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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Thirteenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 23 May 1962, at 3.15 p.m.

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PRESIDENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. MALAIASEKERA	(Ceylon)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. ROS	Argentina
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. HOOD	Australia
	Mr. MAHENDRAN	Ceylon
	Mr. VALENCIA	Ecuador
	Mr. de CAMARET	France
	Mr. EASTMAN	Liberia
	Mr. CALVILLO	Mexico
	Mr. GOEDHART	Netherlands
	Mr. NORRISH	New Zealand
	Mr. AKHUND	Pakistan
	Mr. JIMENEZ	Philippines
	Mr. de PINIES	Spain
	Mr. THOM	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. BINGHAM)	
	Mr. POPPER)	United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

	Mr. LLOYD	International Labour Organisation
	Dr. SACKS	World Health Organization
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. PROTITCH	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self- Governing Territories
	Mr. CHU	Secretary of the Committee

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (A/AC.35/L.365 and Add.1 and 2) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider part II of the report of the Drafting Committee (A/AC.35/L.365/Add.1) and the Rapporteur's report (A/AC.35/L.365/Add.2).

Mr. ROS (Argentina), Rapporteur, introducing the two reports, thanked the other members of the Drafting Committee, the representatives of the ILO, UNESCO and WHO, and the Secretariat for their assistance.

Mr. de PINIES (Spain) said that the wealth of detail in the reports and the systematic way in which it was presented should give the General Assembly a clear idea of the conditions prevailing in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He wished only to point out that Ifni had been omitted from the list of Territories in paragraph 21 of document A/AC.35/L.365/Add.1, annex I.

Mr. GOEDHART (Netherlands) said that in principle he was entirely satisfied with the reports. He suggested a few minor additions to paragraph 35 of document A/AC.35/L.365/Add.1, annex I, which would make it a more complete and accurate reflection of the situation in Netherlands New Guinea.

The CHAIRMAN said that the suggestions made by Spain and the Netherlands would be taken into account when the final text was issued.

Mr. HOOD (Australia) congratulated the Rapporteur and the Drafting Committee on their work. While he did not intend to propose any changes, he would like to enter a reservation with regard to paragraph 36 of document A/AC.35/L.365/Add.1, annex I. The idea underlying that paragraph was, of course, acceptable to all but he questioned whether it was within the competence of the Committee to lay down such a principle, since it was obvious that before Non-Self-Governing Territories could become independent some kind of pattern on the basis of which to begin that process must be placed before them. The wording of the paragraph might seem to imply that the outlining of such a pattern was tantamount to the imposition of a particular political system, whereas it was in

(Mr. Hood, Australia)

reality nothing more than a provision of means by which to attain the desired goal. His Government as an Administering Power had no desire to impose any particular form of political institution on Territories under its administration but wished only to provide them with a means by which to begin their progress towards independence.

Mr. THOM (United Kingdom) observed that the situation referred to in document A/AC.35/L.365/Add.1, annex III, paragraph 6, was one which had prevailed in the past but was now rapidly changing. For example, as the result of a recent dispute between employers and the African mine-workers' union in the Copper Belt the United Kingdom Government had within the past two weeks appointed a commission to inquire not only into the dispute itself but also into the existing wage system and educational plans and training facilities in the copper industry. The Commission's terms of reference included the power to make recommendations on the subject. While it was too early to say what the outcome of the inquiry would be, some reference to it might be made in paragraph 6. Perhaps a sentence could be added stating that the Committee welcomed the recent announcement by the United Kingdom Government of the appointment of a commission empowered to make a general inquiry into the dispute and into conditions of employment in the industry generally.

The wording of paragraph 8 of the same annex gave the impression that Africans were excluded from the colleges of Northern Rhodesia, which was not the case. There was no question of their being ineligible for admission; the aim of the policy referred to in that paragraph was simply to increase the number of places available to them. A new College of Further Education admitting students of all races was to open at Lusaka in April 1963. It would offer elementary, intermediate and higher courses in commercial subjects and would provide engineering courses in conjunction with Hodgson Technical College, as also adult education courses. Many African students had already been judged eligible for admission. He therefore suggested that the words "to admit Africans" at the end of paragraph 8 should be replaced by the words "to take in more students of all races" and that a sentence might be added to the effect that the Committee welcomed the announcement that the College of Further Education at Lusaka now under construction was expected to open its doors to students of all races in April 1963.

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(Mr. Thom, United Kingdom)

Finally, he noted that in paragraphs 37, 38 and 39 of annex I in document A/AC.35/L.365/Add.1 there were specific references to Territories under United Kingdom administration together with what were, in effect, recommendations for action which the Committee felt should be taken in those Territories in the future. As his delegation had made clear, in the Committee and elsewhere, its views concerning the competence of the United Nations to make such recommendations he wished to place on record his reservations concerning that part of the report.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia), referring to the United Kingdom representative's remarks concerning paragraph 8 of annex III, observed that although access to higher education was not denied to Africans the essential point was that they had not the primary and secondary education which would enable them to take advantage of it.

Mr. THOM (United Kingdom) replied that it was estimated that some 4,000 to 5,000 students of African origin were eligible for admission to the courses which were to be offered by the new College at Lusauka.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia) said that, if that was the case, it was new information which could be included by the United Kingdom delegation in its report for the following year. His own delegation could not consent to its inclusion in the report under consideration, for it had not been referred to in the documents provided by the United Kingdom for the current session.

Mr. POPPER (United States of America) suggested that to meet the United Kingdom representative's desire to have some recognition of recent developments reflected in the report, as also the views of the representative of Liberia, a foot-note might be added to the effect that the United Kingdom representative had given the information in question.

The CHAIRMAN asked whether there were any objections to the amendment to paragraph 6 proposed by the United Kingdom representative.

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Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia) said that he had the same reservation with regard to that amendment as he had made with regard to the United Kingdom amendment to paragraph 8; the information in question had not been submitted to the Committee before the drafting of the report.

Mr. AKHUND (Pakistan) recalled that the same point had been raised by the United Kingdom representative in the Drafting Committee but that the Drafting Committee had felt unable to include in its report information which had not been supplied to the Committee in plenary session. He thought a foot-note might well be added saying that the information in question had been given by the United Kingdom representative, but he did not feel that at the present stage it was possible to say that the Committee had welcomed the announcement.

Mr. THOM (United Kingdom) explained that the information had been received while the Drafting Committee was in session. His delegation's only purpose had been to bring the report up to date; his proposal had not been a formal one.

The CHAIRMAN said that if there was no objection a foot-note would be added, as suggested by the representatives of the United States and Pakistan, without any expression of views on the part of the Committee.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN said that if there was no objection he would consider the report to have been adopted.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN said that if there was no objection the following paragraph would be added at the conclusion of the report.

"46. Having unanimously adopted this report, the Committee submits it for the consideration and approval of the General Assembly and requests the latter to invite the Secretary-General to transmit the 1962 report to the Members of the United Nations responsible for the administration of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to the Economic and Social Council, to the regional economic commissions, to the Trusteeship Council, to the Special Committee on the situation with regard to the implementation of the

(The Chairman)

Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, and to the specialized agencies concerned, for their consideration".

Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that the general observations made by his and other delegations should be taken into account. He therefore suggested that the first sentence of the proposed new paragraph should be amended to read:

"Having unanimously adopted this report, the Committee submits it, together with certain final observations by members of the Committee, for the consideration and approval of the General Assembly"

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) asked whether it was intended that the report should not be distributed to the various recipients until after the General Assembly had had an opportunity to receive and consider it. He had understood that the report was to be transmitted as soon as possible to the Committee on the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. If that was correct he thought there might be a slight change in the wording, which, as it stood, seemed to imply that transmission would be delayed until after the General Assembly had acted.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that General Assembly resolution 1700 (XVI) requested the Committee on Information to transmit to the Special Committee on the application of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples its reports on political and constitutional information and on information relating to functional fields and to provide it with pertinent material available to the Committee on Information. Since the report undoubtedly contained pertinent material, the Committee would be justified in forwarding it to the Special Committee. The proposed new paragraph was drafted in accordance with the usual practice and he therefore hoped that the members of the Committee would agree to allow it to stand, on the understanding that a copy of the report would be transmitted to the Special Committee.

It was so decided.

Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that his point would be met if the records of the Committee's debates were transmitted to the General Assembly with the report.

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The CHAIRMAN said that he understood that that was the usual practice.

If there were no further comments, he would consider that the proposed additional paragraph was adopted.

It was so decided.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN paid a tribute to the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur and to all the other members of the Committee. The spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding in which the debates had been conducted had made the proceedings smooth, pleasant and fruitful. The successful outcome of the session should be attributed largely to the preparatory work done by the Secretariat, to the contributions and participation of the specialized agencies and to the information supplied by the Administering Members.

At the present session the Committee had decided as an experiment to appoint a Drafting Committee rather than a sub-committee. In his view, that innovation had been successful in shortening the Committee's labours, which was particularly important during a period of intense activity when demands for the services of interpreters and precis-writers had been unusually heavy.

In 1946 eight Administering Members had listed seventy-six Non-Self-Governing Territories. The General Assembly had appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on an annual basis to examine the information transmitted on many of them. In 1949 the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had been established for a three-year term and had been renewed for further periods of three years in 1952, 1955 and 1958. In 1961 the General Assembly, in resolution 1700 (XVI), had decided to continue the Committee on Information until such time as the General Assembly had decided that the principles embodied in Chapter XI of the Charter and in the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples had been fully implemented. The Committee's new terms of reference included the examination of political and constitutional information and the undertaking of intensive studies of political, educational, economic and social conditions and problems. The Committee's work had expanded and had been given a clearer focus and a more precise sense of time. The continued absence of Portugal was rightly regarded by the Committee

as regrettable and it confirmed the wisdom of the General Assembly in establishing a Special Committee to deal with Territories under Portuguese administration.

Since the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee in 1946, some twenty-five former Non-Self-Governing Territories had attained independence and had been admitted to the United Nations as sovereign Members. That fact was a testimony to the importance of the Committee and the contribution it had made to that proud record of achievement. Since a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories had attained a full measure of self-government and emerged from the scope of Chapter XI of the Charter, it might be claimed that the importance of the Committee on Information had declined. In his view that was not correct; indeed, its importance had actually grown, because there were still some fifty-four Non-Self-Governing Territories which were looking to the Committee for the fulfilment of their aspirations.

The work of the Committee had been greatly facilitated by the transmission of political and constitutional information on over forty Non-Self-Governing Territories under United Kingdom administration. Such co-operation, steadily augmented by more detailed reporting in the future and given by all the Administering Powers, was the only means by which the Committee could expedite the carrying out of its mandate.

He thanked the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur, the other members of the Committee and the representatives of the specialized agencies for their co-operation. He wished to say a special word of thanks to the Under-Secretary and his staff and to all members of the Secretariat who had assisted the Committee in its work.

Mr. de PINIES (Spain), Vice-Chairman, congratulated the Chairman on the manner in which he had conducted the Committee's proceedings. He also thanked the Rapporteur and the other members of the Committee, the representatives of the specialized agencies and the members of the Secretariat who had been associated with the Committee in its work.

Mr. GCEDHART (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of all the Administering Members, expressed gratitude for the way in which the Chairman had conducted the proceedings of the Committee. It was largely due to his ability and efficiency

(Mr. Goedhart, Netherlands)

that the Committee had completed its work in so short a time. He also offered the congratulations and thanks of the Administering Members, the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur.

Mr. AKHUND (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the non-Administering Members, paid a tribute to the great distinction and conscientiousness with which the Chairman had guided the Committee in its work. The fact that the debates had taken place in such an atmosphere of harmony and general friendliness was largely due to the Chairman's guidance.

He thanked the Secretariat, the specialized agencies and the Administering Members for their help and co-operation. He also offered the thanks of the non-Administering Members to the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.