

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

*NINTH SESSION  
Official Records*



**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 415th**

**MEETING**

*Thursday, 28 October 1954,  
at 10.40 a.m.*

**New York**

**C O N T E N T S**

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;	
(b) Information on other conditions;	
(c) Transmission of information;	
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**Chairman: Mr. Rafik ASHA (Syria).**

**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**

1. Mr. KUCHKAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that under Article 73 of the Charter the Members of the United Nations had accepted as a sacred trust the obligation to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Economic problems were of vital importance, since in the last analysis all social, political and educational advancement depended on their proper solution. He endorsed the opinion expressed by the Committee on Information in its 1951 report (A/1836, part three) and reiterated in its latest report on economic conditions (A/2729, part two) that in the economic development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the point of primary importance was that of the interests of the inhabitants; and that, in general, investments should be channelled and improvements made through those activities which would bring benefits to the Territories and their peoples and not merely contribute towards those developments which, though useful or necessary to the rest of the world, were only of secondary interest to the Territories.

2. If the Members of the United Nations were to be able to fulfill their Charter obligations by analysing the

situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and making appropriate recommendations for further development, they must be given sufficiently detailed information by the Administering Members. Some representatives on the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had considered that the information requested of the Members and transmitted by them did not provide a picture of the economy of the Non-Self-Governing Territories sufficient to enable it to make a dynamic analysis of their economic development. It was unfortunate that, once again, the information transmitted did not give a true picture of the situation of the indigenous population. In many instances it did not correspond to the Standard Form adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 551 (VI). In the case of most Territories, for example, there was no information on the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in industry and trade; the distribution of ownership of industrial plants between indigenous inhabitants and Europeans (part II, section G.3, of the Standard Form); the annual consumption of electric power (part II, section F.2, of the Standard Form), which would give some indication of the standard of living; or assistance for agricultural production (part II, section B.6, of the Standard Form), although full information of that nature was of the utmost importance given the agrarian economy in most of the Territories. Statistics on employment, standards of living and domestic consumption, to mention only a few of the many possible examples, were also non-existent or inadequate.

3. The masses of the population in the Non-Self-Governing Territories were engaged in agriculture and the activities of the Administering Members in that sphere were particularly important. The land system in many of the Territories, where the best land had been seized by European companies and the alienation of land from the indigenous inhabitants was continuing, ran counter to the basic obligations assumed by the Administering Members under Article 73. A comparison of the 1947 figures on land distribution in the Belgian Congo showed that a European there owned an average of about seventy-five hectares of land, whereas the average size of the indigenous inhabitant's plot was four hectares. As many of the Europeans were not farmers, the discrepancy was even greater. Furthermore the Europeans owned the best land. The situation in Northern Rhodesia was similar, and in the Comoro Archipelago it was worse.

4. As stated in the Committee's report on economic conditions (A/2729, part two), in many cases the indigenous economy was still a subsistence or barter economy and consequently almost all the profits from foreign trade accrued to the Europeans. Quoting figures for export crops in the Belgian Congo in 1953, he noted that the Europeans there had produced 16,200 tons of rubber and indigenous inhabitants only 750 tons; there was the same discrepancy in the figures for coffee and

palm-oil production while cocoa-bean production was entirely in the hands of the Europeans.

5. The Secretariat's study on land distribution in the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.35/L.158 and Add.1) reported the sale of unused land to various companies which generally used it to produce a single crop for export. That question was closely linked to the question of soil conservation dealt with in document A/AC.35/L.160, since concentration on a single crop grown for quick profits led to despoliation of the Territories' natural wealth and to the exhaustion of large areas of the soil. Information was also available on the stripping of timber reserves, particularly in Northern Rhodesia and the Gold Coast, to meet the needs of the mining companies and for export. Such uncontrolled exploitation obviously inflicted an almost irreparable blow on the interests of the indigenous inhabitants.

6. The development of local industries to meet the needs of the population and process raw materials would do much to raise the standard of living in the Territories. However, no significant industrial progress could be noted since 1951, when the Committee had previously reported on economic conditions. The figures on the use of cotton in document A/AC.35/L.169 were most instructive. In Uganda, for example, no cotton whatsoever had been processed locally although the Territory had produced and exported approximately 70,000 tons a year in 1951-52 and 1953. In the Belgian Congo, French Equatorial Africa and Nigeria, an infinitesimally small proportion of the annual production had been processed in the Territory. As a result of the single-crop economies and the lack of processing industries, vital consumer goods and primary commodities still had to be imported. For example, in the Gold Coast, 75 per cent of the total imports consisted of food and textiles; in French West Africa the figure was 50 per cent. In American Samoa meat and fish were the main imports. The standard of living of the dependent peoples was continually declining as the price of imports rose, a situation aggravated by the fact that the companies concerned artificially raised the price of imports. In Guam for example, in 1953, the price of food had been 55 per cent higher than in the United States. In Bechuanaland and American Samoa the price of such essential items as meat, flour and rice had risen considerably between 1951 and 1953. The cost of living was 1.5 times higher in the Gold Coast and 2.4 times higher in French West Africa than in 1948.

7. The fiscal policy of the Administering Members also ran counter to the interests of the indigenous inhabitants. In that connexion he drew attention to the Committee's comments on indirect taxes, in paragraph 102 of part two of its report (A/2729). Indirect taxes played an important part in the fiscal policy of the administering Powers: in Kenya, 63 per cent of the revenue from taxation came from indirect taxes; in other Territories the figure was even higher. Most of the taxes were levied on imported commodities, as capital equipment generally entered tax-free. Taxation thus imposed a heavy burden on the indigenous population and adversely affected their well-being.

8. Foreign trade should play an important part in the economic development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. While the price of imports had remained unchanged or had risen, the price of exports had fallen sharply. In French Equatorial Africa, for example, the value of exports had declined by 184 million francs in 1953 compared with 1952, although the total volume of exports had increased by 36.8 per cent. The position

in French West Africa and Madagascar was very similar. It was interesting in that connexion to note that the correlation between the volume and value of imports had remained almost unchanged.

9. In paragraph 108 of part two of its report, the Committee on Information drew attention to the fact that as exports from the dependent territories were generally limited to one or several primary commodities, the economy of those territories was exposed to the serious consequences of considerable fluctuations in the prices of those commodities. Hence, the economic position of the Non-Self-Governing Territories had obviously deteriorated considerably as the result of the fall in export prices and the Territories were compelled to increase their volume of exports in order to maintain their level of imports.

10. In a number of Territories, however, such as French Equatorial Africa, Nyasaland, British Guiana, Malaya, French West Africa, the Belgian Congo and Papua, the value of imports had decreased in 1953 by anything from 27 per cent to 10 per cent as compared with 1952. The reduction had taken place primarily at the expense of reduced imports of capital equipment. In French Equatorial Africa, for instance, less than half as much capital equipment had been imported in 1953 as in 1952. Comparable figures were given for a number of the other Territories. At the same time, paragraph 24 of part two of the Committee's report drew attention to the shortage of capital goods in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. That was a most disturbing phenomenon; without capital goods there could be no effective economic development.

11. The facts that he had just given indicated that in most cases the economic policy of the Administering Members was not in the interests of the indigenous population. Furthermore, the economic development plans about which the Administering Members had submitted information did not indicate that those plans would raise the general standard of living and educational level of the indigenous inhabitants. Consequently, there would seem to be some justification for the comment of some representatives on the Committee on Information that there was room for doubt whether development programmes in all cases profited all the inhabitants rather than some of them, or even interests outside the Territories, whether in the metropolitan countries or elsewhere.

12. His delegation could not agree that rapid economic development, unless it was very carefully controlled, might lead to social upheavals and class conflicts, as was stated in part two, paragraph 26 of the report. That conclusion indicated a certain confusion of thought between the economic development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their exploitation in the interests of certain privileged groups. Obviously no policy could be endorsed which provided for government and private investment only in those branches of the economy producing profits for metropolitan companies or for the development of transport and electric power facilities solely in the interests of such companies. That would amount to exploiting, not developing, the Territory.

13. He agreed with the Committee on Information that the economic progress of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was accepted as a pressing responsibility incumbent on the Administering Members (A/2729, part two, para. 29). The material and spiritual welfare of the population, which the Members of the United

Nations had assumed the responsibility to promote, depended on speedy economic development.

14. The members of the Committee on Information were to be congratulated on the hard work they had put into preparing the report. Had they had more detailed information at their disposal, their report would have given a clearer picture of conditions in the Territories and their conclusions and recommendations might have been somewhat different.

15. Mr. PIGNON (France) praised the report on economic conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was, on the whole, a balanced and considered document and, despite various minor defects to which previous speakers had drawn attention, should prove helpful to the Administering Members. It was not a guide to a new economic policy, but a reasoned and generally accepted endorsement of the objectives and policies already being pursued by the Administering Members in the Territories for which they were responsible; as such it would encourage them. The Committee was to be congratulated on helping to re-establish an atmosphere conducive to confident co-operation.

16. He sympathized with the wish expressed by certain members of the Committee in part two, paragraph 4, to be more fully informed on conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The information transmitted to the Secretary-General was accurate and complete, but it formed rather heavy reading. His delegation was fully alive to the special importance of statistical services. The French Government was making every effort to expand and improve the statistical services which already existed in all the federations and even in some of the other French Territories, such as the Ivory Coast. Sampling methods were undoubtedly valuable and they had been widely used to carry out a detailed demographic survey in French Guiana. Nevertheless he felt that on the basis of the existing documents and given the assistance of the qualified experts attached to most delegations, the requirements of the members of the Committee could be met by a more direct and less formal debate. That should not be difficult if the better atmosphere that had prevailed during the last two sessions was maintained. Acceptance of the United Kingdom representative's suggestion that the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be studied in the light of the situation in other under-developed countries and not solely in relation to theoretical criteria would mark a great advance towards the co-operation which they all desired. He reassured the Venezuelan representative that he had no intention of using comparisons to attack or insult other countries and drew attention to the exemplary discretion shown by Administering Members in the past.

17. His delegation whole-heartedly endorsed the Committee's comments in paragraph 10 of part two on the need for giving the peoples of the Territories a full share in the planning and implementation of economic development programmes. In the Territories administered by France, the Act of 30 April 1946 expressly stated that the primary objective of capital equipment plans was to meet the requirements of the indigenous populations and promote the conditions most favourable to their social advancement. The programmes prepared by the local technical services were submitted to the Territorial Assemblies before they were approved in their final form by the Executive Board of FIDES (*Fonds d'investissements pour le développement économique et social des territoires d'outre-mer*), where

the interests of the indigenous populations were safeguarded by the presence of seven representatives appointed by the *commissions des territoires d'outre-mer*; Morocco and Tunisia were no longer represented by senior French officials but by the highest financial authorities in the Protectorate Governments.

18. Subject to certain reservations, his Government accepted the objectives set out in paragraph 17 of part two of the report. The programme defined in that paragraph must, however, be spread out over an indefinite number of years. Sub-paragraph (a) gave the Administering Members a great deal of latitude by entitling them to "remove the obstacles to economic development by modifying where necessary the basic structure of the economy". His Government did not need such wide powers. It wished to proceed gradually and to pay the greatest possible respect to the delicate and complex structure of the indigenous societies.

19. It was a little difficult to understand the statement in paragraph 25 that some of the representatives of the non-administering members of the Committee considered that it was not clear to what extent the local peoples had directly benefited from the development plans. If that statement meant that it was too early to assess the final results of the plans, he would agree; on the other hand, he could not endorse any implication that the development plans had not been drawn up with the interests of the indigenous inhabitants in mind. A detailed study of the plans prepared by the French Government would dissipate any doubts on that point. The purpose of the Niger scheme, for example, was to reclaim and irrigate the alluvial soil in the former Niger delta. When the work had been completed, 960,000 hectares would have been made available for cotton and rice growing by indigenous farmers. The *Office du Niger* worked the land until it was ready to be sown and transferred to settlers, all of whom were indigenous inhabitants. Each head of family was given a certain number of hectares, which varied according to the number of workers in his family; in principle two hectares were given per person. In addition, the settler received his house, livestock, equipment and seed free and a year's supply of provisions. He paid a very modest tax in kind, partly to the *Office du Niger*, to cover the cost of water supplies and reclamation, and partly to the agricultural co-operative to which he belonged. In addition the *Office du Niger* maintained a complete network of social, educational, technical and economic services.

20. There was general agreement in France, however, that the first ten-year plan had concentrated too much on social advancement, which was costly and unremunerative, at the expense of economic advancement, which would provide a new source of wealth for the inhabitants as a whole. On the other hand, there could be no doubt that the social reforms had been introduced in the interests of the indigenous inhabitants. The same was true of such legislation as the Lamine-Gueye law or the Labour Code, which had been drawn up in the interests of the indigenous inhabitants alone and had imposed very heavy expenses on the French Administration or the French firms concerned.

21. It had been suggested during the discussion that the Administering Members were no longer capable of financing the development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for which they were responsible. He admitted that the Administering Members were being called upon to make an enormous effort. The French Government was spending 400 million dollars a year in the form of subsidies or low-interest loans. Two-thirds of

the total expenditure on capital equipment in Non-Self-Governing Territories under French administration was being covered by French taxpayers. Now that the first equipment plan, which had concentrated on capital development, had been completed, it would be possible to devote greater resources to the facilities necessary for social advancement and to improving production, stressing production for local needs rather than for export. Certain major projects, which were essential to development in all fields, placed a heavy permanent burden on the Territories. That was why one of the chief aims of the authorities, as set forth in the second development plan, was to bring about a speedy improvement in productivity, in order to lay sound foundations for harmonious and continued progress.

22. There was a place in the Non-Self-Governing Territories for international co-operation which would be profitable to all, and the French Government was ready to encourage and promote such co-operation. However, there could be no surrender of responsibility. Each administering Power was doing infinitely more for its own Territories than international technical assistance for the world as a whole. That fact was often forgotten.

23. The French delegation attached great importance to the statement in paragraph 26 of part two of the report to the effect that a multi-racial society could not achieve its ideals unless its economic basis were such that no particular group had reserved to it a privileged position. In that connexion he wished to give the exact context in which certain points made with regard to the situation in Morocco by the representative of Iraq should be considered. The land belonging to Europeans in Morocco, about one million hectares in all, was only a fraction of the area brought into production since the installation of the French Protectorate in Morocco. It was the increased area of land under cultivation, as well as improved productivity, which had enabled Morocco to cope with a rapid growth of population and at the same time to raise the general standard of living. No land was reserved for Europeans in Morocco or in Tunisia and the Government was doing everything possible to protect, consolidate and develop indigenous agriculture.

24. Among the protective measures adopted by the Government was the system of land registration, which had been started in Morocco in 1913. It was quite contrary to the facts to assert that that system was an instrument for the spoliation of indigenous lands. The system, which was optional, was regarded as a model of its kind, not only by international experts, but also and more particularly by the persons concerned. A further measure for the protection of indigenous property was the general prohibition on the sale of land in the outlying areas now being brought under cultivation to any person outside the original tribe. Teams of agricultural experts were also doing most useful work. The French Government shared the views of many speakers that, where necessary, European estates should be expropriated in order to allow the land to be distributed to the indigenous peasant population. Such action had recently been taken in Tunisia. At the previous meeting, the Polish representative had made a reference to land distribution in the Comoro Archipelago. The French administration there had just bought more than 7,000 hectares of land, which was in the process of being divided among the indigenous inhabitants.

25. The problem in the Territories of "Black Africa" under French administration was completely different. However, the system of land tenure was of great importance because of the close attachment of the indigenous inhabitants to the land and the doubtful character of property titles. Thus, certain systems of tenure were in themselves obstacles to economic progress. The question had been under close study for several years. Despite the fact that all parties were agreed that a general reform was necessary, the French Government considered that it must go forward very carefully in a field where African opinion was so sensitive. In that connexion, the French delegation considered that the cautious phrasing of paragraph 64 of part two of the report contrasted favourably with the rather rash formulation of the objective in paragraph 17 (a).

26. In connexion with customs systems, he noted that recent action by the French Government had introduced a wide measure of decentralization, to the benefit of the Territories. As regards standards of living, the successful price-reduction campaigns recently undertaken by the authorities in West Africa deserved to be mentioned. In connexion with the chapter relating to co-operative societies, he touched briefly upon the reforms shortly to be brought about in provident societies in West Africa. The chief purpose of the reforms was to make the executive boards of those societies subject to election. The *Crédit agricole outre-mer* was shortly to be reorganized and made more accessible to indigenous farmers. The fundamental idea of the new system would be to substitute a system of collective security for the traditional system of individual guarantees for loans.

27. He regretted that the chapter on international co-operation was so short and that so little was said about regional organizations. In particular, some mention might have been made of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara.

28. With regard to those parts of the report dealing with social and educational questions, he noted that the French Government had decided to set up a *Conseil supérieur de l'éducation de base*. That decision showed the special importance which it attached to fundamental education as an instrument of development. He also drew attention to a series of decrees designed to cut down alcoholism in the French Territories, by giving high commissioners and governors the power to impose quotas on alcoholic beverages.

29. In connexion with the Mexican representative's remarks at the 413th meeting on the proportion of doctors to inhabitants in certain of the French Territories, he said that he found the respective proportions to be one doctor to 26,900 inhabitants in French West Africa, one doctor to 24,600 inhabitants in French Equatorial Africa, and one doctor to 8,569 inhabitants in Madagascar. There was a very simple explanation of the discrepancy in the figures. The Mexican representative had not taken into account all the doctors shown in the statistics under such headings as "Registered physicians", "Licensed physicians" and "African physicians". The doctors in question were genuine medical practitioners trained in the medical schools at Tananarive and formerly at Dakar. The fact that the Dakar medical school had now become a regular school of medicine which would give the university degree of Doctor of Medicine was further proof of the results which had been achieved in higher education in French Africa. It was unfortunate that the Secretariat docu-

ments could give no real idea of the health organization in French overseas territories. Besides the permanent organizations, such as hospitals, there were prophylactic agencies which protected the masses of the population against the major epidemics. The campaigns of the mobile health services in French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa against sleeping-sickness had been so successful that the disease might well be stamped out shortly. The anti-malarial service in Madagascar had also been particularly successful.

30. The Mexican representative had drawn attention to the large number of arrests in French Somaliland for offences in connexion with residence permits or expulsion orders. All the persons arrested had in fact been aliens from neighbouring territories.

31. Turning to the draft resolution on educational advancement in the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2729, part one, annex II), he said that his delegation in the Committee on Information had supported the amendments submitted by the United Kingdom (A/2729, part one, paras. 41-42) to the original Indian and Burmese draft. At the 410th meeting the representative of Haiti had made certain criticisms of the amended text and had alleged that the draft resolution disregarded the fact that the Technical Assistance Administration was subordinate to the Secretary-General, and thus gave rise to administrative confusion. The French delegation, however, felt that there was no question of ignoring the Secretary-General and his authority. The Secretary-General was merely being asked to entrust to an administration which came under him and which was properly equipped for the purpose the task of dealing with specific cases, according to an established and familiar procedure which offered certain safeguards. A very slight change in paragraph 5 of the operative part of the draft resolution would remove the administrative difficulties that had been referred to.

32. A more essential point was the obvious cleavage of opinion in regard to the part which scholarships could play in training an indigenous élite in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Haitian representative had said that the aim of the original draft resolution had been to remedy present inadequate educational facilities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He had made it clear that the proposed scholarships were to be for post-primary and vocational education rather than university studies. The position of the French Government in regard to scholarships was quite different: it was firmly convinced that priority should be given to scholarships for advanced studies. The reasons which had prompted the French delegation to support the United Kingdom amendments in the Committee on Information would determine its opposition to any amendments tending to return to the original draft. He reserved the right to speak again on that point, if the need arose.

33. The French delegation deeply regretted that Denmark would no longer be a member of the Committee on Information. The departure of Denmark would leave a problem in connexion with the composition of the Committee on Information which the Fourth Committee would have to ponder in due course. The reservations which the French delegation had made when it agreed to form part of the Committee on Information were still valid. It had greatly appreciated the moderation shown by the Committee for the past two years and was resolved to continue its active and sincere co-operation with the Committee. It was not,

however, prepared to discuss any questions other than the technical questions provided for in Article 73 e of the Charter. He hoped that the old disputes over the interpretation of Chapter XI of the Charter would not be revived. The pursuit of limited aims on which unanimous agreement and whole-hearted co-operation could be achieved was for the time being the only practical means of obtaining tangible results. The Indian representative had said that the reservation of sovereignty in Article 2, paragraph 7, did not apply to the special case of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and had adduced as proof the fact that the Administering Members supplied information on those Territories. He should understand that if that opinion were to prevail in the United Nations, the Administering Members would be forced either to insist on the recognition of the universality of responsibility or to cease to supply information at all.

34. In conclusion, he wished to remind the Fourth Committee that though nationalism was a fact, and an important fact, it was not a virtue and should not be exalted and proposed as an ideal. The real aims of both administering and non-administering Powers were identical. The real differences of opinion concerned only timing and methods. The establishment of the atmosphere of understanding and sympathy called for by the representative of the United States would make it possible to view those differences in their true light as merely secondary and temporary discrepancies.

35. Mr. HARARI (Israel) said that his own Government was faced with the problem of developing an under-developed territory, and as such felt a particular interest in the problems of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which were largely under-developed. It was only by developing their resources to the full that those Territories could gradually achieve true independence. The delegation of Israel understood the vast task which confronted the administering Powers in the various Territories for which they were responsible. The Committee should be grateful for the statistical information which was provided, for he was sure that without the administering Powers the Non-Self-Governing Territories would not have reached a very advanced stage of development or be in a position to provide such statistics. It was possible that some Members of the United Nations would be unable to provide such detailed information on their own countries.

36. However, it must not be forgotten that the Non-Self-Governing Territories were inhabited by at least 120 million individual human beings. It was the duty of the United Nations to help them to become members of independent and self-governing countries. Article 73 e of the Charter required the Administering Members to provide statistical and technical information relating only to economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they were responsible. General Assembly resolution 333 (IV) on the work of the Special Committee on Information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter also made no reference to political problems. However, paragraph e was only one of the paragraphs of Article 73; paragraph a of that Article referred to the political advancement as well as the economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, while paragraph b said that the Administering Members should develop self-government in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was clear, therefore, that the ultimate aim of the administra-

tion of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was to train the people to administer themselves and to exercise their right of self-determination. At the eighth session of the General Assembly the Fourth Committee had adopted a draft resolution on educational matters which later became Assembly resolution 743 (VIII), and which affirmed that the process of education should familiarize the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with the tools of economic, social and political progress with a view to the attainment of a full measure of self-government. It would appear, therefore, that the Fourth Committee was entitled to discuss political progress in relation to economic advancement also. The purpose of requiring the Administering Members to submit information was to ensure that, in the near or distant future, the Non-Self-Governing Territories would become fully self-governing. He regretted that the important paragraph 17 of part two of the report of the Committee of Information, which laid down the nine concrete objectives of economic development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, made no mention of the ultimate aim of such development. The Fourth Committee should amend the statement of the fundamental aim of economic policy in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to include eventual self-government.

37. He had no wish to minimize the importance or virtue of statistics, but he noted that they could on occasion be misleading. He had the impression, from reading paragraphs 21, 22, 23 and 24 of part two of the report that the Sub-Committee on Economic Conditions had made some rather superficial generalizations. Paragraph 21, for example, stated that the production of electric power in thirteen Non-Self-Governing Territories had increased. It was clear from the figures given that the production of electric power was indeed rising, but the Non-Self-Governing Territories were in themselves so different that general statements of that kind proved very little. Paragraph 22 of part two referred to the increase in the local production of cement. However, the important point was the extent to which the indigenous population participated in the increased revenue, or benefited from the increased production, and that was not made clear.

38. He praised the Sub-Committee for chapter X of its report, on co-operative societies and community development. The development of co-operative societies would do a great deal to ensure that increased revenue from the economic development of the Territories would remain in those territories to the benefit of the population. Israel had a great deal of experience in the co-operative movement and was willing, as it had stated on many previous occasions, to extend the benefits of its experience to any of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

39. Since the report of the Committee on Information concentrated chiefly on economic problems, he would merely refer in passing to the interest of his delegation in the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the discussions of the Committee on Information. He hoped that a way would ultimately be found of associating the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the actual work of the Committee. His delegation was also particularly interested in the status and education of women in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Since women's education affected the whole family, he felt that special emphasis should be placed on education for women in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

40. He felt that at each session of the Fourth Committee the Administering Members had more and more cause for satisfaction at the success of their efforts to help the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the under-developed territories. Israel also was prepared to do its utmost to help the Fourth Committee to achieve the common objective set forth in the Charter.

41. Mr. KHOMAN (Thailand) observed that the report of the Committee on Information was the result of fruitful collaboration between the Administering Members on the one hand and some of the non-administering Member States on the other. Although one of the Administering Members had not been represented on the Committee, information regarding the Territory under its administration had been transmitted, in accordance with Article 73 e, and the Committee on Information had thus been in a position to discharge the duty assigned to it, although not as fully as if a representative had been appointed to take part in the discussion. That situation contrasted with the one prevailing in regard to another Territory which had been the object of the Fourth Committee's consideration.

42. In appraising the Committee's report the delegation of Thailand had been guided by the principles of the Charter and the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and it considered that the Committee had scrupulously and conscientiously performed its task.

43. The fact that the Committee on Information and the Sub-Committee on Economic Conditions had confined themselves to principles and objectives and to general recommendations was an indication of some defect or inadequacy in the very foundation of the Committee's work. The Committee on Information itself could do nothing to remedy that situation because it was bound by its terms of reference. No one would dispute the high technical and general value of the Committee's report, but to be of any practical value the observations and recommendations it contained must be translated into practical action. Some of the Administering Members contended that many of those observations and recommendations did not and could not apply to the Territories under their administration. On the other hand, even those Powers which might be inclined to put some of the recommendations into execution might find it none too easy to discern which of them were applicable. At all events, since the report was ultimately destined for the local authorities and organizations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, it would seem advisable that clear and simple pictures should be presented for each Territory and, further, that the observations and recommendations should at least concern either a group of Territories or Territories in the same region, if it was not permissible to depict the conditions prevailing in any individual Territory. It might not be practicable for the time being to consider any change in the Committee's terms of reference, but sooner or later they would have to be modified if the Fourth Committee wished its observations and recommendations to be acted on.

44. He was aware that in raising that question he might resuscitate the latent opposition of some, if not all, of the Administering Members to discussion by the General Assembly of conditions in their Territories. He hoped, however, that, without conceding any supervisory function to the United Nations with regard to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, it might be possible for the General Assembly to revise the Committee's terms of reference and enable it to formulate its obser-



ventions and recommendations on individual Territories, or at least on groups of Territories in the same region.

45. Mr. SHTOKALO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that in his delegation's opinion one of the basic shortcomings of the Committee's report was that it gave an incomplete picture of the life of the population of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. That fact was largely due to the inadequacy of the information submitted by the Administering Members.

46. With regard to economic development, one of the basic issues was the development and utilization of natural resources with a view to satisfying as far as possible the needs of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. According to paragraph 18 of part two of the Committee's report, however, the external trade of the Territories was still to a large extent directed towards the metropolitan countries and the development needs of the Territories often required higher payments for imports than could be met by exports. The *World Economic Report, 1952-53* (E/2560) gave tables of exports and imports for various countries for 1950, 1951, 1952 and in some cases 1953. The figures for Malaya showed that there had been a substantial drop in the balance of trade for 1950, 1951 and 1952. Rubber production had begun to fall as early as 1951 and there had been marked inflationary trends as the result of a sharp decline in prices, which in turn had been reflected by increased unemployment and reduction in the wages of workers on the rubber plantations. Food production had also fallen off and prices had increased. The budget for the current year provided for a deficit of 222 million Malayan dollars. One of the main reasons for such conditions was that the administering Powers not only exploited the Territories but also exercised an artificial control on prices of certain basic products. Paragraph 19 of part two of the report stated that in a number of instances exports had expanded without a corresponding increase of production and sale for local consumption. That meant that the administering Powers were exporting goods to the detriment of the interests of the population of the Territories, which lacked many of the essentials of life.

47. In most of the Non-Self-Governing Territories immigrant groups were reaping large profits, owned most of the land and formed a managerial class. A British Member of Parliament, Jennie Lee, had stated in April 1954 that many millions of inhabitants of the colonies were deprived of political rights, had no land, proper housing or clothing, and that their children were starving and deprived of proper education. The interests of the colonial peoples were being sacrificed to the profit of the white settlers and foreign investors.

48. The budgets of the Territories derived vast profits from indirect taxation which were not spent for the benefit of the population. In many Non-Self-Governing Territories there was *per capita* taxation, without regard for capacity to pay. In paragraph 99 of part two of the report the Committee recommended that steps should be taken for the suppression of the head tax. According to paragraph 102 of the report the Governments of the Non-Self-Governing Territories tended to make greater use of indirect than direct taxes because they yielded substantial returns, were simple to levy and to administer, and were not so obvious to the taxpayer.

49. Large profits were derived from import duties, which constituted a very heavy burden on the populations. In paragraph 105 of the report the Committee noted that as regards customs duties policies were fol-

lowed which favoured the metropolitan country. Unfortunately the Committee merely stated that fact and neither drew conclusions nor made recommendations on the subject.

50. The problem of land was one of the utmost importance. In view of the primarily agricultural nature of the economies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, a policy of land alienation whereby the most fertile land was reserved for the use of foreign settlers inevitably doomed the inhabitants to poverty, starvation and gradual extermination. Erosion was widespread in many Territories. Land was becoming exhausted owing to the fact that the administering Powers were not taking the necessary agricultural measures or trying to improve the condition of the land. He quoted from a pamphlet called *Nigeria*, which referred to the report of a committee of the House of Commons and quoted passages describing the deplorable conditions prevailing in that Territory.

51. The generally unsatisfactory economic situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories had not improved since 1951; in some cases it had even deteriorated. Paragraph 86 of part two of the report pointed out that the level of industrial developments was generally low in Africa and in parts of other regions and that many of the particular industrial projects by their size and nature seemed unlikely to change the general situation substantially. The level of wages was low, particularly that of indigenous workers. For example, according to the British publication *The Round Table*, the average wage of a building worker in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1951 was 55 shillings per month, which was insufficient to enable him to feed himself and his family. The article stated that most African factory workers were obliged to do additional work in order to be able to support their families.

52. The section of the report concerning standards of living gave no concrete information on living conditions of the indigenous populations, but confined itself to abstract statements of the factors which enabled the standards of living to be assessed.

53. Medical facilities were lacking in the Non-Self-Governing Territories; the situation in the rural areas was even worse than in the towns. The housing situation was also bad. Furthermore, the building of foreign military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories led to large-scale alienation of land.

54. All those facts proved that the Administering Members were exercising discrimination against the indigenous populations. They had no hospital insurance or paid leave; they were deprived of adequate educational facilities. The Economic and Social Council's report on the world social situation (E/CN.5/267/Rev.1) for 1951-52 stated that in Northern Rhodesia the budgetary allocations for Europeans were 40 times greater than for indigenous children. In Kenya they were 100 times higher. In Central and East Africa the indigenous population had no access to European-type schools. There was discrimination in the matter of teachers' salaries. The level of literacy was extremely low and the percentage of girls attending school was very small. In French Somaliland girls were not counted in the census of children of school age. In many Territories there were no facilities for the training of teaching personnel. Moreover, very few indigenous inhabitants were employed in the Administration in positions of responsibility.

55. The Committee's report did not touch upon educational or cultural questions, yet without education

there could be no development in other fields. In the face of the serious political, economic, social and educational situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the United Nations should introduce a radical revision of the policies applied there.

56. It was evident that the Administering Members were not carrying out their obligations under Chapter

XI of the Charter, according to which the interests of the inhabitants of the Territories were paramount. The Ukrainian delegation felt in duty bound to call on those Members to comply with the requirements of the Charter.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.