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**Chairman: Mr. Luciano JOUBLANC RIVAS**  
(Mexico).

**Requests for hearings (*continued*)**

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with the Committee's decision at its 478th meeting, the Secretary-General had sent a telegram to the Mouvement de la jeunesse togolaise (Juvento) concerning the representatives that organization wished to be present during the hearing granted it by the Committee at the 471st meeting. The Secretary-General had now received a reply to his telegram. If there were no objections, that reply would be circulated as a document.

*It was so decided.*

**AGENDA ITEM 31**

**Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter: reports of the Secretary-General and of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2892 to 2894, A/2895 and Add.1 and 2, A/2896, A/2898, A/2908 and Add.1) (*continued*):**

- (a) Information on social conditions;
- (b) Information on other conditions;
- (c) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information;
- (d) Offers of study and training facilities under General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954 (A/2937 and Add.1, 2 and 3/Rev.1)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO (A/C.4/L.394) (*continued*)

2. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) said that three major considerations had led the delegations of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras

to submit the joint draft resolution on collaboration with non-governmental or voluntary organizations in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/C.4/L.394). First, there were non-governmental organizations dealing with economic, social and educational problems in the dependent territories whose assistance might be very valuable in view of their special activities, their experience and their legitimate interest in the advancement of the communities among which they were working. Secondly, the work of the General Assembly and the organs appointed by it to consider matters relating to the Non-Self-Governing Territories was growing increasingly technical and the collaboration of all organizations operating in the functional fields would be very useful. Thirdly, collaboration with non-governmental organizations would be one means of bringing the United Nations into direct contact with the dependent peoples. Many delegations, including his own, had referred in the Fourth Committee and in the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories to the value of collaboration with the non-governmental organizations. In that connexion, he drew attention to paragraph 23 of part one of the report of the Committee on Information (A/2908).

3. Two fundamental questions must be considered in connexion with the draft resolution: first, its legal basis and, secondly, the intrinsic advantages of collaboration with the non-governmental organizations. He had already dealt with the second point and would merely refer the members of the Committee to the many statements made on various occasions in that connexion. As for the first point, Article 1, paragraphs 3 and 4, and Article 55, and notably sub-paragraph b, of the Charter spoke in broad but sufficiently explicit terms of the principles of international co-operation which should guide the United Nations and the measures it should take to promote economic, social and educational advancement. Article 71 referred to the arrangements which the Economic and Social Council might make for consultation with non-governmental organizations. The Charter was to the United Nations what a constitution was to a State. It laid down the broad principles and purposes governing its structure and functioning, but contained no details of its activities or of the procedure to be adopted for achieving the fundamental purposes. That was left to the United Nations equivalent of legislation, regulations, administrative decrees or judicial decisions. All activities undertaken within the limits of the constitutional principles were legally permissible. It was for the competent organs, and in the case of the United Nations, the General Assembly, to determine by its resolutions the exact nature of such activities. The purpose of the draft resolution, namely to provide the basis for an exchange of information on the economic, social and educational conditions of dependent peoples, was sanctioned by the Articles of the Charter to which he had referred.

4. The first paragraph of the preamble to the draft resolution echoed the provisions of General Assembly resolution 332 (IV), paragraph 3. One way in which the Committee on Information, or any other committee that might be set up, could fulfil its functions in the spirit of Article 1, paragraphs 3 and 4, and Article 55 of the Charter was to establish appropriate collaboration with the non-governmental organizations active in the functional fields in Non-Self-Governing Territories. The second and third paragraphs of the preamble were self-explanatory. The fourth paragraph referred to the arrangements already made by the United Nations for consultation with certain voluntary organizations; they had undoubtedly helped to strengthen the links between the United Nations and world public opinion.

5. Operative paragraph 1 was a simple statement of the General Assembly's wish to receive information from non-governmental organizations concerned with the economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories regarding their activities in those Territories. The underlying idea was that such information would contribute to a better examination of the various reports. It should be noted that the non-governmental organizations concerned must fulfil two conditions: first, they must be concerned with the economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories; secondly, they must operate in those Territories. Those conditions would ensure that collaboration was established only with responsible, law-abiding organizations. It should be noted that no specific legal status was granted to the non-governmental organizations and, hence, that there would be no legal relationship between them and the Assembly and its committees and commissions. All that was involved was a reciprocal exchange of information for as long as both parties wished.

6. Operative paragraph 2 invited the Secretary-General to communicate his summaries and analyses of information to the non-governmental organizations concerned. The sponsors of the draft resolution felt that the initial task of approaching the non-governmental organizations might be entrusted to the Secretary-General in view of his experience with the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Nevertheless, if there were any serious objections to entrusting that task to the Secretary-General, the sponsors would be prepared to agree to the deletion of operative paragraph 2, as its disappearance would not affect the substance of the proposal.

7. Operative paragraph 3 was the direct consequence of operative paragraph 1 and merely authorized any committee that might be appointed to consider information transmitted under Article 73 e to take into consideration the information submitted by non-governmental organizations.

8. Finally, operative paragraph 4 instructed the Committee on Information to submit in its report to the eleventh session of the General Assembly proposals concerning methods for enlisting the aid of the non-governmental organizations.

9. The draft resolution had no other end in view than to add to the information available to the Committee so that it could comply with the purposes of the Charter and the General Assembly resolutions. At the

same time its sponsors realized that it concerned an entirely new and complex matter which the Fourth Committee had never specifically considered. They did not wish to force a lengthy debate or a hasty vote on the Fourth Committee before representatives had had an opportunity to consider the whole problem carefully. He therefore proposed that the draft resolution should be referred either to the eleventh session of the General Assembly, or to the Committee on Information, or to any other body that might be set up if the Committee on Information were not renewed. In that improbable eventuality, any reference to the Committee on Information in the draft resolution or in his statement should be considered to apply to the new committee.

10. The CHAIRMAN observed that the Committee was not called upon to discuss the substance of the draft resolution at the current session.

11. Mr. GHANEM (Egypt) said it was generally admitted that the work of the non-governmental organizations was important; the draft resolution was an attempt to reflect that view. His delegation was, however, not convinced that the concept of co-operation between the Fourth Committee and the non-governmental organizations was best expressed in a separate resolution, and he would consequently abstain in the vote on the three alternatives put forward by the representative of Guatemala.

12. Mr. SOLE (Union of South Africa) felt that the best course would be to refer the whole matter to the eleventh session of the General Assembly, when the sponsoring delegations would be in a position to put in a detailed explanatory memorandum such as was normally submitted with any new item on the agenda of the General Assembly. Much more information was required before the Committee could consider the proposal; for example, there was no indication of which non-governmental organizations it was the intention to consult — a point that should be decided with the utmost care. Furthermore, to refer the matter to the Committee on Information would be tantamount to giving *prima facie* approval to a principle to which his delegation was not at present prepared to subscribe.

13. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) asked whether, in the opinion of the Secretariat, if the matter was referred to the General Assembly, the General Assembly would transmit the draft resolution back to the Fourth Committee or to the Committee on Information, which would in that particular instance report to the Fourth Committee.

14. Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories) replied that the report of the Committee on Information on the subject would be on the agenda of the eleventh session of the General Assembly and would be allocated to the Fourth Committee.

15. Mr. CALLE Y CALLE (Peru) pointed out that the Committee on Information could not consider the matter unless instructed to do so by the General Assembly.

16. Mr. IVAS (Venezuela) said that although his delegation was always in favour of increased participation by the populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee on Information, he was not for the time being in a position either to support or to oppose the draft resolution

before the Committee. He therefore thought the most practical course would be to defer consideration of the draft resolution until the eleventh session.

17. Mr. ESKELUND (Denmark) understood that if the question were not debated now the sponsors would no doubt raise the matter again at a later date; he therefore moved adjournment of the debate on the draft resolution.

*The motion was adopted by 14 votes to none, with 33 abstentions.*

18. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) said he had abstained because the Danish representative had said that if the question were withdrawn the sponsors would place the item on the agenda of the eleventh session. In his opinion, however, there would be no need to introduce a separate item; the sponsors, if they wished, could resubmit the draft resolution during the debate on Non-Self-Governing Territories.

19. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) said he had voted for adjournment, but he had done so under the impression that the matter could be discussed in connexion with

the item on Non-Self-Governing Territories. He certainly did not wish the debate to be prolonged.

20. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) said he had abstained in the vote because it had not been clear whether the proposal was to postpone the debate on the draft resolution itself or on the three alternatives put forward orally by the representative of Guatemala.

21. Mr. SAAD (Lebanon) said he had abstained because he felt that other and more specific data were needed before a decision could be reached on the substance of the proposal.

22. Mr. PIMENTEL BRANDAO (Brazil) said he had voted in favour of adjournment because he had understood that the sponsors themselves wished some time to reflect on the problem.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that in his view the Committee's vote did not affect the sponsors' freedom to present their draft resolution at the eleventh session in any manner they deemed appropriate. The Committee had simply decided that the draft resolution would not be discussed at the current session.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.