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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Tenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Thursday, 14 May 1959, at 11.5 a.m.

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PRESENT:

Chairman:

Mr. KELLY	(Australia)
Mr. ROBERTSON	Australia
Mr. CASTRO ALVES	Brazil
Mr. KANAKARATNE	Ceylon
Mr. de MARCHENA	Dominican Republic
Mr. de CAMARET )	
Mr. DOISE )	France
Mr. ARKHURST	Ghana
Mr. KESTLER	Guatemala
Mr. RASGOIRA	India
Mr. JABBAE	Iraq
Mr. GOEDHART )	
Mr. de BRUYN )	Netherlands
Mr. DAVIN	New Zealand
Mr. CASTON )	
Mr. BROWNING )	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. MORE	United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. KHAN	International Labour Organisation
Mr. ACHARYA	Food and Agriculture Organization
Mrs. MEAGHER )	
Dr. SACKS )	World Health Organization

Secretariat:

Mr. PROTITCH	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self- Governing Territories
Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN RESPECT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL  
CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/AC.35/L.304, L.305, L.306)  
(continued)

Mr. KHAN (International Labour Organisation) said that, in dealing with the question under discussion, he would confine himself to describing the way in which the ILO was participating in workers' education in Non-Self-Governing Territories. Such education was still in its early stages because difficulties were being encountered, as in all under-developed countries, owing to wide-spread illiteracy, the lack of resources of the trade union movement, and the shortage of instructors. The ILO's activities were therefore still largely experimental in character. In principle, the ILO thought that the primary responsibility for drawing up and carrying out workers' education programmes lay with the trade unions, but in view of the workers' representation in the ILO, that organization was particularly well-qualified to assist the trade unions. The Meeting of Experts on Workers' Education, held at Geneva in December 1957, had made recommendations for the expansion of the ILO's assistance programme along those lines. The ILO was accordingly organizing and participating in seminars and meetings concerned with educational activities, providing advisory services and making available publications on workers' education courses in various languages. Thus, it had participated in several seminars in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Two ILO experts had lectured and acted as discussion leaders at the international workers' education seminar held at Manila under the joint auspices of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, UNESCO and the ILO. A model collection of ILO publications had been displayed at the African Labour College, which the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions had opened at Kampala in November 1958. An ILO representative had organized discussion groups at the College. ILO publications had been made available to the participants in two seminars organized respectively at Brazzaville and Saigon by the International Confederation of Christian Trade Unions. Representatives of the ILO had made statements to the participants, some of whom had received ILO assistance in meeting their travel expenses. The World Federation of Trade Unions had asked for help from the ILO in expanding its activities in connexion with workers' education. He wished to pay a tribute to the international trade union associations whose activities were enabling the ILO to do increasingly useful work.

Mr. GOEDHART (Netherlands) said that the development of Netherlands New Guinea had been greatly assisted by the various forms of international co-operation. The Territory had received assistance from the United Nations and the specialized agencies; WHO and UNICEF, in particular, had co-operated vigorously in extensive campaigns against yaws, malaria, tuberculosis and leprosy and were also giving assistance in maternal and child welfare, nutrition and environmental sanitation. Another international organization which was contributing to the development of Netherlands New Guinea was the South Pacific Commission, which had dispatched experts on regular visits to the Territory. Those experts had given valuable advice on such subjects as mosquito-borne diseases, nutrition, plant and animal diseases, education, and women's organizations. The Commission had also organized special courses on fisheries and health education in the Territory and three-yearly conferences at which indigenous delegates from the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the region met to discuss common problems.

A particularly important aspect of international co-operation as applied to Netherlands New Guinea was the closer relationship which the Netherlands and Australia had progressively established between Netherlands New Guinea on the one hand and the Trust Territory of New Guinea and Papua on the other in the interests of the inhabitants of the island. The determination of both the Netherlands and Australia to extend their mutual collaboration had been re-affirmed in the joint statement of 6 November 1957 and the first Australian-Netherlands conference on administrative co-operation had been held at Canberra in October 1958. On that occasion, officials of the two territorial administrations and of the metropolitan Governments had discussed, inter alia, communications, language problems, the exchange of information and of visits by territorial officers and indigenous affairs. Consideration had been given to the possibility of

(Mr. Goedhart, Netherlands)

arranging for selected indigenous students from Netherlands New Guinea to attend secondary schools and other training institutions in Australia, Papua and the Trust Territory of New Guinea. The conference had also considered possible means of providing for representation of the indigenous population in the organs of consultative and administrative co-operation in the Territories, in order to develop to the maximum participation by the indigenous inhabitants in the administration of the Territories. The desirability of having annual conferences of the same kind, meeting by rotation in Australia, Netherlands New Guinea and Papua and New Guinea, had been stressed.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Australia) said that the Australian Government had participated actively in many spheres of international collaboration. In particular, the Australian Administration had collaborated with WHO, and specifically, with the Regional Office for the Western Pacific, which had convened a seminar on environmental sanitation at Port Moresby in May 1958, attended by participants and observers from Papua; two WHO fellowships had been awarded to the Territory in 1958. Under the Colombo Plan, Australia had provided economic and technical assistance to the Territories of South-East Asia.

He agreed with the representative of the Netherlands that the South Pacific Commission was doing much to promote the economic and social progress of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the region. The Territory of Papua and the Trust Territory of New Guinea had sent a delegation of eleven indigenous inhabitants to the fourth Conference of the South Pacific Commission, which was currently in progress and which was dealing, inter alia, with the impact of economic development on land tenure and permanent crops. The extension of tourism in the region and its social implications for the people, and the role and function of custom in relation to infant and maternal welfare. The Conference was also being attended by Australian Government observers.

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(Mr. Robertson, Australia)

Within the smaller context of the island of New Guinea, the three parts of which had common administrative, economic, social and educational problems, close co-operation had also developed between the Australian and Netherlands administrations; the Netherlands representative had already emphasized the importance of that co-operation. In that connexion, it should be noted that the Director of Public Health for Netherlands New Guinea had recently visited the Territory of Papua and the Trust Territory of New Guinea with the object of studying hospitals and discussing with the Australian authorities measures for the inter-Territorial control of malaria.

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) reminded the members of the Committee that his delegation had been one of the sponsors of General Assembly resolution 1050 (XI) and had always attached particular importance to the idea expressed in operative paragraphs 5 and 6 of that resolution, which stressed the role of inter-governmental agencies of regional co-operation. In that connexion, he congratulated the specialized agencies on their work in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Mr. CASTRO ALVES (Brazil) said that in 1958, when the Economic and Social Council had recommended to the General Assembly the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa, his delegation had suggested at the Committee's ninth session that it might be beneficial to establish some form of relationship between the Committee and the new organ. Detailed discussion of that idea still seemed premature, and it might appropriately be taken up again when the practical advantages of such relations could be more precisely determined.

(Mr. Castro Alves, Brazil)

He announced that the Brazilian Government had decided to defray the travelling expenses of two students from Non-Self-Governing Territories to whom the two fellowships, which it had offered in 1957 under General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) and which had not so far been used, might be awarded.

Mr. MORE (United States of America) thought that international co-operation in the solution of economic, social and cultural problems not only helped to promote international understanding and human progress but also to maintain international peace, because it strengthened the ties between peoples and improved economic and social conditions in the less developed countries, which were thereby rendered less vulnerable to aggression and subversion. From that point of view, both bilateral technical assistance programmes and those of the United Nations and the specialized agencies indirectly benefited all nations. The United States earnestly hoped for an improvement in the level of living of all peoples and therefore gave its unreserved support to the programmes and activities mentioned in the reports of the Secretariat and the specialized agencies.

The United States participated in the work of the South Pacific Commission, the Caribbean Commission and the Colombo Plan, whose technical assistance activities, often undertaken in collaboration with the United Nations and the specialized agencies, were doing much to promote the development of the regions concerned.

The South Pacific Commission had, for example, organized two technical conferences in 1958. The first, on co-operatives, had been held at Port Moresby and had been attended by an FAO observer. The second, on tuberculosis, held at Pago Pago, in American Samoa, had been attended by a WHO observer. The ninth session of the South Pacific Research Council, held at Noumea in 1958, which had devoted particular attention to social developments, had also been attended by observers from several scientific and cultural organizations. The United States had three representatives on the Research Council, one an inhabitant of American Samoa, and two inhabitants of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under United States administration. Observers from UNESCO, FAO and WHO had been invited to attend the fourth South Pacific Conference, in progress at Rabaul (New Guinea), which was being attended by four indigenous delegates from American Samoa, two from the island of Guam and four from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

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(Mr. More, United States)

In the autumn of 1958, a seminar on coffee production had been successfully organized in Central America by the Caribbean Commission. A conference on the financing of agriculture had just been held in Trinidad with FAO's assistance.

Another instance of international co-operation in the solution of higher educational problems was provided by the University of Hawaii, which was to organize a meeting of teachers from the Pacific countries to discuss education in the region in the summer of 1959. Approximately two hundred students from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the countries of South-East Asia, Japan and the Philippines were enrolled at the University.

Under the Exchange of Persons Program, the United States was offering fellowships to students from the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Twenty-one fellowships had been taken up during the current academic year and another twenty-one were expected to be granted for the academic year 1959-60 to students from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Zanzibar and Nigeria. The travelling expenses of fifteen students who had received fellowships from other sources had also been financed under the Fulbright Act for the academic year 1958-59.

The United States International Cooperation Administration also provided training for indigenous inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the United States, Puerto Rico and elsewhere. Practical technical training was being given in Puerto Rico to 150-200 trainees from the Caribbean area. They received a grant covering their tuition fees, a subsistence allowance of \$240 per month and an allowance for the purchase of books and supplies. In addition, sixty-four trainees from the Caribbean area were studying in the United States in 1959.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that his delegation was in full agreement with the United States representative's opinion that international co-operation with a view to the development of the under-developed countries promoted both the advancement of those countries and the maintenance of international peace.

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It was evident from document A/AC.35/L.304 that the discrepancy between per caput income in the industrialized countries and the less developed countries was increasing whereas the terms of trade were becoming more disadvantageous to the less developed countries because of the drop in the price of their exports and the rise in the price of the manufactured goods they imported. It was a problem which would have to be solved by all nations working together.

International co-operation could take very different forms and there were times when some aspects of it did not tend to promote the well-being of the peoples of the less developed territories. For instance, some agreements affecting Africa resulted in the exploitation of a badly paid labour force. Difficulties of that kind could be avoided if the Administering Powers called on the United Nations for assistance more frequently. A case in point was the work of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara and of the South Pacific Commission, which left the impression that those bodies were reluctant to co-operate with the United Nations and the specialized agencies. That was fortunately not so in the case of the Caribbean Commission.

His delegation thought that many of the problems, especially those in Africa, could be solved if the United Nations and the specialized agencies were empowered to play a more important role in that part of the world.

His delegation would also like to have fuller information about the measures taken by the Administering Authorities in the sphere of community development.

The World Health Organization was doing a remarkable job in organizing conferences, giving advice and offering many fellowships; the distribution of the fellowships among the territories, however, seemed rather inequitable. Here again the Administering Authorities should make fuller use of the resources made available to them by the specialized agencies.

Generally speaking, it could be said that the share of international technical assistance obtained by the Non-Self-Governing Territories was quite inadequate for their needs and in relation to their place in the world in terms of population. Perhaps the Secretariat or the specialized agencies could give the reason for that state of affairs. Table 5 of document A/AC.35/L.306 showed that the total cost

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

of the projects in the 1959 approved programme was less than one million dollars. Moreover, the distribution of expenditure between the various fields of activity was very uneven. For instance, out of almost \$500,000 allotted to Africa, only \$36,000 would be used for education. Significant results could scarcely be achieved with such a small sum. On the other hand, nearly \$300,000 had been provided for health. It was obvious that no lasting results could be obtained under that heading if the inhabitants were not taught the rudiments of hygiene and unless measures were taken to remedy malnutrition, which was the cause of numerous diseases. It might be a good idea for the Secretariat to prepare a comparative study of the sums provided by the United Nations and of the capital invested by the local Governments of the Territories or by the metropolitan authorities: such a study would make it easier to judge how much had been achieved in each sector and might enable the available resources to be distributed more judiciously in the future.

The United Nations had recently made new forms of technical assistance available to the less developed countries as a result of the establishment of the Special Fund and the introduction of technical assistance in public administration. It was therefore essential that those concerned should apply for it, overcoming a shyness which was often the only reason for the inadequacy of the aid granted to them.

The representative of Brazil seemed to feel that it was too early to think of close co-operation between the Committee and the Economic Commission for Africa. His delegation nevertheless thought that relations could now be established between the two bodies. It would certainly be useful for the Committee to know in what manner the Economic Commission for Africa could help it with its work. For instance, it might be useful to transmit to the Economic Commission for Africa the Committee's annual reports and the report on progress made which was now in course of preparation. The General Assembly might also invite the Economic Commission for Africa to submit observations on conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the measures which should be taken to promote their advancement and development.

Dr. SACKS (World Health Organization) explained, in reply to a question from Mr. RASGOTRA (India), that onchocerciasis, to which reference was made in

document A/AC.35/L.305, was a disease common in Africa and some regions of America; like filariasis which was rampant in India, it was caused by a filaria but was transmitted to man by a Blackfly. Research was now being done on the best way to combat the disease, which was greatly feared as it often led to blindness.

Mr. MORE (United States of America) asked whether document A/AC.35/L.306 described only the assistance provided under the Expanded Programme, without reference to that given by the United Nations and the specialized agencies as part of their regular programmes.

Mr. KUNST (Secretary of the Committee) replied in the affirmative.

Dr. SACKS (World Health Organization) pointed out that document A/AC.35/L.305 contained a description of the assistance furnished by WHO to the Non-Self-Governing Territories from all sources by means of funds from the regular budget, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Malaria Eradication Special Account. It also enumerated the UNICEF projects in which WHO co-operated.

#### FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE (A/AC.35/L.308)

The CHAIRMAN observed that the Committee had already touched upon the question when studying the method of examination of the progress report.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Australia) thought that the Committee could examine the progress report, if it were called upon to do so, in much less than four or five weeks. As far as the economic studies for the 1960 session were concerned, he was afraid that the expression "selected Territories" might give the impression that the documents referred to in paragraphs 7 and 9 would deal with specific Territories, which would be contrary to the Committee's terms of reference.

Mr. KANAKARATNE (Ceylon) said that he could not for the time being express any views about the duration of the Committee's next session, since he did not know to what body the General Assembly would entrust the examination of the progress report. If the Committee were chosen, and even if it were to confine its examination to the technical fields of economic, social and educational

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(Mr. Kanakaratne, Ceylon)

conditions, much more than four or five weeks would be required if all the necessary attention were to be paid to the important analytical part of the work. His delegation approved the subjects for study enumerated in paragraphs 9 and 10 of document A/AC.35/L.308, since they were to a certain extent linked with the problem of the association of a number of Territories with the European Common Market.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) did not share the pessimism of the representative of Ceylon. He did not consider that four to five weeks would be required for the examination of the progress report, since Governments and delegations would have had time to study it before the beginning of the 1960 session.

The study referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10 of document A/AC.35/L.308 would be very interesting, but its proposed scope was perhaps too limited. If the links between the metropolitan countries and the Territories were to be properly appreciated, they must be seen in the more general context of the commercial and financial relations between the Territories and all other countries.

He had noticed the use of the phrase "selected Territories" in paragraphs 7 and 9, but had assumed that the Secretariat would, as in the past, make a general study of the development of terms of trade and of money and banking organization in the Territories, illustrated with specific examples taken from the situation in particular Territories.

Mr. KUNST (Secretary of the Committee) agreed that the wording of paragraphs 7 and 9 did not exactly express the intentions of the Secretariat, which would, as usual, employ the method described by the United Kingdom representative. It would therefore be better to replace the word "selected" in paragraph 7 by the word "some" and to replace the last sentence of paragraph 9 by the following: "A study of money and banking organization could be undertaken for Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly where the question of establishment of local financial institutions might be of special interest". Such a study would be the direct outcome of the observations formulated by the Committee in 1957 in paragraph 34 of its report on economic conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/3647).

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Mr. RASGOTRA (India) had understood at the previous meeting that the members of the Committee had agreed to adhere to the provisional programme of work suggested by the Under-Secretary if the General Assembly were to instruct the Committee to examine the progress report. He was therefore surprised that the debate had been re-opened. He at all events would be unable to study the report in less than four weeks.

He pointed out to the Australian and United Kingdom representatives that the Secretariat was not confined by limited terms of reference, as was the Committee, and that it could perfectly well make the studies referred to in paragraphs 7 and 9 with regard to certain Territories. The essential point was that the Committee should make no recommendations relating to specific Territories.

He hoped that the study described in paragraph 6 would show not only the extent to which the indigenous inhabitants participated in activities relating to the production and distribution of goods, but also the extent to which they participated in formulating the corresponding programmes. In connexion with that study the Secretariat might obtain the assistance of FAO and it might request help from the International Labour Organisation in analysing the productivity of indigenous labour referred to in paragraph 8. In its study of the development of terms of trade the Secretariat should include statistical information about the volume and nature of imports and exports, so that the Committee could ascertain whether the present imbalance was due to the fact that the Territories were importing articles which they could manufacture themselves. Lastly, the Secretariat should carry out a separate study of the question whether complete development plans had been drawn up in the Territories and should emphasize the need for over-all planning where it did not already exist.

Mr. KANAKARATNE (Ceylon) felt that it would be impossible to make a thorough study of the progress report in four weeks, even if the document was circulated to delegations and Governments well in advance.

Mr. ARKHURST (Ghana) hoped that, in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly, the authorities concerned would submit information concerning the possible effects of the European Common Market on the Territories under their administration early enough to enable the Secretariat to prepare a document on the question for the Committee's next session.

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Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) hoped that the study referred to in paragraph 6 would cover the participation of the various sections of the population and not only of the indigenous inhabitants. He also hoped that the Secretariat would communicate all the special studies to delegations some weeks before the opening of the session.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.