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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Twelfth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 26 May 1961, at 10.50 a.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. SCHURMANN	(Netherlands)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Miss KAMAL	Iraq
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. ROS	Argentina
	Mr. FORSYTHE	Australia
	Mr. WIJEGOONAWARDENA	Ceylon
	Mrs. BERNARDINO CAPPA	Dominican Republic
	Mr. de CAMARET)	
	Mr. DOISE)	France
	Mr. YOMEKPE	Ghana
	Mr. RASGOTRA	India
	Miss BROOKS	Liberia
	Mr. MERCADO	Mexico
	Mr. GOEDHART)	
	Mr. de BRUYN)	Netherlands
	Mr. EDMONDS	New Zealand
	Mr. de PINIES)	
	Mr. PEREZ RUIZ)	Spain
	Mr. CASTON)	
	Mr. THOM)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. BACON	United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

	Mr. REYMOND)	
	Mr. LLOYD)	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. ACHARYA	Food and Agriculture Organization
	Miss PROCTOR	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. PROTITCH	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self- Governing Territories
	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (continued):

(b) REPORT ON THE GENERAL WORK OF THE COMMITTEE (A/AC.35/L.350)

Miss KAMAL (Iraq), Rapporteur, introducing document A/AC.35/L.350, which would form the first part of the report of the Committee's twelfth session, said that although it largely dealt with procedural matters, it also contained a summary of the substantive discussions in the Committee, particularly with regard to agenda items 5 and 6 (a).

She had so far as possible endeavoured to avoid any duplication between the reports of the Sub-Committee and of the Committee. Some repetition had, however, been found necessary in order to ensure both that each document would be self-contained and that the Committee's report would reflect the views expressed by certain groups of delegations on the subject of social and economic conditions. Annex I would give, in addition to the agenda, a list of the summary records, which would thus form an integral part of the report.

Paragraph 26 would be amplified to record the Committee's decision on the report on social advancement. Paragraph 29 reflected the decision taken with regard to the section in the report on social advancement which dealt with racial discrimination and the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1536 (XV).

She drew the Committee's attention to a number of drafting changes in the draft report and said that the following text would be inserted at the end of paragraph 26, after the additional passage to which she had already referred: "The United Kingdom representative said that he was prepared to support the text of the report on social advancement as a whole, although it represented in some places a compromise between opposing views and he did not therefore necessarily agree with every word and phrase in it".

In reply to a question from Mr. de PINIES (Spain) the CHAIRMAN said that the Spanish representative's statement referred to in paragraph 82 would be reproduced as Annex IV of the report.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) congratulated the Rapporteur on her report which he found largely satisfactory. Some general observations were, however, called for. Section VII, for instance, was far too long in view of the fact that the Administering Members' views would be reproduced separately in a more complete analysis to be prepared by the Secretariat.

Replying to a question from Mr. GOEDHART (Netherlands), the CHAIRMAN said that the question of the training of indigenous cadres (section VII) would be dealt with in an annex which would reproduce the statements made by the Administering Members and the information transmitted by them.

Sections I - V

Sections I - V were adopted.

Section VI

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said he thought that the first sentence of paragraph 20 was too unqualified in its praise, and that the third and fourth sentences were quite incorrect, at least with reference to India, where the people, despite poverty and ignorance, played a full part in the country's political life. He therefore proposed that those sentences should be deleted and that the remainder of paragraph 20 should be added to paragraph 19.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) proposed that paragraphs 19 and 20 should be deleted.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India), supported by Miss BROOKS (Liberia), thought that since the report was not limited to a statement of procedural problems and of the minority views expressed in the course of the debates, it would be preferable to retain the two paragraphs, one of which expressed the views of the administering Powers and the other, those of the non-Administering Members.

After an exchange of views between Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) and Mr. RASGOTRA (India), the CHAIRMAN suggested that the present text of paragraph 20 of the draft report should be amended to read: "While welcoming the progress reported by the Administering Members, some members pointed out that the achievements fell far short of the needs of the people. It was therefore the responsibility of Governments to finance social programmes...", and should be added to the end of paragraph 19.

It was so decided.

Mr. de PINIES (Spain) said that the view attributed to some members of the Committee in the last sentence of paragraph 28 had in actual fact been expressed only by the Liberian representative. The words "some members of the Committee" should therefore be replaced by "a member of the Committee".

Miss BROOKS (Liberia) said that, as the Spanish representative's statement had indicated that the legislation concerning emancipated inhabitants had been repealed and that discrimination was no longer practised in the Spanish Territories, she had no objection to the deletion of the last sentence of paragraph 28.

Mr. de PINIES (Spain) thanked the Liberian representative and suggested that it might also be appropriate to delete the words "and Spanish" in the first sentence of paragraph 28.

Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) reserved his delegation's attitude on that point because he was not convinced that discrimination was unknown in the Territories under Spanish administration.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should delete the words "and Spanish" at the beginning of paragraph 28, as well as the last sentence of that paragraph.

It was so decided.

Mr. GOEDHART (Netherlands), after proposing a drafting change to paragraph 18, said that the last sentence of paragraph 17 should be deleted because the Committee's task at its twelfth session had been to consider information relating to the period up to the end of 1959, which had been supplemented orally by the representatives of the Administering Members.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) expressed his delegation's concern with regard to a situation which it regarded as curious; the administering Powers, after transmitting information concerning the Territories for which they were responsible, alleged that it had become completely out of date in from six to nine months. He doubted whether that was really the case and considered that the report should at least express the views of the non-Administering Members on the subject of that attitude, which gave a misleading impression of the facts.

Mr. GOEDHART (Netherlands) said that the Administering Members did their utmost to transmit as complete and recent information as possible. Moreover, in order to facilitate the Committee's work, they submitted supplementary information during the consideration of each item in order to bring the data up to date.

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Miss BROOKS (Liberia) thought the wording of the Sub-Committee's report could be adopted in that connexion.

Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) proposed that the words "other members of the Committee" should be replaced by "the non-Administering Members of the Committee".
It was so decided.

Mr. GOEDHART (Netherlands) proposed that the penultimate sentence of paragraph 23 should be amended to read: "The Netherlands Government had asked the Council to express its views, within the term of one year, on the manner in which self-determination was to be effected and also on the desirability of fixing a date for it." He also proposed that the word "indigenous" should be inserted before the word "people" in the last sentence of that paragraph.

It was so decided.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that, as he had stated at the beginning of the meeting, in his view the chapter in question should be shortened. He therefore suggested that the beginning of paragraph 30 should be deleted and the first sentence should read: "30. At its fifteenth session, in resolution 1534, the General Assembly had requested Administering Members ... ". The second sentence should begin: "It had also requested ... ".

In the first sentence of paragraph 31, the word "note" should be replaced by "study". The second sentence should read: "This study set out the available information ... ".

The beginning of paragraph 32 should be deleted and the last sentence of paragraph 32 should be added to paragraph 31 and should read: "The Governments of the United Kingdom, the United States, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Australia also communicated reports to the Secretary-General and these were supplemented by the information contained in the statements made by their delegations at the 226th, 227th, 232nd, 235th and 237th meetings." The sentence "All of these reports were placed before the Committee" should be deleted.

Paragraphs 33 to 38 inclusive should also be deleted.

The present paragraph 39 should begin: "In view of the late transmission of this information, which disabled the Committee from examining it in detail, the representative of India, supported by the representatives of Ceylon, Ghana, Liberia, Iraq and the Netherlands, proposed that: (1) The Committee should report ... ". The present text of the report should be retained down to the words "made before

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

the Committee". The remainder of the paragraph, from the words "and second" to the end, should be replaced by the following: "(3) An analysis, to be prepared by the Secretariat, of the information contained in these reports, including relevant observations and comments made by the non-Administering Members, should be submitted to the General Assembly separately."

Paragraphs 40 and 41 should be deleted and the following paragraph should read as follows:

"This proposal was accepted by the Committee at its 237th meeting. The information transmitted by the Governments of Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States,^{6/} together with the texts of the oral statements, is annexed to the report. The analysis to be prepared by the Secretariat, which will also reflect the views expressed by the non-Administering Members, will be submitted separately to the General Assembly."

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) said that in general he supported the proposals made by the Indian representative. He agreed that it would be preferable to delete everything which would appear in the analysis to be prepared by the Secretariat. He had three amendments to propose: firstly, the second sentence of paragraph 31 should define the type of study to be made, as follows: "This study set out, as a sample of the material available, information on the preparation and training ...". Secondly, the word "subsequently" at the beginning of the following paragraph should be deleted. Thirdly, in the last sentence of the section the word "separately" should be replaced by "directly", which would be more explicit.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) agreed to the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom representative.

Chapter VII, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter VIII

Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) requested that the last sentence of paragraph 49, which reflected an opinion expressed by his delegation, should be worded as follows: "From that report it appeared that while there might be immediate and short-term benefits in the association of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the European Economic Community, newly independent States should consider carefully the long-term implications of such an association."

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It was so decided.

Chapter VIII, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter IX

Mr. GOEDHART (Netherlands) requested that the word "yaws" should be inserted after the word "malaria" in the first sentence of paragraph 59.

It was so decided.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) proposed that the second part of the fourth sentence of paragraph 61 should read as follows: "all United Kingdom territories in Africa participated in the work of the Economic Commission for Africa, individually or in a group, as associate members and Mauritius and the Seychelles were being proposed for associate membership".

It was so decided.

Chapter IX, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter X

Mr. de PINIES (Spain) requested that the beginning of the second sentence of paragraph 80 should read: "In reply, the representative of Spain stated, among other reasons, that because bilateral discussions had been held ...".

It was so decided.

Mr. DOISE (France) requested that in paragraph 84, after the word "stated", the following phrase should be inserted: "that he rejected the allegations of the representative of Mexico and ...".

It was so decided.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) proposed that the first sentence of paragraph 75 should be amended to read: "Several delegations stated that whatever the reasons for the delays, they felt that the Committee could not discharge its functions as it did not have the summaries of information in respect of all the Territories."

Furthermore, he proposed that in the first sentence of paragraph 76, everything from "considered that" down to "meaning of the Charter" inclusive should be deleted.

He also proposed that the whole of paragraph 82 should be deleted and replaced by the following sentence, to be added at the end of paragraph 78: "As decided by the Committee, the text of the statement was reproduced as an annex."

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Lastly, he requested the addition of the following sentence at the end of paragraph 87: "In the course of one of his statements, the representative of India suggested that in the absence of transmission of information by Portugal concerning her Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Committee should be authorized, as a very exceptional case, to admit oral petitioners from those Territories."

nose amendments were adopted.

Mr. EDMONDS (New Zealand) pointed out that in the English text the first part of the first sentence in paragraph 89 should be reworded.

It was so decided.

In reply to a question by Mr. RASGOTRA (India), the CHAIRMAN stated that paragraph 91 should read as follows: "The text of the resolution adopted by the Committee ... " rather than "the text of the draft resolution ... ".

Chapter X, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter XI

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) proposed the deletion of the passage in paragraph 96 from "In this connexion ... " to "should also hear petitioners.", which reproduced ideas he had expressed in connexion with another question. The suggestion about the hearing of petitioners applied only to the Territories administered by Portugal, about which the Committee had not received any information. The use of "other sources of authoritative information" was a solution on which he did not wish to dwell for the time being; he had envisaged it in connexion with the transmission of political information about the Non-Self-Governing Territories; however, most of the administering Powers had already transmitted such information, and he hoped that the United Kingdom would also agree to do so.

Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) suggested that in paragraph 96 the full stop after the words "were made" should be replaced by a comma, and that the next sentence should be replaced by the phrase "one of which was that the Committee should be authorized to examine political and constitutional developments".

The two proposals were adopted.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) requested that the following words should be added at the beginning of the penultimate sentence of paragraph 96: "These delegations thought that ...".

With regard to the last sentence of paragraph 95, he pointed out that, in addition to the information which the United Nations received direct under Article 73 e of the Charter, the Secretariat also had access to the relevant official documents published by the United Kingdom Government. He therefore did not see the point of using "other scientific publications and documents of recognized status", and would prefer the sentence in question to be deleted.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) supported the proposal of the United Kingdom representative. In that connexion he stressed that the fact that the summaries submitted to the Committee were not always adequate did not necessarily mean that the information transmitted was insufficient. In his opinion, some of the summaries could be rather fuller.

The two amendments proposed by the United Kingdom representative were adopted.

After a brief exchange of views, in which Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) and Mr. RASGOTRA (India) took part, Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) suggested that the following phrase should be added at the end of paragraph 97: ", which would in any case be included in the provisional agenda of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly."

It was so decided.

Chapter XI, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter XII

Miss KAMAL (Iraq), replying to a question from Miss BROOKS (Liberia), suggested that the following sentence should be added at the end of paragraph 100: "The representative of Liberia suggested that the specialized agencies should be requested to assist the General Assembly by bringing the information up to date."

It was so decided.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that paragraph 102, which appeared to imply that there was a difference of opinion between India and the General Assembly, might give the wrong impression. In all the United Nations bodies of which it had been a member, the delegation of India had always fought for the abolition of discrimination in all forms. Discrimination in education was only one of the aspects of the problem. The Committee already had information about the different legislative provisions on the subject and the Assembly had adopted resolutions when necessary. Hence the study proposed in paragraph 102 would add nothing new, and he had therefore suggested that it should be replaced by studies on three other specific subjects.

He suggested that the second sentence of paragraph 102 should be deleted.

It was so decided.

Mr. EDMONDS (New Zealand) proposed that, for drafting reasons, the third sentence of paragraph 102 should also be deleted and that, at the beginning of the fourth sentence, the words "Instead, he suggested" should be replaced by the words "The representative of India suggested".

It was so decided.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) thought that the question dealt with in paragraph 104 actually related to chapter XI. He therefore proposed that the beginning of the paragraph should be deleted, from "In view of" to "on this question", and that the rest of the paragraph should be included in a separate paragraph, after paragraph 97, at the end of chapter XI.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) agreed to that proposal, but requested that the words "its views" should be replaced by the words "the views of its members" at the end of the new concluding paragraph of chapter XI.

The two proposals were adopted.

Chapter XII, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) requested that the whole of document A/AC.35/L.350, as amended, should be put to the vote.

The report A/AC.35/L.350, as amended, was adopted by 14 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN, summarizing the work of the Committee at its twelfth session, noted that the numerical strength of the Committee had increased as a result of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 1542 (XV). While the acceptance by Spain of the invitation to participate in the Committee's work had been welcomed, regret had been voiced at the absence of Portugal.

He also welcomed the presence in the United States delegation of Mr. Pedro Sanchez, who had been included in the delegation in accordance with General Assembly resolution 744 (VIII), as a specially qualified indigenous representative; the wisdom of his remarks had been appreciated by the Committee.

In view of the increasing importance of Africa in the modern world, the Committee had naturally devoted special attention to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in that continent.

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee had paid special attention to social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories during its sixteenth session. It had considered a very large number of questions and it had been helped in its evaluation of the progress made by the fact that the Administering Members had provided much more detailed political information than in previous years, which had made it possible to enlarge the scope of the discussion on social conditions as such. The conclusions of the Committee would be of great value, not only to the Powers which were still administering Non-Self-Governing Territories but also for many independent countries which had to face similar difficulties to those which arose in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The Committee had devoted particular attention to the question of race relations and that of the preparation and training of indigenous cadres in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In connexion with the former point, it had recognized the need to go beyond the mere eradication of particular forms of discrimination. It had noted the progress made in the exercise of civil rights and the right to vote and had emphasized that that progress should continue in all Territories where prejudices that might foster racial discrimination still existed. It had also noted that the guidance of public opinion was one of the means to that end. Progress had also been made, in the training of cadres, but efforts in that field should be continued.

The report of the Sub-Committee showed that the other problems which arose in the Non-Self-Governing Territories had also been studied in detail.

He was encouraged by the fact that the statements by the Administering Members and those of the non-Administering Members had revealed similar views and aims. It was fitting that the principal preoccupation of the Committee should have been to achieve the aims set forth in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and that it should have studied the various questions before it in the light of the provisions of that resolution. All concerned should perform their respective tasks to the best of their ability, so that colonial administration could become unnecessary as soon as possible.

The work of the Committee had been carried out smoothly, thanks to the preparatory work and the co-operation of the Secretariat. The representatives of the specialized agencies had also made a useful contribution to the work of the Committee.

He wished to extend special thanks to the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee, and to the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, for their valuable co-operation.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India), Mr. FORSYTHE (Australia), Mrs. BERNARDINO CAPP (Dominican Republic), Mr. de CAMARET (France), Mr. YOMEPKE (Ghana), Miss BROOKS (Liberia) and Miss KAMAL (Iraq) paid a tribute to the Chairman and thanked the Secretariat and the representatives of the specialized agencies.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.