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Chairman: Mr. Santiago PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela).

Election of two members of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories

[Item 35]*

1. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that Cuba's and Pakistan's membership of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had expired and called on the Committee to elect two new members to take their places. Such a procedure would be in accordance with General Assembly resolution 646 (VII), which instructed the Fourth Committee, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, to fill such vacancies as might occur among the non-administering Members of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs. Menon (India) and Mr. Scott (New Zealand) acted as tellers.

<i>Number of ballot papers</i>	49
<i>Number of abstentions</i>	0
<i>Number of invalid ballots</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots</i>	49
<i>Required majority</i>	25
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Guatemala	29
Burma	25
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	20
Colombia	13
Philippines	4
Thailand	1
Pakistan	1

Having obtained the required majority, Guatemala and Burma were elected members of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

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

[Item 32]*

2. Mrs. MENON (India) said that certain developments in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

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

in Africa had led her delegation to ask at the 342nd meeting that the item on information on Non-Self-Governing Territories should be kept open. Her delegation was fully conscious of the limitations of Article 73 e of the Charter. Both in the Committee on Information and in the general debate in the Fourth Committee it had confined its remarks to information dealing with social, educational and economic matters in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It had, however, watched with disquiet certain political and administrative measures which were not only jeopardizing the welfare of the people of the dependent territories but retarding their political, economic, social and educational advancement and endangering their just treatment and protection against abuses.

3. The fear of federation was deep and widespread in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, as was clear from the communications received by the Secretary-General from the Nyasaland chiefs, some of which had been distributed to the Committee. From Press accounts it was clear that there had been outbursts of violence, provoked and unprovoked; measures of repression, presumably aimed at maintaining public order; and general dissatisfaction. The Africans rightly or wrongly saw in the concept of federation a set-back to their progress and development towards freedom under the protection of the United Kingdom administration. African nationalism had grown to measurable dimensions and international security, as well as the welfare of the African people, demanded that it should not take the form of hatred and violence but of healthy and constructive co-operation between the various races. The peoples of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland had shown that the African was willing to face the difficulties of building a multi-racial democracy. Many of the chiefs shared the sentiments of Chief Mwase, President of the All-Nyasaland Chiefs' Council, when he stated: "Nyasaland is a Protectorate and a free country. Our freedom cannot therefore be left at the mercy of the Southern Rhodesian referendum. Let us pull together as one race and never become an enemy of our own country and people."

4. The social repercussions of federation were far too important to be ignored. In the copper belt a "break the colour bar" movement had been initiated. In a territory where there was no legal colour bar, the existence of such a movement illustrated the new and dynamic trend of African politics. Observers said that only the greatest vigilance could prevent federation from reproducing in Northern Rhodesia the legalized racial barriers of Southern Rhodesia, with all their many consequences. The legal position of Africans was safeguarded by the Royal Instructions which provided that persons not of European birth or descent could not be subject to disabilities or restrictions to which Europeans were not also subject. The Committee was justified in requesting an assurance that the fears to which she had referred were not justified and that the United King-

dom Government would be able to maintain the guarantees contained in the Royal Instructions. She would like to know whether the new political developments would destroy the principle of trusteeship and the chance of peaceful development in the Protectorates and whether the principle of self-determination would be taken into account before the proposed changes were given final form and effect.

5. The situation in Kenya was hampering the educational and economic progress of the colony. In May 1953, figures had been published showing that the effort to suppress the Mau Mau was costing £250,000 a month and was dislocating the colony's economy. Reliable witnesses had reported that Africans were being beaten, even to death, under interrogation, and newspapers in the United Kingdom had published the evidence of British missionaries and African affidavits testifying to blind violence. Her delegation had sincerely believed that a policy of constructive partnership would lessen if not eliminate the horrors of the crisis in that part of Africa. Unfortunately it had not done so. The number of Mau Mau killed each week was rising rapidly, with the use of aircraft to bomb their hideouts. Apparently some British units kept scoreboards on the number of Mau Mau killed and some soldiers had received 5 shillings for each Mau Mau shot. It was believed that at least 90 per cent of the Kikuyus were now in the movement, and shooting a Mau Mau at sight was regarded in some quarters as a legitimate military activity. The Committee could not ignore or fail to study the causes of the Mau Mau resentment, which had not only dislocated Kenya's economy but halted economic and social development. The recent happenings in Uganda and the deposition of the Chief of Buganda were further evidence of the general trend of developments in that part of Africa.

6. The territories which she had mentioned were under the protection of the United Nations and she hoped that the United Kingdom representative would be able to dispel her fears and assure the Committee that the political changes in Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia would not remove those territories from the scope of Article 73 e and that the educational retardation resulting from the closing of schools in Kenya would come to an end.

7. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) replied that he had no comment to make on an episode which was, in substance, outside the scope of the Committee's work. His delegation's position on the matter had been clearly stated by the United Kingdom representative at the 343rd meeting and he had nothing to add.

Completion of the Committee's work

8. The CHAIRMAN congratulated the members of the Committee on having completed their long and difficult agenda and thanked them for their patience, diligence and co-operation. He also expressed his gratitude to the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, the secretaries of the Committee and the Secretariat as a whole for their valuable contribution to the Committee's work.

9. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico), on behalf of all the Latin-American delegations, paid a tribute to the Chairman, congratulating him on his impartial and effective control of the proceedings. He also thanked the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, the Assistant Secretary-General, and the secretaries of the Committee for their efficient and valuable help, and expressed his

appreciation of the work of the Secretariat. The session, unprecedented for its number of meetings, had been marked by a spirit of fraternity and co-operation.

10. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) congratulated the Chairman and other officers on their skilful leadership of the Committee. The achievements of the Committee as a whole, however, should be judged not by its members but by the millions of dependent peoples who would expect from it help and understanding, firmness of purpose and a clear vision of that independent future which must be theirs. Their appreciation would be a greater honour for the Committee than the congratulations of its own members. He also expressed his appreciation of the Secretariat's contribution to the Committee's work.

11. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) associated himself with the tributes paid to the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, and the Secretariat. The Committee had successfully concluded its agenda despite occasional lively disagreement. In that connexion, he noted that although administering and non-administering members sometimes disagreed on the exact roles of the administering Powers and of the General Assembly and on the interpretation of Chapters XI, XII and XIII of the Charter, all were united in an enthusiastic defence of the basic principles of the Charter.

12. Mr. ABOU KHADRA (Saudi Arabia), on behalf of the members of the Arab League, joined in the tribute to the Chairman, who had helped to create a spirit of co-operation and atmosphere of cordiality in a Committee which had had the reputation of being divided into two irreconcilable groups. He also praised the work of the other officers of the Committee and of the Secretariat.

13. Mrs. BOLTON (United States of America) expressed her appreciation of the work done by the Chairman and the officers of the Committee, and by the Secretariat. The Committee's task was a challenging one, since the colonial problem was one of the most important in the modern world. If the United Nations was to continue to develop as an instrument of peace, misunderstandings must be eliminated and there must be unflinching effort to hasten the advent of a true spirit of unity. She thanked all the members of the Committee for their contribution to that effort.

14. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) associated himself with the tributes that had been paid to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, and to the Secretariat.

15. Mr. NAUDE (Union of South Africa), Miss ROESAD (Indonesia), on behalf of her own delegation and that of India, Mr. SCHURMANN (Netherlands), Mr. TARZI (Afghanistan), U ON SEIN (Burma), Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia), Mr. LAWRENCE (Liberia), Mr. L. S. BOKHARI (Pakistan), Mr. S. S. LIU (China), Ato Katama ABEBE (Ethiopia), Mr. INGLES (Philippines), Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran) and Mr. NAJAR (Israel) praised the Chairman for his impartiality and courtesy and for the firmness he had displayed, which had enabled the Committee to conclude its work within the allotted time, despite a very heavy agenda. They also paid tributes to the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur and to the members of the Secretariat who had been associated in the Committee's work.

16. Mr. MENCER (Czechoslovakia) associated himself with the remarks made about the Chairman and Rapporteur and the Secretariat.

17. On behalf of his delegation he thanked those members who had expressed appreciation of the Vice-Chairman's services to the Committee, which would be conveyed to Mr. Kaisr.

18. Mr. RIFAI (Syria), Rapporteur, felt he did not reserve all the praise he had received for doing what was no more than his duty. Moreover, a great part of

the merit belonged to the Chairman and the Secretariat. He thanked the members of the Committee for their kind words.

19. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for their appreciation and declared closed the eighth session of the Fourth Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.