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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Fourteenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Monday, 15 April 1963, at 11.20 a.m.

CONTENTS

Opening of the session

Election of officers

Adoption of the agenda (A/AC.35/16)

Preliminary statements

Organization of work (A/AC.35/L.367)

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. de PINIES	(Spain)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. NORRIS	New Zealand
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. WHITE	Australia
	Mr. VALENCIA	Ecuador
	Mr. DOISE	France
	Miss SUNSERI	Honduras
	Mr. EASTMAN	Liberia
	Mr. CUEVAS CANCINO )	Mexico
	Mr. CARRANCO AVILA )	
	Mr. HAMDANI	Pakistan
	Mr. JIMENEZ )	Philippines
	Mr. CALINGASAN )	
	Mr. PEREZ RUIZ	Spain
	Mr. SANKEY	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. YATES	United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

	Mr. REYMOND	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	Dr. SACKS )	World Health Organization
	Mrs. KALM )	
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. PROTITCH	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self- Governing Territories
	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

## OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr. PROTITCH (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) declared the fourteenth session of the Committee open.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Miss SUNSERI (Honduras) nominated Mr. de Pinies (Spain) for the office of Chairman.

Mr. YATES (United States of America) seconded the nomination.

Mr. de Pinies (Spain) was elected Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. de Pinies (Spain) took the Chair.

Mr. JIMENEZ (Philippines) nominated Mr. Hamdani (Pakistan) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

Mr. SANKEY (United Kingdom) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Hamdani (Pakistan) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. WHITE (Australia) nominated Mr. Norrish (New Zealand) for the office of Rapporteur.

Mr. HAMDANI (Pakistan) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Norrish (New Zealand) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

## STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN said that he wished to make a few observations regarding the Committee's role within the general framework of the activities of the United Nations in colonial matters. At its sixteenth session, in resolution 1700 (XVI), the General Assembly had decided that the Committee on Information should remain in existence until such time as it was 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. At the following session, in resolution 1847 (XVII), the General Assembly had reaffirmed its faith

(The Chairman)

in the usefulness of the Committee but had decided that, in the light of the rapid progress required for the accession of Non-Self-Governing Territories to independence, the situation relating to the further continuation of the Committee should be reviewed at the eighteenth session. While it would be for the Assembly to take a decision on the matter, he thought that the Committee itself might take the liberty of expressing its views regarding its functions and usefulness. The General Assembly had always taken into consideration the views of the Committee. He would therefore make a few remarks on the subject, hoping that other members of the Committee would be stimulated to do the same.

The usefulness of the Committee consisted in its function of examining the information transmitted by Administering Members in accordance with article 73 of the Charter and any other information which those States decided to transmit on Territories under their administration in compliance with their international obligations. It was the hope of all that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories would soon attain self-determination and independence, with the result that the Committee's activities would be progressively reduced until they were no longer needed. If, however, there continued to be a substantial number of Non-Self-Governing Territories, it seemed to him that there would be a need for the Committee to continue to discharge its functions and to provide a channel through which Member States could comply with their international obligations. It did not seem to him that any other Committee could perform those tasks in a more effective way. Without the existence of a Committee like the present one, the obligations deriving from Chapter XI of the Charter might perhaps lose the significance which the General Assembly had attributed to them in a long list of resolutions.

Resolutions 1700 (XVI) and 1847 (XVII) also raised the question of assistance which could be rendered by the present Committee to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. The Committee might perhaps decide to transmit to the Chairman of the Special Committee its reports and the records of its debates, while the Secretariat could also be asked to make available to the Special Committee the working documents submitted to the Committee on Information by the Secretariat and the specialized agencies. The Special Committee might thus be saved a considerable amount of preliminary work.

(The Chairman)

The question which he had discussed was an important one, for the function performed by the Committee on Information could not be judged simply in terms of the co-ordination of work; it involved important issues of a constitutional nature and problems relating to functions and responsibilities under the Charter.

The Committee was once again in the happy position of being able to remove from its list certain territories which had now obtained independence and had been admitted to the United Nations: namely, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda.

In conclusion, he would like to express his grief and that of the Committee at the recent death of Mr. T.B. Williamson, who had participated in the Committee's work as a member of the United Kingdom delegation.

Mr. SANKEY (United Kingdom) thanked the Chairman for his remarks concerning Mr. Williamson, which he would convey to his Government.

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/AC.35/16)

The agenda was adopted.

Mr. PROTITCH (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) made a statement concerning the documentation for the Committee's fourteenth session.

Mr. HAMDANI (Pakistan) proposed that the Under-Secretary's statement should be circulated to all members.

The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections the proposal would be adopted.

It was so decided.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia) said that his delegation had raised no objection to the adoption of the agenda, but he had one reservation to make, with reference to item 9. He was not sure about the meaning of the word "co-operation" in that connexion. The Committee must of course report to the General Assembly, in accordance with its terms of reference, but to ask it to transmit its reports to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was

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(Mr. Eastman, Liberia)

to place it in a subordinate position to that body. The activities of the two Committees were interrelated; the Special Committee dealt primarily with political questions, whereas the Committee on Information covered all aspects of colonialism and its work should not be subject to the approval of the Special Committee.

The CHAIRMAN observed that the point raised by the representative of Liberia could be debated when the Committee took up item 9 of its agenda.

#### PRELIMINARY STATEMENTS

Mr. PEREZ RUIZ (Spain) said that his delegation wished to put on record his country's reservations, legal and other, in connexion with the transmission by the United Kingdom of information concerning Gibraltar, sovereignty over which belonged to Spain.

Mr. SANKEY (United Kingdom) replied that Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom had no doubts whatsoever about its sovereignty over the Territory of Gibraltar and he wished formally to reserve its rights on the question.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to paragraph 11 of the introductory note on the work of the Committee (A/AC.35/L.367), which stated that at the 1962 session the view had been expressed in the Committee that there might be some merit in reverting to the previous practice of examining information relating to the functional fields on a rotational basis. In that connexion, he suggested that the Committee might first devote one or two meetings to general statements of policy, after which it might proceed immediately to the consideration of economic advancement. From the point of view of the report there might be advantages in considering each sub-item of item 5 separately; nevertheless he thought it would be better on the whole for members to refer, if they wished, to any of the subjects covered by item 5 in their statements. After the conclusion of the debate on economic advancement the Committee might wish to set up a sub-committee to examine the subject in greater detail and to draw up a report for the Committee's approval. At the same time the Committee would take up the other items on the agenda.

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(The Chairman)

In view of the short time at the Committee's disposal, he appealed to members to be ready to make their statements when called upon.

He asked the Secretariat to draw up a provisional time-table of the Committee's work.

Mr. SANKEY (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had brought with it two films, one relating to the establishment of a paper pulp industry in Swaziland and the other to the establishment of new industries in Hong Kong. If the Committee would like to see the films, arrangements could perhaps be made for them to be shown at a suitable date.

The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections he would take it that members were in favour of seeing the two films referred to by the United Kingdom representative.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that if the Committee's next meeting was a short one the films might be shown immediately after the meeting. He asked the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.