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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Fourth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Thursday, 3 September 1953, at 2.45 p.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. LOOMER	Australia
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mrs. MENON	India
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. PETHERBRIDGE	Australia
	Mr. FRAZAO	Brazil
	Mr. LIU	China
	Miss MAÑAS	Cuba
	Mr. SVEISTRUP	Denmark
	Mr. BENITES-VINUEZA	Ecuador
	Mr. PIGNON	France
	Mr. MASFAR	Indonesia
	Mr. KHALIDY	Iraq
	Mr. SPITS	Netherlands
	Mr. PERRY	New Zealand
	Mr. PIRACHA	Pakistan
	Mr. MATHIESON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. SEARS	United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. GAVIN	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Miss BANDS	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. DESTOMBES	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mrs. MEAGHER	World Health Organization (WHO)

<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. HOO	Assistant Secretary-General
	Mr. BENSON	Secretary of the Committee

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN RESPECT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL  
CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE (A/AC.35/L.129, 138, 139, 145) (continued)

Mr. PIGNON (France) stated that while overseas territories were underdeveloped within the United Nations meaning of the term, many of them already had technical services organized and run by qualified technicians. What was actually impeding progress was not the lack of technical staff, but certain social and financial factors. For example, it took more than one generation to accelerate the development of the indigenous working masses and, as was normal in recently developed areas, there was an absence of local savings. France had therefore made only modest requests for assistance from the United Nations and the specialized agencies, which already received more requests than they could grant. The French Government was, however, keenly interested in both the theory and the practice of technical assistance programmes, and was anxious to adapt them to its territories in order more rapidly to raise the standard of living and to ensure true economic security.

The most important requests for assistance made by the French Government were concerned with public health. It had asked UNICEF for help in an anti-trachoma campaign in Morocco and Tunisia, a campaign in which WHO, UNICEF and the local health authorities would work together. UNICEF, WHO and FAO would carry out a campaign against malnutrition in French West Africa. A campaign of malaria and insect control, planned for the Cameroons, would, with the aid of UNICEF and WHO, be extended to African Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those agencies would also take part in a campaign against venereal diseases and treponematoses to be carried out in Morocco. WHO would provide experts for an anti-brucellosis campaign in Tunisia. In addition, France had obtained training fellowships from the ILO, one for French West Africa, another for French Equatorial Africa, and a third for Madagascar.

France had also made its own services available in the field of public health. It had loaned tse-tse fly disease experts to WHO and had invited fellowship-holders to study that disease at the district centre for mobile hygiene and prophylaxis of Bobo-Dioulasso and yellow fever vaccination at the Pasteur Institute at Dakar.

France had also taken part in international conferences, in particular the Inter-African Nutrition Conference held at Fajana in November 1952 under the auspices of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa south of the Sahara (CTCA), and in the symposium held by the International Children's Centre at Brazzaville in December 1952 in collaboration with the WHO, at which all the problems of children had been examined (education of mothers, basic education, kindergartens, school age, juvenile delinquency).

Lastly, an international nutrition course had been created at Marseilles in 1952; its purpose was to train foreign and overseas students as research workers for Africa.

Mr. GAVIN (International Labour Organisation) described the measures taken by the ILO with regard to topics in which the Committee had taken an interest in the past few years. First, the question of penal sanctions for breach of labour contracts was on the agenda of the ILO 1954 Conference, which would doubtless adopt a convention or recommendation on the subject. Secondly, the question of migrant labour, not merely in Non-Self-Governing Territories, but in all under-developed countries, would be given similar consideration. Lastly, the Committee of Experts on Social Policy in Non-Metropolitan Territories, which would hold its third session at Lisbon in December 1953, would have on its agenda three questions with which the Committee had been concerned: opportunities for vocational and technical training in non-metropolitan territories; economic and social aspects of workers' housing in non-metropolitan territories; and a preliminary report on ways of increasing labour productivity in non-metropolitan territories.

The ILO's share in technical assistance programmes was described in document A/AC.35/L.138 and, more fully, in document E/2433. Requests for technical assistance from the ILO had been slow in coming. As the United States representative had remarked, the ILO would doubtless be asked to lend its assistance in studying the problem of industrialization in the South Pacific region, more particularly as regards the question of co-operatives and handicrafts. Negotiations were in progress. In addition, two requests had been received from Trinidad, while others were expected from Africa.

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) emphasized the importance of item 8 and observed that the question of international collaboration in respect of economic, social and educational conditions fell directly within the Committee's competence. He personally thought that the subject should have been dealt with earlier in the session and should have included more particular studies. He hoped that the Committee would adopt such a procedure at its 1954 session.

He would comment successively on the collaboration of territories under United Kingdom administration with the specialized agencies and with the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration.

The Government of the United Kingdom was very much interested in regional co-operation. That was one of the most effective forms of co-operation, for the similarity of problems arising in neighbouring countries made it possible to take joint action.

In South-East Asia, including the South-West Pacific, there was the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, of which the Federation of Malaya and other United Kingdom dependent territories were associate members. As such, they took part in the work of specialized sub-committees. In the same area, the United Kingdom Government also participated in the Colombo Plan; while British territories could not benefit from the United Kingdom's contribution to the Plan they were able to benefit from the assistance of other participating countries such as Australia and New Zealand which, being much more developed and also close at hand, could help them considerably.

There was also the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa south of the Sahara (CCTA). Its work and the conferences it had organized were described in the Secretariat memorandum (A/AC.35/L.138, paragraphs 32 and 33). The conferences had been held to discuss housing research, nutrition and labour.

Finally, there was the OEEC which had established an Overseas Territories Committee consisting of European countries having territories outside Europe under their administration. The Committee's task was to ensure the harmonious development of African territories. For that purpose it had published an economic study of African territories; it had also defined the key problems for which experts were needed and had set up working groups to deal with them. A working group had thus been established for grassland improvement and another for the use and adaptation of agricultural machinery.

With regard to the broader field of co-operation with the specialized agencies, the General Conference of UNESCO, at its sixth session in 1951, had adopted an amendment to its constitution submitted upon the initiative of the United Kingdom which provided for the granting of the status of associate member to Non-Self-Governing Territories or groups. Several British territories would probably avail themselves of that opportunity. The United Kingdom had co-operated with UNESCO during a series of regional conferences on education. UNESCO's projects to assist British territories in questions of fundamental education now amounted to twelve. The University of the Federation of Malaya would receive additional fellowships and scholarships established by UNESCO, which had co-operated in the regional seminar on adult education in the West Indies, held in Jamaica.

WHO was particularly interested in colonial territories. The United Kingdom had participated in the meetings of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific and the Regional Committee for Africa. It had welcomed the opening at Brazzaville of the permanent headquarters of the Regional Office for Africa. A number of technical assistance programmes had been carried out during the year within the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and WHO's regular budget. UNICEF contributed to some of those programmes.

Colonial territories had continued to receive assistance from UNICEF and were always ready to welcome its programmes and to contribute to them.

With regard to FAO, the colonial territories had continued to play an active part in the technical conferences it had organized. They had submitted nineteen requests for the services of FAO experts and requests for scholarships and fellowships, all within the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. They had also been of assistance to FAO. The Governments of Singapore and of the Federation of Malaya had invited the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission to meet on their territory. The Cyprus Government had organized, in conjunction with FAO, a three-month training course for trainees from other countries of the Middle East and had accepted fellows from FAO. United Kingdom dependent territories had assisted in the work of the world reporting system on plant pests and diseases.

ILO had granted scholarships to British colonial civil servants and the International Labour Office had participated in the conference organized by the CCTA.

United Kingdom dependent territories were generally represented at meetings of ICAO by the United Kingdom representative. However, they sent their own representatives to conferences at which navigation questions were discussed.

The British colonies were directly represented at regional conferences organized by WHO since that organization was concerned with technical problems requiring regional co-operation, regardless of political status.

With regard to technical assistance in general, document A/AC.35/L.138 contained adequate information, although he felt he should give some additional information regarding a paragraph which might otherwise prove misleading.

It was stated in paragraph 30 that technical assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories remained low in comparison with that to other under-developed countries. In 1952 the number of fellows and scholars from Non-Self-Governing Territories was less than 5 per cent of the total while the number of experts sent to those Territories was only about 1.5 per cent of the total.

At first glance those figures might seem to show that the administering Powers were not requesting sufficient international technical assistance for the Territories under their administration. He wished to explain, just as the French representative had done in the case of the French territories, that the United Kingdom Government itself, through the Colonial Office, provided for about 95 per cent of the Territories' needs in experts and educational facilities. The Secretary of State for the Colonies was assisted, for that purpose, by various committees consisting of experts whose task it was to study all the technical problems to which the administration of the Non-Self-Governing Territories gave rise. He also had the benefit of a number of personal advisers who considered problems submitted to them and were always ready to proceed to the Territories in question. The advisers were selected as much for their personal competence as for the experience they had acquired in particular fields. In that connexion, the adviser on agricultural matters to the Secretary of State for the Colonies had lent his services to the United Nations during its consideration of the problem of Korean reconstruction.

With regard to fellowships and scholarships the United Kingdom itself, like the other colonial Powers, provided in a very large measure for the needs of the Territories under its administration. The Colonial Development Welfare Act provided for substantial allocations for scholarships enabling candidates from United Kingdom Non-Self-Governing Territories to study in British universities. About 6,300 students from Non-Self-Governing Territories had been studying in British schools and universities in 1952. That figure compared favourably with the number of scholarships and fellowships granted by the United Nations and its specialized agencies. As another example of the administering Power's assistance in education, the United Kingdom Government had set up a special air service for the transportation of 348 Malayan scholarship holders to British schools. Of that number, 298 had received scholarships or fellowships in education and would go to the special teacher-training school near Liverpool which had been established for Malayan students in order to meet the shortage of teachers in that Territory.



In view of its own considerable efforts, the Government of the United Kingdom availed itself of international assistance only to a limited extent. In order, however, to make it possible for the inhabitants of its territories to study in other countries and thus acquire a varied culture and experience, it did not neglect the facilities offered by the United Nations and the specialized agencies as regards scholarships and fellowships. Since he personally had had direct experience of working with the Technical Assistance Administration, he would like to place on record the appreciation of his delegation of the skill, enthusiasm and effectiveness with which that administration handled the requests coming from British dependent territories.

Paragraphs 30 and 31 of document A/AC.35/L.138 showed that in 1952 twenty-six experts had been sent to United Kingdom territories and eighty-four scholarships and fellowships had been awarded to the candidates of those territories. Bearing in mind the fact that those territories had a total population of about 74 million, it would be noted that the figures, while perhaps low in an absolute sense, compared favourably with the corresponding figures for the under-developed countries as a whole.

Mr. PERRY (New Zealand) said that, although he did not desire to go over ground already covered by other representatives, he must make it clear that his country played an active part in the work of international assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and that that was as a donor rather than as a recipient. New Zealand was a member of ECAFE and participated in the programmes of the Technical Assistance Administration. New Zealand was also a member of the Colombo Plan. He was grateful to the United Kingdom representative for having recalled the help traditionally given by New Zealand to the territories administered by the United Kingdom Government.

He emphasized that New Zealand was one of the founding members of the South Pacific Commission and continued to play an active part in the work of that body. His country was also participating in the South Pacific Health Service and in other action to solve the health problems peculiar to that region.

Mr. DESTOMBES (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) recalled that UNESCO had submitted to the Committee a document describing its activities (A/AC.35/L.139). He wished to make a few additional remarks concerning some of those activities.

Referring to the World Handbook of Educational Organization and Statistics mentioned in paragraph 7 of that document, he said that the volume was now being printed and would probably be ready in time for the Committee's following session. The handbook would include all the States Members of the United Nations, a great many non-member States, most of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of Member States and some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories administered by non-member States.

In the social field the survey began in 1951 with the help of the International African Institute, which included a thorough study of communities in the Belgian Congo (A/AC.35/L.139, paragraph 41) would culminate in 1954, in a conference which would be held in Africa and would consist of experts, research workers, administrators and representatives of the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned with African problems. The report would be published in 1954.

The study of social adaptation to the process of economic development justified the proposals made to set up a new international research body in that field. The Economic and Social Council had asked UNESCO to consider whether it was advisable to set up an international centre for social sciences and the UNESCO General Conference had decided to draw up plans for an international research centre dealing with the impact of technical changes on the population. The centre should be ready in 1954 and its purpose, under contract, would be to continue the study of the social consequences of industrialization.

The UNESCO General Conference had, in December 1952, adopted a resolution authorizing the Director-General, in co-operation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies, to encourage scientific studies of the legal and administrative procedures of land reform and of the social effect of such reform on the rural population.

UNESCO had asked the International Committee of Comparative Law to prepare a study of the legal procedures whereby agrarian reforms had been carried out in various countries of the world since the beginning of the twentieth century.

Agricultural co-operatives constituted another important field of study. UNESCO would study the social influence of co-operatives, their educational effects and their influence on other types of joint enterprise as well as on local autonomy. For that purpose it would secure the collaboration of competent organizations such as the International Co-operative Alliance and scientific bodies such as the International Political Science Association. The latter would also be entrusted with a study of self-government in rural communities because of its importance for the development of civic life after the land reform.

With regard to cultural activities, UNESCO has organized at the University of Ibadan, in Nigeria, an international seminar on the problem of organizing and operating public libraries in Africa. The educational campaigns undertaken in that continent demonstrated more and more clearly the need for developing libraries suited to the requirements of different countries and their people. The main purpose of the seminar was to study the problems of regional or national development of public library services; the adaptation of those services to varying needs, including the operation of mobile libraries; the use and lending of films, filmstrips and publications; and the professional training of librarians, particularly in areas where suitable schools were lacking and training must be ensured by means of fellowships, seminars and practical work. All the African States members of UNESCO as well as States which administered Non-Self-Governing Territories in Africa had taken part in the seminar.

Lastly, he recalled the close relations (outlined in document A/AC.35/L.139, page 15) which UNESCO maintained with the Caribbean Commission and the South Pacific Commission.

VOLUNTARY TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION: GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 144 (II), 327 (IV) and 637 (VII) (A/AC.35/L.138, paragraphs 6 and 10)

Mr. BENSON (Secretary of the Committee) quoted the text of General Assembly resolutions 144 (II), 327 (IV) and 637 (VII). He drew particular attention to resolution 637 B (VII), paragraph 2, by virtue of which the question of voluntary transmission of information had been placed on the Committee's agenda for the current session. Document A/AC.35/L.138 relating to international collaboration in respect of economic, social and educational conditions also dealt with that question in paragraphs 6 and 10.

Mr. PIRACHA (Pakistan) recalled that the General Assembly in its resolution 637 (VII) had recommended to States Members of the United Nations responsible for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories voluntarily to include in the information transmitted by them under Article 73 of the Charter details regarding the extent to which the right of peoples and nations to self-determination was exercised by the peoples of those Territories, and had decided to place that resolution on the agenda of the Committee for the present session. He was surprised that so mild a recommendation which was fully in conformity with the spirit of Article 73 of the Charter should have met with opposition on the part of certain Powers which had alleged that the recommendation imposed additional obligations on the Administering Powers and constituted a violation of the provisions of Article 73 of the Charter. As far as he was concerned he could not see how that recommendation of the General Assembly imposed any obligations on the Administering Powers that they had not already assumed. Indeed, under Articles 1, 55 and 73 of the Charter, the Administering Powers had accepted the obligation to promote the right of non-self-governing peoples to self-determination. Furthermore, the General Assembly in its resolution 637 (VII) had recommended that the States Members of the United Nations should facilitate the exercise of that right by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It would be in the interest of the Administering Powers themselves to inform the Committee of the measures they had adopted in execution of that resolution. They could not claim that they were

making every possible effort in that respect and at the same time deny members of the United Nations the information which might support their claim. Neither did he believe that it could be affirmed that the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination had nothing to do with the attainment of self-government. The two principles were closely linked. It was therefore important that the Committee should be informed of measures taken to put into effect the right of peoples to self-determination. That was the purpose of the voluntary transmission of information provided for under General Assembly resolution 637 (VII). In conclusion, he paid a tribute to the delegations of Governments which had volunteered information on the subject to the Committee.

PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM TERRITORIES IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE  
(A/AC.35/L.126, 152)

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil) said that in consultation with the representatives of Cuba, India and Pakistan his delegation wished to present a draft resolution concerning the participation of representatives from Territories in the work of the Committee. The sponsors had two main objects in submitting it: first, they had thought it essential, after three years' discussion, to find a practical solution to that difficult problem. Secondly, they had attempted to find a text which would reconcile all points of view, for they had felt it desirable that the draft forwarded to the General Assembly should have been adopted unanimously. He read out the joint draft resolution appearing in document A/AC.35/L.152. He believed that while taking account of the point of view of the Administering Powers, the draft resolution met the main requirements of the non-administering Powers.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that further discussion of the draft resolution should be postponed until the following meeting so that members of the Committee might have time to study it at their leisure.

It was so decided.

## FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE (A/AC.35/L.150)

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) thought that the note prepared by the Secretariat on the programme of work of the Committee for the 1954 session had been well thought out. It would be difficult to keep between the different topics proposed for study in water-tight compartments, because some of them were interdependent. In spite of that reservation, however, his delegation approved of the provisional list drawn up by the Secretariat.

Mrs. MENON (India) also thought the Secretariat's plan of work satisfactory. She agreed with the Iraqi representative that it was advisable not to break up the work into too many small segments. Her delegation, which represented an agricultural country, was particularly interested in agricultural problems, and would suggest the inclusion in part II of the list of an item relating to irrigation and soil conservation problems. It would also be useful to include the subject of subsistence crops, which were often the basis of the economy of Non-Self-Governing Territories. She also proposed that of item 4 of part II of the list, "Measures of conservation of agricultural resources", should be expanded to include measures of forest conservation and that the study of problems concerning agriculture should include a study of the possibilities of developing cottage industries. In that connexion, she emphasized that all societies which relied on an agricultural economy experienced partial unemployment; she thought that the situation might be remedied by the development of cottage industries. It would be useful, therefore, to include a seventh item, dealing with that subject, in part II of the list.

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil) found the Secretariat's programme satisfactory. He wished, however, to approach the question from a different angle, and to make some suggestions concerning the documents which the Secretariat would prepare for the Committee's work in 1954. He drew attention to the fact that the economy of Non-Self-Governing Territories was particularly sensitive to fluctuations in the prices of raw materials; documents A/AC.35/L.134 and

A/AC.35/L.135, which dealt with different statistical aspects of production and economy, showed that the Non-Self-Governing Territories had already felt the decline in the prices of raw materials. Likewise, countries relying on a single crop, and they included many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, were particularly sensitive to the effects of economic crises. He therefore thought that the Committee should include in its examination of the economic situation of Non-Self-Governing Territories a study of what they could do to counteract a deflationary situation. The Economic and Social Council, at its last session, had attached considerable importance to the question, and had devoted to it much of its time. The question opened a vast field of study for the Committee, which might attempt to find out how far price-fluctuations affected the real income of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories; what action had been taken by the agricultural credit banks; to what extent the Administering Powers were endeavouring to develop manufacturing industries and if they were attempting to expand the home market. It would also be interesting to know to what extent the indigenous inhabitants participated in the country's trade.

He emphasized that the present period was a critical one and required great vigilance. It was important therefore to determine the success attained by programmes undertaken since the end of the second World War. The Committee needed an overall view. It should learn from past experience. The Secretariat might well devote its efforts to preparing documentation on customs and fiscal legislation, quota systems, private investment in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the sources of capital, and the creation of local capital.

Those were merely suggestions, indicative of the interest his delegation took in the documentation produced by the Secretariat.

Mr. BENSON (Secretary of the Committee) thought that, as the Iraqi representative had observed, it was impossible to draw up a plan of work in watertight compartments. The Secretary-General would take note of all the observations made by representatives. He would also take into account the work of the specialized agencies, particularly of the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the work of the Department of Economic Affairs of the

Secretariat. The work of the Secretariat was limited by the funds allocated to it. Thus, although the Secretariat had drawn up a list of questions for study, a separate document would not necessarily be prepared on each question. It was likely that several questions would be dealt with in the same document. The Secretariat would take note of the suggestions offered by the representatives of India and Brazil. Those suggestions, as well as the observations put forward by the various delegations at the present session, would offer useful guidance to the Secretariat in its future work.

Mrs. MENON (India) said that it would be important to have some information on agricultural and industrial manpower.

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil) remarked that the Economic and Social Council had had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat on that subject; it dealt with home industries and the transition from a barter economy to a market economy. It would be interesting to discover whether the Economic and Social Council's conclusions applied to the Non-Self-Governing Territories as well.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.