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Chairman: Mr. Rodolfo MUNOZ (Argentina).

Participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2219 and Corr.1, A/C.4/L.221, A/C.4/L.224, A/C.4/L.227, A/C.4/L.228, A/C.4/L.230) (*continued*)

[Item 35]*

1. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) asked whether reports and resolutions of a political nature were excluded from the scope of paragraph 2 of the operative part of the joint draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.4/L.221).
2. He recalled that at the 268th meeting he had stressed the need to bring the text of the draft resolution into harmony with the draft resolution on educational, economic and social policies in the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/C.4/L.208) adopted at that meeting.
3. Mr. LANNUNG (Denmark) proposed that the word "discussions", in the third paragraph of the preamble of the joint draft resolution, should be replaced by the word "work".
4. He further proposed that the words "may be deemed", in the English text of paragraph 1 of the operative part, should be replaced by the words "they deem".
5. Mr. KHATTAK (Pakistan) recognized that the Non-Self-Governing Territories were in different stages of development and that, consequently, no uniform policy could be laid down for all of them. Some were ready to take their rightful place in the community of nations, but others should still remain for some time under the benevolent care of the administering Powers. In studying each individual case, however, it was essential that the Committee should be guided by the principles laid down in Article 73 of the Charter. It was clear from that Article that the basic principles upon which the United Nations was founded applied also to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.
6. Moreover, Article 73 recognized the principle that the interests of the inhabitants of the territories were paramount and that it was the duty of the administering Powers to promote their well-being to the utmost, within the system of international peace and security established by the Charter. Thus, the only limitation imposed on the administering Powers in the performance of their obligations was that they should act at all times within the system of international peace and security. Although some might think it useless to draw attention frequently to the principles of the Charter, in present circumstances it was impossible too forcefully to affirm faith in the fundamental principles of the United Nations, for the very future of humanity and of civilization were at stake.
7. Nations were only beginning to travel the road of international co-operation and it was a natural human instinct to hesitate in face of the unknown. Thus, the administering Powers resisted any suggestions by other Member States for the good of the Non-Self-Governing Territories simply because innovations were involved; yet some of the suggestions were quite harmless.
8. The administering Powers should study the suggestions put forward in the Committee in the spirit in which they had been made; their only purpose was to promote the welfare of the inhabitants of the territories concerned and prepare them for self-government in the not too distant future. They could not attain that objective unless they were given a progressively larger share in the government of their countries, as well as in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The administering Powers surely did not object to such progressive training of the peoples concerned, since they had committed themselves to facilitate the progress of the non-self-governing peoples and to prepare them for independence. Even if the administering Powers felt that their powers were thereby being curtailed, they should welcome such curtailment if

* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

that helped to ensure the well-being of the peoples concerned.

9. It was a regrettable fact that some of the administering Powers refused to admit that times had changed. The colonial era, as it had been known before 1939, was gone forever and anyone who attempted to revive it would meet with the concerted opposition of the United Nations. In that connexion, he recalled that the memorandum by the Secretary-General on the development of a twenty-year programme for achieving peace through the United Nations (A/1304) had said that the great changes which had been taking place since the end of the war among the peoples of Asia and Africa must be kept within peaceful bounds by using the universal framework of the United Nations. The old relationships would have to be replaced with new ones of equality and fraternity. The Pakistani delegation agreed whole-heartedly with that point of view.

10. The General Assembly, in its resolution 566 (VI), had considered that the direct association of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies was an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those territories towards a position of equality with the Member States of the United Nations. Moreover, the Assembly had noted that special provisions existed in the constitutions of some of the specialized agencies and of the regional commissions of the United Nations permitting, on the proposal of the Administering Member concerned, the admission to those agencies and commissions of Non-Self-Governing Territories as "associate members". Consequently, the Assembly, in the same resolution, had recommended that practice to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

11. It was well known that Non-Self-Governing Territories had been admitted as associate members of certain specialized agencies, and the prestige of the administering Powers concerned had not suffered thereby. On the contrary, their moral prestige must have increased in the territories, since they had thus given proof to the inhabitants that they intended to stand by their commitments. With General Assembly resolution 566 (VI) in mind, the delegations of Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, India and Pakistan had submitted a joint draft resolution for the consideration of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. The provisions of the proposal were set forth in document A/2219 and Corr. 1 (part one, para. 90); it contained nothing which endangered the sovereignty or authority of the administering Powers.

12. It could certainly not have been the intention of the authors of the Charter to prevent the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories from being associated with the United Nations. Their silence on the question had been due solely to their desire to go slowly. But times had changed since then, and it was now time to move forward.

13. The Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had performed a most useful function, but unfortunately it had not had among its members persons with first-hand knowledge of the problems of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The association of persons from those territories in the work of the Committee would therefore be of great assistance

and would in no way embarrass the administering Powers, since such persons would be appointed by those Powers and would not have the right to vote.

14. The Pakistani delegation hoped that the administering Powers, and particularly the United Kingdom and the United States, would support the joint draft resolution. The United Kingdom representative had said in the Committee on Information that after initially approving the idea of associating the Non-Self-Governing Territories with the Committee's work, his Government had later changed its position in view of the constitutional difficulties involved. But the British people had never in their history retreated in the face of difficulties of that nature. It was therefore to be hoped that the United Kingdom delegation in the Fourth Committee would find a way of surmounting those difficulties.

15. Finally, the Pakistani delegation noted with satisfaction that, in the matter under consideration, the United States delegation had manifested the same spirit of co-operation which it had shown in other matters affecting the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

16. Mr. ULLRICH (Czechoslovakia) said that it was not enough for the United Nations merely to renew the mandate of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. Admittedly, his delegation had already had occasion to express its dissatisfaction with the way the Committee had done its work. The Committee's failure was, however, due to a number of causes and in particular to its composition. It was composed of an equal number of administering and non-administering Powers. While that composition served to prevent the Committee from becoming the exclusive instrument of the administering Powers, it failed to safeguard the interests of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

17. Some had gone so far as to propose that in future the Committee should be composed of experts on colonial affairs. Such a suggestion could hardly be taken seriously, since it would have the effect of converting the Committee into an exclusive instrument of the administering Powers and their so-called experts. Membership of the Committee was open to all Member States which had subscribed to the principles of the Charter; it should therefore also be open to representatives of the peoples whose interests were directly concerned.

18. As things were, the Committee's recommendations were based solely on the information transmitted by the administering Powers. Therefore, while it might be maintained that there was no bias in the Committee's composition, its sources of information were nevertheless one-sided. The peoples concerned could not even make their views known by means of petitions, either written or oral, to the Committee on Information, much less to the Fourth Committee. Hence, application of the principles and provisions of the Charter was mainly dependent upon the administering Powers' goodwill. That was precisely why the General Assembly in resolution 566 (VI) had invited the Committee to examine the possibility of associating the Non-Self-Governing Territories more closely in its work. But, as the Committee's report indicated (A/2219 and Corr. 1, part one, paras. 87 to 109), that body had failed to reach any conclusions in the matter.

19. It was significant that in the course of the Committee's discussions the majority of the administering Powers had expressed themselves against the association of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Committee's work in any form. The Belgian representative had gone so far as to say that he considered such association impracticable and useless, if not harmful.

20. The Czechoslovak delegation considered on the contrary that the participation of representatives of the indigenous populations in the Committee's work, without the right to vote, would substantially contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the Charter. It would enable the Committee to hear from representatives of the indigenous populations themselves how far the recommendations of the General Assembly and the principles of Chapter XI of the Charter had been carried into effect in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

21. Such participation would also give the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories valuable training and show them that the United Nations was resolved to use all the means at its disposal to attain the objectives of the Charter. On the other hand, the stand taken by the administering Powers, and in particular by Belgium, showed that they had no desire to implement the provisions of Chapter XI of the Charter and were determined to continue their policy, which was contrary to the Charter.

22. Lastly, such a measure would facilitate the Committee's work, since it would enable it to obtain an accurate picture of the true situation in the territories and to make recommendations to the General Assembly which would promote the advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-government and independence.

23. In consenting to the direct participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Committee's work, the administering Powers would give evidence of their good faith; if they continued to oppose it, they would indicate that they feared criticism by representatives of the peoples concerned.

24. For those reasons the Czechoslovak delegation would support the USSR amendment (A/C.4/L.224) to the joint draft resolution.

25. Mr. INGLES (Philippines) was in sympathy with the six-Power draft resolution which was contained in the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2219 and Corr.1, part one, para. 90) and on which the representative of Pakistan had just given some information. The draft resolution had been defeated in the Committee because of the opposition of the eight administering Powers. One of the non-administering Powers had abstained because, in his opinion, the draft resolution did not go far enough. He himself considered that the General Assembly now had an opportunity of asserting its authority under the Charter. The Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories was merely a subsidiary body, created to undertake preparatory work for the General Assembly, which was quite entitled to take a decision when the members of the Committee were divided.

26. The principle of the representation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories had been af-

firmed by the General Assembly when in 1946 it had adopted, on the initiative of the Philippine delegation, resolution 67 (I) concerning regional conferences of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The adoption of that resolution had been facilitated by an amendment of the Cuban delegation providing that the representatives of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories should be chosen or preferably elected in such a way that the representation of the people would be ensured to the extent that the particular conditions of the territory concerned permitted in order that the wishes and aspirations of the non-self-governing peoples might be expressed.¹

27. In the Committee on Information and in the Fourth Committee the principle of participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories had been criticized on the ground that such participation raised the question of dual representation. That criticism was not valid however in view of the fact that Non-Self-Governing Territories had been admitted to regional commissions and specialized agencies. For example, Hong Kong, Malaya and British North Borneo were represented separately in the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. Those territories had been proposed for associate membership by the administering Power itself and they had the right to vote in the committees of the Commission. Unlike the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East had power to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the governments of members or associate members, governments admitted in a consultative capacity and the specialized agencies. The administering Powers had recognized the principle that member countries belonging to the region should take their own decisions in the Commission on their own economic problems and that, in so doing, they should take full account of the views of the associate members, views which those members should have every opportunity of expressing. Among the specialized agencies which had admitted Non-Self-Governing Territories, it was enough to mention the recently created World Meteorological Organization, which counted twenty-three territories among its members.

28. In its resolution 566 (VI) the General Assembly had commended the practice of granting associate membership to Non-Self-Governing Territories and had recognized that the direct association of those territories in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies was an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of the territories towards a position of equality with Member States of the United Nations. The principle of dual representation had been recognized even in the time of the League of Nations, in which India and the United Kingdom had been represented separately; similarly, when the United Nations had been created, India and the Philippines had been granted separate representation even before their independence was proclaimed. During the Second World War the Philippines had been invited by the United States to sit separately in the Pacific War Council.

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Second part of the first session, Plenary Meetings*, 64th meeting.

29. Those precedents went to show the practicability of the separate representation of Non-Self-Governing Territories and the Philippine delegation would regret any measure which would mark a retrograde step. It could not understand why the administering Powers should consider the separate representation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Committee to be unconstitutional, while regarding such representation as perfectly legal in the regional commission he had just mentioned. Moreover, the proposal under consideration was to accord representation only to territories which had attained a wide measure of responsibility for economic, social and educational policies. The administering Powers and the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had recognized the need for the co-operation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in carrying out those policies. Would such co-operation not be facilitated if the Non-Self-Governing Territories were able to state their views before the Committee, which would take them into account in making its recommendations?

30. Despite his delegation's strong feelings in the matter, it appreciated the conciliatory spirit which had led to the submission of the joint draft resolution before the Committee. If the Brazilian amendments were adopted, he would vote in favour of that resolution, although he would have preferred a clearer and fuller text. He hoped that the fresh effort which the Committee on Information was called upon to make would enable it to give practical effect to the fundamental principle of separate representation and direct participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Committee's work.

31. He was prepared to support the United States amendment (A/C.4/L.228, para. 1 (b)) whereby the words "executive and legislative branches" would be substituted for the word "authorities" in paragraph 2 of the operative part of the draft resolution. So amended, the paragraph would be in line with the corresponding paragraph of the draft resolution previously adopted (A/C.4/208); it was not, however, redundant since it provided for the transmission of General Assembly resolutions to the territorial authorities.

32. His delegation would have thought that, under section C and other parts of the Revised Standard Form, the views of representative territorial bodies would be mentioned as a matter of course in the information transmitted by the administering Powers to the Secretary-General under Article 73 e, since one of the purposes of such information was to outline the general trends of economic, social and educational development and the participation therein of the inhabitants and their local representatives. The United States amendment (A/C.4/L.228, para. 1 (a)) whereby the last clause of paragraph 2 of the operative part would be deleted would have the effect of precluding the transmission of the views of the indigenous population.

33. He could not support the United States amendment (A/C.4/L.228, para. 2) to the effect that paragraph 3 of the operative part should be deleted; that paragraph was a compromise formula giving the Committee a chance to study the question further and obviating the need for the General Assembly to take

drastic steps to end the deadlock in the Committee. The deletion of the paragraph would destroy all hope of the direct association and separate representation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Committee.

34. Mr. YURANS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the participation of the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Committee's work would enable that body to obtain complete and objective information on the situation of all sections of the populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to form a clear idea of the economic, social and educational situation. It was regrettable that the Committee had no direct relations with the local populations and thus had only the information transmitted to it by the administering Powers under Article 73 e of the Charter. There were serious gaps in that information, which was often incomplete and did not always correspond to the various items in the Standard Form. In the communications which the administering Powers transmitted directly to the Committee, they usually presented the position in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their activities in the territories in the most favourable light, which did not always conform to the facts. By establishing direct contact between the Committee and the permanent inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the unilateral nature of the information transmitted might be remedied.

35. The USSR delegation was therefore prepared to support any proposal which would ensure the direct participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the Committee's work. Although the joint draft resolution (A/C.4/L.221) marked some progress in that direction, paragraph 1 of the operative part did not state with sufficient clarity the essential principle of the direct participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories; moreover, it left it to the administering Powers to determine the manner of such participation, and they might decide not to allow a given territory to be represented in the Committee.

36. The USSR delegation had therefore thought it desirable to submit the following amendment (A/C.4/L.224):

"Replace paragraph 1 of the operative part by the following:

"1. *Considers it essential* that Administering Members should extend the practice of associating suitably qualified persons from their Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee."

37. Under that amendment the direct participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was recognized as essential and the administering Powers were not allowed to determine the manner of such participation. The representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories must be enabled to participate actively in the Committee's work and to take part in the discussion of all the questions before it.

38. Mr. Yurans had been surprised by the Indian representative's assertion that there was no real difference between the original text of paragraph 1 of the operative part and the new version of that paragraph proposed by the USSR delegation. He still thought that there was a great difference between

expressing the hope that measures would be taken and stating that such measures were essential. The USSR delegation's text was clearer and more direct and alone could ensure the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the Committee's work.

39. The Brazilian amendment to the third paragraph of the preamble (A/C.4/L.227, para. 1) improved that part of the draft resolution, but that delegation's amendment to paragraph 3 of the operative part (A/C.4/L.227, para. 2) seemed to be less happy. It was especially necessary to concord the English, French, Russian and Spanish texts; that should not present any insurmountable difficulty.

40. He wondered why the administering Powers were so aggressive in the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and the Fourth Committee and constantly threatening to withdraw from the former. It was obvious that they wished to retain the privilege of exclusive mastery over the Non-Self-Governing Territories and were therefore reserving the right to refuse to carry out the obligations which they had voluntarily undertaken by signing the Charter. Although some representatives seemed to yield to the administering Powers and to accept their views, those Powers should not imagine that their attitude was supported by public opinion. In spite of their bluster, it was obvious that the administering Powers would not leave the Committee. They would never be able to reinstate the old methods of colonial exploitation.

41. The Belgian representative had several times stated that his country had occupied the Congo. Did that mean that Belgium wished to maintain the cruel régime that it had imposed on that territory and refused to apply the principles of the Charter on that basis? The Belgian representative, who had been Governor-General of the territory, must know that the times when settlers could do as they pleased in Non-Self-Governing Territories had gone beyond recall.

42. It was difficult to see how the administering Powers could reconcile such a position with the hypocritical eloquence which they used to try to prove that they were acting solely in the interests of the inhabitants of the territories. It was embarrassing to hear such allegations, together with threats to withdraw from the Committee and to cease to transmit information on the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was obvious that the General Assembly would not accept such an attitude and that public opinion could only condemn it.

43. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) submitted the amendment (A/C.4/L.230) to the joint draft resolution (A/C.4/L.221) sponsored by his delegation together with the delegations of Argentina, Bolivia, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria. The amendment read as follows:

"Replace paragraph 1 of the operative part by the following text:

"1. *Considers it desirable* that the Committee associate in its work qualified indigenous representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories and invites the Administering Members to facilitate such participation'."

44. That amendment was designed to reconcile the two divergent trends in the Committee, and he hoped that it would be accepted in that spirit. Moreover, the amendment rendered paragraph 3 of the operative part of the original text superfluous.

45. The Iraqi delegation could not accept the USSR amendment, but saw no objection to the United States amendments. Some representatives would allege that the latter weakened the text and others would try to prove that they strengthened it; it was certain, however, that the amendments would facilitate the application of the draft resolution. Nevertheless, his delegation could not accept the United States amendment regarding the deletion of operative paragraph 3 if the Committee rejected the nine-Power amendment. He would willingly accept the first Brazilian amendment; but with regard to the second, he made the same reservation as he had done in the case of the United States amendment.

46. He hoped that the authors of the joint draft resolution would be able to incorporate most of the proposed amendments in their original text, in order to facilitate the Committee's work. He urged representatives to consider the question from the practical point of view and show a spirit of conciliation in order to maintain the understanding that had hitherto prevailed among the members of the Committee.

47. Mr. Shiva RAO (India) pointed out to the Australian and Danish representatives that, under the joint draft resolution (A/C.4/L.221), the General Assembly merely expressed the hope that Administering Members would find it appropriate to associate qualified persons from their Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Committee's work. There could be no question of the Assembly's usurping the functions of the Administering Members. In reply to the Australian representative, he also recalled, on the basis of the Secretariat memorandum (A/AC.35/L.83 and Corr.1 and Add.1), that the revised terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East provided for the participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Commission's work as associate members, and that certain Non-Self-Governing Territories thus took part in the work of several specialized agencies, including the International Telecommunication Union, the Universal Postal Union and the World Health Organization. Moreover, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the specialized agencies could not, strictly speaking, be regarded as technical organs.

48. The fourth paragraph of the preamble to the joint draft resolution simply reproduced, with slight modifications, the text of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution submitted by the United States delegation in the Committee on Information (A/2219 and Corr.1, part one, para. 97). As regards the possibility of effective participation by the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Committee's work, as associate members, he drew attention to India's participation in the work of the League of Nations. India's representative in the League had been chosen not only from the Government of India, but also from among the members of the legislature.

49. To resolve the practical difficulties, his delegation would propose that the Non-Self-Governing Terri-

tories should be represented at each session of the Committee by only four representatives, selected in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. As those representatives would not have the right to vote, the question of dual representation would not arise. His delegation could accept the Danish delegation's amendment to the joint draft resolution.

50. With respect to the selection of the associate members, he proposed that, for the present, such members should be chosen only from territories which had representative institutions. Further, the representatives chosen would confine their participation for the time being to transmitting the views of their legislative bodies on the reports and resolutions of the Committee.

51. He had no objection to paragraph 1 (b) of the United States amendments. However, communication of the Committee's reports to the executive authorities of the various territories was already provided for in the draft resolution (A/C.4/208) which the Fourth Committee had adopted at its 268th meeting.

52. He could not accept the USSR amendment; he preferred the original text of paragraph 1 of the operative part of the draft resolution. He was prepared to vote for the nine-Power amendment if it would enable the administering Powers to accept the draft resolution. He would vote for the Brazilian amendments, which had the virtue of stating that the end in view was direct participation by the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Committee's work.

53. It had always been recognized by all Members of the United Nations that the greatest possible degree of participation by the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the activities of the administering Powers was essential to progress in all fields. It followed that the representatives of those inhabitants must participate not only in the implementation of directives based upon the recommendations of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, but also in the framing of those directives. The General Assembly had the right to know what the elected assemblies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories thought of the Committee's resolutions. The Indian delegation could not, therefore, accept paragraph 1 (a) of the United States amendments. Finally, he could not understand why the United States delegation proposed the deletion of paragraph 3 of the operative part of the joint draft resolution. The sponsors of the draft resolution did not ask that representatives of the territories should be immediately invited to participate directly in the work of the Committee; they merely recognized that such direct participation would be very desirable. The Indian delegation therefore proposed that the Secretariat should be asked to review the various suggestions put forward on the subject before the next session of the Committee on Information.

54. Mr. FORSYTH (Australia) recalled that Chapter XI of the Charter recognized the responsibility of the administering Powers for the administration of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, i.e. the conduct of their affairs, including international representation. Dual representation of Member States in the United Nations would be entirely unacceptable and could only lead to chaotic situations.

55. The case of the associate members of specialized agencies was not relevant. The sphere of activity of the specialized agencies was on the whole technical, whereas the task of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories was not on the whole technical but one of general review of the economic, social and educational progress of the territories.

56. After giving considerable thought to the problem, the Australian Government had come to the conclusion that the only way of associating the Non-Self-Governing Territories directly with the Committee's work would be to include competent indigenous representatives of the territories in the delegations of the Member States. It must be understood, however, that the composition of their delegations was the exclusive prerogative of the Member States, and that it was not for the United Nations to make any recommendations on the subject. He wondered, for example, whether the Indian Government would agree that the United Nations could direct it to include representatives of certain groups in the Indian delegation, and whether the Iraqi representative would accept the right of the General Assembly to invite Iraq to appoint representatives of minorities in that country as members of its delegation with the right to take a position contrary to that of the Iraqi delegation.

57. The Australian Government considered the practical aspects of the problem of the greatest importance; and in its opinion procedures and relationships should be very carefully considered in order to avoid confusion, which could only be damaging. No Member of the United Nations was more interested in the welfare and progress of the people of Papua than the Government of Australia, which was aware that the co-operation of the people of the territory was indispensable and had taken steps to ensure such co-operation. Australia had always given the most serious consideration to the observations and suggestions of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

58. Mr. Forsyth would probably abstain from voting on the preamble of the draft resolution even though he could not support the third paragraph. He would vote in favour of the Danish amendment, and he could accept paragraph 1 of the operative part if the English text were made to conform to the French. But for reasons explained earlier in the debate he could not accept the last part of operative paragraph 2, and if the United States amendment calling for the deletion of that passage was rejected, he would be forced to vote against the draft resolution as a whole. Paragraph 3 of the operative part seemed to serve no useful purpose, and he would support the United States amendment to the effect that it should be deleted. If the Committee so desired, it could always decide later to continue its study of the question.

59. The Australian delegation would vote against the USSR amendment and the nine-Power amendment. The Charter made no distinction between different categories of inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He had already explained the reasons why he could not support the Brazilian amendments.

60. He stated for the record that whatever the fate of the draft resolution, or whatever resolution might

be adopted, nothing in it could be accepted as limiting the absolute right of governments of States Members of the United Nations to determine the composition of their delegations. The Australian Government, as administering Power, would remain responsible for deciding, in connexion with its representation on the Committee on Information or any other body, what would be practicable and appropriate.

Procedure for dealing with requests for oral hearings

61. Mr. MENDOZA (Guatemala) endorsed the United Kingdom representative's suggestion at the

263rd meeting as to the adoption of a procedure for granting hearings before the General Assembly to petitioners from the Trust Territories. He thought that a sub-committee should be set up to study the question and report to the General Assembly at its next session.

62. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation was at the moment preparing a working paper on the same subject.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.