



C O N T E N T S

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Chairman: Mr. Luciano JOUBLANC RIVAS
(Mexico).

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 (*continued*)

1. Miss ROESAD (Indonesia) said that her country was deeply interested in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and supported all measures that might help them to attain independence. She was gratified to note that such great progress had been made in the Gold Coast, Zanzibar, Malaya and Singapore that those Territories would soon become self-governing. The administering Power concerned had set up a completely independent administration in each of the Territories, as was clear from paragraph 93 of part

two of the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2908 and Add. 1). It had also enabled the indigenous inhabitants to acquire a sense of civic responsibility by increased participation in local government. The Committee on Information had stated in paragraph 26 of part two of its report that social policy should be designed to develop the responsibility of the peoples.

2. The civic consciousness of dependent populations would also be developed by association with the work of the Committee on Information. Indonesia had hoped that the administering Powers would adopt that measure in 1954. It subscribed to paragraph 4 of draft resolution B (A/2908, part one, annex II) inviting the Members administering Non-Self-Governing Territories to take such action, and it hoped that that paragraph would be given effect. In addition, if the indigenous inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories were to lose their feeling of inferiority, the educational system must be made uniform and segregation in schools must be abolished. It was regrettable that segregation continued in many countries, as could be seen from paragraph 90 of part two of the report. Not only did the practice keep indigenous inhabitants in what was regarded as an inferior status, but it prevented the different social groups from uniting in one nation. As the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization had stated in its report (A/AC.35/L.194, para. 80) the campaign against racism must start in the schoolroom.

3. Rapid progress had been made in community development. The national consciousness of the inhabitants was fostered when they were given an opportunity to study local problems. Likewise, their participation in the organization and implementation of a programme for the development of their own communities served to inculcate a sense of social responsibility. It should not be forgotten that the value of their participation would often be determined by the nature of the general administrative structure, as was stated in paragraph 58 of part two of the Committee's report. In order to understand the reason for their efforts, the inhabitants must feel that they were advancing toward self-government. Furthermore, the community development programmes should be conducted on a national scale and the entire population should be persuaded that the movement would help them to attain their independence.

4. She expressed gratification at the progress achieved in the matter of race relations, which was reported in paragraph 88 of part two of the report; but there was still much to be done. In some Territories such as Kenya the system of land tenure was disadvantageous to the indigenous inhabitants; in a number of towns they had to observe a curfew. Indigenous inhabitants were affected by discriminatory measures in respect of employment, education and housing. It therefore appeared that the United Kingdom representative had been very optimistic when he had stated (473rd meet-

ing) that racial discrimination had ceased to exist in a number of Territories under United Kingdom administration.

5. With regard to the question of labour, Miss Roesad drew attention to the importance of wage levels; the individual's health and housing could always be improved if his wages enabled him to live in decent material circumstances. It would seem from paragraph 78 of part two of the report that the situation of indigenous workers had hardly improved in recent years. Her delegation shared the view of Egypt, Thailand, Yugoslavia and the Philippines that the conditions of the indigenous worker were far from satisfactory and that that situation should be remedied.

6. Indonesia was in general gratified with the work of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and with the valuable assistance the Committee had received from the specialized agencies. Reports by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (A/AC.35/L.194), by the International Labour Office (A/AC.35/L.196 and L.207), by the World Health Organization (A/AC.35/L.204 and L.205) as well as a report prepared jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization (A/AC.35/L.202) had helped to clarify the problems of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Recalling that the General Assembly had addressed requests to UNESCO regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories in resolutions 329 (IV) and 330 (IV), adopted in 1949, she expressed the hope that the Committee on Information would again refer to the specialized agencies on matters within their purview. Accordingly, her delegation subscribed to paragraph 2 of draft resolution A (A/2908, part one, annex II), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Committee on Information to the specialized agencies. It would particularly like to see each of the various questions addressed to the attention of the agency concerned.

7. As to the future of the Committee on Information, she considered that it should continue in existence so long as there were any Non-Self-Governing Territories, but she reserved the right to make a statement later on draft resolution B. At the 475th meeting the Union of South Africa had referred to the fact that France had decided to withdraw from the present session and to stop transmitting information under Article 73 e of the Charter. That decision had appeared in the Press in the form of a *communiqué* from the French Ministry of Overseas Territories. She wondered if it was true that neither the President of the General Assembly nor the Chairman of the Fourth Committee nor the Secretary-General had received any official communication on the subject. If such a communication should reach the Organization during the tenth session, and particularly before the debate on the question of the cessation of the transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter was closed, the members of the Committee should be notified. Any State which claimed that it was under no obligation to supply such information was questioning the validity of the Charter, which would call for an opinion of the International Court of Justice. However, she did not believe that the problem would have to be considered immediately, and she hoped that common sense and calm would prevail.

8. In conclusion, she protested against the fact that the Netherlands Government had transmitted information on West Irian under Article 73 e of the Charter. Without dwelling on that question, which had been included in the General Assembly's agenda and would be considered in the First Committee, she pointed out that West Irian was not a territory entrusted to the Netherlands, but an integral part of the Indonesian Republic.

9. Mr. HELB (Netherlands) replied that, in his Government's view, Netherlands sovereignty over Netherlands New Guinea could not be questioned; the Netherlands delegation was therefore bound by Article 73 e of the Charter to transmit information on the Territory.

10. Mr. MANI (India) congratulated the Committee on Information on its report (A/2908 and Add.1). His delegation endorsed the social policy for the Non-Self-Governing Territories set down in paragraph 26 of the report on Social Conditions (A/2908, part two), while remarking that those aims must be considered in relation to paragraph a, and especially paragraph b, of Article 73 of the Charter. Under that Article the Members of the United Nations had agreed to develop self-government among the indigenous populations. The best means of fulfilling that obligation was to allow the peoples free participation in the public life of their countries. It was suggested in paragraph 20 of the report on social conditions that, in order to carry out social development programmes in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, wide use needed to be made of the services of non-governmental organizations. It was a matter of satisfaction that some administering Powers, in particular the United Kingdom, had shown themselves well aware of that necessity. He hoped that such co-operation would be increasingly sought. In that connexion it might be advisable to give the voluntary organizations wider spheres of activity and wider initiative. It was recognized, however, that those bodies had to work under the direction of the responsible Governments.

11. The Indian delegation had noted that in some territories not blessed with abundant natural resources economic development had been uneven and it might be useful to recall India's own experience in that respect. To guide the process of industrial development in such a manner as to ensure that there would be little dislocation of the population, India had set up planning boards. A similar system might be of assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, especially to those in Africa, where many people were reluctant to leave their land and their tribes in order to swell the urban population. That aspect of social equilibrium was of great urgency and it would be advantageous to decentralize industry, so that the indigenous inhabitants could seek their living in it and yet retain their connexion with their families.

12. The Committee had noted the lack of cohesion sometimes resulting from the heterogeneous composition of the populations (A/2908, part two, para. 34). Several administering Powers had tried to give those disparate groupings a sense of common territorial loyalty through regional co-operation. That was a development which deserved to be widely encouraged wherever possible.

13. The Committee had stressed the importance of developing agriculture (A/2908, part two, para. 39). Although it was important that the constantly grow-

ing populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be self-sufficient in food, the development of the industrial potential of the areas should also be kept in mind.

14. Mr. Mani drew the Committee's attention to the fact that alcoholism was frequently rife in the towns and among the working class. France had made efforts to combat that situation by placing quota restrictions on the import of alcoholic drinks and by launching temperance propaganda campaigns. India, where the problem had also arisen, had had recourse to prohibition, particularly in the states of Madras and Bombay. The measure had led to an increase in the purchasing power of the workers and had been well received by the population.

15. The Committee on Information was right in believing that community development should be capable of wide application in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was satisfactory to note the report on social conditions (para. 53) that the authorities had obtained excellent results in some regions and that the people's capacity for participation and the development of leadership had outstripped official expectations. It should be borne in mind that community development methods could be applied successfully in both urban and rural areas. In India, such programmes had enabled living standards to be raised, and had contributed towards increasing food production, the development of cottage and small-scale industry, an improvement in health and housing conditions and the establishment of a large number of co-operative societies. The projects seemed to have called forth all the best qualities of the Indian people. The Indian Government had spent \$14 million on carrying out the plans, and the contribution of the people had been \$7 million; 12,000 social workers, 38,000 teachers, 2,000 doctors and 3,000 agriculturists had been employed. The populations of Indian villages had volunteered to help in the construction of canals, dams, roads, etc., and that encouraged the hope that in community projects there was a fertile field for the development of under-developed areas. Community development, however, also required specialists. In India, it had been placed under the charge of the Minister for Planning. The administering Powers, which recognized its social significance, should perhaps prescribe special courses for their social workers. In view of the importance the Committee on Information attached to community development, the Indian representative suggested that the Standard Form for the transmission of information should be so amended as to require the regular supply of data on the subject.

16. He agreed with the Committee's view, expressed in paragraph 74 of the report on social conditions that the authorities responsible for fixing wages should take account of the needs of the family unit and not merely of those of a bachelor. It was satisfactory to note that several administering Powers had ratified the international conventions on labour. But it was deplorable that, according to paragraph 78 of the report, the indigenous workers were the subject of discriminatory measures, and it was earnestly to be hoped that the administering Powers would discourage any form of separatism in the trade union field. In that connexion it would be useful if the administering Powers endeavoured to ascertain to what extent the international labour conventions were in fact being applied in their Territories. The trade unions

in Non-Self-Governing Territories should be essentially economic in character. In such countries any other consideration could not be harmful to their cause. The Indian delegation had noted with satisfaction that the United Kingdom had sent trade union experts to some Territories.

17. On the matter of technical assistance, the Non-Self-Governing Territories had received only 2.3 per cent of the total allocation under the Expanded Programme, or \$351,539 out of \$15,111,226. While recognizing that the credits allotted to the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories in 1955 had doubled, his delegation was of the view that they were still inadequate.

18. Mr. Mani then drew attention to paragraph 88 of the report on social conditions, dealing with the vital subject of race relations. It was evident that in that regard progress had been made in many Territories. For example, in the Northern Rhodesian copper belt there was a new agreement to expand employment opportunities for Negroes. In East Africa, a report by the East Africa Royal Commission 1953-1955 had condemned the practice of reserving land to white settlers. In parts of the Belgian Congo an attempt had been made to break down the barriers with respect to the use of public facilities by all inhabitants of the Territory. But it was also clear that in certain areas racial tensions had increased. The Indian delegation shared the Committee's view, expressed in paragraph 92, that progress in the field of education was a first necessity, but it would like to see the authorities begin by enforcing positive legislation to prohibit discriminatory practices.

19. The Committee should note the system adopted in the United Kingdom, where an overseas service, established in 1953 with the co-operation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, prepared persons going overseas for the problems which they would have to face. Furthermore, the UNESCO document on race relations,¹ which could greatly help in dispelling racial prejudice, might be made available to schools and colleges. Whatever might be the practical difficulties regarding language, common schools should be established at all levels in order to accelerate the building of a unified community. According to paragraph 94 of the report, it seemed that there were still considerable barriers to the advancement of Africans in some employments in Central and East Africa; he welcomed, however, the action taken by the Government of Uganda in recognizing that there should be no colour bar in industry. His delegation endorsed the Committee's recommendation, in paragraph 97 of its report, regarding the establishment of institutions in which all races had a common interest and noted that some progress had been made in that field. In Kenya, for instance, the Kenya United Club admitted members of all races.

20. He regretted that, despite General Assembly resolution 644 (VII), some Administering Members had not yet taken steps to prohibit discriminatory practices. It should be remembered that the Administering Members would finally be judged by their success in banning such discriminatory racial practices in their Territories. It was deplorable, for instance, that discrimination on grounds of race was still tolerated, in some Territories, on public transport vehicles,

¹ *The Race Concept* (UNESCO, Paris, 1952).

in restaurants and hotels. Those practices offended human dignity; as long as they were tolerated, it could not be said that the Administering Members had discharged their obligations under the Charter to the people committed to their charge. The administering Powers should arrange for the regular celebration of Human Rights Day in their Territories, in order to provide a common platform upon which the races could meet and learn to understand their mutual obligations. It should also be made clear in all the Territories that race or colour should be no bar, direct or indirect, to the holding of any public office.

21. He drew the attention of the Administering Members to the fact that UNESCO was preparing a basic handbook, showing how the teaching of facts about different races might be introduced into the ordinary subjects on the school curriculum, such as history, geography, biology and so forth. The intention was, first, to reach a scientific definition of race, secondly, to popularize the findings and, thirdly, to study race relations in countries where solutions had been found.

22. As regards section VIII of the report on social conditions, dealing with public health and health administration, his delegation appreciated the work done by the administering Powers in combating malaria, sleeping sickness and other diseases; a tribute was due to the selfless labours of the doctors and nurses who devoted themselves to medical work in non-self-governing countries. As a result of their efforts, the mortality rate had decreased, according to paragraph 100. In remote areas which were difficult to reach some administering Powers had organized mobile units. That method could be introduced with advantage in all the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The system prevailing in Territories administered by the United Kingdom, where the responsibility for health policies rested with a minister, could not be effective unless the minister concerned had a voice in the budget allocation for health relief. The Committee very rightly stated, in paragraph 107, that sanitation was fundamental to individual communities. Public appreciation of sanitary measures was not generally immediate in under-developed areas; it might therefore be necessary for the administering Powers to enforce such measures through legislation.

23. His delegation endorsed the observation made by the Committee about training and leadership, in section XI of the report on social conditions. The future of those Territories depended on the intelligence, character and ability of the men and women they could produce to exercise vigorous and imaginative leadership in social development. In many Non-Self-Governing Territories there was a high percentage of illiteracy; there was a shortage of trained teachers and the few schools that did exist were mainly private. In paragraph 90, the Committee had referred to the absence of adequate higher educational institutions and to the existence of separate school systems for different communities. The Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories would give special attention to those matters next year, when the Administering Members in conformity with Article 73 e of the Charter, submitted information relating to educational conditions.

24. His delegation would support draft resolutions A and B, appearing in part one, annex II, of the report. With regard to paragraph 3 of draft resolution

B, whereby the General Assembly invited the members of the Committee to continue to attach to their delegations persons specially qualified in the functional fields within the Committee's purview, his delegation agreed with the Administering Members that a purely academic discussion on the information submitted under Article 73 e would be of little use. Paragraph 4 of draft resolution B, in which the General Assembly invited the Member States administering Non-Self-Governing Territories to attach to their delegations indigenous persons specially qualified to speak on economic, social and educational policies, was also very important. A few administering Powers had introduced such indigenous advisers, whose participation had been most useful.

25. The continuance of the Committee on Information was a duty which the General Assembly owed to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. His delegation felt that the Committee should be made a permanent body; as, however, the administering Powers were in a position to agree to its renewal for another three years only, he would not press that point for the time being. He nevertheless hoped that the administering Powers would not object to the Committee's examination of problems common to some regional groups of Territories. Many delegations attached great importance to that question, which the Thai representative had raised at the 474th meeting.

26. The Indian delegation hoped that the Committee on Information, which had already performed a substantial service, would continue to work in the interests of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the co-operation of the administering Powers.

27. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) reminded the Committee that in 1955 his country had been a member of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and that the Guatemalan representative had been Chairman of the Sub-Committee appointed to prepare a special report on social conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories, which now constituted part two of document A/2908. His delegation had, however, reserved its position on various questions to which that report referred.

28. In preparing its report, the Committee on Information had made a genuine effort to give an overall picture of the economic, social and educational conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and of the progress made on the basis of the most recent information transmitted by the Administering Members. The report was thus of technical interest to the Members of the United Nations which administered Non-Self-Governing Territories, to the various United Nations organs and to the specialized agencies. A tribute was also due to some members of the Committee who, representing independent non-administering States, had spontaneously furnished much information on the projects undertaken in their countries. It was inadmissible that information voluntarily submitted by independent countries should be compared with information on Non-Self-Governing Territories, submitted by Administering Members, under Article 73 e of the Charter. The South African representative's comment on that subject at the Committee's 475th meeting was inadmissible. The national experience of independent countries, especially those which bordered upon Non-Self-Governing Territories

with a similar economic, social and educational structure, was an important source of data for the Committee on Information.

29. The Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories in Chapter XI was an integral part of the Charter, which formed an indivisible whole; its Articles and paragraphs could not be considered out of context. If the spirit of Chapter XI, as well as of Chapters XII and XIII of the Charter, was to be respected, the Non-Self-Governing Territories must be helped, along with the Trust Territories, rapidly to achieve independence or the capacity for self-government. There was a close relationship between that kind of development and political advancement, and the Committee on Information had made a very wise comment in paragraph 50 of its report on social conditions (A/2908, part two) when it said that community development was not a political movement, but a phase in providing for the economic, social, cultural and political development of peoples, which was designed to promote better living for the whole community.

30. In section IV of part two of its report, the Committee laid down the theoretical bases of community development and described recent progress in that field in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In that respect, the efforts of the administering Powers, however limited, ought to be duly taken into account. Community development could be a particularly effective means of carrying out the most important obligations the administering Powers had assumed towards their Non-Self-Governing Territories. For example, it might accelerate the attainment of independence or self-government by the Territories.

31. He drew the Fourth Committee's attention to paragraph 133 of part one of the report, which dealt with amendments to the Standard Form. In his opinion, the Committee should consider adopting amendments to the Standard Form that would provide for the annual transmission of information on community development. Such information should relate to the points enumerated in paragraph 134 of part one of the report. The Guatemalan delegation was prepared to support a draft resolution along those lines.

32. In connexion with the planning of social development, he observed with respect to paragraph 132 of part two that in many dependent territories the training of adequate staff was not only a prerequisite for the execution of planned programmes, but a *sine qua non* if in due course the attainment of the objectives set out in Chapter XI of the Charter was to be facilitated by social and community development.

33. He considered it necessary, in that connexion, briefly to review some basic aspects of the problem of education. As everyone knew, education was not merely the transmission of knowledge. The essential purpose of education was to train the human personality and develop all its potentialities, to impart knowledge and, at the same time, to develop a sense of responsibility. Above all it should seek to develop a moral and civic consciousness, in other words an ability to live by responsible standards of personal conduct and collective government. The primary task of education was preparation for individual and collective life. However, that preparation called for careful harmonizing of the culture proper to each human group with the progress of world culture. It was

through education that the attitudes of human groups could be most decisively, if not exclusively, modified.

34. Care must be taken that education in the Non-Self-Governing Territories did not change the national character of indigenous groups and that, under the excessive impact of cultural influences from foreign and chiefly administering countries, indigenous inhabitants did not acquire foreign attitudes and ideas that might turn out to be harmful to the interests of their national group. It was therefore essential to foster in each Territory or group of Territories educational facilities that were in harmony with the direct interests of the inhabitants and were aimed at training men who loved their Territory and their people, knew their problems and their needs and were prepared to play their part in the modern world.

35. The adoption of foreign ideas was absolutely contrary to the development of an international consciousness, which was the ultimate objective, for a person who turned his back on his country and his people generally assumed an attitude of violent nationalism foreign to his own national spirit. A man who had a genuinely international consciousness, who was able to rise above petty interests in order to blend the basic interests of his people into those of other human groups, was one who had first affirmed his national origin and had made it the basis of his faith and belief in the international order. That was the only way to combat the pathological nationalism of the day, which was not so much a national feeling as a morbid reaction by certain peoples to the last efforts of colonialism or by others to the inevitable progress of internationalization in the lives of all human groups.

36. To increase educational facilities, in the strict sense of the term, did not by any means imply that the use of scholarships and educational facilities abroad should be limited. It meant only that a basic system of local education, as comprehensive as possible, should be established in each Territory or group of Territories.

37. Lack of the human and financial resources needed for community development should not be allowed to cause gaps in planning and execution. That was a problem closely linked to the question of the technical assistance Non-Self-Governing Territories received from administering Powers and international organizations. While he was happy to note the gradual expansion of technical assistance programmes, the amount of technical assistance being made available was not enough. The very object of technical assistance was to provide people who needed it with temporary aid that would enable them in the shortest possible time to do themselves what technical assistance was doing for them. That presupposed the training of local staff and the creation or development of economic resources. In order to bring about a complete adjustment of the staff to the needs and aspirations of their people, the facilities offered by the Territories themselves, by the administering Powers and by the international organizations should be combined. It was therefore important to give local staff a type of training that would retain their close link with the interests of the community; to replace foreign personnel as rapidly as possible with local staff in government, as well as in economic, social and educational posts; to bring about the adjustments of modern technology

to the basic characteristics of the local culture without destroying its essence; to increase the percentage of local staff to be trained as replacements for foreign technicians and administrators so as to enable them, when the time came, to carry out the Territory's programmes by themselves; to make greater use of the technical assistance of international agencies, especially in the selection of experts, the recommendation of places for study, the analysis of programmes to be carried out and the final evaluation of its results; and to increase material and economic support in order that projects might be carried out effectively, on the necessary scale and with sufficient thoroughness.

38. Non-governmental organizations could also play an important part in the development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Committee on Information could profit from contacts with non-governmental organizations if they made available to it the technical documentation they possessed in their special fields. That would meet the wishes of the General Assembly, and especially of the administering Powers, which on a number of occasions had called for improvement in the technical quality of information.

39. His delegation was convinced, on both legal and practical grounds, that the Committee on Information should be continued. The moderation the Committee had shown, the progress that could be seen in its work, its effective contribution to the improvement of the information supplied by the administering Powers, and the analyses and constructive comments it submitted to the General Assembly were sufficient proof of the value of its work and the need for its renewal. He sincerely hoped that the administering Powers would continue actively to participate in the Committee's work and that Belgium would soon resume its seat in the Committee. His delegation would therefore vote for the renewal of the Committee, while reserving its position on the period for which that body should be renewed and on its terms of reference.

40. In conclusion, he pointed out that while the administering Powers had obligations towards the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, those peoples themselves also had certain obligations. The non-administering States had the sacred duty to ensure that the progress of the dependent peoples and their rapid advance towards independence were not impeded or delayed. He hoped that, as long as the United Nations was responsible for the Non-Self-Governing Territories, it would always be possible to find a common ground for the harmonious discharge of the obligations of both the Administering and non-administering Members.

41. Mr. ALTMAN (Poland) recalled the statement by the Chairman of the Committee on Information (472nd meeting) that that Committee had been guided in its work by the same spirit of co-operation that had characterized the Geneva meeting of the Heads of Government. He hoped that that spirit, which did not exclude justified and constructive criticism, would also guide the debates of the Fourth Committee whose constant concern with regard to the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be to carry out the task laid down in Article 73 e of the Charter and to ascertain whether the Administering Members were fulfilling their obligations towards the peoples concerned and towards the United Nations.

42. It seemed, unfortunately, that the Committee's report was open to some criticism and that the Committee had too often evaded difficulties by pleading non-competence. First, it had disregarded the General Assembly's resolutions. It had postponed giving effect to resolution 850 (IX) until 1956, and it had not followed the recommendations of resolution 847 (IX) on problems common to regional groups of Non-Self-Governing Territories, as it had not adopted the pertinent part of the draft resolution introduced by Burma, India and Iraq (A/2908, part one, para. 88).

43. Moreover, in its report on social conditions the Committee failed to give a complete picture of conditions in the Territories. True, that was due largely to the fact that the Administering Members continued to supply very inadequate information, particularly in respect of political advancement which could not be dissociated from general conditions. But the fact remained that the Committee, instead of reaching practical conclusions, had allowed itself to drift into generalizations. It should therefore be more insistent in asking the Administering Members to give it more detailed and complete information, and it should leave sociological dissertations to the technical bodies of the specialized agencies and research institutes.

44. However, a study of the report, the information submitted by the Administering Members and the reports of the various specialized agencies showed that it could not be claimed that considerable progress in social conditions had been recorded in the Non-Self-Governing Territories since 1952.

45. With regard to racial discrimination, for example, he noted that resolution 644 (VII) remained a dead letter in most of the Territories. In support of his statement, he quoted the findings of the Bermuda House of Assembly Select Committee given in document A/AC.35/L.193. Exceptional provisions in respect of employment and wages were still shamefully common. Although the administering Powers had ratified some of the ILO conventions for the Non-Self-Governing Territories, a convention such as that governing labour contracts for indigenous workers had been ratified only by the United Kingdom, and the only labour code in existence was the Labour Code for Overseas France. He noted with satisfaction that the Committee again condemned racial discrimination (A/2908, part two, para. 85) and that it gave examples of the reaction of public opinion to the subject. He had read with interest John Gunther's recent book on Africa,² which mentioned many instances of discrimination in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In view of the continued existence of such practices in the middle of the twentieth century, he agreed with the Committee's view that what was most wanted was not more inquiries but the application of the widely accepted conclusions on the subject (A/2908, part two, para. 99).

46. Social conditions in general still gave cause for concern. Wages were extremely low. Indigenous inhabitants who had to seek employment in cities were particularly exposed to exploitation. Fortunately, the Committee recognized the fallacy of the theory that, where a migrant worker possessed land for the partial support of his family, the wage to be paid to him when he was absent in employment need be sufficient

² John Gunther, *Inside Africa* (New York, Harper and Brothers, 1955).

only for his maintenance as if he were a single unmarried worker (A/2908, part two, para. 74). The Committee believed that a family minimum wage should be fixed; but that might foster a tendency to consider the minimum wage as normal, which would lead to a reduction of higher wages to the minimum level. In many Territories, the situation was further aggravated by restrictions on the freedom to choose employment. Those comments applied not only to industries but also to plantations where the position of the workers was even worse.

47. He could not see that considerable progress had been made in the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work. In the Belgian Congo the indigenous worker was paid one-fifth of what the white worker received and in the copper mines in Rhodesia a white worker earned 17 times more than a Native. Social security systems were almost completely lacking in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

48. In education, the situation was far from satisfactory. In many Territories, between 80 and 90 per cent of the population was still illiterate, secondary education was fragmentary and higher education almost non-existent, and it was still very difficult for the indigenous inhabitants to obtain vocational training.

49. The direct result of want, under-nourishment, inadequate housing, unemployment and unfavourable working conditions was of course the high morbidity and mortality rate, which was increased tenfold by the fact that public health services and health conditions had made little progress. In particular, the infant mortality rate had increased in recent years. In that connexion he cited page 169 of the 1953 report on the work of the Fonds Reine Elisabeth,³ which provided medical assistance to the indigenous inhabitants of the Belgian Congo, as well as the FAO-WHO report (A/AC.35/L.202) and the information transmitted by France (A/2892), the United Kingdom (A/2894) and the United States (A/2895/Add. 2).

50. At the ninth session, when the Fourth Committee had examined economic conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, his delegation had noted the relationship between economic and social conditions (414th meeting). The Committee on Information expressed a similar view in part two, paragraph 39, of its report. It would be difficult to improve social conditions so long as the natural resources of a Territory were not exploited by the indigenous inhabitants, so long as the indigenous population were looked upon as a source of cheap labour, as agriculture was based on a one-crop economy and the Territory depended almost exclusively on imports for its consumer and manufactured goods.

51. He agreed with the Burmese representative's view (473rd meeting) that community planning should be carried out as an integral part of the nation's development to avoid the risk of national disintegration. In that connexion it would also be advisable to introduce new forms of co-operation between the Administration and the population, as the Committee suggested in part two, paragraph 58, of its report.

52. From an analysis of the facts, his delegation considered it impossible to conclude that social and

cultural conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories had made considerable progress. In a spirit of understanding and sympathy for the just aspirations of the dependent peoples, it would support every proposal designed to achieve the aims of the Charter, to improve the lot of the non-self-governing peoples and to assist them to attain independence. It believed that the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories should be renewed.

53. Mr. APUNTE (Ecuador) reminded the Committee of his nation's traditional position on the question of Non-Self-Governing Territories. His delegation thought that the Charter, by authorizing the Administering Members to manage the affairs of Territories which did not belong to them but to the peoples of those Territories, had by the same token placed upon them the legal obligation to lead the Territories to complete self-government; for that reason he considered the status of "administering" Power a temporary one.

54. He replied to the concerns expressed by the South African representative. He did not believe that the non-administering States were engaging in demagoguery and deliberately criticizing the efforts of the administering Powers. Both groups, even if they did not have the same concept of the principles, methods and rate at which progress should be made, were equally anxious to ensure that the non-self-governing peoples progressed sufficiently to achieve complete autonomy in the foreseeable future. The non-administering States had no economic or political interests in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Their attitude was based not only on the principles of the Charter but also on a long historical tradition. At numerous Inter-American Conferences the American States had spoken out against the existence of colonies, particularly in the Western Hemisphere. Resolutions XCVI and XCVII adopted at Caracas⁴ were evidence of that fact.

55. The report of the Committee on Information was a praiseworthy effort at conciliation as well as a review of social progress in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. If the conclusions were somewhat general, it must be remembered that the Committee's sphere of activity was limited both by the type of information it received and by its terms of reference as set out in resolution 332 (IV). Even if it did receive complete information, it would still have to be careful not to connect that information with any particular territory. Several delegations, representing both administering and non-administering Powers, while paying a tribute to the Committee on Information had already uttered a word of caution about the danger of generalizations. If the Committee on Information was conceded to be a useful although imperfect organ, why should it not be improved so that it would be satisfactory to both sides?

56. Mr. Apunte then referred to the positive aspect of the report, namely, the extent to which it emphasized the changes being made in the Non-Self-Govern-

³ J. André, FOREAMI (*Fonds Reine Elisabeth pour l'assistance médicale aux indigènes du Congo Belge*), *Rapport sur l'Activité durant l'année 1953* (Brussels).

⁴ See *Tenth Inter-American Conference, Caracas, Venezuela, March 1-28, 1954, Final Act* (Conferences and Organizations Series, No. 33, Pan American Union, Washington, D.C., 1954), pp. 97-99.

ing Territories, the typical problems resulting from those changes, the progress made in community development, the improvement in education and wages and the continued existence of discrimination, which should be eradicated. He thought that it would be useful if the Secretariat, or some other body with a specialized staff, could prepare a table summarizing the progress achieved in the Non-Self-Governing Territories during the ten years of the United Nations' existence. That task would not require the administering Powers to submit any information other than what they usually transmitted and it would not duplicate the information contained in the summaries and analyses of information and in the special studies, which the Secretary-General would continue to publish. The Fourth Committee might include the question on the agenda of its next session.

Programme of work

57. Mr. HARARI (Israel) said that he had introduced a draft resolution under the symbol A/C.4/L.390 and that he would leave it to the Chairman to decide when it should be considered.

58. Mr. MANI (India), Mr. DJERDJA (Yugoslavia), Mr. CHAMANDI (Yemen) and Mr. SOLE (Union of South Africa) thought that the Committee should defer consideration of the Israel draft resolution until it had disposed of all matters relating to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

59. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would take up the Israel draft resolution as soon as it had completed its discussion of the items relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.