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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Seventh Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 16 May 1956, at 10.50 a.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. ARENALES CATALAN	(Guatemala)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. VIXSEBOXSE	(Netherlands)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. CUTTS)	Australia
	Mr. HAMILTON)	
	U PAW HTIN	Burma
	Mr. YANG	China
	Mr. de CAMARET	France
	Mr. KESTLER)	Guatemala
	Mr. ARAGON)	
	Mr. RAGHU RAMAIAH	India
	Mr. PACHACHI	Iraq
	Mr. GRADER	Netherlands
	Mr. THORP	New Zealand
	Mr. CALLE y CALLE	Peru
	Mr. GIDDEN	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. SEARS	United States of America
	Mr. RIVAS	Venezuela
<u>Representatives of specialized agencies:</u>		
	Mr. GAVIN	International Labour Organisation
	Miss McNAUGHTON	Food and Agriculture Organization
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. BENSON	Representative of the Secretary- General
	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES:

- (a) QUESTIONS ARISING OUT OF THE SPECIAL REPORT ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1954:
- (b) INFORMATION ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE SUMMARIES PREPARED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/3105-3110, A/3110/Corr.1, A/3111 and Add.1, A/3112 and Add.1 and 2, A/3113 and Corr.1, A/3114 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/3115);
- (c) OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN HANDICRAFT AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES (ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 587 F I (XX)) (A/AC.35/L.230)

Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala) said that from the point of view of economic development the Non-Self-Governing Territories could be divided into three groups: those that were relatively advanced, those that were less advanced and those with little or no economic development.

The larger African Territories, such as the Belgian Congo, French Equatorial Africa and Nigeria, were in the first group. They had a greater diversity of natural resources spread over a wide area and a considerable foreign trade developed through the efforts of European colonists and, more recently, of indigenous enterprises. Their banking, credit and public finance systems were well organized and revenue from domestic sources was considerable. The major interests connected with the export trade, which was generally in the hands of nationals of the metropolitan country, had wrought great changes in the way of life and methods of work of the indigenous population. Public and private investment had achieved considerable proportions in those Territories and covered many different sectors of production, providing an effective basis for increased productivity. The impact of economic development on the indigenous population was difficult to assess. Important economic and social changes were undoubtedly taking place: the proletariat was increasing as a result of public works programmes, industrialization and so forth; there was a growing demand for professional and technical workers; and urbanization, with its attendant social problems, was on the increase.

His delegation felt some concern with regard to the future of the indigenous population in the more advanced Territories. Not only was economic growth very slow but it was mainly concentrated on production for export; little was being done

(Mr. Aragon, Guatemala)

to develop an economy designed to meet the needs of local consumption. It was undoubtedly of benefit to the Territories to expand their export trade, particularly when the expansion was mainly due to indigenous effort, but there must be a greater increase in production for domestic consumption so as to provide a firm basis for raising the population's level of living.

His delegation hoped that the authorities responsible for the economic and social advancement of the more developed Territories would bear the following points in mind. Firstly, the main consideration in planning the Territories' economic infrastructure should be that it should confer tangible benefits on the broad masses of the population. In that connexion, efforts should be made to make hitherto isolated regions more accessible by means of an adequate transport and communications system, with a view to expanding the domestic market and opening up new land and new resources. Secondly, greater use should be made of the energy, knowledge, skill and experience of the indigenous population. Other conditions being equal, preference should be given to the indigenous inhabitants in development programmes and projects rather than to persons of other origin. Thirdly, steps should be taken to disseminate ideas, knowledge and good habits more widely among the people. Fourthly, greater efforts should be made to set up the basic social services needed to bring about a continuous and systematic improvement in the people's health and education. Lastly, greater impetus should be given to the establishment of agricultural and industrial demonstration services with a view to increasing productive efficiency. He was aware that his suggestions were very general but, given the nature of the Committee's work, it was difficult to avoid generalizations. He could assure the Committee that they were based on fact. To a greater or lesser degree, indeed, they had already been taken into account in many of the Territories.

(Mr. Aragon, Guatemala)

Most of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were in the second group, that of the less-developed Territories, which included some of the Asian Territories under United Kingdom administration, some of the African Territories under French or United Kingdom administration and some of the Caribbean Territories. Their main characteristic, economically speaking, was the fact that their economy depended almost exclusively on one or two export commodities, such as sugar, rubber, petroleum or tin, and was consequently extremely vulnerable to fluctuations in world trade. While the United Nations was making every effort to regulate the trade in primary commodities its efforts were not sufficient to guarantee the dependent peoples more rapid and stable economic and social advancement. It was therefore to be hoped that the Administering Powers concerned would devote more money than they had hitherto to the diversification of production. The stimulus of foreign trade might not always be enough; in such cases the Administering Powers should try to strengthen the domestic economy by suitable public works programmes and the setting up of social services, which would increase the population's purchasing power and raise the level of education, health and environmental sanitation so that the people were able to contribute more effectively to increased production.

Belize (British Honduras) was a typical example of the third group of Territories, where there was virtually no economic development. Indeed, most of the other Caribbean Territories and the majority of the Pacific Territories were in the same category. In those Territories the economy of large sectors of the population, particularly in the rural areas, was a subsistence economy combining primitive agriculture with other activities such as fishing and hunting. In some cases, a few natural resources had been developed for export. Many such resources, as for instance, the tropical woods in some regions, were irreplaceable - or at least little was being done to replace them. In addition, the economy of many of the Territories was hard hit by natural calamities, such as the hurricanes which devastated palm plantations, houses and schools in the Caribbean area. Lastly, the Territories were riddled by endemic disease. The picture was indeed gloomy: it might well be that the situation required the efforts of the Administering Powers concerned to be supplemented by large-scale international co-operation

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channelled through the United Nations. The United Nations might act through a co-ordinated technical assistance programme, through regional machinery established on a natural rather than an artificial basis or by means of trusteeship agreements.

In conclusion, he emphasized that his suggestions in no way affected his Government's standing reservations on Belize (British Honduras).

Mr. RAGHU RAMAIAH (India) said that, apart from the general economic backwardness characterizing many of the Territories, there was a particular problem in some of them, especially in Africa: namely, the shift from a self-sufficient rural economy to an urban economy in which the rural population had been uprooted and drawn to the towns in search of seasonal employment or by the supposed attractions of urban civilization. Employment opportunities in the towns were limited and there was high seasonal unemployment and general under-employment and unemployment. The problem was how to provide the town population with employment until such time as economic development brought greater employment opportunities. India had found from experience that the promotion of cottage industries should go hand in hand with industrialization programmes. In most of the dependent Territories there had been skilled craftsmen even before the beginning of colonial rule. It was regrettable that in some instances - he cited the producers of Madras cloth in India as an example - the colonial tariff policy was such that the local hand producers could not compete with the industrial centres in the metropolitan country. As a result, local craftsmen were unemployed and local cottage industries crippled. He urged the Administering Powers to encourage the development of cottage industries as an integral part of economic development. In its special studies of economic conditions in 1951 and 1954, the General Assembly had emphasized the vital need to associate the indigenous population in economic planning, because they knew what was good for them.

One of the main difficulties confronting the Administering Powers was lack of money; local investment was poor and the level of living so low that there were no savings. International agencies such as the International Bank should be asked to help and foreign countries should be encouraged to invest in the dependent Territories. In some Territories where the Administering Power itself could not invest sufficient capital, it refused to encourage other countries to do so.

(Mr. Raghu Ramaiah, India)

Since the Administering Powers had assumed an obligation under the Charter to promote economic development primarily in the interests of the indigenous inhabitants they should make every effort to attract such foreign capital as was necessary to further the Territories' economic interests.

While industrial development was necessary, it should be borne in mind that at present most of the dependent Territories were primarily agricultural. It was important that they should produce enough food to be self-sufficient; at the same time, however, emphasis on one aspect of food production might lead to surplus products clogging the whole economic machine. It was therefore essential to diversify agricultural production. Some Administering Powers contended that it was difficult to find sufficient local talent for that purpose: their policy was to encourage settlers from the metropolitan countries, to whom they granted considerable facilities. While all forms of economic development were welcome, his delegation would like to ensure that the first preference was given to the inhabitants of the Territories. It was apprehensive of any policy which encouraged land alienation to foreign settlers. He was sure that the Administering Powers could find sufficient local talent to develop the Territory, provided that they or some international organization were prepared to make financial assistance available.

Another aspect of colonial policy which his delegation disliked, and from which India had suffered in the past, was the practice of manipulating export and import tariffs and excise duties in such a way as to make it uneconomical to process local raw materials on the spot. When India had been a dependent territory, for instance, it had been cheaper to export local tobacco and then reimport the cigars manufactured from it rather than to manufacture the cigars locally. That policy had produced additional profits for the middlemen and foreign companies concerned. It had also, incidentally, led to a rather deceptive rise in import figures. Such policies were not widespread but they did unfortunately exist in some Territories. The Administering Powers should encourage the development of local industries wherever they could, themselves providing the necessary technical assistance. Again, on the question of the skills required for local industry, great inducements were being offered to prospective immigrants in some African Territories. He felt that if it was necessary to bring in foreign technicians

(Mr. Raghu Ramaiah, India)

they should come on a contractual basis and not as settlers. That was the policy followed by his Government. If it were applied in the Non-Self-Governing Territories it would put an end to many abuses.

In 1954 the General Assembly had recommended that Governments should undertake periodic tariff reviews with a view to reducing the tariffs on essential commodities such as foodstuffs and textiles. Where self-sufficiency was not possible in the dependent Territories, the interests of the indigenous population should be paramount. They should be able to import what they needed from wherever it could be obtained most cheaply, even if that was not from the metropolitan country.

In conclusion, he drew attention to the discrimination prevailing in most Territories. In some cases land was set aside for Europeans and the indigenous population was forced to live in reserved areas behind barbed wire. That violated the provisions of the Charter and the undertaking assumed by the Administering Powers in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to ensure the development of all sections of the community, irrespective of race. The inequality of treatment in the Territories was an abuse to which the Committee should pay particular attention.

Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) said that he agreed with much of the statement made by the Indian representative and with most of the ideas underlying it. Nevertheless, he felt obliged to comment on one or two points. Firstly, India's experience in the development of cottage industries was probably very different from that of the African continent. He did not believe that the hereditary skills which had existed for centuries in India had been found to exist in a great part of Africa, at least to the same degree.

Another point raised by the Indian representative, with which he was in entire agreement, was the very great need in United Kingdom Territories to attract foreign investment. The Indian representative had mentioned the International Bank. The experience of the United Kingdom had been, however, that the Bank and other similar bodies were hard-headed business organizations operating like any other financial concern and by no means eager to pour money into the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(Mr. Gidden, United Kingdom)

He also agreed that the primary objective in diversifying the economy and introducing new trades or industries in a Non-Self-Governing Territory should be to increase the employment potential of the local inhabitants. That was the policy of the United Kingdom and he could assure the Indian delegation that the question of land alienation and that of the importation of skilled labour from abroad were no longer topical. There was, in fact, great difficulty in introducing skilled labour from abroad and there was no pressure on the local Administrations or the United Kingdom Government to do so. The problem of attracting foreign capital in any form was an extremely difficult one.

The word "colonial" was really being over-worked and was being used to fit all manner of situations. For example, the facts cited by the Indian representative with regard to tobacco could be paralleled in many countries all over the world; it had nothing to do with colonialism. Australia, for instance, produced a great deal of wool but most of the cloth worn in Australia was manufactured in England. Again, although sherry was produced in Spain a large portion of the sherry drunk there was imported from England. That pattern of export and re-import was very common and by no means confined to colonial Territories.

The previous year he had informed the Committee that a further £120 million had been made available by the United Kingdom Government to Territorial Governments for development in the period 1955-1960. When those allocations of funds had been made the Territorial Governments had been invited to review their existing development programmes for the coming five years, with particular reference to the need to give a proper place to those basic services which made a direct contribution to the expansion of the Territories' resources and to avoid excessive expenditure on schemes which involved heavy recurrent charges. The development plans accordingly did not all cover the same period and had not in any case been drawn up on a common definition, but judging by the figures so far available it appeared that development expenditure for the current five-year period would be over £600 million.

(Mr. Gidden, United Kingdom)

In connexion with the implementation of those plans a number of local development organizations had recently been set up. There were three in Nigeria: The Economic Planning Commission in the Eastern Region, the Finance Corporation in the Western Region and the Northern Regional Corporation in the North. In the Gold Coast the Industrial Development Corporation had increased its authorized capital from £1 million to £4 million and an Agricultural Development Corporation had been established for the purpose of investigating, formulating and carrying out projects for the development of the agricultural and fishing industries and the marketing of their produce. In Barbados it was proposed to set up an Industrial Development Board to encourage the expansion of existing industries and investment in new ones. There were, of course, a number of old established development corporations, of which those in British Guiana, Fiji, Jamaica, Malaya and Kenya had recently expanded their activities.

Among the more noteworthy industrial development projects being carried out were the construction of cement factories in Nigeria and the Gold Coast, a steel mill in the Federation of Malaya and a large-scale spinning and weaving factory in Nigeria, using locally grown cotton. Secondary industries established included factories for metal windows and steel springs in Malaya, margarine and clothing in Kenya, bricks in Barbados and cigarettes in Fiji.

There were many other ways in which the Territorial Governments were endeavouring to promote industrial expansion. Perhaps the most important was the provision of basic services upon which all other development depended. Since there was a great shortage of power in most Territories, especially in Africa, and a general lack of natural resources in the form of oil or coal, special attention was being given to the development of hydro-electric power, in particular in Nigeria, Kenya, Malaya, Barbados and Hong Kong. At the same time work was in progress on the improvement of ports and harbours. A wharf extension had been opened at Apapa, in Nigeria, and improved facilities were under construction in the Gold Coast, Barbados, Sarawak, North Borneo, the Bahamas, Kenya and Tanganyika. Construction would shortly begin in Gibraltar, Trinidad, Brunei and the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. In that connexion he would mention that the reconstruction of the wharf at Jesselton, North Borneo, was being partly financed by a grant from the United States Government.

(Mr. Gidden, United Kingdom)

With the growing increase in air travel, United Kingdom Territories had felt the need for new and larger airfields and progress in that respect had been continuous. A new civil airport had been opened the previous year at Singapore and construction work was proceeding in Malaya, Hong Kong, North Borneo, Jamaica and nine other Territories.

The gross capital formation in United Kingdom Territories in the form of machinery, plant equipment, buildings or public works in 1955 had been estimated at about £450 million - about £50 million more than for each of the three preceding years.

During the debate on educational conditions, the representative of India had referred to an article in the Manchester Guardian of 8 February, which had apparently implied that a relatively small amount in direct grants was being given by the United Kingdom Government to the Territorial Governments. He had already mentioned the recent allocation of £120 million; the total amount of grants made since 1940 amount to approximately £220 million, which could hardly be regarded as an insignificant contribution. Since the question had been raised in connexion with higher education, he would add that higher education had never suffered from the lack of direct grants from the United Kingdom Government so far as capital requirements were concerned.

Mr. RAGHU RAMAIAH (India), reverting to his previous remarks on the subject of tobacco and to the comments of the United Kingdom representative, explained that he had not intended to imply that certain products could not be processed more cheaply abroad than in the country of origin; he had had in mind the manipulations of export duty, import duty and excise duty which made the cost of processing raw materials in their country of origin prohibitive. Possibly there might be a lack of local skill which made it preferable to import the goods in question.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand) said that his remarks would be directed to projects in which the Committee had shown the greatest interest. It should not be inferred, however, that there had not been continuous progress in other directions.

In the Cook Islands, the major recent event had perhaps been the visit, at the request of the New Zealand Government, of Professor Horace Belshaw, of the Department of Economics of Victoria University College, and Mr. Stace, of the

(Mr. Thorp, New Zealand)

Reserve Bank of New Zealand, to advise on the formulation of a further plan for economic development. Both those gentlemen had considerable experience in the economic field in under-developed territories and Professor Belshaw was a recognized international authority on the subject. Their recommendations had been approved in principle by the New Zealand Government and steps were now being taken to implement them.

In 1955 an experienced registrar of co-operative societies had been appointed in the Cook Islands. Several co-operative societies had been registered and were already functioning. Provided public support continued and developed, such institutions might well become a major channel of commercial activity.

In order to stimulate the banana export industry, the sole New Zealand importers of tropical fruits had guaranteed to pay for all bananas received for export in Rarotonga, whether or not shipping space was available. Bananas were a non-seasonal crop and would therefore provide a steady income and the assurance of a cargo would encourage ships to call in the off-season, but the most important aspect was the encouragement to growers to produce even though shipping was not available.

At Niue Island a sawmill was being erected which would cut local timber for making cases for fruit exports.

In the Tokelau Islands efforts in the economic sphere were being limited to the Territory's capacity. The main effort had been the introduction of livestock in an endeavour to improve the local stock and to build up food reserves.

Figures of direct financial assistance for the three groups did not include administrative, educational, inspection, medical research and similar services. The estimated subsidies for 1955-1956 were: in the Cook Islands, £7,500 for educational scholarships, an ordinary subsidy of £239,000 plus a special subsidy of £90,000 for the current year; in Niue, for similar services, £1,200 for scholarships, £65,000 ordinary subsidy and a special subsidy of £47,500; for the smaller group the total figure would be £12,000. In that connexion it should be borne in mind that the total population of the three Territories was only 25,000.

Mr. ARAGON (Guatemala) said that it was not possible to form an adequate opinion of the economic development of Belize (British Honduras) from the information given in document A/3111/Add.1, which did not include any data on the Development Plan for that Territory. There was no indication of the gross national income and the per capita income at the beginning of the period covered by the Plan, for instance, or of the increase expected.

Several points emerged from the document. The production of primary commodities had declined sharply over the last twenty-five years as the accessible natural resources had been progressively exhausted. Six of the nine staple exports were drawn at low cost from the Territory's forests and the sea, and only three - citrus fruit, sugar and copra - required any investment or human effort. In spite of the financial control established by the United Kingdom Government in 1931, there had been no excess of current income over current expenditure before 1951. The trade balance had always been unfavourable, the deficit being covered by Colonial Development Corporation funds and foreign investment. Foodstuffs and beverages accounted for 30 per cent of the Territory's total imports and 46 per cent of its exports. Foodstuffs, beverages and manufactured consumer goods made up 77 per cent of all exports. Although there were 300 kilometres of coast, the wharves could accommodate only ships with a very shallow draught. There were only 450 kilometres of all-weather main roads and one very short stretch of railway, in a Territory of 23,000 square kilometres, and only 1,405 KW of electric power for a population of nearly 80,000. Nevertheless, in spite of the lack of communications, the Development Plan allocated only \$BHS.9 million for transport over a period of fourteen years and of that a sum of \$BHL.2 million was earmarked for the construction of a wharf 62 kilometres from the capital. The Administering Power's agricultural policy was to induce the people to turn from shifting to settled cultivation, but 75,000 acres were reserved for shifting cultivation by Mayans. The Territory was barely self-sufficient in most agricultural products and did not produce enough rice to meet its requirements. Its agricultural exports were reduced to sugar cane, oranges and grapefruit, for its cocoa and banana plantations had been devastated by hurricanes and pests and the Administering Power had so far done nothing to restore them. The only industry was the timber industry; the Development Plan

(Mr. Aragon, Guatemala)

included an allocation of \$US420,000 for sawmills and \$US476,000 for forest roads. Finally, although there was a high degree of illiteracy among the population, the Administering Power had not established an adequate teacher-training school. Up to 1954 only eighteen students had been trained as teachers and the Plan allocated a mere \$BHL.3 million for education over a period of fourteen years. One technical school had been opened in 1953 but no details were given of the training it provided.

The facts he had given led unavoidably to certain conclusions. Firstly, the economic system of the Territory could not provide a minimum living standard for its people or bear the expense of an adequate development plan. Funds for economic development must come from the United Kingdom, since local savings, foreign credit and foreign investment were inadequate to meet the Territory's needs. In such circumstances, the Territory's development could not but be slow.

Secondly, the economic system had two grave defects. The Territory's natural resources had been ruthlessly exploited, regardless of the need to establish local industries or to take conservation measures, and the profits from that exploitation had not been reinvested, with the result that the country was now backward in every sector of the economic field. Its economic system was based on resources which were being exhausted and provided no basis in development.

Thirdly, it was difficult to see how the Administering Power expected to promote the economic development of the Territory by investing only \$US15.7 million over fourteen years. The economy was still rudimentary, public funds were low, natural resources were nearing exhaustion and there were no plans to link the Territory economically with the other countries of Central America, which were its natural market.

Fourthly, by isolating the Territory from the rest of Central America, the United Kingdom had prevented the development of the neighbouring province of Peten, in Guatemala, which could provide 50 per cent of the world's requirements in mahogany and other valuable woods if Belize (British Honduras) did not block its outlet to the sea. The Territory's isolation was thus harmful to the economies of both Guatemala and Belize (British Honduras).

(Mr. Aragon, Guatemala)

The information grudgingly supplied by the Administering Authority gave colour to the suspicion that the United Kingdom occupation of the Territory impoverished its people, violated the economic integrity of Central America and was prejudicial to the sovereign rights of Guatemala.

Mr. YANG (China) said that the Administering Powers should develop the Territories for which they were responsible in such a way as to raise the peoples' level of living and enable them to contribute to the world economy. Although progress had been made in some Territories, the level of living and the per capita income of the indigenous inhabitants was still very low in most cases. Economic policy should form part of a comprehensive development plan for the Territory concerned but no real progress could be achieved unless the indigenous inhabitants participated in the formulation of economic policy. His delegation would welcome further information from the Administering Powers on the steps they had taken to raise the level of living and the per capita income of the local inhabitants and to enable them to participate in economic planning.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN RESPECT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued)

- (a) GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS (A/AC.35/L.229 and L.230)
- (b) INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (A/AC.35/L.227 and Corr.1)

Miss McNAUGHTON (Food and Agriculture Organization) said that FAO was providing eighteen experts and eleven fellowships for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in 1956. In 1955, representatives from the Non-Self-Governing Territories had participated in four FAO projects: the joint FAO/WHO nutrition and health education seminar for South and East Asia, held in Baguio; a three-month training course in nutrition sponsored by FAO, WHO and the French Government, held in Marseilles for participants from French-speaking Territories in Africa; a regional statistical training centre, held in Nigeria; and a fisheries development training centre, held in Hong Kong.

FAO had continued to give assistance in home economics to Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean region in 1955 and 1956. An FAO home economist had been working with the Caribbean Commission since 1952 and there was close co-operation between that Commission, FAO and the Non-Self-Governing Territories

(Miss McNaughton, FAO)

of the area. Several short training courses, in which emphasis was placed on nutrition, practical home improvement, child development and family relations, had been organized for home economics teachers and other workers concerned with family living. A nine-month training course in home economics had been held in Jamaica during 1955 under the joint sponsorship of FAO and the Jamaican Government, for trainees from nine English-speaking Territories of the Caribbean. A second course, for which FAO had again provided a director, was being held during 1956.

A senior woman staff member of the Jamaican Ministry of Education had been awarded a twelve-month FAO fellowship for training abroad in home economics in 1956.

Early in 1956, a home economist had visited the Federation of Malaya, at the request of the Malayan Government, to make recommendations for the improvement of home and community life. FAO had now been requested to provide a home economist to work in rural areas in Malaya; she would be attached to the Rural Health Training Centre at Jitra. An FAO nutritionist had been assigned to the South Pacific Commission for twelve months from the beginning of 1956 to carry out surveys in collaboration with a WHO medical nutritionist.

She had spoken only of the technical assistance FAO was giving the Non-Self-Governing Territories in home economics and nutrition education; some 90 per cent of the assistance FAO gave those Territories was connected with agriculture.

Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) said that the international collaboration now under discussion was provided for in Article 73 d of the Charter. There was, however, another kind of collaboration which was equally important, that between the Administering and the non-administering Powers, which was wider in scope and was covered by Article 74 of the Charter. His delegation's position with regard to that Article had been clearly stated at the tenth session of the General Assembly.

It had been pointed out that the guiding principle in the establishment of policies for the Non-Self-Governing Territories was consideration of the interest of the inhabitants. The Committee had therefore to ask itself what was in the interest of the inhabitants. The answer might be different according

(Mr. Rivas, Venezuela)

to whether it was given by technical officers of the Administering Power or by the neighbours of the Territory concerned. An answer which took into account the interests of the whole region would certainly be the most realistic.

The Latin American countries, which were young and vigorous, were anxious to collaborate on the international plane, but their co-operation had not been requested. The necessity for studies had been stressed by several speakers and surveys had been made in some of the Territories, but the Latin American countries had not been asked to participate in any regional survey. Territories such as Belize (British Honduras), which were isolated from their neighbours through the action of the Administering Power, were an obstacle to the harmonious economic development of the whole area. The attainment of independence was the goal that had been repeatedly stressed but independence should be considered within the wider framework of economic interdependence. A number of regional conferences had been organized with the help of the specialized agencies but the Non-Self-Governing Territories had not been represented at them and had therefore had no spokesmen to defend their interests. He wished it to be clearly understood that his delegation respected the legal status of those Territories and was not raising the question of the sovereignty of any other countries over them; it was unfortunate, however, that they should be deprived of the technical assistance they might receive from the Organization of American States or the Inter-American Economic and Social Council.

Mr. CALLE Y CALLE (Peru) associated himself with the views expressed by the Venezuelan representative concerning the importance of regional economic co-operation.

In connexion with international collaboration in respect of economic, social and educational conditions, he said that a conference on primary education had been held in Peru and attended by the Ministers of Education of a large number of Latin American countries and observers from Territories under British administration. The conference had discussed a plan proposed by UNESCO for the training of 400,000 school masters over a period of ten years, with the co-operation of the interested countries. France had made a number of fellowships available in connexion with the plan.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.