



Friday, 21 October 1955,
at 10.45 a.m.

New York

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Chairman: Mr. Luciano JOUBLANC RIVAS
(Mexico).

Requests for hearings (A/C.4/307) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should consider the request for a hearing received from the Togoland Congress (A/C.4/307).

There being no objections, the request was granted.

AGENDA ITEMS 31 AND 33

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

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

Question of the renewal of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2908 and Add.1) (*continued*)

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*)

2. Mr. MANI (India) said he had understood the Belgian representative at the previous meeting to make

a reference to the Naga community, in the eastern part of India. He wished to point out that the Nagas were citizens of India, enjoying freedom of political organization and all the other freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, and that they had contributed considerably to the national development.

3. Referring to community projects, the Belgian representative had spoken of the voluntary labour provided by the people of India in certain areas. His remarks appeared to have been based on a misunderstanding of a statement made by the Indian delegation that in some parts of India the people had volunteered to maintain the railway track. They did so entirely of their own free will, the Government providing the money and technical assistance. If the same method were applied in the Belgian Congo, there could be no objection from the members of the Committee.

4. With regard to the assertion that African students were victims of racial discrimination in India, he quoted statements by the Vice-President of the African Students Organization in India, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bombay and others as evidence that there was no colour bar in India. Africans lived in India on a footing of perfect equality with the rest of the population.

5. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) explained that he had not intended to allude to the Nagas, but to certain tribes on the Indo-Burmese frontier.

6. He had not meant to imply that there was any organized discrimination against African students; he had said that they were subjected to discrimination by certain elements of Indian society notwithstanding the desire of the Indian authorities to end all types of racial discrimination.

7. Mr. MALLI (Pakistan), replying to the remarks made by the Belgian representative at the previous meeting, emphasized that he had said the Pakistan delegation had come to the conclusion that no significant changes had been made in the Non-Self-Governing Territories which could be deemed a step forward towards the goal of self-government or independence; he had not said there had been no progress at all. He would be very glad to hear any evidence from the Belgian delegation that material progress had been made towards self-government or independence. Until such evidence was produced, his delegation would continue to hold the view previously expressed.

8. Mr. APUNTE (Ecuador) associated himself entirely with the statement made by the representative of Guatemala in reply to the Belgian representative at the previous meeting.

9. Mr. AGUERO (Chile) suggested that the Secretary-General and the Committee on Information might follow the example of the Belgian representative and supplement the information submitted under Article 73 e by data obtained from official publications and

other trustworthy sources, so as to obtain a more complete picture in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and avoid misunderstanding due to insufficient documentation.

10. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) disagreed.

11. Mr. RIFAI (Syria), replying to the statement made at the previous meeting by the Philippine representative, said that his delegation deeply regretted the decision of the French Government to abstain from United Nations activities and hoped that that decision would shortly be reversed. Nevertheless he could not agree that the withdrawal of the French delegation could prevent the General Assembly or its Committees from discussing any item on the agenda.

12. Secondly, the Philippine representative had accused him of quoting from unreliable sources. His purpose, however, in quoting John Gunther's book *Inside Africa*, had been to show what a person who was a friend of France, or at least not anti-French, had to say about France's achievements in Morocco. In support of Mr. Gunther's views he quoted from a statement made by Mr. Mendès-France before the French National Assembly on 4 February 1955 and from an article by Mr. W. O. Douglas, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, in *Look* magazine of 19 October 1954.

13. The Philippine representative appeared to believe that Morocco had been in a state of virtual barbarism when first occupied by France. Marshal Lyautey, the first French Resident General, had described Morocco as a historic and independent empire with a hierarchy of officials, diplomatic representation abroad, social welfare bodies and other institutions of an advanced State.

14. The Asian-African Conference held at Bandung had noted in its final *communiqué* that the existence of colonialism in many parts of Asia and Africa not only prevented cultural co-operation but suppressed the national cultures of the peoples. It had added that some colonial Powers had denied their dependent peoples' basic rights in the sphere of education and culture; that that was particularly true in the case of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, where the basic right of the people to study their own language and culture had been suppressed, and that similar discrimination had been practised against Asian and coloured people in some parts of the continent of Africa.

15. Mr. GHANEM (Egypt) said that although the Egyptian delegation had already expressed regret at the absence of the French delegation and the hope that it would shortly resume its place, he could not agree with the Philippine representative's argument that France must be present before the Committee could discuss the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in North Africa. The General Assembly's competence with regard to the Non-Self-Governing Territories derived from the terms of the Charter and must be exercised at all times in order to fulfil the purposes of the United Nations.

16. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) wished to dispel the misunderstanding that seemed to have arisen with regard to his statement at the previous meeting. He had merely suggested that quotations from *Inside Africa* should be treated with reserve pending clarification by the French Government. His remarks had been prompted solely by the desire to be fair to the absent administering Power, which should be given an oppor-

tunity to state its side of the case. It was to be hoped that the French delegation would soon return to the Committee.

17. He strongly repudiated the Belgian representative's implication that certain peoples in the Philippines were not yet self-governing. His Government administered no dependent territories or peoples. The Igorots, for instance, enjoyed the same rights and privileges under the Philippine Constitution and laws as other citizens, and they were fully integrated into the country's economic, social and political life.

18. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) said that he had not actually referred to the Philippines in his speech at the previous meeting. However, he noted that the recent report of the International Labour Office entitled *Living and Working Conditions of Indigenous Populations in Independent Countries*¹ stated in connexion with the Philippines that the administration of tribal affairs was entrusted to the Department of the Interior, one of whose statutory obligations was to promote and safeguard the interests of non-Christian groups, including the designation of municipal district officials.

19. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) recalled that he had suggested at an earlier meeting that the valuable information on Non-Self-Governing Territories which reached the Fourth Committee should be given wider publicity throughout the world. His suggestion had received some support from the Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories and from the United Kingdom and other representatives. In private discussion, other representatives had expressed certain doubts concerning the advisability of disseminating the information more widely. Some had suggested that some administering Powers might resent the increased contacts between the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the free world which such publicity would bring about. He could not believe that any administering Power would want to keep the Territories which it administered in isolation or would indeed consider such isolation feasible in present-day conditions. However, he could understand that the proposed publicity might draw attention to unsatisfactory developments, which would be subject to severe criticism. Other representatives had feared that in disseminating such information the Secretary-General and the Fourth Committee would become mere instruments of propaganda for the colonial Powers. The Committee on Information, however, with its bipartisan structure, would be in a position to prevent abuses in either direction. Any bulletin that was issued by it would be fair and balanced and would give both sides of the picture.

20. He agreed with the Under-Secretary that developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories were not usually sensational enough to excite public notice. However, there were many aspects which could be of great interest. He suggested that the proposed bulletin might give biographical sketches of distinguished personages in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so that when those Territories became independent, the world at large might have some acquaintance with their leaders. Similarly, information on indigenous art and music, customs and traditions would be of great value. There were also many technical

¹ Report VIII (1) (Geneva, 1955).

matters which would arouse real interest. All countries were concerned with housing problems for example, and information on the development of transport, agriculture and industry would always be useful.

21. Eventually the distinction between independent countries and Non-Self-Governing Territories would disappear, with the emancipation of the latter. The Fourth Committee must always bear in mind the unity of mankind. As matters stood, the world found itself unprepared when a new country joined the community of nations. The list of Non-Self-Governing Territories diminished year by year as new self-governing countries entered the scene. It was important that the world should learn how the Non-Self-Governing Territories were progressing towards independence, and he urged the Committee to give careful consideration to the points he had raised.

22. Mr. KHADRA (Saudi Arabia) noted that the Belgian representative had wrongly attributed to him a statement calling for more comparisons between conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories and those in independent territories with similar problems. He had in fact urged the comparison of problems in some Non-Self-Governing Territories with those in other Non-Self-Governing Territories.

23. In connexion with the statement made at the previous meeting by the representative of the Philippines, he associated himself entirely with the views expressed by the Syrian representative.

24. Mr. ARAOZ (Bolivia) said that Bolivia's position on the question of conditions among indigenous populations in independent countries as compared with those in Non-Self-Governing Territories — a question the Belgian representative raised every year — was already well known to the Committee.

25. He drew the Belgian representative's attention to the great achievements of Bolivia's national majorities, such as the nationalization of mines, agrarian reform, universal suffrage, educational reform and economic diversification programmes, which were destroying all vestiges of Bolivia's colonial past and sweeping away the remnants of feudalism and dependence. Progress in improving the lot of the indigenous populations of independent countries and of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories might be equally slow, but the indigenous peoples of the independent countries had the inestimable advantage of being members of a free and sovereign nation and enjoying full civil rights without restriction of any kind. He was therefore once again unable to accept the Belgian representative's specious arguments.

26. The CHAIRMAN declared the general debate on the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2908 and Add.1) and on the renewal of the Committee closed.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO (A/2908, PART ONE, ANNEX II; A/C.4/L.391, A/C.4/L.392)

27. The CHAIRMAN called upon the Fourth Committee to consider first the draft resolutions and amendments relating to the report of the Committee on Information. The Committee already had before it draft resolution A in annex II of part one of the report of the Committee on Information (A/2908), approving the report on social conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories. The delegations of Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Liberia and Mexico had sub-

mitted a number of amendments to the draft resolution (A/C.4/L.391). The Indian delegation had submitted an additional draft resolution on information on community development in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/C.4/L.392).

28. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) introduced the amendments submitted by his delegation and the delegations of Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia and Liberia to draft resolution A. The purpose of those amendments was to accord recognition to the contribution which the specialized agencies were beginning to make to the development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

29. Mr. TAZHIBAEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed with those representatives who had pointed out some merits in the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. Undoubtedly its author had performed a big job. However, it did not accurately reflect the real state of affairs in the Non-Self-Governing Territories or contain the necessary recommendations for the correction of unsatisfactory social conditions there. The Soviet delegation would therefore be unable to vote in favour of draft resolution A. If the draft resolution were put to the vote as a whole, it would abstain. If the various parts of the draft resolution were voted upon separately, it would vote in favour of the preamble and of paragraph 2 of the operative part but would abstain on paragraph 1 of the operative part. It found the joint amendments to draft resolution A (A/C.4/L.391) acceptable.

30. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq) said that he would support the joint amendments to draft resolution A. He agreed with the representative of Mexico that the specialized agencies had rendered valuable service to the Committee on Information through the excellent studies they had prepared. He paid a special tribute to the work done by the World Health Organization through its African regional office at Brazzaville.

31. Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) suggested that the words "the initial stages of co-operation" in the proposed new paragraph 3 (A/C.4/L.391) should be replaced by the words "the increasing co-operation". That form of words would be more accurate and should meet the five Powers' intention. Close collaboration between the United Kingdom and the specialized agencies had in fact existed for many years.

32. As it stood, the new paragraph 5 in the five-Power amendments implied that without collaboration between the Administering Members and the international bodies concerned full development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories would not be possible. He did not think that the authors of the amendment had really intended to make that implication and it would be preferable to replace the words "extended with a view to the full development of" by the words "extended in the interests of the development of".

33. He suggested that the five-Power amendments should be submitted as a separate draft resolution rather than as amendments to draft resolution A, which was purely formal.

34. He hoped that the authors of the amendments would be able to accept his drafting modifications. He would then be able to vote in favour of all the amendments and of the draft resolution as a whole regardless of whether the amendments were retained as such or submitted as a separate proposal.

35. Miss ROESAD (Indonesia) was prepared to accept the United Kingdom representative's suggestion with regard to the new paragraph 3. She had no objection to replacing the words "with a view to" in the new paragraph 5 by the words "in the interests of" but she felt that the words "full development" should be retained.

36. She would prefer to keep the amendments as amendments rather than submit them as a separate proposal.

37. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico), Mr. GHANEM (Egypt), Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador) and Miss BROOKS (Liberia) agreed with the Indonesian representative.

38. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) supported the five-Power amendments together with the United Kingdom representative's drafting changes. He agreed with the sponsors, that the amendments should be retained as amendments. They constituted a well-balanced and constructive addition to draft resolution A, which was, perhaps owing to the bipartisan nature of the Committee on Information, merely a routine expression of approval.

39. Criticism to the effect that the recommendations of the Committee on Information were too general had been exaggerated. Many of the Committee's specific recommendations, in paragraphs 78 and 99 of part two of its report for example, were most

valuable. On the whole the Committee had done good work, and he would be glad to vote in favour of approving its report.

40. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) suggested that the wishes of the five Powers sponsoring the amendments and of the United Kingdom representative alike might be met if the words "full development" were replaced by the words "integral development". He believed that the sponsors of the amendments wished to indicate that efforts should be co-ordinated in the interests of balanced development.

41. Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) wondered whether that had indeed been the intention of the five Powers. That concept was certainly not covered by the word "full". In any case, "integrated" would seem to be more appropriate than "integral".

42. Mr. SOLE (Union of South Africa) felt that there was general agreement on the intention underlying the new paragraph 5. The exact wording could be decided between the sponsors and the United Kingdom representative better than by the entire Committee. He therefore proposed that the meeting should adjourn.

The motion for adjournment was adopted by 35 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.