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Chairman: Mr. Rodolfo MUNOZ (Argentina).

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter (*continued*)

[Item 33]*

1. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) observed that, in view of the special nature of the problems involved in dealing with questions concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Committee's procedure in considering information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter and the study which it had hitherto made, he would not go into those problems in detail at the moment, but would limit himself to stating the general principles which should govern consideration of those matters.

2. The early resolutions adopted by the General Assembly to secure application of the Charter in that field demonstrated the importance to be attached to the transmission of the information referred to in Article 73 e, to its consideration and to the subsequent action taken on it. That was why the Assembly had created the body now known as the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. The enthusiasm attending the adoption of the earlier recommendations had been followed by an exchange of ideas and theories from which had finally emerged stable machinery whereby the paramount interests of the peoples that were not as yet self-governing took precedence over every other consideration. At the present stage in the world's development, Chapter XI of the Charter imposed on the responsible authorities the obligation of ensuring justice and well-being in the territories administered by them.

3. Every Member State of the United Nations had shown that it understood the importance of the provisions set forth in that Chapter, some by transmitting valuable information on their administrative methods, their programmes for improving social and cultural conditions, their plans for economic and material development; the remainder by their examination of such information, which showed that there was no need for pessimism. It was necessary to reconcile the ideas of

both groups and reaffirm the need for international co-operation.

4. The opinion held in some European circles that the Fourth Committee was the *enfant terrible* of the General Assembly was unjust; it should be recognized that the Committee's work had lain in a field where, until recently, there had been no co-operation but only isolated efforts. At the same time the Dominican delegation was opposed to any factious spirit in the Committee and to any improper interpretation of the Charter which would lead to the adoption of any juridical or political attitude that was not correct. Nor should the impression be given that many of the States represented in the Fourth Committee belittled the task of the States which, in the words of the Covenant of the League of Nations (Article 22), bore a "sacred trust of civilization". The Fourth Committee's actions—whether concerning information transmitted by Administering Members, or factors to be taken into account in determining whether a territory was self-governing, or other matters—could not be interpreted as an indictment by the majority of a minority of Members for maladministration. It should on the contrary be regarded as a joint effort of all Members who, through interchange of ideas, were seeking to promote the progress and well-being of millions of human beings living in the Non-Self-Governing Territories who could not be kept apart from modern world trends. By drawing its inspiration from that principle, the Dominican delegation, like many other delegations representing small but independent sovereign States, could participate in the Committee's discussions.

5. The ever-widening divergencies of view on the interpretation of the whole of Chapter XI of the Charter required that the Fourth Committee should consider whether it should not entrust to some subsidiary body such as the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories the task of collecting all that had been said or written on the subject and of undertaking a preliminary study on how to amend and interpret Chapter XI. Such a study could be prepared before the tenth session of the General Assembly, in view of the specific provisions of Article 109, paragraph 3, of the Charter. The idea, which had very great

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

political significance, would help to solve the many difficulties confronting the Fourth Committee in its desire to implement the declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in Chapter XI. Eminent authorities, such as Professor Scelle, the French international jurist, had said that the terms of the declaration were vague; and the General Assembly itself had had to recognize the need for defining standards relating to self-government. Particularly in need of clarification were the definition of a Non-Self-Governing Territory and the principle laid down in the Charter that "the interests of the inhabitants . . . are paramount". That substantive and undoubtedly constitutional question came within the competence of the Fourth Committee.

6. Turning to the work of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, he wondered what the future functions of that organ would be in view of the fact that it might dispose of the general questions it had under review, and that it was not authorized to deal with political problems. The Committee's work might be restricted to such technical questions that it would overlap with other specialized or technical agencies of the United Nations. Moreover, if the exclusively technical character of the Committee was maintained, consideration would have to be given to the desirability of its being composed of representatives who were real specialists in the fields in question. The Fourth Committee would have to discuss those matters when it recommended to the General Assembly the renewal of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

7. Mr. de Marchena next took up the question of international co-operation and understanding. The administering Powers could not all apply the same administrative methods, for those methods varied according to the geographical, ethnological, social, cultural and economic conditions of each territory. The General Assembly should not, therefore, as his delegation had consistently upheld, apply rigid standards in appraising the problems of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

8. The Charter was intended to ensure the advancement of millions of human beings towards economic and social well-being and political independence. The sacred trust of civilization often referred to by the representatives of the European countries was to ensure respect for the humanitarian principles governing modern society. Despite what the Belgian representative had said (253rd meeting), the wording of the Covenant of the League of Nations was no more specific than that of Chapter XI of the Charter; Article 22 of the Covenant, which enunciated the principle of the sacred trust, in no way affected the colonial policy in force at the end of the First World War, which had remained unaltered. Indeed, the authors of the Charter had been obliged to use the term "Non-Self-Governing Territories" in order to eliminate the idea of "colonial peoples" or "colonies". Furthermore, the argument that it was unfair to require efforts on the part of the administering Powers that were not demanded of other countries with indigenous populations for whom no information was transmitted was untenable; the ethnic groups found in the Spanish-American countries could not be compared in any way to the backward peoples of Africa.

9. Facts had to be faced, however, and it was a fact that the world was rapidly evolving. The indigenous peoples had known the outside world, what was good and what was bad in it, since the time of the French Revolution, with its proclamation of man's freedoms; and since even earlier Francisco de Vitoria, the defender of the rights and independence of the American Indians, had taught his revolutionary theories.

10. The report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2219 and Corr.1) was an attempt at international co-operation which, despite the difficulties that still had to be overcome, was an encouraging sign. It was essential, as the report pointed out, to co-ordinate the economic, social and educational activities which would prepare the non-self-governing peoples for independence.

11. The members of the Fourth Committee appraised at their true value the eminent services to humanity rendered by the governments and countries responsible for the administration of the non-self-governing peoples. The time had perhaps come, however, when, for the benefit of those peoples, a still greater degree of understanding should be achieved.

12. In conclusion, he observed that ideological differences should not be allowed to cause confusion and unhappiness. The peoples of the world were now bound by international ties and the future of those who were still dependent appeared to be adequately guaranteed by Chapter XI of the Charter. The Dominican delegation accordingly trusted that the Fourth Committee's action would be constructive, and that it would at all times take into account the aims of the United Nations and the paramount importance of the interests of all the peoples which, under the Charter, the United Nations was to guide towards civilization. That, and that alone, was the hope of the Dominican Republic, which had always collaborated whole-heartedly in the tasks of the Trusteeship System.

13. Mr. LESCURE (Argentina) stated that the information transmitted by the United Kingdom included a reference to the Falkland Islands, which were occupied by that country. In that connexion he entered a formal reservation to the effect that the Argentine Republic did not recognize British sovereignty over those islands. The reports transmitted by the United Kingdom Government in no way affected the rights and titles of sovereignty of the Argentine Republic over those islands which, like the South Georgia Islands, the South Sandwich Islands and Argentine Antarctic territories, unquestionably formed part of the Argentine Republic's national inheritance, on historic, geographic and legal grounds. He repeated that in all official United Nations publications, the Falkland Islands should be referred to as the *Islas Malvinas*.

14. Mr. HOPKINSON (United Kingdom) wished to state that his Government entertained no doubts on the question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and dependent territories.

15. Mr. SHEIKIN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) stated that the information provided concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories was far from satisfactory: it contained no statistics which would give an accurate idea of conditions in the territories and no facts which would show the deplorable living conditions

of the indigenous peoples. An objective analysis showed that the administering Powers were doing nothing to promote the advancement of the territories under their administration or to encourage the introduction of representative political organs. Their policy, on the contrary, was to exploit the inhabitants and the natural wealth of the territories, which they looked upon as adjuncts of the metropolitan countries and as sources of manpower and cheap raw materials. The representatives of the administering Powers in the Committee had sought to prove that their administration of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was in the interests of the peoples. The United Kingdom representative, for instance, had expressed pride in his country's colonial achievements and the Belgian representative had made a similar observation. Nevertheless, as the facts showed, the administering Powers had no cause for pride in their work; in not one instance had they fulfilled the obligations assumed by them under the Charter.

16. Turning to the question of political advancement, Mr. Sheikin mentioned by way of example the proposed federation of the territories of British East Africa which, he said, was intended merely to facilitate the exploitation of the people. A British Member of Parliament, Mr. Amery, had said that the sole purpose of the plan was to consolidate the British empire in East Africa, and, according to the *Economist*, to speak of co-operation was sheer hypocrisy intended to perpetuate the white man's rule. The indigenous inhabitants were opposed to the carrying out of the plan for in it they saw the end of any possibility of autonomy.

17. With regard to racial discrimination, he noted the statement in the special report on social conditions (A/2219 and Corr.1, part two) that in some territories the principle of non-discrimination was still theoretical (para. 32) and that the indigenous inhabitants had only limited access to the highest posts (para. 33). In the Belgian Congo, for example, there were two different groups of civil servants, one comprising the indigenous inhabitants and the other the Europeans. He noted that in the territories of British East Africa almost all the important posts were occupied by Europeans (A/AC.35/L.87, para. 60).

18. The situation in the economic and social fields was not much more encouraging. Many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories suffered from a severe disequilibrium between imports and exports resulting from the intensive exploitation of the territory's natural resources without reinvestment in that region. As a former Belgian Minister for the Colonies, Mr. Wigny, had admitted recently during a lecture he gave at Washington, the administration made a double profit by imposing duties on exports and taxing company profits. Moreover, in most territories the policy with regard to the alienation of land led to a shortage of land for the indigenous inhabitants while wide areas ceded to Europeans were left untilled.

19. The living conditions of many of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories urgently called for improvement as the report on social conditions pointed out (para. 10); with very few exceptions, the Non-Self-Governing Territories were among those regions of the world in which standards of living were extremely low (para. 81); in most of those territories wage rates were low and there were sometimes wide differences between the wages paid to indigenous work-

ers and those paid to persons of a different race (para. 78). In confirmation of the latter assertion, he cited differences in wage rates to be found in the Belgian Congo, French West Africa, Northern Rhodesia and Kenya.

20. The situation in regard to public health was just as deplorable. Thus, in French West Africa there were only 242 physicians for a population of 17 million, or one per 70,000 inhabitants. There was a great deal of disease and the infant mortality rate was very high, as in many other territories. Of the 200,000 lepers counted, only 40,000 were following regular treatment. In British East Africa the number of hospital beds, which had totalled 13,456 in 1949, had dropped to 8,753 in 1951. In many territories the birth rate was dropping while the mortality rate rose. In the Falkland Islands, for example, the population had declined from 3,000 to 2,000. Racial discrimination also occurred in the public health services, as in most instances Negroes were not admitted in the hospitals reserved for white persons. The report pointed out that in Central and East Africa there were separate hospitals for Europeans and for Africans.

21. In conclusion, he expressed the view that the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had not reached the conclusions which might have been anticipated. It had deemed it advisable to distinguish between the principles followed in social matters and those applied in political and economic fields. The authors of the report had not seen or had not wished to admit that the administering Powers were not attempting to help the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to advance towards independence but had the intention of maintaining them in a state of domination indefinitely. The Administering Members were not carrying out the obligations imposed upon them by the Charter and were not giving due respect to the culture of the peoples under their administration.

22. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) pointed out, in reply to the Byelorussian representative, that the Government which Mr. Wigny, the former Belgian Minister for the Colonies, had spoken of, was the Government of the Belgian Congo and not the Belgian Government.

23. In reply to the statement made by the USSR representative (255th meeting), he observed that in 1951 expenditures in the Belgian Congo for public health had been allocated as follows: ordinary budget, 561,432,000 francs; supplementary budget, 49,321,000 francs; extraordinary budget 267,450,000 francs; Indigenous Welfare Fund, 115,121,000 francs; making a total of 993,324,000 francs. He also drew the USSR representative's attention to the fact that the people of the Congo had Belgian nationality and that they therefore had access to the higher posts in the administration. Lastly, he recalled that the USSR representative had alleged that in 1951 exports from the Belgian Congo had exceeded imports by 5 thousand million francs and had concluded from that fact that the Belgian Congo was being exploited by the metropolitan country; he pointed out, in that connexion, that during the first six months of 1952 imports to the Belgian Congo had exceeded exports by 422 million francs.

24. Mr. PEREZ CISNEROS (Cuba) regretted that the Press had too often given the impression that the

Fourth Committee was a court of law where the non-administering members played the part of public prosecutor and the administering Powers the part of the accused. Actually, a large majority of the Committee's members had nothing but the welfare of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territory and their political, economic and social advancement at heart.

25. True, a small group of delegations used the debates in the Committee solely for purposes of subversive propaganda. The Cuban delegation vigorously condemned that attitude; it thought that the adoption of Chapter XI of the Charter had marked a change toward a more liberal attitude on the part of the colonial Powers, for with the adoption of that chapter, the obligation of the authorities administering Non-Self-Governing Territories to inform the international community of the progress of those territories, which until then had been a purely moral obligation, had assumed a contractual and legal character. Chapter XI had put an end to the old idea that the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories was a matter solely within the domestic jurisdiction of the administering Power and it had been established beyond question that in the last instance such administration fell within the jurisdiction of the community of nations and of international law.

26. The differences between the administering Powers and the other Member States—with the exception of the countries of Eastern Europe—related not to principles and objectives but solely to criteria and the rate of development. On that point the Cuban delegation fully shared the United States representative's view.

27. There were no irreconcilable differences between the legitimate interests of the European peoples and the no less legitimate aspirations of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Cuban delegation was also convinced that the free nations which had no colonies could make a valuable contribution to the solution of colonial problems. Those nations, which in most instances had, relatively speaking, received their independence only recently, had acquired a unique experience and understanding of such matters.

28. He then turned to the question of the comparison of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and information on sovereign States. Chapter XI of the Charter afforded the Non-Self-Governing Territories special protection. No one wished to conceal the weaknesses and difficulties of the independent States. It was, however, for the Economic and Social Council to make a comparative study of conditions in all parts of the world, without regard to political status.

29. The General Assembly had repeatedly asked the Administering Members to transmit information on the political development of the territories under their administration. He thought it was completely unrealistic to separate social and economic problems from political ones. In support of his theory he quoted the slogan, "No taxation without representation," the basis of a great country's anti-colonial revolt. He noted with satisfaction that, despite divergences of views with regard to principles, the Administering and the non-administering Members had narrowed the gap between them in practice. For example, with regard to the comparison of data, the representatives of Brazil, India

and Mexico had not hesitated to discuss certain problems confronting their countries in the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. For his part, the United Kingdom representative had submitted during the general debate in the Fourth Committee (251st meeting) copious and valuable information on the political development of governmental institutions, properly so-called, in the territories administered by his Government.

30. In the economic field, two principal problems arose in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. First, the indigenous workers must be ensured an equitable share of the revenue of their territory and an adequate standard of living. Secondly, it was essential to avoid unfair competition on the international market between the products of Non-Self-Governing Territories, where wages were generally low, and similar products from independent countries. He drew the Committee's attention, in that connexion, to paragraphs 17 and 18 of part one of the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to the Secretariat's paper on standards of living in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.35/L.91). From the latter document in particular, it was obvious that the General Assembly needed more detailed information in order to decide whether the purchasing power of the present wages in the territories was higher or lower than that of wages before the Second World War. According to statistical table XXIV which appeared in that document, the situation with regard to the real wages of indigenous workers in certain Non-Self-Governing Territories which produced sugar for the international market was less satisfactory than it had been ten years earlier.

31. As regards the territories in South Africa, almost no information was available on the real wages of the indigenous workers. A computation of the index of the cost of living had been made for workers of European origin, no doubt as a result of insistent demands by their labour unions. That was a sound argument in favour of strengthening or establishing labour organizations with a view to obtaining scientific observations on the fluctuations in the cost of living of indigenous workers and achieving scientific readjustments in their wages where necessary.

32. He also drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 149 of document A/AC.35/L.91, concerning the unfavourable effect the fear of inflation had at times on wage policies. That problem arose in every country of the world but it was particularly serious in the Non-Self-Governing Territories because of the low standard of living of their peoples. The same comment applied to the relation between rates of exchange, for most of the Non-Self-Governing Territories lived on their exports. Fluctuations in the price of raw materials and manufactured products posed a serious problem and might be prejudicial to the welfare of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to any rise in real wages. He hoped that the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories would henceforth be able to study in greater detail economic questions in general and standards of living in particular, thanks to the more complete data which would be transmitted by the Administering Members. He requested those Members to be guided in that respect by the conclusions of the Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians held in Geneva in 1951.

33. The Cuban delegation congratulated the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories on the study it had made of social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. His delegation had expressed its views on that subject in detail in the Committee (A/AC.35/SR.57). He would merely remind the Fourth Committee of his country's position on the question of racial discrimination in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In his view, any resolution adopted by the Fourth Committee on that subject should contain paragraph 6 of the original text, which had been rejected by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories; that paragraph, which was reproduced in paragraph 40 of part one of the Committee's report, recommended that the constitutions or organic laws of any territory should be amended so that the principle of non-discrimination would be embodied in the revised text. In that connexion he also cited part two, paragraph 30, of the Committee's report, which he considered very important. The Fourth Committee should, however, take account of the fact that in some territories, particularly those administered by the United Kingdom, did not have the tradition of a written constitution.

34. The Cuban delegation was unequivocally in favour of maintaining the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and hoped that it would become a permanent United Nations organ. The Fourth Committee could then avoid a sterile debate every two or three years on whether to maintain the Committee on Information and that body would thus be able to render even greater service both to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers.

35. He wished to congratulate the Division of Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, of the Secretariat, and in particular its Director, Mr. Benson, who had supplied the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories with valuable documentation.

36. The question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was the most important of all the problems before the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly. True, the Charter laid heavy responsibilities on the General Assembly with respect to the 15 million human beings living in Trust Territories, but Chapter XI of the Charter vested the Assembly with no less far-reaching powers with respect to 200 million inhabitants in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The difference between those powers was one of degree, not of kind. It had been said that in colonial matters the best card of the USSR was the suicidal way in which the colonial Powers might behave. In contradiction to that dark prophecy, he thought the co-operation of administering and non-administering Powers in the United Nations was a decisive factor. The free peoples must decide whether they would do more to ensure that the Non-Self-Governing Territories would side with the democracies, by strengthening the colonial machinery or by energetically speeding up development towards a greater degree of self-determination and accelerating economic and social advancement. The fate of all the free peoples opposed to totalitarianism, whether administering Powers or not, was at stake in the effort towards that goal.

37. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) congratulated the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and the Secretariat on their excellent work and thanked the representatives of the specialized agencies for their contribution to that work.

38. The Chinese delegation was gratified by the progress achieved in the various Non-Self-Governing Territories in the fields on which information had been transmitted to the Secretary-General. A good example of such progress could be found in the territories administered by the United Kingdom, whose special interest in the Fourth Committee's work was evidenced by the presence in the Committee of its Minister of State for Colonial Affairs. The United Kingdom's statement that it intended to carry out its obligations under Chapter XI of the Charter was most heartening.

39. The report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, while recognizing the work done by the Administering Members expressed the hope that further progress would be achieved.

40. At the past session of the Committee on Information, and on previous occasions, the administering and non-administering Powers had shown a spirit of sincere co-operation and conciliation. His delegation joined with the other delegations in welcoming that spirit. There could be no doubt that with such an approach the objectives of the Charter should not be too difficult to achieve.

41. His Government was keenly interested in the achievement of those objectives; for centuries China had firmly opposed the oppression of the weak and had defended the peoples who had thrown off their political and economic shackles. It was naturally deeply concerned over the fate of several millions of persons of Chinese origin living in Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was another reason for its interest in the future of those territories.

42. The Chinese delegation fully supported the Committee's conclusions as a whole and considered that they should be approved by the Fourth Committee. There were, however, a few points on which it wished to make its position clear.

43. First, some delegations had stated that the Secretary-General should again be authorized to make unrestricted comparisons between statistical data concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories and those concerning sovereign States. The Chinese delegation agreed with the representatives who felt that such comparisons would be useless. What was more, the General Assembly had already decided the matter. In any event, the consent of the Member States concerned would have to be secured before such comparisons could be made.

44. Secondly, the Chinese delegation warmly supported the suggestions that Member States should include in the information which they regularly transmitted to the Secretary-General information on the measures taken and on the progress achieved in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the light of the General Assembly's resolutions and the recommendations of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was only on the basis of careful examination of such information that the Committee could properly appraise the situation.

45. Thirdly, his delegation shared the hope expressed by the Committee on Information that technical assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories would gradually increase. It also felt that stress should be laid on quality rather than quantity where experts were concerned.

46. Fourthly, with reference to instruction in the vernacular, he recalled the statement made by the UNESCO representative at the 64th meeting of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, to the effect that there were no insurmountable obstacles to the adoption of any vernacular as a medium of instruction. At the fifth session of the General Assembly,¹ the Chinese delegation had supported the conclusions reached by the Special Committee on Information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter that the vernacular should be used wherever possible.

47. Lastly, the report on social conditions (A/2219 and Corr.1, part two) gave an objective picture of the progress made. It included a careful study of the question of race relations. Some administering Powers had been of the opinion that there was no need to adopt a resolution on racial discrimination because it was a problem common to all parts of the world, and because such a resolution would only repeat what was already said in the relevant paragraphs of the report. It should be noted, however, that the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council had adopted such resolutions for the Trust Territories; consequently there seemed to be no reason why the same should not be done for Non-Self-Governing Territories. Moreover, it could not reasonably be maintained that additional emphasis of an important principle was repetitious, since the Charter itself repeatedly reaffirmed the same principles. Nor could Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter, concerning the domestic jurisdiction of States, be invoked; all signatories of the Charter had assumed the obligation to carry out its provisions, particularly those prohibiting racial discrimination.

48. At its fourth session the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Chinese delegation, had adopted a resolution (323 (IV)) inviting the Administering Authorities to abolish all discriminatory laws and practices in all Trust Territories where such laws and practices still existed. The Chinese delegation was glad to note that the draft resolution now proposed by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2219 and Corr.1, part one, annex II), though more detailed, was based on the same principle, and he whole-heartedly supported it. The success of that resolution would of course essentially depend on the goodwill of the administering Powers in implementing it.

49. Lastly, as regards the future of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, he recalled that his delegation had from the very outset advocated the establishment of that Committee on a permanent basis. Experience had only confirmed his delegation in that view.

50. The CHAIRMAN welcomed Mr. Farrag, Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs. He recalled that Mr.

Farrag, had long participated in the Fourth Committee's work.

51. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq), speaking as Vice-Chairman, joined the Chairman in welcoming the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had always taken a deep interest in the Trusteeship System and questions involving Non-Self-Governing Territories.

52. Mr. FARRAG (Egypt) thanked the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their welcome; he was glad once again to be able to participate in the work of the Fourth Committee, which was certainly one of the most important Committees of the General Assembly since it was concerned with the well-being of over 200 million persons who had no direct representation in the United Nations.

53. Mr. MIKAOUI (Lebanon) first wished to reserve his Government's position as regards the sovereignty of certain Non-Self-Governing Territories; the fact that his delegation participated in the debate in no way meant that the Lebanese Government had abandoned the principle of the sovereignty of those territories, particularly of Morocco and Tunisia.

54. He commended the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, its sub-committee and the Secretariat for the excellent work they had done.

55. He urged the administering Powers to secure the participation of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the elaboration of social programmes; the advantages of such participation were obvious.

56. Referring to paragraph 12 of the part one of the report of the Committee on Information, he noted that a number of members of that Committee had emphasized that it should be informed by the Administering Members of the action taken and progress achieved in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the light of General Assembly resolutions and the recommendations in the special reports of the Committee.

57. As regards the future of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Lebanese delegation firmly believed that that Committee should be established permanently, or at least until all Non-Self-Governing Territories had achieved complete independence; it would submit a draft resolution to that effect.

58. None of the draft resolutions concerning the participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee on Information fully satisfied the Lebanese delegation. The United States draft, referred to in paragraph 97 of the part one of the report, was unsatisfactory in that it failed to recognize that the populations concerned should have the power to select their own representatives. The draft resolution submitted jointly by Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, India and Pakistan, and discussed in paragraph 90 of the part one of the report, also failed to provide the necessary guarantee of effective popular representation. The USSR amendment (part one, para. 96) was a definite improvement on the original text.

59. Unfortunately, he was unable to review the social conditions in all the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He would confine himself to the situation in Morocco, to which Lebanon was united by many bonds.

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Fourth Committee, 183rd meeting.*

60. While the recent considerable influx of French capital had brought about a development of the Moroccan economy, the Moroccan people had benefited very little from that apparent wealth. He cited, in that connexion, an article which had appeared in the *Gazette de Lausanne* on 20 November 1951, in which it was stated that the total deposits at Casablanca amounted to 70,000 million francs, while the total currency in circulation was 130,000 million francs; and that 75 per cent of the companies set up since 1947 were "dummy" companies existing for the purpose of tax evasion.

61. The various administrations of the Protectorate used 30,928 million francs, or 80 per cent of the total ordinary budget of 37,783 million francs. At the same time, the Moroccan services as a whole, including the Sultan's civil list, accounted for only 1.92 per cent of the budget, while the *Résidence générale* and the French services accounted for 20 per cent of the budget. Obviously little was left over for social programmes.

62. As regards the problem of racial discrimination, he hoped that the General Assembly would adopt a draft resolution at its present session calling for the abolition of all racial discrimination in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

63. On page 2 of document A/2131/Add.2/Corr.1, containing a summary of information transmitted by the French Government, it was stated that no racial discrimination of any kind, official or private, existed in Morocco. He regretted he could not share that view. There was one hospital bed for every 250 Europeans, and only one hospital bed for every 1,250 Moroccans. Between 1942 and 1950 European housing had increased by one dwelling unit for every 210 persons, while housing for Moroccans had increased by only one dwelling unit for 15,000 persons. The Moroccans' right of assembly was severely restricted; only French na-

tionals were allowed to speak at public or private meetings, and only in the French language. A European who wished to publish a periodical merely had to file an application, while a Moroccan required authorization by decree. The schools admitted all European children, but only 7 per cent of the Moroccan children. In 1951 the schools had been closed and members of the teaching staff imprisoned or sent away. As regards family allowances, the allowance paid for one European child was equal to that paid for eight Moroccan children. Similar discrimination existed in the field of taxation. In direct taxes, in particular, Europeans were granted a general rebate of 50 per cent, which Moroccans received in exceptional cases only. Discrimination in salaries was equally flagrant; the wages of foreign labourers were always higher than those of Moroccans. There were courts worthy of that name for Europeans only. For Moroccans there was no justice, there were no courts, no laws and no right of defence. The Moroccans' freedom of movement was severely limited, yet foreign residents or tourists could circulate freely. Lastly, Moroccans had no trade-union rights. It was true that in 1948 the Sultan had opposed a draft *dahir* on labour-union rights, but he had done so only because the draft had been undemocratic and discriminatory.

64. There were innumerable examples of racial discrimination suffered by Moroccans. Such discriminatory practices in Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as arbitrary subjection of those territories to foreign domination and attempts to annex them to the metropolitan country or to incorporate them, against their will, into various kinds of unions, were not only in flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and the fundamental right of self-determination of peoples, but constituted a serious threat to international peace and security.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.