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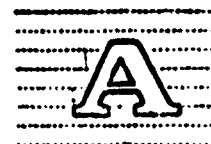
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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Fifth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 13 September 1954, at 2.45 p.m.

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PRESENT:Chairman:

Mr. KHALIDY

Iraq

Members:

Mr. LOOMES

Australia

Mr. PETHERBRIDGE)

Mr. FRAZAO)

Brazil

Mr. de LIMA)

Mr. ILA AUNG

Burma

Mr. YANG

China

Mr. DONS-MOELLER)

Denmark

Mr. SVEISTRUP)

Mr. APUNTE

Ecuador

Mr. PIGNON)

France

Mr. MOURRUAU)

Mr. ARENALES

Guatemala

Mr. SINGH

India

Miss ROESAD

Indonesia

Mr. AL-JAMALI

Iraq

Mr. SPITS)

Netherlands

Mr. GRADER)

Mr. SCOTT

New Zealand

Mr. GIDDEN)

United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Mr. CASTON)

Mr. GERIG)

United States of America

Mr. ROSS)

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. ROUX

International Labour Organisation

Miss BAÑOS

Food and Agriculture Organization

Mr. ARNALDO

United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
OrganizationSecretariat:

Mr. HOO

Assistant Secretary-General

Mr. BENSON

Secretary of the Committee

APPROVAL OF THE REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (continued)

Report on economic conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.35/L.185)

Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) said that although his delegation had been a member of the Sub-Committee he had a few criticisms to make of the report.

Firstly, while he appreciated the difficult task of the Sub-Committee and the complex nature of the subject matter, it was regrettable that so much economic terminology had been used in the report; it should be possible to state the principles of economic theory in a more readily understandable form.

Secondly, despite the efforts of the United Kingdom and some other delegations, the report seemed to oversimplify and generalize certain problems and ideas which needed to be approached with some caution and reserve.

Thirdly, the report contained a number of obscurities, some of which might give rise to misinterpretations. It would be recalled that, in its final paragraph, the 1951 report had declared that its aim was to assist the Administering Powers. The United Kingdom delegation felt that the present report would not give that impression when it reached the hands of colonial administrators.

The Sub-Committee had had an extremely difficult task to perform in a very limited time. That its work had been so successful had been due to the harmonious spirit that had prevailed in the Sub-Committee and more particularly to the great skill of its Chairman.

Mr. YANG (China) said that his delegation was in general agreement with the report, which fully reflected and wisely interpreted the Committee's views.

Mr. PIGNON (France) associated his delegation with the United Kingdom representative's commendation of the Sub-Committee's work and in particular of the work of its Chairman. He agreed, however, that some passages in the Sub-Committee's report were worded obscurely and that the tone was often didactic. In dealing with complex problems common to a wide variety of Territories categorical statements were out of place. For example, the problem of the co-existence of several races had been given undue emphasis: in many Territories

that problem had already been solved.

Mr. PETHERBRIDGE (Australia) observed that the report was commendably brief. It contained some over-simplifications and obscurities, but the difficulty of avoiding such pitfalls was fully appreciated by his delegation.

Mr. GERIG (United States of America) endorsed the remarks of previous speakers regarding the skill with which the Chairman of the Sub-Committee had conducted that body's work. The report as a whole was valuable; the generalizations it necessarily contained could be ascribed to the difficulty of making it applicable to fifty-nine Territories of widely different economic structure, while occasional ambiguities and obscurities were doubtless the result of compromise between different views. He could support the report on the understanding that such approval did not bind the United States delegation to the General Assembly.

He proposed that the words "some members of the Committee consider" should be substituted for "the Committee considers" in the third sentence of paragraph 4. The information transmitted by the United States, at any rate, could not be described as inadequate; indeed, it exceeded the requirements of the Standard Form.

Mr. ARENALES (Guatemala) said that the Sub-Committee had endeavoured to draft its observations in the form of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature and to avoid particularization by eschewing comments on specific Territories.

The Committee might include in the introduction to the report a paragraph which would explain its general nature and thus render unnecessary such amendments as that proposed by the United States representative. Such a paragraph should state that the diversity of the Territories and their problems had made it impossible for the Committee to deal with them individually.

Mr. SINGH (India) suggested as an alternative to the United States amendment the insertion of the words "in all cases" after "the Committee considers that" in the sentence in question.

Mr. PETHERBRIDGE (Australia) supported the United States amendment. The Indian wording would imply that adequate information was transmitted in respect of the more developed Territories and inadequate information in respect of those less developed. The difficulty of making a dynamic analysis of the economic development of the Territories lay less in the amount of information transmitted than in the problem of finding suitable methods of analysing information concerning Territories of different types.

Mr. ARENALES (Guatemala) withdrew his suggestion and proposed that the amendment suggested by the Indian representative should be changed to "in some cases".

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil) pointed out that allowances for divergences of view were made in other sections of the report. Hence he would support the United States amendment.

Mr. SINGH (India) accepted the United States amendment and withdrew his own suggestion.

The United States amendment was adopted.

Mr. PIGNON (France) proposed that the words "dignes de foi" in the sixth sentence of the French text of paragraph 4 should be replaced by "précises". The existing wording reflected, doubtless unintentionally, on the integrity with which the statistics were prepared.

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil), Chairman of the Sub-Committee, accepted the French amendment and proposed that the corresponding word "reliable" in the English text should be changed to "adequate".

It was so decided.

At the request of Mr. PIGNON (France), Mr. HOO (Assistant Secretary-General) proposed that the word "évaluation" in the last line of paragraph 5 of the French text should be replaced by "appréciatio."

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. YANG (China) proposed that the words "born in" in the second sentence of paragraph 9 should be changed to "given"; as the sentence stood it implied that unless the people were born in healthy surroundings they could not adapt to their own purposes modern techniques of production.

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. YANG (China) proposed that the initial words of paragraph 17 (c) should be amplified by the insertion of the words "create and" between "To" and "improve".

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil), Chairman of the Sub-Committee, explained that the sub-paragraph had been intended to refer mainly to Territories in which some capital equipment already existed. He would, however, be prepared to accept some such wording as "To establish and improve".

The CHAIRMAN asked the Secretariat to make the necessary amendment.

Mr. ARENALES (Guatemala) said that his acceptance in the Sub-Committee of paragraph 17, the most important paragraph in the report, should not be regarded as binding on the Guatemalan delegation to the General Assembly.

Mr. YANG (China) suggested that paragraph 26 should state specifically that class conflicts were aggravated when particular groups sought to monopolize economic functions by political means.

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil), Chairman of the Sub-Committee, pointed out that the means need not always be political and that the report should confine itself to comments on economic activities.

Mr. YANG (China) said he would not press the point.

Mr. LOOMES (Australia) made a general reservation on the whole of paragraph 26.

Mr. PIGNON (France) requested that the French text of paragraph 68 should be redrafted to follow the English order of sentences and that the final sentence should read: "La question de l'aliénation des terres... continue à préoccuper le Comité".

Mr. HLA AUNG (Burma) thought that paragraph 99 should be deleted. The text was not clear and it appeared to recognize the right of the Administering States to impose a head tax on the people of the dependent territories.

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil), Chairman of the Sub-Committee, pointed out that it was logical, in a general appraisal of tax systems in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to include a reference to the head tax. The paragraph stated clearly that the tax was unpopular and discriminatory and that it should be abolished and a substitute form of taxation established. The absence of such a paragraph would imply that the Committee was aware that a head tax continued to be imposed in many territories and approved that practice.

After a brief exchange of views, in which Mr. ARENALES (Guatemala) and Mr. PIGNON (France) participated, Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil), Chairman of the Sub-Committee, suggested the addition of a further sentence at the end of paragraph 99, reading: "The Committee recommends that steps should be taken to abolish the head tax".

It was so decided.

Mr. PIGNON (France) found the reference to adaptation of tax rates to the resources of ethnic groups in paragraph 101 inaccurate and suggested that the passage should be redrafted.

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil), Chairman of the Sub-Committee, admitted that it was confusing and proposed that the phrase "ethnic groups" should be replaced by "different groups of the population".

It was so decided.

Miss ROESAD (Indonesia) reserved her delegation's position with respect to the reference in paragraph 121 to further progress in the territories under Netherlands administration.

The report on economic conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.35/L.185) was approved.

Mr. FRAZAO (Brazil), Chairman of the Sub-Committee, expressed his appreciation of the spirit of co-operation and harmony that has prevailed throughout the Sub-Committee's deliberations. The report necessarily contained generalizations, since it did not deal with specific territories, but on the whole it reflected a compromise of many views. He was especially grateful to the Chairman of the Committee and to the Secretariat for their assistance.

Final approval of the report of the Committee (A/AC.35/L.184)

Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) said that the amendment to paragraph 4 of the Report on Economic Conditions should be reflected in paragraph 21 of the report of the Committee.

Mr. GERIG (United States of America) agreed and suggested that the Rapporteur and the Secretary of the Committee should be asked to make the necessary amendment.

It was so decided.

Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) said that, although the remainder of the report had already been approved, his delegation had an amendment to propose in section VII. Paragraph 30 was a summary of the Indian representative's statement on social conditions, in the course of which there had been a reference to the report of a Select Committee of the Bermuda House of Assembly on race relations. The Indian representative's remarks appeared to have received undue prominence in the report, considering that the matter complained of had appeared only in the preamble to an otherwise very progressive

report on racial relations. That lack of balance could be corrected by deleting the sentence beginning "At all events" and omitting the references to the United States in the preceding two sentences.

Mr. SINGH (India) said that his only purpose had been to draw the Administering Power's attention to what he had considered an undesirable state of affairs. He was quite satisfied that the United Kingdom Government would take the necessary action and he was ready to accept the United Kingdom representative's amendment.

The United Kingdom amendment was adopted.

The draft report of the Committee (A/AC.35/L.184) was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN paid a tribute to the work of the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur and the members of the Committee, the Assistant Secretary-General and the Secretary of the Committee. He thanked the specialized agencies for their co-operation.

Mr. PIGNON (France) paid a tribute to the skill and impartiality of the Chairman and endorsed the Chairman's praise of the other officers of the Committee.

Mr. LOOMES (Australia) associated himself with the French representative's remarks.

Mr. SINGH (India), speaking on behalf of the Indonesian delegation also, said that the Chairman had fully justified the confidence placed in him. He associated himself with the Chairman's remarks, particularly those concerning the specialized agencies.

Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) expressed his appreciation of the Chairman's skillful guidance and of the assistance provided by the Secretariat.

Mr. ARENALES (Guatemala) associated himself with the tributes paid by previous speakers.

Mr. DONS-MOELLER (Denmark) said that the Danish delegation, which would no longer serve on the Committee now that Denmark had ceased to be an Administering Power, would carry away the best possible impression of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.