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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Thirteenth Session

SUMMARY RECCRD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 2 May 1962, at 10.55 a.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. MALALASEKERA	(Ceylon)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. ROS	Argentina
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. HOOD	Australia
	Mr. SHANMUGARAJAH	Ceylon
	Mr. VALENCIA	Ecuador
	Mr. de CAMARET)	
	Mr. DOISE )	France
	Mr. EASTMAN	Liberia
	Mr. CALVILLO-TREVINO	Mexico
	Mr. GOEDHART)	
	Mr. de BRUYN)	Netherlands
	Mr. NORRISH)	
	Mr. HENSLEY)	New Zealand
	Mr. AKHUND	Pakistan
	Mr. JIMENEZ	Philippines
	Mr. de PINIES	Spain
	Mr. SANKEY	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. POPPER	United States of America
	Mr. ILBOUDO	Upper Volta

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. LLOYD	International Labour Organisation
Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee
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## APPOINTMENT OF A DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN recalled that at its 247th meeting the Committee had agreed that a drafting committee should be appointed to prepare a report for the Committee's consideration and approval and that the drafting Committee should consist of five members: two representing Administering Powers, two representing non-Administering Powers, and the Rapporteur. After consultation with members of the Committee he recommended that the drafting committee should be composed of the representatives of Liberia, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America in addition to the Rapporteur. He thought that the members of the Committee were in agreement that the drafting committee's terms of reference should be as simple as possible and that it should merely be instructed to prepare a report reflecting as faithfully as possible the various views that had been expressed in the Committee. He understood members to agree also that, in order to expedite the work of the drafting committee and of the Committee itself, the drafting committee should be responsible for preparing the sections on political and constitutional development, educational, economic and social advancement and the preparation and training of indigenous civil and technical cadres. The other sections of the report would be drafted by the Rapporteur himself. The drafting committee would decide on its own method of work.

It was so decided.

POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION ON NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES  
(A/5078/Add.3 and Add.7-18, A/5079 and Add.1 and Add.3-6, A/5080 and Add.2-4, Add.6, Add.8 and Add.10-17, A/5081 and Add.1 and Add.3-5, A/5120)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the summaries of information transmitted by Administering Members under Article 73 e of the Charter. Except in relation to Territories under United Kingdom administration, information on political development was to be found in the body of the summaries. With regard to Territories under United Kingdom administration, the information had not been summarized by the Secretariat, chiefly because it had been received rather late; it was to be found in addenda to the various summaries. Document A/5120 was a general paper on constitutional development in Non-Self-Governing Territories

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(The Chairman)

under United Kingdom administration, which had also been transmitted by the Administering Power concerned.

Mr. SANKEY (United Kingdom) observed that the Committee was now embarking upon a new phase of its work and upon a subject which was in many ways the most important that it had discussed. In his opening statement at the beginning of the session the Chairman had remarked that the Committee's new task would be greatly facilitated by the United Kingdom Government's agreement to provide political and constitutional information on Territories under its administration. At the 1017th meeting of the General Assembly the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom had pointed out that that was a decision of the first importance and that though there was nothing in the Charter which required Administering Powers to submit political and constitutional information, his Government had recognized the intense interest everywhere in such matters and was confident that it could enlist the understanding of the Assembly and of the United Nations when they saw the steady way in which its policies were directed to bring independence to the nations in the colonial empire. He had added that the United Kingdom could not share or shift its responsibility but that he felt sure the story would prove to be in tune with the wishes of the Assembly and with the guiding principles of the Charter.

It was against that background that the Committee was embarking upon consideration of political information. He paid a tribute to the Secretariat for the prompt and efficient way in which it had processed the information submitted by his Government, often at rather short notice. Although much of that information had only recently become available, it had the advantage of being up to date, indeed the information relating to Kenya which had just been circulated reflected events which had taken place in London only a few days earlier.

Members now had before them over thirty-five documents relating to over forty Territories under United Kingdom administration. The representative of Pakistan had said that the contents of the documents produced by the United Kingdom Government left much to be desired. In explaining why the

(Mr. Sankey, United Kingdom)

information had been presented in that way, he pointed out that although the information on each Territory amounted to only a few pages, there were altogether more than 100 pages covering political conditions in United Kingdom dependent Territories, much of it never before assembled. It would, of course, have been possible to produce a volume of 100 pages on each Territory, but the members of the Committee would not have had time to absorb so much information in the course of a relatively brief session. His delegation had endeavoured to distil the fundamental points necessary for an understanding of the progress made in United Kingdom Territories towards the objectives of the Charter. The documents gave the essential framework of the constitutions in force of each of the Territories in question and the purpose of the present statement would be to explain the principles underlying the various constitutions.

He drew the Committee's attention to paragraphs 2 to 24 inclusive of document A/5120, which set out some of the general principles lying behind the constitutional methods which had been used in the advance towards independence of Territories for which the United Kingdom had been responsible and was intended as a background to the political and constitutional information supplied by his Government to the United Nations. He considered that the Committee would do well to stand aside, as it were, from the hurly-burly of day-to-day events and to give general consideration to the practical problems which faced the Administering Members in preparing Territories for self-government and independence. In the view of the United Kingdom delegation it was in the examination, assessment and definition of the practical measures necessary to facilitate and accelerate the progress of the Territories towards self-government and independence that the Committee could render signal service. Such a study might cover such topics as the establishment and development of central legislative and executive institutions, the progressive introduction of democratic elections, including freedom of speech and assembly for the various political parties, the preservation of a free and impartial judiciary, the establishment of local government institutions and the training of local men and women for positions of responsibility both in the legislative and executive organs as well as in the civil service. In the time available the Committee would be able to do no more than survey the field and plot the main lines for future study, but that in itself would be a most valuable achievement.

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(Mr. Sankey, United Kingdom)

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that members would be able to use the experiences of their own countries to illuminate the Committee's discussion of the various problems which faced the Administering Powers. Such problems as the protection of the rights of minority communities, the preservation of an impartial judiciary and the maintenance of an efficient civil service, to name only a few, frequently confronted independent countries also and the solutions adopted could often throw a useful light on similar problems in dependent Territories. It had long been a tradition of the Committee, when discussing educational, social and economic conditions, for members to draw on the experience of their own countries in those fields and he hoped that that valuable practice would be followed in discussing the present item.

Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that his delegation had available two short films concerning the Territory of Papua and New Guinea which might be of interest to the Committee. One of them covered recent reforms in the Legislative Council and the other dealt with developments in the educational and social fields.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the representative of Australia and said that the two films might be shown to the Committee at the close of the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.