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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Thirteenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 15 May 1962, at 3.20 p.m.

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Q.P.

PRESENT:

Chairman:

Mr. MALALASEKERA

(Ceylon)

Rapporteur:

Mr. ROS

Argentina

Members:

Mr. HOOD

Australia

Mr. MAHENDRAN

Ceylon

Mr. VALENCIA

Ecuador

Mr. de CAMARET

France

Mr. EASTMAN

Liberia

Mr. CALVILLC

Mexico

Mr. GOEDHART

Netherlands

Mr. NORRISH

New Zealand

Mr. AKHUND

Pakistan

Mr. CALINGASAN

Philippines

Mr. de PINIES

Spain

Mr. SANKEY

United Kingdom of Great

Britain and Northern Ireland

Mr. POPPER

United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. LLOYD

International Labour
Organisation

Mr. ORR

Food and Agriculture
Organization

Mr. SALSAMENDI

United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
Organization

Dr. SACKS)

Mrs. KALM)

World Health Organization

Secretariat:

Mr. PROTITCH

Under-Secretary for Trusteeship
and Information from Non-
Self-Governing Territories

Mr. CHU

Secretary of the Committee

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
NCN-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/AC.35/L.358, L.359 and Corr.1, L.360, L.362)

Mr. GOEDHART (Netherlands) said that, in the opinion of his Government, international collaboration was one of the essential factors in the progressive and harmonious development of Netherlands New Guinea. The Netherlands had therefore adhered strictly to the provisions of Articles 73 d and 74 of the Charter.

As far as Netherlands New Guinea was concerned, international collaboration was achieved within the framework of the United Nations (relations with the specialized agencies), through EEC and in the regional context of the South Pacific Commission. Finally, in the Territory itself, fruitful co-operation was continually being developed between the Netherlands and Australian Governments.

He wished, in particular, to thank WHO and UNICEF for their action in furthering health and social conditions in the Territory. Those two agencies had played an important role in the campaigns to eradicate malaria and tuberculosis; in addition, WHO had awarded fellowships to enable doctors and medical staff to specialize. An environmental sanitation project undertaken to collect data on methods of improving sanitary conditions in rural areas was progressing satisfactorily. It had been organized by the Government of the Territory with the support of TAB and technical assistance from WHO, which was providing the services of a sanitary engineer. In addition, WHO had sent an expert on maternal and child welfare, who would give the Government technical advice on the integration of disease prevention and treatment services for mothers and children.

Within the framework of EEC, international collaboration had made it possible to finance various projects for the promotion of social and economic development. So far, six projects (which would cost over \$12 million) had already been approved and five others were being prepared. One of the most important projects concerned geological research, which would be carried out over five years with the help of modern methods, including the use of helicopters.

(Mr. Goedhart, Netherlands)

Collaboration within the framework of the South Pacific Commission was steadily increasing. One of the Commission's two subsidiary organs - the South Pacific Conference - was of particular interest because its members were nationals of eighteen territories in the South Pacific region, who met every three years to consider various problems of development. The Fifth South Pacific Conference would be held in July 1962 in American Samoa. The second subsidiary organ of the Commission was the Research Council, which was composed of experts from the various territories.

In 1961, representatives of Netherlands New Guinea had participated in several activities of the South Pacific Commission. Those included a women's interests training seminar organized in September 1961 at Apia (Western Samoa) in co-operation with FAO and UNESCO; a meeting of the South Pacific Advisory Committee on Urbanization, which had been held in September 1961 at Honolulu; and an agricultural extension meeting co-sponsored by FAO and held at Rabaul.

The third conference on administrative co-operation, held in August 1961 at Goroka (New Guinea under Australian administration), had given new impetus to the collaboration established between the Netherlands and Australia to promote the interests of the inhabitants of the entire island. The participants had reviewed the activities of recent years in the field of co-operation and given new directives for strengthening that arrangement, which was of equal benefit to both parts of the island. Among the questions dealt with by the conference were indigenous participation in territorial co-operation, use of information media to improve contacts between the people and the administration, use of English in schools, and agricultural training. Representatives of both parts of New Guinea had taken part in the conference.

Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that he wished to give the Committee some information on the recent activities of the Australian Government within the framework of international collaboration for the advancement of the Territory in Papua.

The Australian Government was continuing to submit reports and information of various kinds concerning the Territory of Papua to the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and representatives from the Territory had participated in seminars organized or sponsored by WHO and FAO. However, the main organ for

(Mr. Hood, Australia)

inter-territorial co-operation in the region of Papua was the South Pacific Commission. As the Netherlands representative had said, the Commission is primarily interested in the well-being of the indigenous peoples, and the Conference of the Commission was attended by representatives of the various territories in the region. Administration officials were members of the Research Council, and the Territory of Papua derived considerable benefit from the experience gained through the work of the Commission.

The Australian Government was actively co-operating with the Government of the neighbouring territories, as well as with WHO and the South Pacific Commission, to both of which bodies it sent regular reports on the infectious diseases in Papua. The Director of the Public Health Department of Papua was a member of the Research Council of the Commission; in addition, in 1960 and 1961 top-ranking officials of that Department had been awarded fellowships by WHO to enable them to study methods of medical training and research in other countries. WHO had also enabled a specialist in tuberculosis to travel abroad in order to engage in research on tuberculosis.

As the Netherlands representative had also pointed out, co-operation was continuing between Papua and Netherlands New Guinea. The third conference on administrative co-operation had been held at Goroka in August 1961. In addition, the two Territories pooled training facilities and their officials exchanged visits. Co-operation with the other territories in the same region was mainly in the form of student exchanges.

The Australian Government thanked the United Nations and the specialized agencies for the various facilities and services which they had placed at its disposal and for their interesting publications intended for the information and guidance of the administering Powers.

In conclusion, he requested that the information on the economic and social advancement of Papua which he had had circulated to the Committee at an earlier meeting should be published as a Committee document.

It was so decided.

Mr. MAHENDRAN (Ceylon) thanked the Secretariat and the specialized agencies for having provided the Committee on Information with valuable information on international collaboration for the advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE SUMMARIES AND ANALYSES IN ADDITION TO THOSE TREATED UNDER THE PREVIOUS ITEMS (A/AC.35/L.361/Rev.1)

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should next take up agenda item 10. It might then take up the four following items together unless, of course, some delegations wished special attention to be given, at the present or a later meeting, to some particular item. As indicated in paragraph 19 of the note on the work of the Committee (A/AC.35/L.352), item 10 had been placed on the agenda in order to give delegations that wished to do so an opportunity to comment on any question of procedure relating to the submission of summaries and analyses.

Mr. de PINIES (Spain) said that, as far as his Government had been able to judge - on the basis in particular of the summaries and analyses of the information it had transmitted regarding Spain's dependent territories - the work of the Secretariat was perfectly satisfactory.

FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE (A/AC.35/L.364)

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION (General Assembly resolution 1272 (XIII))

The CHAIRMAN, noting that no one was ready to speak on agenda item 14, suggested that the Committee should take up agenda item 13 with due regard for the working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.35/L.364).

Mr. de PINIES (Spain) said that the suggestions in paragraph 7 were acceptable. The three general papers it mentioned would be most useful.

Mr. MAHENDRAN (Ceylon), commenting on the United Kingdom proposals mentioned in paragraph 2, said that his delegation would be in favour of the Secretariat's undertaking a study on the establishment and growth of central legislative and executive institutions and on the progressive introduction of democratic elections in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, he drew attention to the last sentence of the paragraph, which mentioned the limitations of the existing staff and of the information available.

Mr. SANKEY (United Kingdom) asked whether the representative of Ceylon implied, by his suggestion, that the other topics for study which the United Kingdom had proposed should be discarded.

Mr. MAHENDRAN (Ceylon) explained that his delegation would be pleased if the Secretariat could study all the topics proposed. If, however, there must be some limitation, the first two topics were broader in scope and there was probably more information available about them.

Mr. POPPER (United States of America) also felt that care should be taken not to overburden the Secretariat. If, with its existing staff, it could make studies on all the five topics proposed, they would be very welcome; if it could not, the Committee would have to be content with less.

Mr. AKHUND (Pakistan) concurred in the views expressed by the previous speakers and said that he, too, was in favour of the general papers proposed in paragraph 7. In the current year, the Committee had strictly complied with its terms of reference under General Assembly resolution 1700 (XVI) and had divided its attention among all the problems affecting the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Although its consideration of those matters had been broad in scope, it had tended to be somewhat superficial, and it might therefore still be advisable to give more particular attention each year to a specific subject.

Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that although he did not yet wish to take up a final position, he was inclined to agree with the Spanish representative that it would be desirable to undertake a study of government economic policies, as proposed in paragraph 7.

The CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee was in favour, in principle, of the two proposals made by the Secretariat in working paper A/AC.35/L.364. The first proposal was that the Secretariat should undertake, subject to the limitations of existing staff and to the information on those topics which might be made available to the Secretary-General, one or more studies on the topics mentioned in paragraph 2, the first two topics proposed being given priority if the Secretariat was obliged to cut down its work. The second proposal was that the Secretariat should prepare for the Committee's consideration in 1963, three general papers on government economic policies, along the lines suggested in paragraph 7. The Committee's view would be stated in its report.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 1699 (XVI) ON TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION (A/AC.35/L.363)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the letter he had received from the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on Territories under Portuguese Administration (A/AC.35/L.363), which stated that on its return from Africa, the Special Committee would prepare its report and submit it to the Special Committee of Seventeen and to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 1654 (XVI) ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

The CHAIRMAN recalled that he had had a talk with the Chairman of the Committee of Seventeen. That Committee was now hearing petitioners. Its Chairman had assured him that any decisions taken by the Special Committee of Seventeen would be communicated to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Mr. CALINGASAN (Philippines) pointed out that the co-operation envisaged must of course be mutual.

The CHAIRMAN said that the responsibilities laid on the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories by operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1700 (XVI) were not being lost sight of. The Committee on Information would communicate its report to the Committee of Seventeen.

Mr. SANKEY (United Kingdom) asked whether he was right in supposing that the report of the Committee on Information would not be communicated to the Committee of Seventeen until it had been approved by the Committee on Information itself.

The CHAIRMAN said that that supposition was correct.

APPROVAL OF THE REPORT: REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE (A/AC.35/L.365)

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Drafting Committee had completed its report on the item on educational advancement in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and he invited the Rapporteur to introduce it.

Mr. ROS (Argentina), Rapporteur, introduced the report of the Drafting Committee and said that there was a paragraph missing from the text that had been circulated. He read out that paragraph, which would be included in the final text.

Mr. HOOD (Australia) objected to the reference in paragraph 9 to "racial discrimination" in primary schools. That paragraph might give an impression which the Australian delegation had been very careful to avoid, for it did not correspond to the facts, at any event, in so far as the Territories under Australian administration were concerned. While it was true that in Papua, for instance, Papuan children attending primary schools were treated differently from the children of expatriates, that had nothing to do with race but was based solely on practical considerations. He wondered whether the Drafting Committee could redraft that paragraph in the light of the objection he had just made.

Mr. ROS (Argentina), Rapporteur, pointed out that the sentence to which the Australian representative had objected was a general statement. In so far as any particular application was concerned, the Drafting Committee had been thinking of Territories in Africa when it had adopted the words "some Territories".

The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Australian representative was satisfied with that explanation.

Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that if his objection was included in the record of the meeting, he would not press for an amendment of the sentence in paragraph 9 to which he had objected.

Mr. AKHUND (Pakistan) said that he did not see how the first sentence of paragraph 9 could be controversial. It was a general statement, aimed at no one in particular. What it meant was explained in the meeting records.

Mr. VALENCIA (Ecuador) felt that, in view of the discussion that had taken place and the documents before the Committee, it would be difficult to deny that some racial discrimination did exist in the schools of certain African Territories. If the situation was different in Papua, the sentence under consideration did not apply to that Territory.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt part I of the Drafting Committee's report.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.