attention to that important point. In conclusion, he warned the Committee of the danger which a reversal of the upward trend of agricultural prices might present to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. A crisis might lead to extremely serious consequences for those Territories.

Mr. CARGO (United States of America) observed that the Committee's work last year in emphasizing economic development was highly significant. His delegation believed that the report prepared on that aspect of the Committee's work was a helpful statement of general principles which should serve as a useful guide in the development of programmes relating to the Non-Self-Governing Territories under United States administration. It was particularly reassuring to know that the principles to which the General Assembly had subscribed coincided with the principles which the United States was striving to apply in order to promote the welfare and advancement of United States territories. The principal topics treated in the Report - such items as agriculture, forestry and fisheries, agricultural credit, co-operatives and the marketing of agricultural products - were topics to which the Departments of the Federal Government concerned and the territorial Governments were devoting themselves on a continuing basis in the development and expansion of the economic life of the Territories. The information transmitted by the United States under Article 73 e described and reflected the steps which were being taken along the general lines covered by the Report on Economic Conditions and Development, and the United States would keep the Committee informed of any further developments relating to this Report. The USSR representative had duly renewed his attacks against the Administering Powers, charging them with systematically exploiting the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Such general charges could not be validly made against the United States Government whose actions were, on the contrary, directed to helping to the greatest possible extent the Non-Self-Governing Territories for whose administration it was responsible. Moreover, the USSR representative's views were apparently not in agreement with those of the majority of the Committee. Indeed the divergence was brought to the forefront in the report on economic conditions and problems of development, which pointed out in paragraph 25 that, at a time when many of the metropolitan countries were faced with particularly grave economic and financial problems, the taxpayers had contributed to the progress of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

For their part, United States taxpayers had contributed substantially to the development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and the passage in question was, in his opinion, a fair reflection of the position of the Administering Powers and the Territories under administration.

It was likewise surprising that the USSR representative had been unable to find any matter for satisfaction in any of the information transmitted by the Administering Powers, on some sixty Territories with budgets of millions of dollars annually, with large administrative staffs from both the territories themselves and the metropolitan country, and with international assistance from regional bodies and United Nations agencies. With mutual understanding and co-operation between the inhabitants and administrations of United States territories, increasing progress had been made in the fields enumerated in Chapter XI, and in the political field as well, in accordance with the interests and desires of the inhabitants. The information which the United States submitted would continue to show this progress and would, he was sure, continue to show, for those who would seek to evaluate it impartially, quite a different picture from that suggested by the representatives of the USSR.

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) asked the Egyptian representative to specify the Territory to which he had been alluding in his remarks on a Crown Land Ordinance whereby security of employment in a Non-Self-Governing Territory would be threatened.

Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) answered that the reference was to Kenya.

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) said he would like to answer the observations made by a number of representatives on certain aspects of the economic situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories administered by the United Kingdom.

The Indian representative had expressed some misgivings regarding the accumulation of sterling balances in London by the British colonial territories. On receiving the necessary documentation, he would duly provide the Indian representative with all the requisite assurances.

The Indonesian representative had asked whether the industrial progress in British colonial territories which was given prominence in the Secretariat document (A/AC.35/L.109), was really improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of those territories, and had pointed to certain gaps in their



industrial development. It was a pity that the Indonesian representative had not sat on the Committee at its previous session at Geneva. He would have heard the interesting statement on the industrial development of British colonial territories - especially, Uganda - made by Mr. Leyden, the British Colonial Office official responsible for matters relating to East and Central African territories. For instance, a textile industry was being formed in Uganda and the training of skilled indigenous workers was now proceeding. The requisite capital was provided by the United Kingdom and the Government of Uganda would hold a majority interest. Moreover, steps were being taken to arrange the supply of electric power for industry and mining from the famous Owen Falls scheme. Uganda had substantial iron-ore and phosphate deposits, which could be worked when electricity was supplied. In addition the sulphuric acid necessary for the manufacture of fertilizers could be produced.

The Indonesian representative had asked to what extent Native capital would participate in the industrial development of the Territories. To mobilize national savings was a complex problem, for which it was hard to find a solution. It was under study by the United Kingdom Government and it had also been studied previously by a group of experts convened by the Secretary-General. The United Kingdom Government would gratefully welcome any suggestion for its solution that might be made by representatives of formerly under-developed countries, which had recently attained self-government and were faced with the same problem.

The Indian representative had voiced some criticism of the steps taken by the United Kingdom Government to give effect to the two reports drawn up by the Committee. As stated before, the special report on education had been submitted to the Advisory Committee on Education in Colonial Territories, a body appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Committee was composed of experts on education whose technical advice was very valuable to the Government and which provided British Territories with a private UNESCO in that field. That Committee had to examine and study the report which would contribute to the general data at their disposal on which they based advice of direct relevance to conditions in British Territories. He saw no grounds for criticism of that procedure.

/The report

The report on economic conditions and problems of development had been similarly studied and had been sent to all the governments of colonial territories, in order that they might use it in connexion with the framing of their economic policy, in agreement with the legislative bodies. He hoped that the explanation would fully satisfy the Indian representative.

He had been struck by the sound ideas on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions expressed by the New Zealand representative. Yet, while governments ought to execute General Assembly resolutions and apply the principles they proclaimed, they could hardly give effect to a report. They could do no more than submit the reports produced by United Nations bodies to the competent authorities, leaving it to them whether to be guided by those reports.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium), replying to a question from the Egyptian representative regarding the education budget of the Belgian Congo which had allegedly dropped from 608,992,850 francs in 1950 to 34,768,000 francs in 1951, pointed out that these figures, which were given in the summary of the information transmitted by the Belgian Government (A/P129), page 16, related solely to capital expenditure, exclusive of current expenditure under the budget. The total of 608,992,850 francs, erroneously given on page 16 as extraordinary expenses for 1950, in fact covered three financial years. The exact figures for the ordinary education budget appeared in page 33 of the summary, which showed that ordinary expenditure under the education budget had been 191,786,000 francs in 1950 and 201,904,000 francs in 1951, whilst extraordinary expenses had amounted to 262,997,000 francs in each of the two years.

The Egyptian representative had also referred to the expenditure for the maintenance of the police force in the Belgian Congo. Although the Government was not required to transmit information of such a nature, he was glad to refer the Egyptian representative to the speech made a few weeks earlier by the Governor-General of the Belgian Congo at the opening meeting of the Government Council, which he might find instructive. The Governor-General had then stated that the current strength of the Belgian Congo police force stood at 20,019 men, or 56 more than the previous year.

/The representative

The representatives of India and the USSR had expressed surprise at the figures given on page 3 of document A/AC.35/L.102 concerning palm-oil production in the Belgian Congo from 1946 to 1950. According to those figures, indigenous producers had produced only 28,123 tons of palm oil. But that figure referred only to production for commercial purposes, not to the total crop, a large part of which was consumed locally. In actual fact, the total output of palm oil in 1950 was 219,445 tons, of which 170,774 tons should be credited to indigenous producers and 48,671 tons to European producers. As for the areas under cultivation by indigenous and by non-indigenous producers, the summary of information transmitted by the Belgian Government (A/2129) indicated, on page 4, the figures of 48,700,000 hectares and 6,740,782 hectares respectively.

The representative of India had requested information on assistance to indigenous farmers (allocation of seed, fertilizer, and the like). The relevant data were given in the information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Belgian Government, which also contained particulars of the banking facilities and cash advances on crops which had been made available to indigenous farmers.

As regards the development of electric power, the information transmitted by the Belgian Government showed that the production of electricity had more than trebled since the war, and, in addition, that factories for the manufacture of blankets, jute sacks and textiles, spinning mills, and hosiery and factories had been established in Leopoldville in 1951.

The question of land policy in the Belgian Congo had, understandably, attracted the attention of several members of the Committee. The statements on pages 3 and 4 of the summary of information transmitted by the Belgian Government, might suggest that the Administration of the Belgian Congo reserved all uncultivated lands to itself; but that was not the case. The indigenous inhabitants could take possession of any Government land and cultivate it, without complying with any formalities, while non-indigenous persons could do so only after obtaining a concession.

/The representative

The representative of Indonesia had asked for information concerning financial participation by the colony in industrial enterprises. The Governor-General of the Belgian Congo had indicated, in his statement at the opening of the Government Council, that the colony's holdings of mining stock, consisting of initial shares (actions d'apport), amounted to 11,460 million Belgian francs, which was equivalent to 20 dollars per inhabitant and represented twice the amount of the colony's annual budget. The Administration of the Belgian Congo encouraged, indeed, urged the indigenous inhabitants to invest in their work; thus, 53,000 hectares of selected palm-tree plantations and 24,000 hectares of Ievea belonged to indigenous inhabitants. But investment in mining enterprises was a delicate question. Mining capital was essentially speculative capital, and the Administration hesitated to take the responsibility for urging the indigenous inhabitants to invest their savings in risky enterprises.

The representative of Indonesia had also requested information concerning the colony's trade with the dollar area. The Governor-General had indicated in his recent speech that in 1951 imports to the colony from the dollar area had reached 3,444 million Belgian francs, while exports to that area had amounted to 2,602 million. The deficit in the balance of payments, about 800 million Belgian francs, had been covered by Belgium.

Mr. PIGNON (France) said he was not prepared to participate in a broad economic debate; he would state his Government's views on the problems under consideration at the following meeting. For the time being, he would limit his remarks to answering certain statements made by the USSR representative. The latter's remarks concerning French Equatorial Africa were not in accordance with the true facts. He had, for example, mentioned the disparity between receipts and expenditures in the 1951 budget for French Equatorial Africa. It was true that receipts had substantially exceeded budget estimates; but it was inexact to state that the excess receipts had been used for purposes other than improving the living conditions of the inhabitants. In point of fact those receipts had been divided among the several territories of the group, and the division had been made by the local assemblies themselves.

/The decrease

The decrease in the number of livestock in 1950, mentioned by the USSR representative, had been due to a temporary crisis due to meteorological circumstances; the livestock population was growing again.

The USSR representative had referred to the disappearance of certain industries in Madagascar. The French Government had explained the reasons for that phenomenon in the information it had transmitted. The industries in question were, for the most part, no longer viable; they were industries which had been established during the war and which did not correspond to present needs. On the other hand, new industries, better adapted to those needs, were constantly developing.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of Pakistan, associated himself with the statements of the representatives of Egypt, India and Indonesia concerning the necessity for information on action taken by governments to implement the Committee's earlier recommendations. It was true, as the United Kingdom representative had pointed out, that those recommendations were of a general nature and called for no specific measures on the part of governments. The latter should, however, indicate how far they had followed the recommendations in planning economic and educational policy. He supported the proposal of the representative of Egypt to modify the wording of section C of the Standard Form.

Mr. BENSON (Secretary of the Committee), replying to a question from the representative of Egypt concerning participation by the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the elaboration of social policy, said that the Secretariat could furnish some information on that point as regards Non-Self-Governing Territories under French administration. As regards those under United Kingdom administration, whenever the question of participation was pertinent, the information was included throughout the relevant Secretariat documents.

In answer to a question from the representative of Indonesia concerning participation by indigenous inhabitants in the ownership of industrial enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, Mr. Benson said that

/whenever

whenever such information was transmitted by the governments, the Secretariat included it in the summaries. It had done so in the case of Tunisia and Nigeria.

As regards the information furnished by the Belgian Government on fisheries in the Belgian Congo, that information supplemented the data furnished by other governments the preceding year concerning fisheries in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

In regard to the observations made by the Belgian representative on the figures of expenditure on education to which attention had been drawn by the Egyptian representative, he recognized that the summary prepared by the Secretariat should have indicated that the estimates covered a three-year period. As to the figures of production in general, and of oil palms in particular, in the Belgian Congo, on which the Indian representative had commented, he pointed out that it was in many cases difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish production for export from production for local consumption. It should be noted that the information transmitted by the Belgian Government was five times more voluminous than the Secretariat's summary. In view of the programme of work drawn up by the Committee in 1949, the Secretariat had not thought it necessary to submit, at the current session, a great deal of documentation on economic questions. Nevertheless, the Secretariat remained at the disposal of any members of the Committee who might wish to consult the complete information transmitted by the governments.

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) asked whether the classification of enterprises as indigenous or non-indigenous was done by the Secretariat on the basis of the information transmitted, or whether that classification came from the information itself.

Mr. BENSON (Secretariat) replied that all data given in the summaries were taken from the information transmitted by governments; the Secretariat took no initiative whatever in the matter.

An exchange of views then took place, in which the CHAIRMAN, Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom), Mr. CALERO-RODRIGUEZ (Brazil), Mr. PIGNON (France) and Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) took part.

The Committee decided to hold its next meeting on Tuesday, 16 September, at 2 p.m.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.