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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Eleventh Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 25 March 1960, at 10.55 a.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. QUAISON-SACKEY	(Ghana)
later,	Mr. GOEDHART	(Netherlands)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. BACON	(United States of America)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. CURTIS	Australia
	Mr. OLIVEIRA	Brazil
	Mr. WIJEGONAWARDENA	Ceylon
	Mr. DIPP GOMEZ	Dominican Republic
	Mr. de CAMARET	France
	Mr. NIKOI	Ghana
	Mr. RASGOTRA	India
	Miss KAMAL	Iraq
	Mr. GOEDHART	Netherlands
	Mr. WATT	New Zealand
	Mr. CASTON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. SPALDING	United States of America
<u>Representatives of specialized agencies:</u>		
	Mr. REYMOND	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. ACHARYA	Food and Agriculture Organization
	Mr. AKRAWI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	Dr. SACKS	World Health Organization
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN RESPECT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/4111, part I; A/AC.35/L.322 and L.323) (continued)

Miss KAMAL (Iraq) associated her delegation with others which had praised the remarkable work done by the specialized agencies, United Nations commissions and the non-governmental organizations; that work clearly illustrated the importance and effectiveness of international collaboration in promoting the economic, social and educational development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was interesting to note that those organizations were increasingly developing joint programmes as the interdependence of their various activities became more evident.

Another encouraging development was the organization of seminars by various specialized agencies, which afforded excellent opportunities for the experts attending them to benefit by the experiences of other countries in meeting similar problems. She welcomed the action of the United Kingdom in associating its Territories with the work of the specialized agencies and commissions, for such participation would help to acquaint the peoples of the Territories with the best methods of tackling their problems and would provide an excellent opportunity for training experts from the indigenous populations. She hoped that other Administering Members would follow that example.

Although she agreed that the progress achieved should not be judged by the problems remaining unsolved, she felt that the impatience of some members of the Committee with the rate of progress resulted from their conviction, based on experience, that events did not wait upon the rate of development and that the great speed with which different Territories were achieving independence was the underlying reason for the oft-repeated demand for more to be done. That might partly explain the attitude of some newly independent Governments in refusing to maintain the services of the experts and administrators of the former administrative members, for those Governments often felt that the experts had not worked for the best interests of their peoples. Moreover, they were anxious to divest themselves of the last vestiges of colonial rule which those experts symbolized.

Mr. GOEDHART (Netherlands) said that his Government had always welcomed, and indeed had done its utmost to further, international collaboration as a means of assisting in the progressive development of the Territory under its administration. The Netherlands Government had received much valuable assistance for the Territory from the specialized agencies, in particular from WHO and UNICEF. The Territory had profited greatly from the advice of experts, from studies carried out on such subjects as infant and maternal welfare and nutrition, and from the attendance of specialists from the Territory at international gatherings such as the Malaria Conference in New Delhi in 1959.

Another form of international co-operation was provided by the South Pacific Commission. The Fourth South Pacific Conference, held at Rabaul in 1959 under the auspices of the Commission, had been highly successful; the exclusively indigenous conference had given the inhabitants of the region a chance to discuss subjects of common interest.

The co-operation maintained between the Australian and Netherlands Governments with regard to New Guinea had been increasing in scope over the past few years. The implementation of the recommendations of the conference on administrative co-operation held by the two Governments in 1958 had already shown some tangible results, particularly in the improvement of communications. More frequent visits by officials from one part of the island to the other had contributed to a better understanding of local conditions and problems; co-ordination in the planning of mass campaigns to control endemic diseases was pursued whenever possible; and a start had been made in providing technical training for the indigenous population of both Territories. The two Governments intended to continue to hold annual conferences on common administrative problems and on ways in which measures of administrative and other forms of co-operation might be further developed. The most recent such conference, held at Hollandia a few weeks earlier, had drawn up a number of recommendations on the further development of co-operation, particularly with regard to problems of administration, economic development, education, public health, communications and publications.

Mr. OLIVEIRA (Brazil), commenting on the Secretariat report on international collaboration (A/AC.35/L.323), said that the decisions and studies

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made by the Economic and Social Council were of a general character and the Administering Powers were expected to take them into account when they affected the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. As was stated in the report, the Economic Commission for Africa had considered at its second session the economic situation and trends in Africa and the impact of the European Common Market on African trade in general. His delegation welcomed the decision of the Commission to request its Executive Secretary to study and appraise the effect on Africa of economic groupings in Europe and to convene an ad hoc committee to examine those reports. Such an approach might be worth considering in other under-developed areas where the economy depended mainly on trade in primary commodities. His delegation was confident that, at its next session, the Committee would not fail to give careful consideration to those questions, which affected the economy of Africa in general and its international trade.

His delegation had taken note of the establishment of the new Caribbean Organization, with headquarters in Puerto Rico, and wished that regional organization every success.

His delegation wished to pay a tribute to WHO for its detailed report on the work which it had undertaken together with UNICEF and other United Nations agencies. Brazil co-operated gladly with WHO. In 1960 a seminar on nutrition education, organized by WHO, UNICEF and FAO, was to take place in Rio de Janeiro and would be of direct interest to health authorities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean region.

His delegation had listened with great interest to the statements made by the representatives of the specialized agencies and had taken note of references by the representatives of the Administering Powers to the importance which they attached to co-operation with those agencies. International collaboration would have an increasingly important part to play in the social and economic development not only of the non-self-Governing Territories but of all the under-developed areas in the world, and he hoped that the Committee would hear more and more in the future about co-operation with the specialized agencies with a view to achieving the goals of Chapter XI of the Charter.

Mr. SPALDING (United States of America) said that the participation of the United States Government in many co-operative economic programmes, not to mention its own bilateral programmes, was sufficiently well known to make detailed comment unnecessary. His Government had encouraged the creation of the Special Fund and was a major contributor to it; it would eventually be contributing over \$300 million towards the resources of the International Development Agency; moreover, it had supported an expansion in the resources of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund and it participated actively in the various United Nations economic programmes as well as in some not directly associated with the United Nations, such as the Colombo Plan.

Although document A/AC.35/L.323 dealt for the most part with the activities of the Economic and Social Council during the year ended February 1960, it also reported certain conclusions of the 1958 World Economic Survey regarding the export earnings of under-developed countries. In his view, it would be desirable to take into account the up-to-date information on that subject available in the United Nations Commodity Survey for 1959. According to that document and contrary to experience during the preceding period, the export earnings of countries exporting primary products during the first three quarters of 1959 had been about 7 per cent above those for the corresponding period in 1958.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) observed that there were many non-governmental organizations - for example, the ICFTU, the IFCTU, the WFTU and the Anti-Slavery Society - which were in a position to provide useful information to the Committee. Now that the pace of development was increasing, his delegation felt that the work of those organizations should be recognized as it deserved to be. It would be useful if by the next session, which would be concentrating on social conditions, some method could be devised of obtaining the information in question and of laying it before the Committee.

FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE (A/AC.35/L.321)

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that the working paper on social studies for the twelfth session of the Committee (A/AC.35/L.321), which followed the pattern of the Committee's deliberations in previous years, contained a number of useful suggestions. Nevertheless, he considered that by continuing to follow the same approach the Committee would merely tend to repeat what it had already said in its earlier reports on social conditions. He felt some doubt about the usefulness, at the present stage of the Committee's work, of its continuing with the practice of taking up one particular aspect of social development, applying it to some sixty Territories and concluding with a generalization which did not apply to any single Territory. As far as social advancement was concerned, the groundwork, so to speak, had now been done and he felt the time had come when the Committee should endeavour to ascertain to what extent the principles and objectives it had laid down had been implemented or achieved in certain selected Territories. His delegation had no objection to the suggested studies outlined in paragraph 4 of the working paper, but it had certain reservations with regard to the studies referred to in paragraph 5.

With regard to juvenile delinquency, for example, he wondered what the Committee could add to the section on that subject in its 1957 report. The conclusions reached at that time were sound and would remain valid for a considerable time. The Committee should now be concerned with the measures taken to deal with the problem.

With regard to race relations, he observed that the phrase itself was a misnomer. What the Committee should have was a study under some such title as "Discriminatory Legislation, Policies and Practices in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in Africa" - he mentioned Africa specifically because it was in that continent that the problem was most acute. The Committee should not merely enunciate its theories on the subject but should make a definite study of the relevant legislation, practices and policies. He did not suggest that the Committee should formulate recommendations with regard to any particular Territory; he would like the study to state the facts as they emerged from an examination of, say, half a dozen Territories and to leave the Administering Powers concerned to draw their own conclusions. He did not think anyone could maintain that that would be exceeding the terms of Article 73 e of the Charter.

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(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

As far as labour-management relations were concerned, he did not think the subject had any relevance in the context of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Few of them had organized trade unions; the relationship between management and labour was of the most primitive kind. The Committee should study the growth and development of trade unions and the trade-union movement in the light of facts and figures.

Other important related subjects were social security in all its aspects, recreational facilities, wage legislation and the present level of wages as compared with the cost of living. The Committee had already in the past formulated conclusions with regard to wages; it should now ascertain to what extent those conclusions had been applied in the Territories. There again there was no need to endeavour to cover all the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In his delegation's view, it would be particularly interesting under that heading to examine social security measures, wage standards, the relationship of wages to the cost of living and so on, in perhaps three or four groups, each consisting of two or three Territories.

With regard to community development, his delegation would like to see a study made on the basis of exhaustive information relating to, say, half a dozen community projects. The Committee had been told that much work in that respect had been done in the East African Territories; it might study the Swynnerton Plan side by side with similar developments, possibly in West Irian and in the Caribbean area. There again, what was wanted was not a statement of theory but information about how the theory was being implemented and what results had been achieved. There must be a study of health conditions; not of health problems, with which the members of the Committee were already familiar. His delegation would like to see a comprehensive paper, in the preparation of which WHO might co-operate with the Secretariat, dealing with any new measures that had been taken and their effects and giving specific facts and figures.

He emphasized that his delegation was not proposing that the Committee should make recommendations with reference to individual Territories. It did consider, however, that the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories would benefit from the study of groups of Territories, in accordance with his suggestion, and that the Committee's work would gain in practical effectiveness.

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Mr. SPALDING (United States of America) observed that, if the Indian representative's suggestion for changing the title of the study devoted to race relations were to be adopted, the scope of the study would thereby be circumscribed. Again, trade-union activities were only one aspect of the wide subject of labour-management relations. In his view the title of the various studies should be left as they were given in document A/AC.35/L.321.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) said that, while his delegation's attitude did not differ fundamentally from that of the Indian representative, he agreed with the United States representative that the consequence of the Indian representative's suggestions would be to restrict the amount of information made available to the Committee. Race relations, for example, were not confined to questions of discrimination. Different delegations approached problems in different ways and sufficient information should be made available to enable the Committee to obtain a balanced view. The Secretariat should be left free to make the most useful possible study of a subject and should not be asked to give illustrations only from certain specified Territories. With regard to juvenile delinquency, the factors involved, such as urban growth or changes in employment patterns, would have altered between 1958 and 1961 and he did not agree that the subject should be excluded; the Committee's object would be to ascertain what had happened during that three-year period. In his view, the Secretariat should be asked to prepare a report on the general basis given in document A/AC.35/L.321, but to bear in mind the comments made during the discussion.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that he had not wished to imply that no progress had occurred in the Territories. That was not the case, and he hoped that the Administering Powers would see to it that the information they provided reflected the changes which were taking place.

What he had wished to point out was that community development, for example, was not a universal institution; the Committee should therefore study what had happened in, say, six Territories where it did exist. The tragedy of race relations was that, in fact, those relations did not exist. He did not insist upon the title which he had suggested in that connexion, but the fact remained that racial troubles in Africa were causing instability. Article 55 of the

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

Charter referred to the conditions of stability and well-being which were necessary for peaceful and friendly relations; moreover, as he had said at the 221st meeting, instability in the Non-Self-Governing Territories discouraged investment. The Committee's task should therefore be to find out why such troubles persisted and what caused them. If the study revealed that certain discriminatory legislation had disappeared from the statute-book, the Committee would note that progress had taken place.

The term "labour management relations" was appropriate to countries with a highly developed labour force dealing with management on equal terms. What his delegation wished to know was whether there were in the Territories trade unions of a kind which could put labour-management relations on a formal basis: the theme in fact was "organization of labour". He did not object to a study being made of juvenile delinquency, but the subject should not be discussed in general terms, since the Committee had already done so in the past.

If objections were raised to his suggestion that the studies should be of a given group of Territories or region, then he would like to see an exhaustive study made of, say, six Territories spread over two or three different regions. The whole purpose of his suggestions was to impart reality to the Committee's work and to avoid generalizations.

Mr. OLIVEIRA (Brazil) said that his delegation sympathized with the Indian representative's point of view. The approach to questions such as that of race relations should be more specific in character: a special study should be made of both discriminatory and anti-discriminatory legislation.

Mr. NIKOI (Ghana) said that his delegation was largely in agreement with what the Indian representative had said concerning the method and approach to be used in examining some of the reports.

As far as the question of race relations was concerned, the delegation of Ghana had already put some questions on the subject to the United Kingdom representative and had been given a good deal of information on the subject. More comprehensive documentation was likely to be called for in the field of discriminatory legislation and administrative practices. Developments in that

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connexion were taking place in many of the Central African Territories about which it was sometimes difficult to obtain up-to-date information. At its twelfth session the Committee would no doubt devote much attention to the question.

He was also in substantial agreement with the Indian representative on the matter of labour-management relations. There again, in relation to some of the Central African Territories the Committee would probably need a great deal of detailed information not only about labour-management relations themselves but also about trade-union practices and other questions and about certain statutory legislation which debarred indigenous inhabitants from entering specific branches of work.

He had understood the Indian representative to express the wish for more comprehensive data on race relations and community development in particular. It could hardly be disputed that it was difficult to make generalizations on community development embracing over fifty Territories, whereas an examination of the actual working of, say, six examples which had been carefully and scientifically chosen and not picked out to illustrate preconceived ideas would render the Committee's work far more effective.

Subject to those reservations, he had no objection to the suggestions in the working paper. The Secretariat would no doubt, in preparing the documentation, take into consideration the request for more comprehensive data on some aspects of social conditions such as race relations, trade-union activities and community development, which were of particular interest to the delegation of Ghana.

Mr. GOEDHART (Netherlands) said that in his delegation's view the documentation for the twelfth session of the Committee should be prepared on the lines suggested by the Secretariat in the working paper. His delegation would like to be furnished with full information on every subject, as in previous years. It was the Committee's task to analyse information submitted and if necessary to reach conclusions on the basis of comparisons between various regions or individual Territories. It would be regrettable to restrict the studies to be made to certain aspects of the various subjects. If the normal procedure were followed all delegations would naturally be free to bring out those points they found particularly interesting.

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Miss KAMAL (Iraq) supported the Indian representative's proposal. She sympathized with the views expressed by the Netherlands and United Kingdom delegations but maintained that the adoption of the Indian proposals would not preclude the discussion of other more general topics.

Mr. CURTIS (Australia) said that in his opinion the Secretariat's suggestions included the points which the Indian representative wished to emphasize and if they were adopted, there was no reason why he could not give special attention to those questions.

With regard to the implication that the Committee should approach its work the next year from a different point of view, he thought that the present procedure, by which Administering Members transmitted detailed annual reports and provided supplementary information on specific points each year, was quite adequate. The Committee's method of work had been the result of much thought. It was a balanced arrangement which had enabled the Committee to do useful work and which had a great deal to recommend it. For that reason he did not think it should be modified. He endorsed the Secretariat's proposals, which were useful and constructive.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom), replying to the representative of Ghana, said that one difficulty was that there was not enough information on certain points. There were therefore gaps in the Secretariat's reports, since they were based on information supplied by the Administering Members. Although the United Kingdom did its utmost, it could not produce in advance information on all points likely to be of interest to the Committee; it therefore gave as much supplementary information in the Committee as possible. Another difficulty was that of the time lag between the date of the information and the date at which it was studied. That was unavoidable: the Secretariat worked for some months on the information - often, unfortunately, transmitted late by Administering Members - and the information itself related to six months or more earlier. He could suggest no answer to that problem, which bedevilled any committee studying any subject. All his Government could do was to offer as much and as recent information as possible and supplement it by statements in the Committee.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India), replying to the representative of Australia, said that he was not suggesting a reorientation of the Committee's methods or a change in the type of information it received. It seemed to him that the purpose of such special studies as those which the Secretariat and the specialized agencies proposed to undertake was to bring out the various aspects of developments in a particular field. He thought that, instead of making generalizations about sixty Territories which were inapplicable to, say, thirty-five, the Committee should concentrate on particular developments in particular regions.

One such field was the status of women. He would welcome a study on the subject by the Secretariat, UNESCO, the ILO and other agencies and he thought that the subject should be examined every year, since it was equally relevant to economic, social and educational conditions. He urged that the ILO, in particular, should undertake such a study, since women were wage-earners in many Territories; an inquiry should be made into such questions as why their wages were in general lower than those of men, what were the conditions in which they worked and what access they had to education.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) said that he entirely agreed with the Indian representative's suggestion regarding a study on the status of women.

Mr. Goedhart (Netherlands) took the Chair.

Mr. KUNST (Secretary of the Committee) said that in the preparation of the studies for submission to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories at its 1961 session the Secretariat would, as on previous occasions, co-operate closely with the specialized agencies concerned. In the planning and working out of those studies, it would be guided by the observations made by the members of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.