

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/AC.35/SR.161  
23 September 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Eighth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Thursday, 1 August 1957, at 10.45 a.m.

CONTENTS:

Economic conditions and development in Non-Self-Governing Territories  
(continued):

- (f) Social aspects of economic development (A/AC.35/L.248, L.250)
- (g) Other questions (A/AC.35/L.254 and Add.1)

Educational conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories:

- (a) Questions arising out of the reports on education approved by the General Assembly (A/3217, Part II; A/AC.35/L.249)
- (b) Information on education contained in the summaries prepared by the Secretary-General (A/3602, A/3603, A/3606, A/3607, A/3608, A/3609)

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. VIXSEBOXSE	(Netherlands)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. RYAN	Australia
	Mr. DURAISWAMY	Ceylon
	Mr. Y.W. LIU	China
	Mr. TOUROT)	
	Mr. WARNOD)	France
	Mr. ARAGON	Guatemala
	Mr. JAIPAL	India
	Mr. PACHACHI	Iraq
	Mr. IDENBURG)	
	Mr. GRADER )	Netherlands
	Mr. THORP	New Zealand
	Mr. VELANDO	Peru
	Mr. GIDDEN)	United Kingdom of Great Britain
	Mr. SELWYN)	and Northern Ireland
	Mr. SEARS)	
	Mr. LYNN )	United States of America
	Mr. ALFONZO-RAVARD)	
	Mr. ROJAS )	Venezuela

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. METALL	International Labour Organization
Mr. ORR )	
Mr. ABERCROMBIE)	Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Mrs. MEAGHER	World Health Organization
<u>Secretariat:</u> Mr. COHEN	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories
Mr. BENSON	Secretary of the Committee

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND DEVELOPMENT IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued):

(f) SOCIAL ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (A/AC.35/L.248, L.250)

(g) OTHER QUESTIONS (A/AC.35/L.254 and Add.1)

Mr. Y.W. LIU (China) agreed with the statement in paragraph 13 (b) of the UNESCO report on the social aspects of industrialization in Africa South of the Sahara in rural areas (A/AC.35/L.250), that industrialization might be defined as a change in the economy characterized by the introduction of machinery, increased production for profit-selling and the employment of wage-earning labour in each unit of production.

He recalled the statement he had made at the 157th meeting regarding the disruption caused in his country by too rapid industrialization and said that after reading the UNESCO report and the Secretariat report on social aspects of economic development: peasant societies in transition (A/AC.35/L.248), he was convinced that industrialization had good, bad and neutral effects.

Its positive and negative effects were outlined in paragraph 58 of the UNESCO report. The neutral effects were in his opinion, the breakdown of traditional or tribal structure; the annual or seasonal migration of manpower; the creation of new social and economic groups in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and the impact of industrialization on the various religions of the Territories.

As had been stated at an earlier session of the Committee, the tribal structure was the very foundation of some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and while a breakdown of that structure would have a bad effect on the population, tribal life was often the main obstacle to social and economic development.

New social and economic groups had arisen as the result of industrialization. In that connexion he referred to the chapter in the Secretariat report entitled "Indigenous merchants and traders". The great majority of those merchants were European, Syrian, Indian or Chinese. It would therefore be better to refer to all the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories as the "inhabitants", and not the "indigenous inhabitants", of the Territories.

SYMBOL A/AC.35/SR 1/1

Page 4

BLANK PAGE

(Mr. Gidden, United Kingdom)

Part of the strength of the sterling area lay in the fact that the economies of the countries in it were complementary. There were industrial countries like the United Kingdom, agricultural countries like many of the United Kingdom Territories and New Zealand, as well as countries whose economies were at various stages of industrial development. Moreover, in terms of direction of trade the countries were complementary. For example, the United Kingdom usually had a deficit on its balance of payments on current account with the dollar area, and a surplus on its balance with the rest of the sterling area. Australia also normally had a deficit with the dollar area. Among the Non-Self-Governing Territories under United Kingdom administration, the Malayan area and West Africa normally had a surplus with the dollar area, but a deficit with the sterling area, while the West Indies were sometimes in surplus and sometimes in deficit with the dollar area, and usually in slight deficit with the sterling area. That pattern reflected the pattern of trade. For example, a large proportion of Malayan rubber and West African cocoa was exported to the United States of America; as long as that pattern remained unchanged, so would dollars earned by Malaya and West Africa be spent in the sterling area, whether those dollars were kept in the central dollar pool or not. It was untrue to suggest that that involved any exploitation of Malaya by the other countries of the sterling area, or by the United Kingdom in particular. It was evident that the Malayan Ministers themselves did not think that they were losing by that process, since they had decided to stay in the sterling area after independence and would presumably continue to keep their reserves mainly in sterling and to pay their dollar earnings into the central dollar pool.

Replying to the Indian representative's request at the 158th meeting for some explanation of the fact that approximately half the land area of Swaziland was in non-African hands, he said that towards the latter part of the nineteenth century Banzone, the then Swazi ruler, had granted rights of all kinds to European immigrants, including rights to land, minerals, grazing and timber, to exemption from taxes, to railways, telegraphs, mining patents, the collection of revenues and trading. All unoccupied land had also formed the

(Mr. Gidden, United Kingdom)

object of concessions. All such rights and grants had been made in return for money and other payments. That unsatisfactory situation had first been tackled under the terms of what was called the Concessions Partition Proclamation of 1907. A substantial area of land under the terms of that Proclamation had been recovered for the use of, and occupation by, the Swazi. Since that time further substantial areas had been purchased for the Swazi nation and some small farms had been purchased by individual Africans. In addition, land had been purchased under the Native Land Settlement Scheme to which had been added certain Crown land. Thus the situation as it now stood meant that rather more than half of the available land was occupied by, or set aside for, the Swazi people. The process had thus been the reverse of what might normally be found in the case of land alienation. Although the recovery of land from non-African possession occurred in other Territories, he was not aware of any case such as Swaziland where such very comprehensive rights and concessions had been obtained by the first European immigrants.

The representative of India had also asked for information on how much of the development expenditure in Kenya was for the benefit of the African population. It was very difficult to give information in that form, since much expenditure - for example, on roads and other developments of the infrastructure - was for the general benefit of the Territory as a whole and not for one race or another. All he could do was to give certain items from the development plan which were stated to be specifically for the African population, but the Committee must realize that that was not a complete picture.

The major items of the development expenditure specifically on behalf of the African population were the Swynnerton Plan for the development of African Agriculture on which some £5 million had been spent in 1954-1957 and on which it was planned to spend a further £5.7 million in 1957-1960; African housing, on which £1.4 million had been spent in 1954-1957 and it was planned to spend £1.6 million in 1957-1960, about three-quarters of which was being borrowed from the Colonial Development Corporation; and African education, on which

/...

(Mr. Gidden, United Kingdom)

£1.2 million had been spent in 1954-1957 and it was planned to spend almost £1 million in 1957-1960. Of the total expenditure of £35.5 million in 1954-1957, and £23 million planned for 1957-1960, by far the greater part was on schemes from which Africans would benefit, since they were for the development of the Territory as a whole.

Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq) thanked the United Kingdom representative for his interesting explanation of the complex workings of the sterling area, with which his country had close relationships.

He had not suggested in his statement that there had been any exploitation of Malaya but had merely wished to point out a fact, which, he felt, had been admitted and corroborated by the United Kingdom representative, namely the earnings of Malayan rubber were important to the balance of payments of the sterling area vis-à-vis the dollar area. That fact could not be contested. Whether Malaya was getting back an equivalent amount of profit or of advantages in proportion to what the sterling area was getting was another matter; it was his impression that Malaya was not getting much. He was glad to hear that the Malayan Ministers were satisfied and he hoped that after Malaya had achieved independence it would be in a better position to derive more benefit from its dollar earnings.

Mr. JAIPAL (India) reserved his delegation's right to offer some additional observations on item 4 (g) at a later meeting.

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) wished, in view of the comments made by some members of the Committee concerning the European Common Market, to express his delegation's views on the subject. He did so with some hesitation, however, for he felt that any discussion on the new arrangements would be premature, since the relevant treaties had not yet entered into force. Moreover, in addition to the economic and social aspects of the arrangements there might be political implications, discussion of which would exceed the Committee's terms of reference. Furthermore, the six countries contemplating participation in the Common Market were preparing to enter on a full exchange of views at the Conference of GATT, which was the most appropriate body to consider the matter.

/...

(Mr. Idenburg, Netherlands)

Notwithstanding those reservations he wished to express the conviction that the misgivings voiced by some members of the Committee, and particularly by the representative of Ceylon, that the Common Market would impede the progress of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards economic independence were quite unfounded. As the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs had stated at the twenty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council, the association of the overseas territories with the ECM would prove a positive contribution to their advancement, in that existing bilateral relationships would be in some measure multilateralized and the accelerated economic development of those territories would in itself contribute to the political development of those areas.

The concern of the Administering Powers for the economic and social development of their overseas territories was, in his view, illustrated by their provision for an investment fund for the development of a firm social and economic infrastructure in the associated overseas territories. He could not agree with the representative of India that the amount involved was inadequate: it was not contemplated as the sole contribution for capital investment but was supplementary.

He furthermore felt that premature conclusions might have been drawn from the word "association" in relation to the overseas territories, which could not be fully understood without first acquiring fuller knowledge of the European Economic Community itself. It might therefore be advisable to await the results of the studies undertaken by the GATT Conference. He would point out, however, that that association did not mean full integration in, or exclusion from, the operation of the ECM. It was an intermediate course designed solely to enable the overseas territories to share as much as possible in the expected increase of prosperity and it would unquestionably benefit the peoples who had not yet attained a full measure of self-government.

Mr. WARNOD (France) drew attention to the considerable efforts made by the French Government in granting financial assistance to the overseas territories. The reports showed that for the period 1944 to 1955 the national income of the three large African Federations had increased by 600,000 million French francs, of which 350,000 million were due entirely to the impact of investments. While



(Mr. Warnod, France)

local investments played an important part, those of FIDES and the Caisse Centrale de la France d'outre-mer had had a decisive influence. In spite of the significant progress made, it was fully realized that the rate of increase in national income could not be maintained without increasing investments by the metropolitan country in the overseas territories.

It had been suggested that France might have contributed more in that direction, or failing that, that other industrial countries could have done more. To judge of that, however, French overseas investments must be viewed in the light of the total investments made by the advanced countries in the under-developed countries. In order to equal the assistance given by France to its Overseas Territories, the various under-developed countries would have had to receive approximately 90,000 million dollars over the past ten years, whereas, despite substantial loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and considerable assistance from the United States of America, what might be properly termed "curative" aid had scarcely amounted to 1,000 million dollars in 1955. In the field of private investments, in which the United States and the United Kingdom took the lead, the total amounts received by the under-developed countries had not been more than 1,000 million dollars. In fact, international investments, bilateral public investments and private investments combined averaged no more than 3,000 million dollars a year. The facts showed that of all the industrialized countries France, in proportion to its national income, had made by far the greatest effort on behalf of the under-developed countries. Such assistance was a heavy burden on the taxpayer of metropolitan France. The French Government was now fully aware of its leading role in giving assistance to under-developed countries and in its desire to assist the development of overseas countries was trying to work out methods which might guide international efforts in the future. In the field of rural economy in particular, much remained to be done, but original formulas had nonetheless been tried out. Also, in view of the lack of international bodies in the field of raw material price stabilization, really effective methods had been applied.

The peoples of the under-developed countries found it increasingly difficult to agree that gifts made to them should take the form of charity. They did not wish such assistance to come to them from outside, but felt that it should take forms which had been worked out jointly by the recipient and the donor countries.

/...

(Mr. Warnod, France)

Except in the case of the Colombo Plan, which had assumed an entirely new form, that fact did not seem to have been grasped at all clearly. In that field too, the French community was a microcosm where, by degrees, new formulas for co-operation could be drawn up.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES:

- (a) QUESTIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORTS ON EDUCATION APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/3217, Part II; A/AC.35/L.249);
- (b) INFORMATION ON EDUCATION CONTAINED IN THE SUMMARIES PREPARED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/3602, A/3603, A/3606, A/3607, A/3608, A/3609)

Mr. SALSAMENDI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) presented the UNESCO report on the eradication of illiteracy (A/AC.35/L.249). It reflected the agency's continuing concern with illiteracy throughout the world, and in particular in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It included tables showing the estimated distribution of the world's illiterate population in 1950 and the estimated number and percentage of adult illiterates in various Non-Self-Governing Territories in 1955. It briefly outlined UNESCO's direct and indirect assistance to the administering Members in carrying out fundamental education campaigns in the Territories; one of UNESCO's major problems in that connexion was the preparation of materials in the vernacular languages. There were at present nine fundamental education projects in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: seven were in Africa, one in Singapore and one in Jamaica. The Travelling Libraries of Visual Aids for Fundamental Education had been circulated in sixteen Territories and exhibitions and training courses had been organized in co-operation with the competent government services.

The report further drew attention to UNESCO's work in preparing periodicals for new literate audiences and to the important fact that it was preparing a handbook on the problems of small printing plants in under-developed countries. Perhaps the most significant UNESCO publication at present in the Press was a world-wide statistical survey on illiteracy entitled World Illiteracy at Mid-Century. Finally, the report of the UNESCO Committee of Experts on Standardization of Educational Statistics was available to any members of the Committee who might wish to consult it.

Mr. ROJAS (Venezuela) said that his delegation's position with respect to education in the Non-Self-Governing Territories continued to be based on the

/...

(Mr. Rojas, Venezuela)

objectives enumerated in General Assembly resolution 743 (VIII). Since, as the Committee had recognized in its 1953 report, inadequate education impeded the progress of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-government, it was a major duty of the Administering Members to promote education, their primary concern being the eradication of illiteracy. Venezuela noted with satisfaction the resolution adopted by the 1956 UNESCO General Conference (A/AC.35/L.249, paragraph 2) and appreciated the assistance UNESCO was giving a number of dependent territories through fundamental education projects and the distribution of document .on. Any effort to reduce the dimensions of the problem of illiteracy deserved full support. As the tables in the UNESCO report indicated, the highest illiteracy rates were those in the Non-Self-Governing Territories; the eradication of that factor should take precedence over the solution of all other educational problems in the Territories. While Venezuela appreciated the difficulties encountered by the Administering Members in that task, it felt that, as the French representative had pointed out in an earlier intervention, the two basic educational problems in the Territories remained fundamental mass education and the training of élites.

His delegation was particularly concerned also with the question of financing educational advancement in the Territories. The Committee had recognized the urgency of the question in its 1956 report and had asked the Administering Members to give special attention to it. The Conference on Public Education held in Geneva in July 1956 had further recommended that in financing education Governments should not discriminate on grounds of race, nationality, religion or social position. The Administering Members should take into account the recommendations of that Conference and make every effort to implement them.

Illiteracy was closely related to school enrolment and compulsory education. It was encouraging to find a general increase in school enrolment in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in French West Africa. Expenditure on education had similarly increased, but in view of the continuing seriousness of the problem budget appropriations for education should be still further increased. It was regrettable, for example, that funds for education in Barbados had been reduced in 1955; an explanation of that reduction would be welcome. It was also to be hoped that the problem of education in British Guiana would receive the , special attention of the Administering Member. The Venezuelan delegation had been

/...

(Mr. Rojas, Venezuela)

alarmed at the findings of a committee which had surveyed the situation in that Territory in 1952, to the effect that conditions of free and compulsory education could not exist in practice and would probably not be brought about in the near future. The educational needs of the Territory were increasing out of all proportion to the possibilities of financing education. Venezuela did not agree that advances in education depended in the final analysis on the savings which could be made within the general development programme, on materials and teacher-training and by reducing the primary school curriculum. Funds for education should have priority, inasmuch as education was the key to the integration of the individual in society. The Administering Members concerned with the Territories of Aden, West New Guinea and North Borneo, all of which had extremely high illiteracy rates, should exert new efforts to reduce illiteracy. Teacher-training was another vitally important measure to be taken in all the dependent territories. Finally, it should be borne in mind that achievements in education must be closely related to indigenous life and culture.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.