

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/5047
18 December 1961

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixteenth session
Agenda item 45

QUESTION OF THE RENEWAL OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION
FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Report of the Fourth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Antonio HOUAISS (Brazil)

1. At its 1018th plenary meeting on 27 September 1961, the General Assembly allocated to the Fourth Committee, inter alia, the following item on its agenda:
"45. Question of the renewal of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories".
2. General Assembly resolution 1332 (XIII) of 12 December 1958, provides that, at its sixteenth session, the General Assembly would reconsider the question of continuing the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, together with the questions of the composition and terms of reference of this or any such future committee.
3. At the twelfth session of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, members exchanged views on the question of continuing the Committee and its terms of reference. Some representatives outlined the areas in which they felt certain changes were desirable. The Committee, however, agreed not to formulate any formal proposals, but decided to submit the views of its members on the question of renewal for the information of the General Assembly.^{1/}
4. The Fourth Committee considered this item from its 1248th to 1251st meetings.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/4785), part One, section XI.

5. At the 1249th meeting a joint draft resolution (A/C.4/L.725 and Corr.1, English and Russian only) on the renewal of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories was introduced by the representative of India on behalf of the co-sponsors, Argentina, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Iran, Philippines, Syria and Venezuela.

6. This draft resolution, in its operative paragraphs, would have the General Assembly: (1) decide to continue the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories on the same basis as hitherto until such time as the General Assembly has decided that the principles embodied in Chapter XI of the Charter and the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples have been fully implemented; (2) decide further that the Committee shall examine the political and constitutional information transmitted by the Administering Members as well as information relating to functional fields, and submit its observations, conclusions and recommendations thereon to the General Assembly; (3) instruct the Committee to undertake intensive studies of political, educational, economic and social conditions and problems of Territories located in the same area or region, except where circumstances require individual consideration; (4) recall resolution 1542 (XV) and instruct the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories to invite the co-operation of the Special Committee of seven members established by General Assembly resolution ...; and (5) request the Committee to transmit to the Special Committee of seventeen members established by resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 the reports referred to in operative paragraph 2 of this resolution, and to provide it with pertinent material available to the Committee on Information including such studies prepared for its consideration as may be required for the discharge of the Special Committee's functions.

7. An amendment (A/C.4/L.726) proposed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the joint draft resolution (A/C.4/L.725 and Corr.1, English and Russian only) would replace operative paragraph 3 with the following text:

"Instructs the Committee to make any recommendations it may consider desirable regarding the future scope, methods and procedures of its work for consideration by the Fourth Committee at the seventeenth session of the General Assembly."

8. This amendment was withdrawn by the representative of the United Kingdom at the 1250th meeting.

9. The Committee considered the joint draft resolution at its 1250th and 1251st meetings. Following suggestions made by representatives during the discussion, the sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/C.4/L.725) revised operative paragraph 2 to read:

"2. Decides further that the Committee on Information shall examine the political and constitutional information transmitted by the Administering Members as well as information relating to functional fields, and submit its reports to the General Assembly, with the observations and conclusions thereon;"

10. At the 1251st meeting, the representative of New Zealand asked for a separate vote on operative paragraph 3, which was approved by the Committee by 47 votes to none, with 28 abstentions.

11. The draft resolution as revised, as a whole, was adopted by a roll-call vote of 60 to none, with 16 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Congo (Leopoldville) Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Albania, Australia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, Mongolia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia.

12. The representatives of Australia, France, Portugal, Spain, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States and Yugoslavia explained their votes.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

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

QUESTION OF THE RENEWAL OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION
FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

The General Assembly,

Having recognized the usefulness and value of the work of the Committee on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories in the interests of the advancement of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories and of the attainment of the objectives set forth in Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations,

Keeping in mind the principles and purposes contained in resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, entitled the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples,

Considering that by resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 the General Assembly has established a Special Committee of seventeen members to examine the application of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples,

Considering further that in operative paragraph 8 of resolution 1654 (XVI) the General Assembly has requested the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories to assist the Special Committee of seventeen members in its work,

1. Decides to continue the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories on the same basis as hitherto until such time as the General Assembly has decided that the principles embodied in Chapter XI of the Charter and the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples have been fully implemented;

2. Decides further that the Committee on Information shall examine the political and constitutional information transmitted by the Administering Members as well as information relating to functional fields, and submit its reports to the General Assembly, with the observations and conclusions thereon;

3. Instructs the Committee on Information to undertake intensive studies of political, educational, economic and social conditions and problems of Territories located in the same area or region, except where circumstances require individual consideration;

4. Recalls resolution 1542 (XV) and instructs the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories to invite the co-operation of the Special Committee of seven members established by General Assembly resolution;^{2/}

5. Requests the Committee on Information to transmit to the Special Committee of seventeen members the reports referred to in operative paragraph 2 of this resolution, and to provide it with pertinent material available to the Committee on Information including such studies prepared for its consideration as may be required for the discharge of the Special Committee's functions.