

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

DOCUMENTS MASTER  
INDEX UNIT

SEP 8 X 1954



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/AC.35/SR.92  
7 September 1954  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Fifth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINETY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 24 August 1954, at 2.15 p.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. KHALIDY	(Iraq)
later	Mr. FRAZAO	(Brazil)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. LOOMES	Australia
	Mr. BATALHA de LIMA	Brazil
	Mr. HLA AUNG	Burma
	Mr. LIU YU-WAN	China
	Mr. SVEISTRUP	Denmark
	Mr. APUNTE	Ecuador
	Mr. HURE )	
	Mr. MOURRUAU )	France
	Mr. ARENALES	Guatemala
	Mr. SINGH	India
	Miss ROESAD	Indonesia
	Mr. SPITS )	
	Mr. GRADER )	Netherlands
	Mr. SCOTT	New Zealand
	Mr. GIDDEN )	
	Mr. LEYDEN )	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. GERIG )	
	Mr. ROSS )	United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. MATHEWS	International Labour Organisation
Mr. VOGEL	Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. ARNALDO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Dr. COIGNY	World Health Organization

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

The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the Committee, expressed sincere sympathy to the Brazilian representative on the death of President Vargas and called upon the Committee to observe one minute's silence.

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil) thanked the Chairman for the expressions of sympathy extended to his Government.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NON SELF GOVERNING TERRITORIES: (a) GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF THE 1951 REPORT ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND DEVELOPMENT IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/1836; A/AC.35/L.156, L.156/Add.1-4, L.159, L.161) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN stated that he intended to speak in his capacity as representative of Iraq, and asked the Vice-Chairman to take his place in the chair.

Mr. Frazao (Brazil) (Vice-Chairman) took the chair.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) recalled that the present century, "the century of the common man", inaugurated a new era in world history in which, as Professor Toynbee had said, humanity would have dared to think it possible that the largest number of people should share in the benefits of the earth. In that connexion it seemed evident that the era of colonialism was approaching its end. The Administering Powers realized that fact. In those circumstances he wondered why they did not let the colonial system die in an atmosphere of peace and friendship.

Turning to the Committee's task, he stressed that the Administering Powers should co-operate with the non-administering Powers in the interests of the indigenous peoples, as the differences which might arise between them would only retard the emancipation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Committee's members had given evidence of a praiseworthy spirit of co-operation in the past and there was every reason to think that they would do so in the future.

Referring to the reservations made by the French and United Kingdom representatives in regard to the Committee's competence, he felt that it was particularly unfortunate that the Members responsible for the administration of a large number of peoples which had not yet achieved national freedom should show a lack of understanding of the realities of the situation at a time when the development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards independence was proceeding with difficulty in an atmosphere of tension. The implementation of the principles set forth in Chapter XI of the Charter would continue to be a matter of international concern until the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were satisfied. The Administering Members might by now have realized that it would have been better for the peace and happiness of the world if, from the San Francisco Conference onwards, steps had been taken to give full effect to those principles rather than apparently to seek to restrict the role of the United Nations to the drafting of reports and the compilation of statistics.

While recognizing that the representatives of the Administering Powers had always been ready to provide information, he considered it unfortunate that that collaboration should be prefaced by grudging reservations.

In the same connexion he regretted the absence of the Belgian delegation, which had also not been represented on the Committee the previous year. The attitude of the Belgian Government in regard to the obligations assumed under Chapter XI of the Charter was mistaken, as all the Committee's members knew. One point worth noting was that the communication addressed to the Chairman of the Committee the previous year (A/AC.35/L.142) had given as a specific reason for the absence of Belgium the General Assembly resolution concerning self-determination and its decision to place that resolution on the Committee's agenda. That resolution had not been discussed by the Committee the previous year, nor did it appear on its agenda in the present year. The consequence was that the Committee would be deprived of the valuable assistance of Mr. Ryckmans or of his colleagues when the body of information furnished on the Belgian Congo was being considered, and that at the very time when, as he believed, a communication on the subject had just reached the Secretary-General. In that connexion it was necessary to stress the importance which was attached to the Committee's work by peoples which had had painful experience of the obstacles placed in the way of their development towards independence.

Before entering into the substance of the item, he wished to recall certain general principles by which the Committee could be guided in considering it. The Committee's terms of reference were laid down in General Assembly resolutions 332 (IV) and 333 (IV).

Under resolution 332 (IV) the Special Committee had been invited to examine the summaries and analyses of information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter and to make recommendations relating to functional fields generally. Under resolution 333 (IV) the Committee had been invited to give special attention to one field each year. In its present session the Committee was concerning itself mainly with economic conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories, but that did not mean that its task was confined exclusively to a consideration of those conditions from the technical viewpoint. The reports relating to functional fields generally which the Assembly had asked for (resolution 332 (IV)) should not induce the Committee to neglect the consideration of conditions in particular Territories. Similarly, while the Committee was not authorized to examine political conditions, it should not lose sight of the fact that political advancement would make it possible for the inhabitants to attain self-government, which was a basic objective of the Charter.

In the field of education he pointed out that peoples having very ancient cultures, and more particularly a Moslem civilization, suffered from discrimination against their children through educational principles dictated by the policies and prejudices of Western Europe.

He acknowledged that the interests of the administrators and of the administrated could be reconciled in the social and educational fields, and he was prepared to pay a tribute to the contribution which the peoples of the West had made to the development of the countries in which they had established themselves. In the economic field, however, the conflicts between the administrators and the administered were more serious on account of ambitions and the desire to accumulate profits.

Turning to the consideration of the documents, he congratulated the Secretariat on the excellent work it had done and expressed his thanks to Mr. Benson, Secretary of the Committee, who, under the guidance of Mr. Hoo, had spared no effort to complete his task successfully.

The most important document before the Committee was the report, dated 2-27 October 1951, of the Special Committee on Information Transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter. Under General Assembly resolution 645 (VII) the Committee had been invited to consider that information in the light of the views expressed in the special reports on educational, economic and social conditions. The Committee should therefore be guided by the views expressed in 1951, and should state in its report that it was so guided.

The report on economic conditions and problems of development emphasized that in development programmes, and by virtue of the principles of Articles 1 and 73 of the Charter, the point of primary importance was the interests of the inhabitants. It must be acknowledged, however, that that principle had not always been applied, and had even been violated, in the Territories in which large-scale settlement of Europeans competing with the indigenous communities for the use of the Territories' natural resources had taken place. The Territories occupied by Europeans had benefited generally through economic development, but that development had in many cases disturbed their social pattern and could be justified only in so far as it was directed to improving the standards of living of indigenous populations and the creation of conditions in which their legitimate social and national aspirations could be attained.

In that connexion, he was happy to recall that in 1951 Mr. Pignon, who had been the French representative on the Committee, had stated with regard to the economic situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under French Administration that the essential problem was to integrate indigenous production into the various schemes, to enable the indigenous populations to take a larger share in production.

If it were possible, economic development in general should be part of the development of the indigenous populations' economic, social and cultural freedom.

Reviewing the various forms of production in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, he pointed out that the indigenous inhabitants drew only limited profit from the general development of the Territories. He hoped that the

Administering Powers would give the Committee a description of the extent to which native economy was being developed so that the indigenous inhabitants could profit from the vastly increased means of production now available throughout the world. The documents submitted by the Secretariat were largely silent on that point. The question of the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the economic development of Non-Self-Governing Territories was examined in paragraphs 57 to 70 of document A/AC.35/L.156/Add.4. Many of the facts recorded were of such fundamental importance that inclusion of that passage in the Committee's report to the General Assembly might be considered. It was, however, for the Committee to assess those facts; it could do so only if informed by the Administering Authorities of their policy towards the increasingly apparent conflict developing in some Territories between indigenous economic interests and the foreign interests supported by the metropolitan Government and by metropolitan economic organizations.

He would give some concrete examples in support of his statements.

According to information given in document A/2657, the total recurrent revenue of Northern Rhodesia, which had been £15,000,000 in 1951, had risen to £30,000,000 in 1953. There had thus been a considerable increase in the national wealth of Northern Rhodesia. Yet it was stated in document A/AC.35/L.167 that the average expenditure for a European family in Northern Rhodesia was £93.2s.6d. per month. Document A/2657 contained the information that an African agricultural labourer in 1952 would earn an average of 32s.6d. per month, and an African employed in industry would earn 25s. to 400s. It might therefore be concluded that the average income of a European family established in Northern Rhodesia was usually four times higher than that of the highest paid African working in industry and twenty times higher than that of an African agricultural worker. It thus became clear who was profiting from the mineral wealth of Northern Rhodesia.

With regard to the Belgian Congo, the information transmitted was confusing and out of date and he wondered if the Fourth Committee of the Assembly would not have to consider setting up a sub-committee in which the representative of Belgium might reply to a number of questions on the information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter. From the documents submitted to the Committee, it would appear that that Territory was going through a period of prosperity. The question arose, however, as to whether it was the Belgian Congo, as a political entity, which was prospering, or whether it was the Administering Authority or certain groups of Belgian nationality. Table 18 in document A/AC.36/L.167 showed that food consumption had increased by approximately 50 per cent between 1938 and 1951. Those figures were encouraging, but it would be interesting to know if that percentage applied to the African population of the Belgian Congo in general or to only a part of that population.

He commented briefly on the situation in Nigeria, and went on to suggest that all the problems he had mentioned faded into insignificance in comparison with those raised by European domination and settlement in North Africa.

In 1951, the Committee had expressed certain views on the alienation of indigenous land to Europeans. In clear but cautious language, the Committee had drawn attention to the social tension between classes or races which might be caused by the existence of non-indigenous estates. In Morocco and in Tunisia, large areas of the best and the most fertile land were held and cultivated by European settlers. In Morocco, from the institution of the Protectorate, a decree of 31 August 1914 had prescribed the expropriation of land owned by the Moroccan peasantry for so-called reasons of public utility. Thanks to the expropriation laws and the imposition of a system of land registration, nearly one million hectares, i.e., one-seventh of the land under cultivation, was held in Morocco by a handful of European settlers.

In 1951, the Committee had stated that where estates were not efficiently operated, administrations should reduce them or take steps to ensure more



efficient operation. The average yield per hectare on European estates in Morocco was from 10 to 12 quintals, while on the Moroccan farms it was from 5 to 6 quintals in good years. That was due to the fact that the system of land settlement was favourable to the Europeans, who received assistance, while the indigenous farmers were condemned to plunge deeper and deeper into debt. As a result, a rural proletariat of one and a half million inhabitants, out of a total population of nine million, had been created in Morocco, and that proletariat was living in starvation conditions.

Furthermore, seventeen million hectares in Morocco were held by 850,000 or 900,000 Moroccan farmers, while over one million hectares were held by less than 5,000 Europeans. The Committee should in the current year draw attention to the dangerous repercussions likely to arise from alienation of land to the detriment of the indigenous population and should make a categorical statement in favour of returning to indigenous farmers land alienated to settlers, who were being encouraged by the Administration to acquire land needed by the indigenous population.

He then pointed out that the settlement of land was not the only form of economic exploitation. The fiscal system was even more effective. It was clear for example from document A/AC.35/L.161, that in Morocco 41.2 per cent of direct taxation was provided by the land tax, payable by all land owners. In 1947, Moroccans had paid 2,352,000,000 francs for the land tax and the Europeans 125,000,000 francs.

The Committee should during the current year consider the problem of discrimination in the field of economics and economic development. In that connexion, the basic problem posed by Mr. Pignon in 1951, i.e. the integration of indigenous effort in all forms of economic planning, must be studied. That end had been achieved throughout large areas of West Africa, but not in a large part of East Africa and most of North Africa. However it might be, the objective could not be achieved without giving to the indigenous inhabitants freedom of expression and freedom to determine the policy to be followed in the political, social and educational fields. That was an essential condition of the fulfilment of the obligations of Chapter XI of the Charter.

Although the Committee at its current session was concerned particularly with the study of economic conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, it was nonetheless, under resolution 333 (IV) of the General Assembly, examining "the other two functional fields" mentioned in Article 73 e of the Charter. It was on the basis of that text that he was intending to comment on certain important questions of principle and of fact in relation to education.

He noted in document A/AC/35/L.175 certain encouraging points concerning which he would like fuller information in future, namely: the creation of a university college on an inter-racial basis, to serve Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland (document A/AC.35/L.175, paragraph 6), and the development of teacher training for Malayan teachers (paragraph 11). With regard to Kenya, where the schools had been closed (paragraph 16), he would for the present abstain from comment and was confident that the United Kingdom Government would attach the greatest importance to education in the restoration of peace in that Territory.

Information transmitted by the French Government showed that in Tunisia the attendance of indigenous children in the Government elementary schools had increased by 20,000 boys and 13,000 girls between 1951 and 1953. The number of non-indigenous pupils had increased by 2,000. Those figures might be thought to indicate a favourable development in education, were it not for the fact that the total increase in the Tunisian population was about 70,000 inhabitants per annum. It had to be recognized, however, that results had been achieved on which the public authorities were to be congratulated, but similar efforts did not appear to have been made in education above the elementary level. In secondary education, the number of Tunisian pupils had risen from 5,127 to 7,007 boys and 964 to 1,406 girls in the years 1951-1953. The number of non-indigenous pupils in 1953 had been 3,103 and 2,981 girls. The number of indigenous pupils in the technical schools was 7,853, and there had been an increase of 600 boys and 500 girls between 1951 and 1953. The number of non-indigenous pupils in those schools had been 4,983 in 1953. The teachers' training colleges had only had 226 Tunisian students in 1953. With regard to higher education, the number of indigenous pupils had fallen from 1,264 in 1952 to 833 in 1953. It was clear from that information that the non-indigenous pupils and students held a privileged position in the educational system of the country.

He also drew the attention of Committee members to the land problem in Tunisia and recalled that in 1951, according to the statistics drawn up by the Secretariat, the area of land under cultivation had been about 3,000 square miles. But that figure, which was apparently still applicable, gave no indication of the value of the land or the extent of indigenous holdings. Document A/AC.35/L.158, prepared by the Secretariat, gave no figures on the subject. The best land was in the hands of foreign settlers, who enjoyed a privileged position, while the economic machinery of the country was geared to favour them at the expense of the indigenous majority.

But a recent event had changed the position in Tunisia: the Prime Minister of France had declared to the Bey of Tunis and to the world France's intention of granting Tunisia full internal self-government. He would exercise restraint, in order to avoid impeding a solution to the problem which would prove that France was still capable of generosity and realism.

The Committee, in his opinion, was responsible for expediting the progress already to be noted in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The representatives of the non-Administering Powers would doubtless find it easy to part company with the representatives of the colonial Powers, whose imperialist policy was obviously irretrievably doomed by historical evolution. In the face of the stubborn refusal of the Belgian representatives to take part in the Committee's work, the question might be raised whether it might not be advisable to declare the economic independence of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Yet it seemed preferable to act with greater moderation. Members of the Committee who represented the Administering Powers might come to an agreement with the representatives of the non-Administering Powers to declare more positively than they had in their 1951 statement the importance which all peace-loving nations attached to the economic independence of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Such a declaration should be general in character, but

should make a special reference to countries which had a long heritage of independence and a valid culture and religion of their own. He would not make a formal proposal at that stage, but suggested that the Committee's report to the General Assembly might first recall the principles set forth in 1951 and then briefly state the opinion that, as events of 1951 clearly showed, economic advancement in the Non-Self-Governing Territories was dependent on their attainment of the ability to determine their economic policies themselves. If the Administering Powers associated themselves with such a declaration, they would give the best possible evidence of their wish fully to comply with the commitments which they had assumed by signing the United Nations Charter.

Mr. SINGH (India) asked the Committee to appraise certain figures which he thought most impressive. Sixty Non-Self-Governing Territories covered an area of 10 million square miles and had a population of 178 million. Thus, a land area ten times the size of India, more than three times the size of the United States and one-fifth of the total land area of the world had still to achieve self-government or independence. The figures were even more impressive if account was taken of not only the Self-Governing Territories but also of the Trust Territories and certain other territories with which the United Nations had no connection. It was staggering to find that in the year 1954 such a vast portion of the human race had still to achieve freedom and fundamental rights. The Non-Self-Governing Territories were not only genuinely dependent, but, worse, they were administered by States which claimed to make up the free world - the Western Powers. To quote Mr. Mendès-France, a statesman of vision and action, France had refused to the North Africans the very freedom which it itself had taught them. The free world would not deserve its name so long as a single territory did not enjoy self-government or independence and so long as a single indigenous inhabitant could not claim to be a truly free man.

All members of the Committee proposed by joint endeavour to work for the improvement of the indigenous peoples' position and the promotion of constructive action for economic, social and educational advancement. The Indian delegation did not intend to take a position of continuous criticism, but would not fail to raise the strongest possible criticisms whenever they were necessary. The Administering Powers had only themselves to blame if criticism sometimes went beyond bounds. He cited a statement by the British Labour Party, published in the New York Times of 23 August 1954, that the poverty and backwardness in the British colonies were a challenge to the policy of Great Britain, which had drawn great wealth from those territories. Self-government should be granted to all territories under United Kingdom administration as soon as their inhabitants showed that they could govern themselves democratically. If the criticisms he made were unjustified, he would not fail to take note of any corrections. If they were fair, he hoped that the Administering Powers would take steps to remedy the situation.

Members of the Committee should consider any proposals submitted to them on their merits, not from any other point of view. It was regrettable that Belgium had again not seen fit to be represented on the Committee. However, the Belgian Government deserved commendation for its remarkable success in the Congo. It was encouraging that the territories administered by Belgium were not the only ones to have achieved such success. Thus, the Government of Uganda had built the Owen Falls Dam, railways, roads, a cement plant, a textile factory, a phosphate fertilizer factory and so forth. It was cause for satisfaction that certain Administering Powers had attached experts to their delegations, in particular indigenous experts, and the Secretariat was to be congratulated for the excellent work it had done in preparing the documentation before the Committee.

The Indian delegation had carefully studied the document on the economic situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and had heard with interest the statements made to the Committee. The development plans, the scope of which seemed impressive, should in general make it possible to improve the economic situation of the under-developed territories and of the territories

which had not yet known economic advancement and to raise their inhabitants' standard of living. He would, however, like to know exactly what increase in per capita income the execution of the programmes would entail. He was not unaware of the difficulties encountered in calculating, for instance, the cost-of-living index or family budgets of various income groups, and he drew the attention of the Administering Powers to the importance of statistical surveys in that respect and to the need to improve them. Although the number of geologists and other experts had greatly increased recently, it was still far from meeting requirements. The Administering Powers undoubtedly recognized the need to increase still further the number of surveys in view of the importance of reliable statistics in drawing up development plans.

The plans showed two things. First, the Administering Powers believed that isolated projects unrelated to the general plan could have only a small effect on the economic life of a territory and that, as the resources of such a territory were limited, all waste must be avoided through planned development. Secondly, the fact that these plans existed was proof that the idea of the international division of labour regarded as ideal by the older economists and the traditional colonialists had been abandoned. In a mercantilist system of that kind the colonies produced agricultural foodstuffs and raw materials for the metropolitan country, which exported manufactured goods to the territories; the colonies were mere agricultural appendages of the metropolitan country and were not to possess industries, as they might compete dangerously with the industries of the metropolitan country.

In 1951 the Committee had emphasized in its report that the Non-Self-Governing Territories produced 50 per cent of the world production of bauxite, but did not manufacture aluminium, and had reached similar conclusions about cocoa, cane-sugar, lime, cotton and so forth.

He was happy to see that the Administering Authorities were tending to set up industrial enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to diversify the local economy. It was to be hoped that this trend would continue, as it was profitable not only to the Territories concerned but also to all

countries. The cost of production should not be the sole criterion by which the Administering Powers decided to develop industry in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Although the cost of production was often higher than it was in the metropolitan country, that difference was more than made up by the advantages accruing to a territory from the establishment of the industry. Many unemployed would be able to obtain vocational training and the goods manufactured might perhaps find an outlet on the markets of neighbouring countries, but the Administering Powers should eliminate unnecessary competition by the regional co-ordination of economic activities, perhaps by means of customs unions. In allocating funds as between the various budget items, the Administering Powers should give greater weight to social expenditures, and it was to be hoped that they would do so as soon as they could. The Administering Powers were at present laying particular stress on economic programmes, the purpose of which was to ensure increased production and to improve productivity in the territory concerned. One major problem was the mechanization of agriculture and mining in the Non-Self-Governing Territories the economies of most of which were based on a single crop or mineral. The Report recommended the use of manures and fertilizers and the improvement of plant breeding. However, in view of the high cost of fertilizers, it might be more economical for territories with large areas of uncultivated land to leave exhausted land fallow for anything up to twenty years; the Administering Powers could give financial and technical assistance in clearing the new land. In that connexion it might be useful to train agricultural officers to advise and guide farmers and show them how to increase yields. There was considerable maldistribution of cultivable land. In addition, large areas had been taken from the indigenous inhabitants and given to settlers, thus producing volcanic situations which the Indian delegation deeply deplored, because it felt that violence was the very negation of civilization. Instead of postponing land reforms until after the emergency, the Administering Authorities should institute measures of reform as soon as possible in order to reduce the tension.

The tension had also had the effect of discouraging the investment of capital from abroad in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He hoped that when normal conditions were restored, the flow of capital would be resumed. The economies of a majority of the Territories were based on a single export crop, with the result that in many cases, as the FAO had pointed out in its 1951 report, that the export crop was cultivated at the expense of food crops. The Administering Authorities should ensure that a balance was maintained between food and cash crops, in order to avoid the threat of famine and to provide the inhabitants with a satisfactory diet. Moreover, as cash crops brought wealth to only a small minority of the population, steps should be taken to ensure that the producers themselves got the maximum profit possible. In that connexion, he recommended the setting up of producer co-operatives which seemed to be the only way of achieving the desired purpose. While recognizing the practical benefits of the produce marketing boards, he pointed out, as Mr. Henry Collins had stated, in "The New West Africa", that the boards did not pay world market prices. As commodity prices had been high ever since the end of the second world war, the boards had accumulated substantial surpluses and could exercise a decisive influence on the incomes of the primary producers. In addition he had pointed out that West Africa had contributed to the improvement of the dollar position of the sterling area. Thus, the United Kingdom had obtained more dollars in one year from the Non-Self-Governing Territories than had been spent on the Territories over a ten year period under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. He hoped that the Administering Authority would give some clarification on those points.

In 1951 the United States representative had said that the economic development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should not be allowed to become a casualty of the defence programmes. Unfortunately, economic development had become a casualty in some Territories in spite of the defence programmes. Although some Territories had received capital as a result of the Point-4 Programme, the benefit to the indigenous inhabitants of such investments had been very small. The foreign capital had enabled some firms to expand their



activities but the expansion had been of benefit only to the shareholders since local labour was employed at the lowest possible rate.

It was often said that the indigenous inhabitants were incompetent and illiterate. However, as Mr. Davidson had reported in the The New Statesman and Nation, the West African workers could now achieve 70 per cent of the output of skilled European workers. In metal-working, Africans were handling tools that were accurate to one-hundredth of a millimetre, and their average productivity was already over half that of a highly skilled European.

His delegation had been gratified to read that report because it had never felt that a human being's capacity depended on his ethnic origin. If the indigenous inhabitants were incompetent or illiterate, it was because they had been denied training and education - it was not intelligence they lacked but opportunity.

He hoped that the kind of opportunity given by the Belgians to the inhabitants of the Congo would be given by other Administering Authorities to the indigenous inhabitants of their Territories.

There were certain principles by which the Administering Powers should be guided in their policies towards the Non-Self-Governing Territories. First, they should ensure that raw materials were used in such a way as to create a diversified economy, and should make sure that revenue obtained from the export of exhaustible resources such as petroleum were used to finance a programme of general development.

Where territories were rich in raw materials, the Administering Authority should make use of the bargaining power that gave them to obtain technical assistance and capital from abroad to develop other sectors of their economies and improve their human and material resources.

Modern methods of producing and processing raw materials required the development of skills among the local employees and the experience so acquired was likely to be transferred to other branches of activity, thus facilitating general economic growth.

In that connexion, it would be useful if the Secretariat indicated the extent to which indigenous inhabitants participated in the economic activities of their territories.

Experts considered that the demand for basic commodities on the world market would be sustained throughout the coming decade. Nevertheless the demand for some products would necessarily fluctuate and the Non-Self-Governing Territories were rightly concerned about the possible consequences.

His delegation would therefore repeat the suggestion it had made the year before regarding international agreements for the stabilization of the demand for raw materials. Stabilization would permit territories whose economies were heavily dependent on raw material demand to have some assurance of a uniform rate of income and would make it easier for them to plan their development. He welcomed the fact that in some Territories taxation policies were designed to encourage commercial interests to reinvest their profits.

Industrialization, in the broad sense, was impossible without the modernization of agriculture; otherwise, industrial expansion was likely to be cut short for lack of markets since the vast majority of the people would not have the necessary purchasing power. Conversely, agricultural progress was impossible unless there was industrial development to absorb the released manpower and to provide a basis for the equipment and services essential to modern agriculture.

The measures most urgently needed and likely to contribute most to economic development could only be determined by the Administering Authorities after careful study.

As the representative of Iraq had pointed out, there was a close relationship between political and economic development. The kind of economic development was also important: in some cases, notably in the French Territories in North Africa, economic development had created strong vested interests in colonial states. However, economic development that produced an indigenous middle class and a wide distribution of economic and political power was a preparation for political freedom. For that reason exclusive concentration on the extraction of local resources for sale abroad was not a sound policy.

Lastly, action should be taken to increase the supply of management skills the lack of which was one of the chief obstacles to economic progress in all under-developed areas.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

Mr. VOGEL (Food and Agriculture Organization) pointed out that exports of agricultural commodities had expanded in recent years and that prices had for the most part been favourable to the exporters. At the same time, priority had been given to production for export at the expense of commodities needed for local consumption. Greater employment in non-agricultural enterprises had, in a number of Territories, created increased local purchasing power and consumer demand for basic foods. Increased inter-territorial trade had made it possible to meet some of those food requirements. Most agricultural commodity prices were declining in the world market but the prices of agricultural commodities required by many Territories to supplement local food supplies were generally high in relation to local food prices. Surpluses of export commodities were appearing in some Territories and importing countries were trying to take advantage of the situation to obtain more favourable terms. He believed that efforts should be made to adjust production to the world market and to increase production efficiency. The problem of surpluses which was being studied by a number of Governments and also by an FAO committee might be solved by the donation or sale of surplus commodities at favourable prices under conditions where such supplies did not compete with normal trade. They might, for instance, be used to supply canteens for workers on public works projects and for school-feeding schemes.

Mr. BENSON (Secretary of the Committee) said that the reports drawn up by the Secretariat would shortly be supplemented by further information recently provided by a number of Administering Powers. With regard to the participation of indigenous inhabitants, the Secretariat had given considerable attention to it, wherever it seemed reasonable to do so, as could be seen from document A/AC.35/L.156/Add.4. Nevertheless it was not enough to give figures; it was necessary also to know the degree of effective participation of the

indigenous inhabitants in the economic development of their Territories. The representatives of the Powers themselves, however, were in a better position to give exact information on that point. He recalled that that question had been touched upon in the Committee by the United Kingdom representative in connexion with Uganda and by the United States representative in connexion with the Virgin Islands.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.