

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.35/SR.187
17 July 1959

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Tenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 20 April 1959, at 11.15 a.m.

CONTENTS

Opening of the session

Election of officers

• Welcome to new members

Adoption of the agenda (A/AC.35/12)

Organization of the work of the Committee

PRESENT:

<u>Acting Chairman:</u>	Mr. PROTITCH	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non- Self-Governing Territories
<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. KELLY	(Australia)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. ROBERTSON	Australia
	Mr. CASTRO ALVES	Brazil
	Mr. WIJEGONAWARDENA	Ceylon
	Mr. de MARCHENA	Dominican Republic
	Mr. de CAMARET) Mr. DOISE)	France
	Mr. CHAPMAN	Ghana
	Mr. FERRARTE	Guatemala
	Mr. PASGOTRA	India
	Mr. KITTANI	Iraq
	Mr. GOEDHART	Netherlands
	Mr. DAVIN	New Zealand
	Mr. CASTON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. SEARS	United States of America
<u>Representatives of specialized agencies:</u>	Mr. BLAMONT) Mr. KHAN)	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. ACHARYA	Food and Agriculture Organization
	Mr. SALSAMENDI) Mr. WALTER)	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	Dr. SACKS) Mrs. MEAGHER)	World Health Organization
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. PROTITCH	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

/...

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The ACTING CHAIRMAN declared open the tenth session of the Committee.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The ACTING CHAIRMAN called on the Committee to elect its officers in accordance with rule 105 of the rules of procedure.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) nominated Mr. Kelly (Australia) as Chairman.

Mr. Kelly (Australia) was elected Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. CASTRO ALVES (Brazil) nominated Mr. Davin (New Zealand) as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Davin (New Zealand) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Australia) nominated Mr. Rasgotra (India) as Rapporteur.

Mr. KITTANI (Iraq) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Rasgotra (India) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for having elected him.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The CHAIRMAN welcomed the representatives of the two newly-elected members of the Committee, the Dominican Republic and Ghana, and congratulated India and Iraq on their re-election. The representatives of those four States were fully acquainted with the Committee's aspirations, its functions and its limitations.

He also welcomed the representatives of the specialized agencies.

Mr. CHAPMAN (Ghana) observed that the election of Ghana, an independent African State, to the Committee reflected the increasing preoccupation of the United Nations with the problems of Africa. The problems of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in that continent, and indeed in the rest of the world, touched his country very closely. Ghana owed its independence to the action taken by its own people, to the efforts of those who loved freedom in

/...

(Mr. Chapman, Ghana)

the United Kingdom and elsewhere, and to the force of the principles laid down in the United Nations Charter. His delegation therefore regarded its responsibilities on the Committee as of the greatest importance. As the Prime Minister of Ghana had frequently said, the independence of Ghana would be meaningless unless it were linked up with the total liberation of the rest of the African Continent from colonial rule.

The work of the Committee was of the utmost importance to the future of colonial territories. If those who had been responsible for the territories in the past had planned more effectively in developing the educational, economic and social potentialities of the territories and geared their plans to the real needs of the peoples, many of the problems which now plagued them might have been avoided. However it was not the task of the members of the Committee to apologize for history or to pass judgement but to exchange ideas, compare experiences and ensure that mistakes which had been made in the past should not be repeated.

The peoples of Africa were well aware of the difficult problems facing their continent, many of which arose from the fact that vast areas were still under foreign rule and were backward in many respects. In those territories the indigenous peoples had comparatively little to say in the ordering of their affairs or in deciding their future. An index to the concern of the African countries was to be found in the two conferences which had taken place at Accra in 1958 - the Conference of Independent African States and the All-African People's Conference. Among the most important resolutions adopted by those conferences had been those relating specifically to the educational, economic and social development of Non-Self-Governing Territories in Africa. The peoples of Africa would like to feel that the Committee's work formed one aspect of a co-operative enterprise designed to solve the educational, social and economic problems of the dependent Territories in the course of their advancement towards self-government and independence.

He pledged his delegation's full support to the Committee, believing that it was only by working closely together that the Committee could make the maximum contribution to the welfare of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the fulfilment of the objectives of the Charter.

/...

Mr. de MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) thanked the Chairman for his words of welcome.

The Dominican Republic, as a Latin American country, had watched with deep interest the progress made in the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards the achievement of the goals set forth in Chapters XI and XII of the Charter. He hoped that his delegation would be able to contribute to the success of the current session.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) welcomed the two new members of the Committee in the name of his delegation.

As the representative of Ghana had said, that country's experience in the fields in which the Committee was interested was likely to be of the utmost value. The Government of Ghana had been foremost in finding new and successful solutions to some of the questions on the Committee's agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/AC.35/12)

The CHAIRMAN asked whether there were any comments on the provisional agenda (A/AC.35/12).

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) proposed that item 4 ("Progress achieved by the Non-Self-Governing Territories in pursuance of Chapter XI of the Charter") should be placed after the present item 7. The Committee was to give special attention at its current session to educational conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that question should therefore be considered first, in order that the sub-committee to be appointed in accordance with the Committee's usual practice might begin its work as early as possible. That order would not only prevent delay but would also ensure a certain continuity in the Committee's work.

Mr. CHAPMAN (Ghana) supported the Indian proposal.

The Indian proposal was adopted.

The agenda was adopted as amended.

Mr. HERRARTE (Guatemala) said that he wished to reiterate his Government's reservations regarding the inclusion in the Committee's documentation of information about the Guatemalan Territory of Belize, which it

/...

(Mr. Herrarte, Guatemala)

considered to be illegally occupied by the United Kingdom. The presence on the Committee of the Guatemalan delegation did not mean that its Government had renounced its rights over that Territory, nor should it be taken as indicating any attitude by his Government towards the existing situation in other territories in dispute.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) said that his Government had no doubts concerning its sovereignty over the Territory of British Honduras and formally reserved its rights in the matter.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that his delegation had stated on many occasions the reasons why it recognized no sovereignty over West Irian other than that of Indonesia. The Government of India regarded West Irian as an integral part of the Republic of Indonesia, a sovereign and independent State. Therefore, the examination by the Committee of the information submitted by the Netherlands Government concerning West Irian would be subject to that reservation.

Mr. GOEDHART (Netherlands) said that the Netherlands Government regarded its sovereignty over Netherlands New Guinea as being beyond doubt. Quite apart from the sovereignty aspects, the question whether a Member of the United Nations had responsibility for the administration of a territory was one of fact, not of law. The Netherlands administered Netherlands New Guinea and was therefore obliged, under the provisions of Article 73 of the Charter, to submit information on that Territory.

Mr. KITTANI (Iraq) said that his Government regarded West Irian as an integral part of Indonesia. Any statements in the Committee by his delegation would be subject to that reservation.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Australia) said that the Australian Government regarded the sovereignty of the Netherlands over Netherlands New Guinea as being beyond doubt. That attitude had again been made clear by the conference on Australian-Netherlands co-operation in New Guinea which had been held at Canberra in October 1958.

The CHAIRMAN said that, as in previous sessions, a reference to those reservations would be made in the summary records and in the Committee's report.

Mr. PROTITCH (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories), reviewing the documentation provided for members of the Committee, said that, since the Committee would be devoting most of its attention to educational conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the main studies (A/AC.35/L.293-L.303) submitted to it dealt with various aspects of that question. The documentation on that subject was not extensive, mainly because in the immediate future fairly exhaustive documentation would be submitted on education as well as on other functional fields in the progress report. For that reason also, the Secretariat had not followed its usual practice of providing a study on general developments in education. The studies already submitted provided information on the various stages of education, on the training facilities available for such professions as agriculture and medicine, on the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in educational policies and in the programming and administration of education, on free and compulsory education and on illiteracy and fundamental education. As usual, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Office and the Food and Agriculture Organization had co-operated with the Secretary-General in providing the information.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the discussion of educational conditions should be conducted in two phases: the first, in which members could make general statements containing references to any of the sub-items under item 4 of the agenda; the second, in which members could discuss in detail each of the sub-items separately. Such an arrangement would also facilitate the task of the sub-committee, if appointed, since it would be able to take into account what had previously been said during the general debate.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.