



CONTENTS

	Page
Requests for hearings (<i>continued</i>).....	115
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 (<i>continued</i>)	
(a) Information on economic conditions;	115
(b) Information on other conditions;	
(c) Transmission of information;	
(d) Participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories	

Chairman: Mr. Rafik ASHA (Syria).

**Requests for hearings (A/C.4/272, A/C.4/273)
 (continued)**

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the requests for hearings from the Regional Secretary of the Togoland Congress, Buem-Krachi Region (A/C.4/272), and from the General Secretary of the Northern People's Party, Togoland (A/C.4/273).

2. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom delegation had no observations to make on the subject of the request for a hearing from the Northern People's Party, Togoland.

3. With regard to the request for a hearing from the Togoland Congress, Buem-Krachi Region, the United Kingdom delegation saw no reason why the Committee should not accede to that request, but in view of the large number of petitioners seeking a hearing with the Committee, he wondered if it would not be possible for that regional branch to be represented by the Secretary-General of its organization, Mr. Antor, who had already been granted a hearing by the Committee (400th meeting).

4. The petitioners had asked that Mr. Asare, a New York lawyer, should be allowed to assist their delegates. He recalled that a number of members of the Committee had, the year before, felt that it would not be appropriate for the Committee to hear professional lawyers pleading the cause of petitioners. The United Kingdom delegation saw no reason why petitioners should not be assisted by lawyers outside the Committee, but felt that the precedent established in that respect in 1953 should be followed.

5. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) noted that in their telegram (A/C.4/272) the petitioners had simply asked that Mr. Asare should assist the Togoland Congress delegates, and not that he should himself appear before the Committee as a petitioner. Hence, there ought not

to be any objection to the Committee's acceding to the petitioners' request.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that at the eighth session of the Assembly, an organization had wished to be represented by a New York lawyer. Doubts had been expressed at the 318th and 319th meetings of the Committee as to whether such a request was acceptable and the Committee had come to the decision that the petitioners ought to be represented by their own delegates. Mr. Asare had not appeared before the Committee. At the present session, as the representative of Poland had pointed out, the authors of the telegram in question had asked that Mr. Asare, a lawyer, should be allowed to assist their delegates.

7. If there were no objections, he would assume that the Committee had decided to grant the request for a hearing to be given to the representatives of the Togoland Congress, Buem-Krachi Region, and of the Northern People's Party, Togoland.

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/2651, A/2652, A/2653, A/2654 and Add.1 to 3, A/2655, A/2656, A/2657 and Add.1 to 4, A/2658, A/2729) (*continued*)

(a) **Information on economic conditions;**

(b) **Information on other conditions;**

(c) **Transmission of information;**

(d) **Participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories**

8. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) wished to give some explanations in reply to two of the remarks made by the representative of Mexico at the previous meeting.

9. The Mexican representative had thought it inconceivable that in 1953 almost 10 per cent of the population of Barbados had been living on public charity, and he had asked whether there had not been some mistake in the figures. In fact the figure 21,387 appearing on page 8 of document A/2657/Add.2 represented the total number of persons who had received any sort of public assistance or free medical treatment from the appropriate communal authorities. The average cost per person for all such services was no more than US \$20 for the whole year. Those assisted included persons who through infirmity or old age were unable to provide for their needs, and for whom the parish

had assumed responsibility. Very few of them could be said to be destitute.

10. The Mexican representative had later said that he had been struck by the apparent extent of crime in British Honduras, where it seemed that, in 1953, 5,376 persons, or 7 per cent of the population, had been in prison. He had expressed the fear that part of the population of British Honduras was being prosecuted for its political opinions. That was certainly a misunderstanding which would be cleared up when the Secretariat document (A/2657/Add.4) was circulated in its final form. It was not true to say that 7 per cent of the population of British Honduras had been in prison in 1953. According to the full information supplied to the Secretary-General, only 310 persons, or less than 0.5 per cent of the population, had been in prison in 1953, and none of them had been imprisoned for political reasons. The figure 5,376 represented the total number of offences investigated by the police. Of that number, only 2,469, or about half, had resulted in convictions, and of those, sentence of imprisonment had been passed in only 310 cases. In the table on page 17 of document A/2657/Add.4, the expression "Other offences" included all infractions of the law which were not serious enough to be classified as crimes; in most instances they were traffic offences.

11. Mr. JOUBLANC RIVAS (Mexico) thanked the United Kingdom representative for his promptness in explaining the information given in the Secretariat documents.

12. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) wished to make a complaint regarding provisional summary record A/C.4/SR.411, which did not mention the statements made by the representatives of Venezuela and Uruguay at the 411th meeting of the Committee, after the Belgian representative had made a suggestion concerning the reservations made by the representatives of Guatemala and Mexico with respect to British Honduras and by the representative of Argentina with respect to the Falkland Islands.

13. The CHAIRMAN assured him that those statements of the representatives of Venezuela and Uruguay would appear in the final record of the 411th meeting.

14. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) recalled the fundamental principles concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories as set forth in Chapter XI of the Charter and, in particular, in Article 73. He pointed out that sub-paragraph e of Article 73 required the transmission of information precisely in order that the General Assembly might have sufficient information at its disposal to enable it to find out whether the Administering Members were fulfilling their obligations in the economic, social, cultural and even political spheres, for it was not to be forgotten that the peoples of those Territories were one day to attain independence. The Assembly ought not, therefore, to restrict its discussion to the limited information provided by the Administering Members; it should endeavour to obtain a correct picture of the whole situation. It was in that spirit that the Polish delegation had considered the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2729) and the other documents made available to it. He was afraid that there was a danger that all the work of the United Nations with respect to the Non-Self-Governing Territories was becoming purely mechanical and routine. The discussions of the Committee on Information, like

those of the Fourth Committee itself, were becoming superficial, although the question concerned in fact one of the most important fields of activity of the United Nations and one of the most pressing international problems of the present age. In its last report the Committee on Information had not assessed the situation of individual Territories. But although paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution 332 (IV) invited the Committee to submit recommendations relating to functional fields generally but not with respect to individual Territories, the other paragraphs in the same resolution clearly showed that the Committee could and should examine the situation in each individual Territory.

15. The Committee had a tendency to take the edge off its observations, seemingly to reconcile them with the views of the Administering Members. As could be seen from the summary records of the meetings of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.35/SR.90-106), many representatives had been very outspoken in their criticism of the Administering Members. How was it then that no precise record of those critical remarks was to be found in the report? He emphasized, however, that there should be no evasion of issues concerning the important task of assisting dependent peoples in their advancement towards independence. The method of presenting things in an embellished manner had even been used by the *United Nations Review*, in its October issue, where reference was made to the improvement in the living standards of the indigenous inhabitants whereas in fact no significant improvement had occurred.

16. Furthermore, he regretted that in its report, the Committee on Information did not always clearly distinguish between indigenous peoples and European settlers, particularly in the statistics for national income. As a result of the lack of clear distinction between indigenous and overseas settlers, facts concerning racial discrimination were being obscured. Yet that distinction was essential for it was the Fourth Committee's task to safeguard the interests of the indigenous inhabitants, not those of the European settlers. The Charter was in that respect very outspoken, in underlining the principle of self-determination. The task of the Committee was, therefore, above all to ensure proper regard for the life and future of the indigenous peoples and to insist that the Administering Members recognize the rights of the indigenous peoples.

17. Turning to economic matters, he observed that the Territories were completely dependent on the metropolitan countries, which viewed them as a source of raw materials and of cheap manpower. He asked to what extent the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories reflected that situation.

18. The economy of the Territories was predominantly agricultural. It was therefore essential to ensure the equitable distribution of land among the indigenous inhabitants. The 1951 report (A/1836, part three) of the Committee on Information indicated that large amounts of land had been alienated from the indigenous inhabitants and that the alienated soil was usually the best and most fertile. According to the most recent reports, the situation remained unchanged. In Kenya, as was indicated in document A/AC.35/SR.92, about a million acres of land could be distrib-

uted among the land-hungry indigenous population, which was now crowded into reservations. In Morocco, each European had on an average about 181 hectares of land, whereas for the Arabs the figure was only 5.5 hectares. He also mentioned the Comoro Archipelago and British Guiana, where the situation was little better. Such a state of affairs had been very harmful to the indigenous population, and it was essential to introduce a land reform programme which would stop the alienation of land by the Europeans and would transfer the still undeveloped areas to the indigenous peoples.

19. Minerals represented one of the principal natural resources in the Territories. In 1951 the Special Committee had recommended that consumer goods industries should be developed around the mining industries of the various Territories and that part of the profits from the exploitation of natural resources should be invested in their economies. At its 1954 session the Committee had merely repeated those recommendations. Moreover, profits derived from mining tended to flow abroad; furthermore industrial development was not geared to the needs of the people, who could not benefit from their own natural resources and were forced to pay high prices for goods imported from the metropolitan country.

20. Noting that industrialization in the Territories was still in a primitive state, he quoted examples from documents before the Fourth Committee. The United Kingdom had cited as proof of alleged industrialization the establishment of two soap factories employing fifteen workers in Sierra Leone, a country rich in resources and possessing a fine natural harbour, and a slipper industry set up in the British Virgin Islands. In Morocco and Tunisia, France had made no provision for setting aside any sizable public credits for industrialization. British Guiana, one of the few countries rich in bauxite, had no aluminium plant. In the African Territories which produced large quantities of palm-nuts and groundnuts there was no local industry for processing the crops into oil. Thus, raw materials were exported to the metropolitan country or elsewhere for manufacture. The indigenous population derived no profit from its raw materials and was reduced to the role of supplying labour. In that connexion, it must not be forgotten that the agricultural policy of the administering Powers had but one purpose: to maintain as large a reserve of cheap labour as possible.

21. In other words, the conditions did not now exist which would permit the Territories to accumulate their own capital resources on which the indigenous inhabitants could found their economic and political independence. Instead of creating those conditions, the administering Powers were concentrating on the financing of economic development plans such as those they had described in the Committee on Information, which facilitated advantageous investments of foreign capital but neglected the needs of the Territories and which were designed solely to ensure the continuation of the present exploitation of the colonies. As the Indian representative had pointed out in the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, the United Kingdom had obtained more dollars in one year from the Territories under its administration than had been spent on the Territories over a ten-year period under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

22. Turning to discuss the living conditions of the people, he pointed out that in the Territories there was a lack of schools, hospitals, social welfare facilities and roads. The living standard was disastrously low. As had been pointed out by a representative in the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, indigenous workers recruited for Rhodesian copper mines had to be specially fed before they could be put to hard work. In the Congo, it had been calculated on the basis of a survey made that the value of industrial articles and imported goods consumed in one year by an indigenous inhabitant did not exceed 595 Belgian francs, whereas in the case of the European inhabitants the figure was well over 37,000 Belgian francs. In the New Hebrides, the monthly average budget of an indigenous inhabitant was approximately 1,500 francs, whereas that of a European was over 12,000 francs.

23. The situation had not escaped the notice of some members of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. The result was that the report contained many contradictory observations. In part two of the Committee's report, the general tone of which was very cautious, side by side with expressions of approval and satisfaction—in paragraphs 6 and 29, for example—could be found such observations as those made in paragraph 28, namely, that some representatives had also felt that there was room for doubt whether the development programmes in all cases had profited all the inhabitants rather than some of them, or even interests outside the Territories, whether in the metropolitan countries or elsewhere.

24. Some members of the Committee on Information had considered that the information submitted by the Administering Members, did not suffice to give a complete enough picture of the economy of the Territories, according to paragraph 4 of part two of the report. The information on political matters was even more inadequate since the Administering Members refused to submit any information on progress in that direction. His delegation still thought that the General Assembly could not by-pass political problems affecting the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Important articles of the Charter declared that the development of indigenous peoples must eventually lead them to political independence. It was not premature to consider that goal. It was now the relentless aspiration of 200 million people to administer their own affairs and control their natural resources themselves. Every day they were giving increasing evidence of their political maturity by their trade union activities and by their protests against violations of their rights. But they were encountering tremendous obstacles, as was evidenced by the history of consecutive constitutions in the Gold Coast and Nigeria; by the case of British Guiana, where a government elected by the people was prevented from performing its duties and where emergency regulations had replaced the suspended constitution; and by the situation in Malaya. In Kenya, the administering Power, instead of granting the African population the rights it demanded, had resorted to repression, with all its well-known, bitter consequences. In the newly created Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, 6 million indigenous inhabitants were deprived of the right to vote and of proper representation in the so-called Federal Parliament. Furthermore, the new Government was doing its best to preserve far-reaching discrimination.

25. His delegation thought that such a state of affairs was inconsistent with the Charter, in particular with Article 73 a and b, which stressed the responsibility of the Administering Members to ensure the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the indigenous peoples, and to develop self-government consistent with the political aspirations of those peoples. It contradicted also the rights of peoples to self-determination and all the Articles of the Charter which prohibited any form of discrimination. Naturally, the Administering Members preferred that no mention should be made of those facts and attempted to divert the course of the debates, as the United States representative had done when he claimed to be explaining a new form in which colonialism was allegedly developing; thus taking a line well known from

manœuvres of other defendants of the colonial system who had tried to divert the discussion towards internal problems of sovereign Members of the United Nations.

26. The Polish delegation was convinced that the aims of the Charter in respect of the Non-Self-Governing Territories would be achieved only if the administering Powers radically altered their policy towards the dependent peoples. The United Nations should do everything in its power to help to remove the many obstacles which still prevented those peoples from achieving independence if it wished not only to enhance its prestige but also to honour the millions of human beings who had taken their place in the progress of mankind.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.