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DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN TRUST TERRITORIES

Report of the Fourth Committee

Rapporteur: Poul BOEG (Denmark)

1. At its 881st meeting on 1 October 1960, the General Assembly allocated the following item on its agenda to the Fourth Committee:

"46. Dissemination of Information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories: Report of the Secretary-General" (A/4542 and Corr.1 (English and Spanish only), and Corr.1/Add.1 (French only) and A/4542/Add.1).

2. The Fourth Committee considered this item from its 1104th to its 1107th meetings and at its 1128th and 1129th meetings.

3. At the 1105th meeting, Burma submitted a draft resolution (A/C.4/L.673), the operative paragraphs of which are reproduced below:

"The General Assembly

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territories;

"2. Considers that the United Nations information centres constitute the most important means of disseminating information about United Nations;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue discussions with the Administering Authorities concerned with a view to establishing, during 1961, in Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urundi and New Guinea, United Nations information centres in which the responsible positions would be occupied preferably by indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories concerned;

"4. Invites the Administering Authorities to extend their co-operation and assistance to the Secretary-General in implementing the recommendations made in paragraph 3 above;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the immediate and mass publication and the widest possible circulation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 in all the Trust Territories;

"6. Further requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the twenty-eighth session of the Trusteeship Council and for the sixteenth session of the General Assembly a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

4. During the debate on the draft resolution at the 1105th meeting, a number of comments and suggestions were made to the sponsor by, amongst others, the representatives of India, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Mexico and Cameroun. Taking these into account, the sponsor, at the 1106th meeting, submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.4/L.673/Rev.1), the operative paragraphs of which are reproduced below:

"The General Assembly

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territories;

"2. Considers that the United Nations information centres constitute one of the most important means of disseminating information about United Nations in these territories;

"3. Takes note of the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom that, as a result of discussions between the Secretary-General and the Administering Authority, steps have been taken to establish, in the near future, a United Nations information centre in Tanganyika;

"4. Takes further note of the recommendation in paragraph 224 of the interim report of the United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi that "a United Nations Information Centre should be set up with all possible speed in Ruanda-Urundi";

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue discussions with a view to establishing without any further delay in Ruanda-Urundi and New Guinea, United Nations information centres in which the responsible positions would be occupied preferably by indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories concerned;

"6. Invites the Administering Authorities to extend their co-operation and assistance to the Secretary-General in implementing the recommendations made in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 above;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the immediate and mass publication and the widest possible circulation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 in all the Trust Territories;

"8. Further requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the twenty-eighth session of the Trusteeship Council and for the sixteenth session of the General Assembly a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

5. At the 1107th meeting, the sponsor accepted amendments orally proposed by the representatives of Bulgaria, Morocco and India, and incorporated these amendments as follows in a revised draft resolution (A/C.4/L.673/Rev.2):

(a) In the last preambular paragraph, an amendment by the representative of Bulgaria to add, at the end of the paragraph, the words "and the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960".

(b) In the fifth operative paragraph, an amendment by the representative of India to substitute the words "take the necessary action to establish without any further delay in Tanganyika" for the words "continue discussions with a view to establishing without any further delay in".

(c) In the fifth operative paragraph, an amendment by the representative of Bulgaria to delete the word "preferably".

(d) In the sixth operative paragraph, an amendment by the representative of India to substitute the words "this resolution" for the words "the recommendations made in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 above".

(e) In the seventh operative paragraph, an amendment by the representative of Bulgaria to insert the words "and dissemination through all media of mass communication" after the word "circulation".

(f) A new eighth operative paragraph, proposed by the representative of Morocco.

6. At the 1128th meeting, the sponsor revised the title of the draft resolution by eliminating the sub-title: "Establishment of United Nations Information Centres in or near the Trust Territories".

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States orally proposed an amendment to the effect that, in operative paragraph 5, the words "in so far as possible" be inserted after the words "would be occupied".

8. At its 1129th meeting, the Committee voted on the revised draft resolution (A/C.4/L.673/Rev.2) and the amendment proposed by the representative of the United States with the following results:

The amendment proposed by the representative of the United States was rejected by a vote of 37 to 23, with 15 abstentions.

A motion by the representative of France for a separate vote on the words "in which responsible positions would be occupied by indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory concerned", in operative paragraph 5, was rejected by a vote of 39 to 15, with 19 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 5 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 56 to 1, with 21 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Cameroun, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Leopoldville), Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: France.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Sweden, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by a roll-call vote of 70 to none, with 8 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Cameroun, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Leopoldville), Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United States of America, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Canada, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Recommendation of the Fourth Committee

9. The Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE
INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN TRUST TERRITORIES

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1276 (XIII) of 5 December 1958, and 1410 (XIV) of 5 December 1959, whereby the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to initiate discussions with the Administering Authorities of Trust Territories with a view to establishing, during 1960, in at least some of the larger Trust Territories, such as Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urundi and New Guinea, United Nations information centres in which the responsible positions would be occupied preferably by indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories concerned,

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Having perused the report submitted by the Secretary-General prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1410 (XIV) of 5 December 1959, and observing therefrom that the dissemination of information on the United Nations among the peoples of the Trust Territories is still far from satisfactory,

Keeping in view the special status of Trust Territories and their inhabitants and also the General Assembly's own special responsibilities under Chapters XII and XIII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reiterating that it is essential, in the General Assembly's view, that the peoples of Trust Territories should receive adequate information concerning the purposes and operation of the United Nations and of the International Trusteeship System, the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories;
2. Considers that the United Nations information centres constitute one of the most important means of disseminating information about the United Nations in these territories;
3. Takes note of the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom that, as a result of discussions between the Secretary-General and the Administering Authority, steps have been taken to establish, in the near future, a United Nations information centre in Tanganyika;
4. Takes further note of the recommendation in paragraph 224 of the interim report of the United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi that "a United Nations Information Centre should be set up with all possible speed in Ruanda-Urundi";
5. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to establish without any further delay in Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urundi and New Guinea, United Nations information centres in which the responsible positions would be occupied by indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories concerned;

6. Invites the Administering Authorities to extend their co-operation and assistance to the Secretary-General in implementing this resolution;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the immediate and mass publication and the widest possible circulation and dissemination through all media of mass communication of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), of 14 December 1960 in all the Trust Territories;

8. Further requests that the information referred to in this resolution should be disseminated in the principal local languages as well as in the language of the Administering Authority;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the twenty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council and for the sixteenth session of the General Assembly a report on the implementation of the present resolution.
