

**UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**



**Distr.  
GENERAL**

**A/AC.35/SR.169  
9 June 1958  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH**

**COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES**

**Ninth Session**

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH MEETING**

**Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 15 April 1958, at 2.45 p.m.**

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. LALL	(India)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. KELLY	Australia
	Mr. CASTRO ALVEZ	Brazil
	Mr. DURAISWAMY	Ceylon
	Mr. YANG	China
	Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET	France
	Mr. ROLZ BENNETT	Guatemala
	Mr. NATARAJAN	India
	Mr. KITTANI	Iraq
	Mr. VIXSTEBXSE )	Netherlands
	Mr. GRADER )	
	Mr. THORP	New Zealand
	Sir Andrew COHEN )	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. CASTON )	
	Mr. SEARS	United States of America
	Mr. ALFONZO-RAVARD	Venezuela

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. METALL )	International Labour Organisation
Mr. PAYRO )	
Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Dr. SACKS	World Health Organization

<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. COHEN	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES:**

- (a) GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS 1954-1956 (A/AC.35/L.274 and Corr.1);
- (b) SOCIAL ASPECTS OF URBANIZATION:
  - (1) FAMILY CHANGE IN URBAN-INDUSTRIAL AREAS (A/AC.35/L.278);
  - (11) FAMILY EARNINGS IN URBAN-INDUSTRIAL AREAS (A/AC.35/L.282);
  - (111) HOUSING CONDITIONS AND POLICIES (A/AC.35/L.274 and Corr.1, A/AC.35/L.277);
- (c) JUVENILE DELINQUENCY (A/AC.35/L.270);
- (d) SOCIAL ASSISTANCE MEASURES (A/AC.35/L.267);
- (e) ASPECTS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
  - (1) PEASANT SOCIETIES IN TRANSITION (A/AC.35/L.248);
  - (11) INDIGENOUS LAND TENURE IN CHANGING ECONOMY (A/AC.35/L.268);
- (f) PUBLIC HEALTH (A/AC.35/L.276):
  - (1) POPULATION TRENDS AND PUBLIC HEALTH (A/AC.35/L.266 and Corr.1, A/AC.35/L.275);
  - (11) LONG-TERM HEALTH PLANS (A/AC.35/L.279);
  - (111) MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (A/AC.35/L.271, A/AC.35/L.272);
- (g) RACE RELATIONS (A/AC.35/L.269);
- (h) OTHER QUESTIONS (A/AC.35/L.273)

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) expounded the principles which underlay the United Kingdom's social policy in the Territories under its administration. The Committee had been supplied with copious documentation about social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the information transmitted by the Administering Powers. The Committee also had before it the report on social policy drawn up in 1955. There had been no fundamental change in social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories during the period 1954-1956; nevertheless, the Governments had made real progress in that field, with the co-operation of the peoples of the Territories. Mr. Chinn, Adviser on Social Welfare to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, would give an account of the work done by the United Kingdom in that field.

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(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

In 1955 the Committee had adopted a broad definition of social development which had been proposed by the United Kingdom delegation. According to that definition social development was nothing less than the whole process of change and advance in a territory considered in terms of the progressive well-being of society and the individual. Thus it was the outcome of the cumulative effect of social, economic and educational policies. The Committee had repeatedly acknowledged that fact and would do well to keep that definition in mind. The object of the "community development" approach was to encourage initiative on the part of the individual and the community and to obtain the participation of the people in schemes for promoting their own betterment. The success of a social policy could not, however, be gauged merely by the number of material projects completed, however big and spectacular they might be, since these might not affect the living conditions of the agricultural population which formed the majority of the total population in the dependent territories. An important factor to be considered in assessing progress was the extent to which the community had gained experience and become conscious of its social responsibilities. That approach involved the discovery and training of local leaders in every field and at every level. The success of such training was an index of progress in every field covered by the Committee's work. In that connexion, he drew attention to the work being done in the national community development training centres in Kenya and Uganda, the work of which was supplemented by rural centres which gave training in citizenship, rural hygiene, housing, agriculture and the organization of co-operatives. Training in labour relations was also important. A number of courses in that subject had been organized in the Territories administered by the United Kingdom, including Kenya, Nigeria and Jamaica.

Training was also of great importance in the field of public health. In many Territories a large percentage of posts was now held by doctors of local origin and the qualifications of indigenous doctors trained at the medical school at Kampala were now recognized in the United Kingdom. At the end of 1957, 745 students from Territories under United Kingdom administration had been studying medicine and 69 dentistry in the United Kingdom and in Ireland. Special attention was given to the training of nurses in all Territories.

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

Women from many Territories qualified as State registered nurses in the United Kingdom. In addition to the medical training given in the Territories there had been a great expansion of hospital facilities. At the same time a number of campaigns had been carried out with a view to the eradication of communicable diseases. In Northern Nigeria an outstanding success had been achieved in the campaign against sleeping sickness, during which 1.5 million people had been examined. Anti-yaws campaigns had been continued in Nigeria and in the Pacific Territories, in most cases with the assistance of WHO and UNICEF, and campaigns against leprosy and onchocerciasis had been undertaken. The Public Health Departments in the tropical territories continue to aim at the control and ultimate eradication of malaria. Since the various species of vectors did not all react to control measures in the same way, pilot schemes had been started in many areas. Especially satisfactory results had been obtained in Northern Nigeria and Sarawak, despite the increased resistance vectors had shown to insecticides. It was hoped that as a result of the anti-malaria campaign in Trinidad the disease would be completely eradicated by 1961. Strict control measures had preserved the territories of Singapore, Aden, Mauritius and Cyprus from the disease.

At the same time there had been a continued expansion of health centres and clinics and of mobile health and medical services.

In the sphere of social medicine, through the medium of health centres and domiciliary care it had become possible to give greater attention to the needs of the family and the individual. It was there that popular participation in Government programmes was most essential. The part played by women was vital, since one of the main obstacles to successful child welfare and maternity services in a primarily agricultural society was the ignorance of mothers in matters of diet and hygiene. The first aim of public health policy must therefore be an educational one. The mothers must be shown that disease was not the inescapable will of Providence but something which could be prevented. It necessitated the co-operation not only of African women who were prepared to make a career in such work but of women who were prominent in their own communities, such as leaders of

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

women's clubs and wives of chiefs. The infant welfare clinics should give simple courses in child care for African women.

He hoped that the concept of local leadership and active popular participation in the efforts undertaken would be kept in the forefront of the Committee's discussions, for it was important both in town and country. It was a concept which involved serious practical difficulties. Where resources were scarce the development of training facilities might slow up active field operations. Nevertheless, training was of vital importance and should take priority in any social development programme.

Mr. GRATER (Netherlands) reviewed the general policy put into effect in Netherlands New Guinea since 1954. A study group entrusted with the task of comparing present developments in the Territory with the criteria developed by the organs of the United Nations had published a report in 1953 which had had a profound influence. That same year the so-called development plan 1953-1956 had been published, establishing the priorities to be observed. In accordance with the recommendations of the study group, the plan was concerned with the intensification and expansion of government control, the establishment of basic facilities, the organization of research and the setting up of pilot projects. It dealt not only with technical and economic matters but also, though to a lesser degree, with social and educational problems and it called for anthropological surveys, experiments in community development and the establishment of village councils.

By the end of 1956 the greater part of the plan had been carried out and detailed information had been given on the subject at the Committee's eighth session, in particular with respect to the establishment of efficient administrative machinery, the organization of research and the establishment of pilot projects; a number of developments in agriculture, the lumber industry and ship-building had also been mentioned.

He proposed to confine his present statement to what had been done, under the plan, in the social field.

The report of the inter-departmental Commission to which he had referred had given first priority to the expansion of government control.

(Mr. Grader, Netherlands)

Out of a total population of approximately 700,000, it was estimated that about 350,000 were not yet under the full control or partial influence of the Administration. They were scattered in the swampy lowlands or in the mountainous interior. Government control was gradually being extended to those areas and its effect would be felt as the anthropological and linguistic investigations that had been undertaken were completed. From 1950 to 1956 the number of administrative divisions had increased from four to six and the number of sub-divisions from twelve to twenty-two; the number of Papuan district and sub-district officers, who were trained at the School for Administration at Hollandia, had increased from three in 1951 to sixty-one in 1956. The number of Papuan government personnel was also steadily increasing and had amounted to 1,290 at the end of 1956.

The extension of government control had begun slowly, because much preliminary exploration had been necessary and adequate cadres had had to be trained, but it had gradually gained momentum. A start had been made with the formation of village councils and advisory bodies to acquaint the people with the responsibilities they would ultimately assume. The evangelization of the population had played an important part in making the inhabitants familiar with the concept of organized community life and in creating bonds among them. A tentative scheme had been worked out to extend the administration over the whole Territory within a period of eight years.

Mention should also be made of the action taken to promote the participation of the indigenous population in local government: provision had been made for the establishment of a New Guinea Council, but in present circumstances such a governing body would not be very effective and efforts had been made to apply the principle of administrative decentralization by the introduction of a scheme to promote social activities at the regional level. In view of the structure of Papuan society and the lack of social unity owing to the topography and the dispersion of the population, it was necessary first and foremost to create an affinity of interest and to adapt modern principles and techniques of local government to the typical features of Melanesian social structure. At the same time, the political advancement and practical administrative training of the

(Mr. Grader, Netherlands)

educated had to be promoted by arranging for their participation in various representative bodies. Experiments had been made in both those directions and he would discuss the question in greater detail under item 4 (e) of the agenda (Aspects of rural development).

As far as the establishment of basic facilities was concerned, a network of communications had been installed, harbours and airstrips had been constructed, staff had been trained for the government services and, houses, offices and workshops had been built.

With regard to education, the new system took into account the different requirements of various groups of the population who were at different stages of development, in accordance with the recommendations the Committee had made in its report on education in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/3127). The system was sufficiently flexible to be adapted to rapidly changing local conditions. Efforts were being made to introduce more modern and better balanced curricula and better teaching methods. The educational policy was designed to develop a civic sense in the people and to foster a sense of responsibility in the management of local affairs. Since children and young people in a rural environment could hardly be expected to understand those abstract concepts, teachers had an important role to play and the training of teachers was therefore one of the key problems. Furthermore, teachers needed practical experience and close contact with the realities of village life.

Interesting developments were taking place in health education in the village schools. Two members of the teaching staff of training centres for village school teachers had attended the health education training course given in 1957 under the auspices of the South Pacific Commission. Later on the Commission's health education specialist had visited the Territory, with the result that a clearer understanding had been reached of the relationship between school education and the spread of new ideas in rural surroundings.

In the period 1951-1956, the budget of the Department of Education had risen from 3 million to 7.25 million florins. Eighty-five per cent of that budget was devoted to schools designed for the Papuan population. The number of government-aided schools had increased from 557 to 604 and the number of non-aided



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schools from 95 to 466. The total school population had risen from 31,000 to 47,000, covering 61 per cent of the children of school age. Girls accounted for 43 per cent of that total. The number of teachers had risen from 950 to 1,560 and the number of students in training centres for village school teachers from 120 to 357.

With regard to public health, only 25 per cent of the budget was devoted to preventive medicine and 75 per cent to curative medicine, because of the high cost of building fully equipped hospitals. The organization of the Department of Public Health, however, reflected the emphasis on preventive medicine.

There were twenty-two hospitals and 106 out-patient clinics, five maternal and child welfare centres, three tuberculosis centres, two leprosaria and one lunatic asylum. Six training courses had been organized for nurses and for personnel of the malaria-eradication division. The number of doctors had risen from nineteen in 1950 to seventy in 1956, which meant that in the areas under government control there was one doctor for every 6,000 people. There were 109 Papuan nurses and 212 Papuan assistant nurses.

Public health was a particularly acute problem in the rural areas. Since the main necessity was to combat endemic diseases, much emphasis was being placed on preventive measures and mass eradication campaigns. Smallpox had disappeared altogether. More than 345,000 Papuans, or practically the entire population in the area under government control, had been examined for yaws at the end of 1957 and eradication teams had even penetrated into areas which were still uncontrolled. It was expected that mass treatment with insecticides and prophylactic drugs would be extended to all malarial districts within the next two years. The anti-tuberculosis campaign was being carried out ahead of schedule. A plan of operations for a maternal and child health programme had been set in motion in collaboration with UNICEF and in a number of areas infant mortality control was showing remarkable results. In the field of nutrition and health education the services concerned planned concerted action within the framework of a programme of aided self-help. Public health policy aimed at the proper use of facilities and available staff. It was considered of prime importance to train Papuan medical staff and to make the people realize for themselves the significance of health as a valuable community asset.

(Mr. Grader, Netherlands)

As regards the organization of research, the Office for Native Affairs was making investigations in the fields of anthropology and linguistics and also undertook comprehensive studies of a general nature. Research had also been made in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining and so on, often in collaboration with scientific bodies in the Netherlands, the South Pacific Commission and international agencies.

The joint statement of the Netherlands and the Australian Governments of 6 November 1957 gave grounds for believing that collaboration between the administrative services of the two countries would be further intensified.

He would give details of the pilot projects, including those set up in the important field of the fostering of agencies of local rule, when the Committee came to examine the various points listed in the sub-paragraphs of item 4 of the agenda.

To sum up, important progress had been made with respect to basic equipment in Netherlands New Guinea, especially in the technical and organizational fields, but emphasis would now have to be shifted to a still more difficult task, that of ensuring the social development of the territory.

Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) recalled that on a number of previous occasions his delegation had made reservations as to the legality of the Committee and its powers. Although its position had not changed, the French delegation would continue, in a spirit of co-operation, to take part in the Committee's discussions and would communicate information on the territories governed by France to the Secretary-General in conformity with the United Nations Charter. The reason for the delay in communicating information on French West Africa and French Somaliland was that the territorial authorities were preoccupied with the new tasks facing them in consequence of the implementation of the loi-cadre and had therefore not been able to devote sufficient time to gathering information. He hoped, however, that the information would be provided very soon.

Mr. SALSAMENDI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), introducing the UNESCO report "Development and Problems of the Urban Family in Africa South of the Sahara" (A/AC.35/L.278), said that UNESCO

(Mr. Salsamendi, UNESCO)

attached great importance to the scientific study of the social aspects of urbanization in countries undergoing rapid economic development. Such studies had a direct bearing on the problems of the development of the urban family. The questions involved had been studied at the meeting of experts held at Abidjan in 1954 and in 1956 UNESCO had published a study on the social aspects of industrialization and urbanization in Africa South of the Sahara.

In 1956 UNESCO had organized a seminar at Bangkok on the social problems of urbanization in South and South East Asia. One part of the report on the work of the seminar (UNESCO/SS/19) dealt with the development of urban families in this region, and some of the problems studied were similar to those arising in the urban zones of Africa South of the Sahara.

Two investigations had been undertaken in 1956 on the role of educated African women in the new African society and the results would shortly be published. The UNESCO Social Science Bulletin, No.8 (March 1956), contained a study of the African elite, and within the framework of the Major Project on mutual appreciation of the cultural values of the East and West, UNESCO was preparing studies on the following subjects: (a) Men and women: distinction, privileges, responsibilities and incapacities of a social order; and (b) Changes concerning the social importance of age and generation.

Document A/AC.35/L.278 was a synthesis of reports prepared by the International Research Office on Social Implications of Technological Progress. The document sought to bring out the general trends and the most pressing problems. Instability in social groups, and particularly in the family, in the urban areas of Africa was due to the fact that economic development and industrialization were recent and that the movements of the population caused differences in social development in various parts of the territory. Few African towns were stabilized either from the demographic point of view, from that of employment or from the standpoint of social relations. Moreover, new families which were formed in the towns were limited in size and unstable for a number of reasons. Problems affecting urban families could not be satisfactorily solved until economic development was speeded up, living conditions improved and progress was made in education. More extensive knowledge of the subject would be of great help in developing a family policy which could be applied in the urban

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(Mr. Salsamendi, UNESCO)

populations of Africa; for example, a comparative study could be undertaken of urban families and the effects of new family relationships in different territories.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.