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at 3.15 p.m.

New York

C O N T E N T S

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 (*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

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 (*continued*)

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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 and 2)

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. U ON SEIN (Burma) said that, having supported the report on social conditions (A/2908, part two) in the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, his delegation was inclined to vote for draft resolution A submitted by the Committee (A/2908, part one, annex II). In many respects the report did not go as far as the delegation of Burma would have desired, but it did represent an honest agreement between representatives of Administering Members and non-administering Members to draw at-

tention to the chief features of social policy in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, subject to the limitations imposed on the Committee on Information by its terms of reference.

2. Two features in the report were of special interest to the Government of Burma. The first was the section on community development in paragraphs 50-69 of the Committee's report. Burma had had much experience in promoting community development programmes. A mass education programme had been launched as early as 1948. A new community development project was now being undertaken under which special teams would organize medical and welfare services and endeavour to bring more income to the communities through economic development. Further information on the steps taken by Burma had been given to the Committee on Information by the Burmese representative (A/AC.35/SR.112). The experience gained by Burma might be of use to community development programmes in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. The distinguishing feature of community development programmes was the emphasis placed on the participation of the inhabitants. The programmes must be part of a general movement of social, economic and cultural advancement and it was therefore necessary to conceive the community development movement on a nation-wide basis. Each village programme must be part of a whole and must be encouraged by a feeling of national consciousness. That point was important in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The community development movement alone could not give the best results unless it was part of a movement of political emancipation. For that reason, perhaps, community development could be found on a national scale only in a few of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as the Gold Coast, Jamaica and French West Africa.

4. The discussion on community development in the Committee on Information had been very valuable and the section of the report on that subject merited close examination by the Administering Members. In many cases the community development movement in the Non-Self-Governing Territories was still a programme rather than a practical achievement. The Committee should continue to pay attention to the development of programmes and to the assessment of practical results through community development and mass education. As was pointed out in paragraph 133 of part one of the Committee's report, the existing Standard Form should be amended so that further information on community development could be obtained. The Burmese delegation would support any draft resolution to that effect, and hoped that such a resolution would receive unanimous support.

5. The Burmese delegation attached the utmost importance to the section on race relations in paragraphs 83 to 99 of the Committee's report on social conditions. The Committee had noted that progress had been made in certain respects, although it also pointed out that

in some Territories various forms of school segregation were maintained. It was claimed that that was due to language difficulties, different home circumstances and general opinion. Language difficulties should be recognized, but general opinion probably meant merely the opinion of those whose prejudices must be overcome.

6. The statement made by a Select Committee of the House of Assembly in Bermuda, quoted in the Secretary's study of race relations in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.35/L.193) that "racial tension has increased in these islands within the last ten years and that this trend, if continued, must lead to serious difficulties" unfortunately applied to many other Non-Self-Governing Territories. Racial discrimination had clearly made political advance more difficult and political conflict more bitter in parts of East Africa and North Africa. The Burmese delegation therefore drew special attention to the section of the report on race relations and urged that it called for action on the part of the Administering Members in a number of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

7. In discussing social conditions in the Committee on Information, the Burmese delegation had drawn attention to the work of the non-governmental organizations. Interesting information had been received from some of the organizations which had active programmes in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and it was strange that that information, concerned with matters arising under Article 73 e of the Charter, had not yet received proper consideration by the Committee on Information. It had been asserted that there were constitutional difficulties and that the system of consultation held necessary in the Economic and Social Council did not apply to the Committee on Information. The Burmese delegation considered, however, that it would be in the interest of the members of that Committee if arrangements were made, subject to all necessary precautions, to consider the facts as presented by non-governmental organizations. If agreement could not be reached on such a policy, the Fourth Committee might invite the comments of non-governmental organizations on the technical reports prepared by the Committee on Information. The Burmese delegation hesitated to make a formal proposal to that effect, because of the lengthy debate to which it would undoubtedly give rise, but thought it would be well if the opinion of the non-governmental organizations could be considered while the Committee's special reports were being drafted, rather than afterwards.

8. The general policy of the Burmese Government on questions concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories had been indicated at the 412th meeting of the Fourth Committee, at the ninth session. The events of the past year had strengthened its views on those questions and should have impressed all Members of the United Nations with a growing sense of urgency.

9. A statement issued in June 1955 by the Asian Socialist Conference claimed that Chapter XI of the Charter established three principles for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories: first, that nations with dependent areas were accountable to the world community; secondly, that the advancement of the inhabitants was the supreme consideration; thirdly, that dependent territories should be so administered as to contribute to world peace and security. The statement expressed disappointment at the progress made in the United Nations, and concluded with a number of

points for study in connexion with any possible revision of the United Nations Charter. Among those points was the proposal that United Nations information officers should be stationed in all Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and that the United Nations should set up commissions for the settlement of all colonial disturbances. The Burmese Government sympathized with a number of those proposals. The Fourth Committee had followed a more conservative policy in such matters, which had to some extent been dictated by the colonial Powers. Since the Fourth Committee must seek collaboration and agreement among the Members of the United Nations, the delegation of Burma was not inclined to dispute the value of useful compromise, yet it emphasized that such compromise must be aimed at encouraging rather than preventing useful action.

10. It was in that spirit that the delegation of Burma approached the question of the renewal of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. In principle it strongly held that the Committee should be renewed on a permanent basis until there were no more Non-Self-Governing Territories. It held that existing Territories should obtain some form of representation on the Committee, as suggested in General Assembly resolution 744 (VIII), and considered that the Committee would be far more valuable if it were able to make proposals on individual Territories. Lastly, it maintained its opinion that, unless political information was considered by the Committee, discussions on economic, social and educational conditions were superficial and inadequate.

11. His delegation did not wish to push those opinions to such an extent that the working of the Committee might be prejudiced. If the Committee on Information were prevented from exercising wide functions, or were prevented from meeting, the result would be that its work would be performed by committees of the General Assembly. Moreover, too many burdens should not be placed on the Committee on Information, with its small membership. Some of its members had expressed doubts about the value of considering questions relating to the cessation of the transmission of information. That was a matter which might be discussed further during the examination of a later item on the Fourth Committee's agenda.

12. In that spirit the Burmese delegation in the Committee on Information had associated itself with the delegations of India and Iraq in moving the draft resolution contained in paragraph 88 of part one of the Committee's report, and it had regretted that that text and the further concessions suggested by the Brazilian representative (A/2908, part one, para. 93) had not received the support of the Administering Members. The delegations of France and the United Kingdom in particular had shown unrelenting opposition to the Committee. That was disappointing because those delegations had collaborated in the Committee and because the Committee, to meet their point of view, had made its work as technical as possible and had avoided even important political issues. For that reason, when draft resolution B proposed by the Committee (A/2908, part one, annex II) had been voted on, the Burmese representative had abstained and had reserved the position of his Government regarding any future action to be taken in the Fourth Committee. The relevant statement was to be found in paragraph 122 of part one of the Committee's report.

13. The Burmese delegation was anxious to respect any views which would help the Committee on Information to fulfil its duties. It had great sympathy for the United States' point of view, as explained in paragraph 102, that it was of major importance to secure the continuation of the Committee with the participation of the Administering Members and that the best course would be to provide that the Committee should be renewed on the present basis. Nevertheless, the Burmese Government, while appreciating the United States' efforts to reach a satisfactory conclusion, was hardly satisfied with that judgment. It would therefore await further development of the discussion before deciding whether it could support draft resolution B or whether it must associate itself with amendments corresponding more closely to its opinion on the matter.

14. He drew attention to paragraph 31 of part one of the Committee's report, giving information concerning the educational facilities offered by the Burmese Government to candidates from Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories. In 1956 the General Assembly would pay special attention to educational conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that would provide an opportunity to see what progress had been made in the implementation of resolution 845 (IX).

15. His delegation supported in general the report on social conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories and was prepared to vote in favour of the Committee's draft resolution A, on that subject (A/2908, part one, annex II). His Government regretted that the Committee's renewal was not proposed in a more positive manner, but reserved its position on draft resolution B until the question had been further debated in the Fourth Committee.

16. In general, the Burmese Government believed that the colonial situation remained a danger to international peace and security and considered that, through the appropriate organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, including those reporting to the Fourth Committee, continued action must be taken to bring an end to positions of inferiority such as were found in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

17. Mr. DJERDJA (Yugoslavia) thought the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had made a useful contribution towards a better comprehension and more fruitful discussion of conditions in those Territories, despite the continued absence of one of its members.

18. Some of the questions entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly were of considerable importance, and the Committee should therefore have paid more attention to them. The objection often made that questions of substance transcended the Committee's terms of reference was unfounded, since the very fact that the General Assembly had entrusted the Committee with definite tasks was tantamount to a confirmation of its competence.

19. He would single out in particular two questions: that of the participation of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee and that of the general form and contents of the report submitted by the Committee to the General Assembly.

20. In resolutions 566 (VI), 647 (VII) and 744 (VIII) the General Assembly had called upon the

Committee to study the problem of the participation of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Committee's work, and to submit concrete proposals. Unfortunately the Committee had not taken any action on those resolutions. In its present report it had devoted only one paragraph of the draft resolution on the renewal of the Committee to that question and had failed to mention the existing obligation to submit to the General Assembly a report on the question of direct participation. The Yugoslav delegation realized the value of the inclusion of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the delegations of Administering Members but did not regard it as a substitute for their direct participation in the work of the Committee. It therefore considered that the General Assembly should again debate the question in greater detail and try to reach a more adequate solution. Such a solution would further the interests of the non-self-governing peoples as well as those of the international community and, in the final analysis, also those of the Administering Members, since the timely adoption of adequate solutions might eliminate possible future difficulties.

21. The fact that the renewal of the Committee and its terms of reference would be considered at the current session had given rise to the hope that the Fourth Committee would take the opportunity to deal with both the question of procedure concerning the cessation of the transmission of information under Article 73 e and the form and contents of its reports. It was generally recognized that the existing procedure for considering the cessation of the transmission of information was inadequate and that it had therefore become increasingly difficult to ascertain whether the Administering Members had fulfilled their obligations under Chapter XI of the Charter. General Assembly resolution 850 (IX) called on the Committee to examine the questions which had most often led to different interpretations and to embody appropriate proposals in its report. In the opinion of the Yugoslav delegation the most important of those questions were the sending of missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to ascertain the opinions of the inhabitants regarding changes in their status, and the communication to the General Assembly of information on forthcoming changes in the status of various Territories. In his view, the Committee had not taken the best course when it had postponed the implementation of the resolution until 1956. The present session, when the question of the Committee's renewal and terms of reference would be decided, seemed the most favourable time to seek solutions which would guarantee that future disputes on that subject would be reduced to the minimum.

22. The Administering Members' objection that the general principles and general appraisals of the situation in Non-Self-Governing Territories embodied in the Committee's reports did not apply to all Territories because of their different levels of development had led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 847 (IX), which had requested the Committee to study the manner in which its future reports might draw the attention of the General Assembly to the problems common to certain regional groups of Territories. The emphasis laid on the regional aspect of future reports had apparently led to certain disagreements in the Committee, as a result of which it had not complied with the General Assembly's request in that field either.

23. In his delegation's opinion the emphasis given to the regional aspect had exceeded the desires of the General Assembly. It would be more to the purpose if the reports, instead of indulging in generalizations, paid due attention to the problems common to certain regional groups of Territories, taking into account the degree of their evolution and their economic, social and political structures. Such an approach would allow the Committee and the General Assembly to appraise the situation in a given Territory more realistically and to make recommendations based on the existing situation in a given region rather than on general considerations which might be, but were not necessarily, in conformity with needs and possibilities.

24. Before dealing with part two of the report, he would make a few preliminary remarks.

25. Both in independent countries and in Non-Self-Governing Territories it was difficult to draw a clear line of demarcation between social and economic policies. They were actually components of a broader political pattern — a policy directed towards the attainment of definite aims. Obviously, therefore, the discussion on conditions in the social sphere could not be separated from the general situation in Non-Self-Governing Territories. For that reason he would be compelled to touch upon certain problems regarding other aspects of the general development of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

26. The analysis of measures undertaken by the administering Powers in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and of the results attained could be carried out in various ways. One method was to compare a situation at a given moment with that in the past. In the case in point a comparison between the information given in the documents which had served as a basis for the 1952 report on social conditions (A/2219, part two) and the data now available showed that some progress had been achieved in many Territories. Such a purely comparative analysis could sometimes provide a useful basis for the reaching of certain conclusions, but it was insufficient. The aim was not so much to ascertain what progress had been made from the more or less recent past, but what distance still remained to be traversed to the goal set by the Charter with regard to the dependent peoples. The combination of those methods would permit a better understanding of the situation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, giving full credit for the results obtained and pointing to what still remained to be done if the obligations deriving from the Charter were to be implemented. It was in that light that the Yugoslav delegation undertook the analysis of all the available documents and of the report of the Committee on Information.

27. The Committee's report on social conditions devoted a good deal of attention to the question of community development and described the encouraging results obtained at the local level in many Non-Self-Governing Territories. Steps had been taken to increase the participation of the inhabitants of the Territories in the efforts to create better conditions of living, both within smaller units and in the community as a whole. The speed with which those results had been attained bore witness to the will and ability of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories to spare no efforts to accelerate the process leading to the attainment of full self-government

and independence. He endorsed whole-heartedly the Committee's conclusions as set forth in paragraph 55 of the report. He also considered that measures should be taken for planned integration of local activities with the general process of development in Non-Self-Governing Territories on a national basis, with a view to creating a maximum of solidarity and to promoting the national consciousness of the inhabitants of those Territories. The more rapidly success was attained in that respect, the easier the development of those peoples would be and the safer their future and the future of mankind as a whole.

28. Referring to General Assembly resolution 644 (VII) calling upon the Administering Members to abrogate all discriminatory laws and practices, he said that in the light of that resolution and of the provisions of the Charter, conditions in the field of race relations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories could hardly be described as satisfactory, though there were a few exceptions, such as the Gold Coast.

29. The Administering Members had taken certain positive steps during the period under review, but those steps would not suffice to bring about an elimination of racial discrimination or discrimination in general. Furthermore, some of those measures might create new forms of discrimination and provoke potentially dangerous disagreements among the indigenous inhabitants. Certain measures provided for the establishment of organs in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to draw attention to draft legislation which might result in discrimination against Africans. Such measures were acceptable but they did not apply to existing laws and particularly to existing discriminatory practices in everyday life and could not, therefore, be regarded as adequate.

30. Referring to the actual situation prevailing at the present time in the various Non-Self-Governing Territories, he pointed out that in the field of education, for instance, segregation still reigned supreme despite some signs of improvement. Discrimination, however, was best illustrated by the expenditure, mostly from the funds of the respective Territories, for the education of European and of indigenous children.

31. In Kenya, for instance, according to the annual report of the Education Department for the year 1953, over £400,000 had been spent on approximately 40,000 European children in 1953, while during the same time a little over £1 million had been spent on educating the children of five and a half million Africans. In the Belgian Congo 175 million francs had been spent on 9,000 European children in 1951, while 409 million francs had been spent during the same period on 963,000 African children. In Northern Rhodesia only 5 per cent of the amount set aside for the education of the European children was being spent for African children.

32. The ratio of European and African children attending secondary schools provided the best illustration of inequality of opportunity. According to the official report on the Belgian Congo for 1953, 70,000 Europeans had sent 2,000 children to secondary schools, without including vocational training on the post-primary level, while 12 million indigenous inhabitants had sent only 1,600 children to secondary schools. In Northern Rhodesia 37,000 Europeans had sent 1,426 children to secondary schools while 2 million Africans had sent only 459 children.

33. In the field of labour relations and wages, there was an enormous difference between the Europeans and foreigners in general, on the one hand, and the indigenous inhabitants, on the other. In Northern Rhodesia, for instance, for each pound received by a European miner, the African miner received one shilling. In Kenya 55 per cent of European employees earned from £50 to £100 per month, 12 per cent less than £50 and the remainder up to £3,000 per annum. The wages paid to Africans, including payments in kind, in 72 per cent of cases amounted to less than 100 shillings. That situation deserved special attention and it would be desirable for the International Labour Organisation to show as much interest in the living conditions of the indigenous inhabitants in the Non-Self-Governing Territories as it had in the conditions of indigenous inhabitants in dependent countries.

34. He wished to make it clear that the situation he had described had attracted his attention chiefly owing to the fact that the resources so distributed came mainly from the regions concerned, and also because it was a practical demonstration of a system he considered to be obsolete.

35. In considering the report of the Committee on Information, the Fourth Committee should not forget that the very existence of Non-Self-Governing Territories was an anachronism and a source of disturbances in the economic and political spheres. The situation in all the Non-Self-Governing Territories was marked by the striving of the peoples to attain self-government as soon as possible. The United Nations and the Administering Members should formulate their policies in such a way as to check any undesirable effects of that inevitable trend. The colonial problem had ceased to be a question of the relations between the administering Powers and their dependent peoples and had become part of the wider struggle of the economically under-developed countries and continents to become independent, active and equal factors in international relations. The establishment of relations of equality between those countries and peoples and the rest of the world would promote a stable and lasting peace.

36. Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom Government had found the report on social conditions in part two of the report of the Committee on Information to be in many ways a more satisfactory document than the report on economic conditions produced the previous year (A/2729, part two). It gave a clear and useful analysis of social conditions in the Territories concerned.

37. The improvement of social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories could be said to be the ultimate object of all government policy. However, better living conditions required prior advances in other fields of activity, above all in the economic field. The Governments of United Kingdom Territories were fully aware of the vital need to increase the economic prosperity of those Territories, not only in order to provide services generally regarded as essential in any modern State, but also because it was only by that means that political stability could be maintained in the future. Any review of social conditions must therefore bear in mind that achievement was often handicapped by purely physical causes, notably finance. The report on social conditions recognized that fact. Nevertheless, social services of the tradi-

tional kind had steadily improved. The Government of the United Kingdom and the Governments of the United Kingdom Territories continued to attach importance to such improvements. The development plan drawn up by local administrations, which were financed in part from funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, in many cases made considerable provision for the expansion of social services of the traditional kind. However, expansion of such services carried with it certain elements of danger. He noted that paragraph 13 of the report on social conditions drew attention to the fact that direct action by public authorities to provide social assistance might conjure up among the peoples the illusion that government would provide for all needs and bear all reproaches when the needs were not satisfied. That danger was particularly relevant in the case of Territories which had only recently emerged from comparatively primitive conditions. The growing awareness of the need to discourage the growth of such a misconception of the role of government had brought about the introduction of a new and rather different concept of social policy into the planning of social development in United Kingdom Territories in recent years.

38. The term community development had first been used officially in 1948, but even before that practical experiments had been undertaken in some United Kingdom Territories using that concept as a basis of action. A conference on the subject had been convened in the United Kingdom by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1954 and had demonstrated the considerable value which executive officers had found in implementing policies of community development in the intervening years. There were still a number of practical difficulties to be overcome in many Territories. Individual initiative and enthusiasm were essential to the healthy growth of a community organization but local efforts must be fitted into a national framework of social development. One feature which the conference had brought out was that the policy of community development was applicable to urban or industrial areas as well as to rural areas. He gave examples of recent developments of that kind in Singapore, Hong Kong, Jamaica and the Gold Coast. In nearly every United Kingdom Territory particular attention was being given to the needs of young people and there had been a great development of youth organizations. There were considerable differences in the stages reached in the organization of community development in the various Territories. Not all the Territories yet had the specialist officers who were generally accepted as being indispensable for the organization of community development. However, special government departments for social welfare and community development had been set up in nearly all the African Territories and in a number of the larger Territories outside Africa.

39. In order to succeed, community development or any other aspect of social development must have the support of an informed public opinion and enjoy the active assistance of those members of the community who, by virtue of their position and education, were looked upon as leaders. Various schemes for the difficult task of training leaders had been established and, if successful, would serve as a model for other similar schemes.

40. The technique of community development could perhaps make its most effective social contribution

in Territories which were interracial in composition. In the East African Territories, for example, good progress had been made; in Kenya, under the new Constitution, there was a Minister for Community Development who was himself an African.

41. In studying the report on social conditions, the United Kingdom delegation had been struck by the exchange of views on community development between those members of the Committee responsible for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories and other members who were attacking their own social problems through the same technique. The social welfare expert attached to the United Kingdom delegation had been most interested in the accounts of progress volunteered in particular by the representatives of India and Burma. Their experiences in that field were of the greatest interest in view of the size of the problems which their Governments had to face. That exchange of information had been one of the most valuable features of the Committee's recent session, since it was only by pooling practical experience that Governments could hope to learn and improve their own techniques in a field of activity which was clearly of the greatest importance both to Member States and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

42. The report on social conditions contained a section dealing with race relations, a subject to which the Government of the United Kingdom attached much importance. The United Kingdom delegation did not maintain that racial discrimination did not exist at all in United Kingdom Non-Self-Governing Territories. At the same time, it was the Government's policy that all forms of discrimination, wherever they might still persist, should be brought speedily to an end. There were some regions among the United Kingdom Territories where race relations were such that the problem of racial discrimination could be said to have ceased to exist. In the Caribbean, South-East Asia and West Africa, a great deal of progress had been made over the years, although yet more could be done to knit the different communities closer together. In other Territories in Africa, where the West had come in contact with the more primitive forms of African tribal society, it had proved difficult to place race relations on a sound footing. Nevertheless, there had been a great improvement in recent years and that improvement was continuing.

43. The chief way in which Governments could take action in the matter of race relations was to instil in different communities the will to co-operate in common interests and common purposes. In that connexion, he drew attention to the recent report of the Commissioner on the Civil Service in the East African Territories, the main recommendations of which had been accepted by the Governments concerned. The report recommended that access to the public service should be open to all races and that the recruitment and promotion of officials should be based exclusively on grounds of qualifications and ability, regardless of race. Those recommendations were the more important as the Governments of the East African Territories were very large employers of labour.

44. Government action was contributing to the improvement of race relations in other fields. The improvement of housing conditions was an urgent task in most Territories and was particularly important in those Territories where one race was living at a

much more primitive level than another. The importance Governments attached to housing was reflected in the allocation of substantial sums for housing in their development programmes. In order to assist territorial Governments in devising solutions best suited to local conditions, a special section of the Colonial Office in London was devoted to building research, under the control of a housing adviser, assisted by expert town-planning and architectural staff. The benefits of that expert advice were to be seen in many United Kingdom Territories.

45. Government activity could contribute greatly to the improvement of race relations by securing equality of opportunity in education. Great efforts were being made in all United Kingdom Territories to raise the standards of education at the primary, secondary and post-secondary level. In that connexion, he might wish to reply to the Yugoslav representative's points after he had had an opportunity of studying the figures quoted. In most Territories, primary education was well established, though not yet universal, and the figure of 4,000 students attending the three Territorial universities, and four university colleges, showed that rapid strides were being made in the sphere of higher education. Higher education facilities were considerably supplemented by the number of overseas students attending universities in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. In 1954 there had been more than 10,000 such students in the United Kingdom, nearly one-third of them on government scholarships. The United Kingdom Government was by no means complacent about the great problems that undoubtedly existed, but they did see many hopeful signs for the future, among which the spread of education and a growing sense of tolerance were not the least important.

46. The Government would, as on past occasions, transmit the report of the Committee on Information to the Governments of United Kingdom Territories for their consideration.

47. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) stressed the importance of the debate on which the Committee had just embarked. The information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter constituted a vital link between the non-self-governing peoples and the community of free nations. He therefore endorsed the Haitian representative's remarks at the previous meeting on the possibility of giving the Committee on Information a name which would more adequately reflect the significance of Chapter XI of the Charter.

48. The Fourth Committee performed valuable work despite the limitations within which it had to function. The resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on its recommendation had a moral force which none dared to challenge. The liberation of the non-self-governing peoples, for which many of the Administering Members were sincerely working, was inevitable. It was to be hoped that it would come about in the way advocated by Administering and non-administering Members alike. The Fourth Committee could make a positive contribution to that process, within its terms of reference. The inevitability of the advent of self-government for the dependent peoples had become more than ever apparent with the Asian-African Conference held at Bandung, the South-East Asia Conference held at Manila and the resolution on the subject adopted by the United States Senate on 14

July 1955.¹ The continued existence of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the modern world was manifestly incongruous. The day might well come when the Committee would be called upon to exercise a moderating influence for the better solution of a problem that affected the whole of mankind.

49. He paid a tribute to the activities of the Administering Members. The information transmitted was a clear indication of their very real efforts in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Secretary-General's new procedure of grouping together in a single study on general trends all the information transmitted by each Administering Member made it much easier to assimilate that information and assess its significance.

50. The information transmitted by the United Kingdom Government was too extensive for him to comment on it in detail, but he had been most interested in the information about development corporations, the activities of the Colonial Welfare and Development Fund and the growing power of the trade-union movement in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He had been particularly struck by the encouraging progress in the Gold Coast, and paid a tribute to the way in which the initiative and skill of the indigenous population had been given free rein. He would refrain from commenting upon the various negative or deficient aspects of the United Kingdom's policy. They were clearly apparent from the summaries of information before the Committee. In a number of instances the Committee on Information had stated, without, however, specifying the Territory or Territories concerned, that it had found it difficult to reach conclusions owing to the lack of certain essential data. At the Committee's 335th meeting, during the eight session of the General Assembly, he had drawn the United Kingdom delegation's attention to the lack of data on the cost of living in the United Kingdom Territories, and that point was still inadequately covered in the latest information.

51. With regard to the information submitted by the French Government, his delegation welcomed the enactment of a Labour Code for the overseas territories, the frankness with which specific information was given on the foreign trade of Morocco and Tunisia and the vast progress made in the field of health, despite great difficulties. He had been struck by the administering Power's comments on French as the language of instruction and the use of local languages. It was not easy to form any judgment on the vast language problem confronting the administering Power in its daily work in Territories and among peoples of different cultures and at varying stages of development. There seemed grounds for hope that in some cases a bilingual or multilingual culture, which had proved a useful solution in many countries, would ultimately evolve. In any event, he was sure that experts in the matter would be greatly interested in the section of document A/2892 setting out the French Government's point of view.

52. He congratulated the United States Government on the excellent information it had transmitted on the five Territories for which it was responsible. They were making great strides towards full self-government under excellent administrations and assisted by United States experience and economic aid.

The latter had assumed particularly impressive proportions in the case of Hawaii.

53. He would have an opportunity to comment on the achievements of the Netherlands as an Administering Member in connexion with a later item on the agenda. He was prevented from commenting on the Belgian administration of the Belgian Congo by the fact that he had received no summary of information on that Territory and understood that no such summary was included in the documentation before the Committee. He had been very interested to see the photographs which the Belgian representative had made available to the Committee.

54. The New Zealand Government's achievements as an Administering Member were well known to the Fourth Committee. The Non-Self-Governing Territories for which New Zealand was responsible, such as the Cook Islands, had few natural resources. There was little industry but every effort had been made to encourage agriculture. He questioned the statement in the summary of information transmitted by the Government of New Zealand (A/2893) that while no less than 14 per cent of Cook's total population were of mixed descent, there were no serious social problems involved. In his experience the existence of large numbers of people of mixed descent solved rather than created social problems, because such people acted as a link between the various ethnic groups.

55. His delegation had said that it would welcome further information on the functioning of various Australian institutions in Papua, such as the Native Village Council and the Town Planning Board. Some information about those bodies was included in the report before the Committee. What had struck him most, however, was the way in which the local people and the administering Power were struggling to combat the Territory's lack of natural resources and its backwardness. The extent of the problems confronting the administering Power could be gauged from the statement in document A/2898 that during 1954 the area under Administration control and influence had increased from 82,530 square miles to 83,900 square miles and that the "restricted area", or territory penetrated by patrols only, had been reduced from 8,000 to 6,700 square miles.

56. The report of the Committee on Information, and more particularly part two of that report, was a typical example of collective work; every effort had been made to produce a document which would be acceptable to all; it was, therefore, wholly acceptable to none. While his delegation would have liked certain sections to be drafted very differently, it felt that the report as a whole was an extremely useful document, and it would vote in favour of its approval. He appreciated the work accomplished by the Subcommittee on Social Conditions with the participation of the experts attached to the delegations of the Administering Members, and he therefore hoped that his criticisms would be accepted in the constructive spirit in which they were offered.

57. Section II of the report on social conditions, entitled "Principles of policy", was far too vague. It resembled a general treatise on sociology rather than a report on social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He was well aware of the severe restriction which the Fourth Committee had placed on the work of the Committee on Information by

¹ See: *Congressional Record, Proceedings and Debates of the 84th Congress, First Session*, vol. 101, No. 119, p. 9081.

instructing it to refrain from mentioning any Territory in particular. If the question came before the Committee, his delegation would not vote in favour of maintaining that restriction. It was regrettable that even when the report referred to such important facts as the impact of urbanization and industrialization on indigenous families it failed to indicate the precise information on which its conclusions had been based. Such information should be annexed to the report. It was also regrettable that while paragraph 10 mentioned the need for a broad definition of a social development, no real definition was in fact given, paragraph 11 being merely the report of certain informal discussions on the subject. The statement of the principal aims of social policy in the Non-Self-Governing Territories given in paragraph 26 was also vague. The administrative officials in the Territories were working in difficult conditions; they would undoubtedly welcome any real advice that the Committee could give them but they would only be irritated by a mass of platitudes such as those in paragraph 26, sub-paragraphs (c), (e), (h), (i), (j) and (k). The complicated jargon in which certain statements were couched was another defect, which was particularly obvious in paragraphs 22, 27, 37, 42 and 51.

58. On the other hand, the Sub-Committee was to be commended for stressing the fact that every effort must be made to arouse the interest of the indigenous population and allow them to play an increasing part in the management of their own affairs. He had been most interested in the section on community development and particularly in the very practical directives for community development programmes set out in paragraph 60. He had been glad to note the constant stress in the report on the need for long-term integrated planning. That the Administering Members were also aware of that need was indicated, *inter alia*, by the French Government's second four-year plan (1953-1957).

59. It was most encouraging to note that five fundamental International Labour Organisation conventions had been ratified by several of the administering Powers.

60. He paid a tribute to the human rights activities of the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. An expression of the Committee's appreciation might be inserted in draft resolution A (A/2908, part one, annex II), or made the subject of a separate resolution.

61. Extremely interesting information was made available to the Fourth Committee and it was a pity that it was not more widely publicized. The general public, in Mexico for example, knew very little about the great achievements of the French, United Kingdom or Belgian Administrations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, or, indeed, about those Territories themselves. He was not submitting a formal proposal, but he would like to ask the Secretary-General and the members of the Committee whether it might not be possible for the United Nations information services to make summaries of the information available to independent countries for wide publication. If that idea met with approval he would like it to be embodied in a draft resolution co-sponsored by some of the Administering Members.

62. In conclusion, he endorsed the sentiments expressed by the Chairman of the Committee on In-

formation at the previous meeting, but wondered whether the members of the Fourth Committee fully appreciated the paramount importance of the Committee's obligations with regard to the spirit of concord now prevailing in the world. The United Nations was based on a series of accepted principles such as the rule of law, the safeguarding of human rights and dignity, respect for sovereignty, equality before the law, non-intervention, compliance with treaties and the abolition of war. The ultimate objective was world peace, but world peace was one and indivisible. There could be no exceptions to the underlying principles, as there now were, so far as the non-self-governing peoples were concerned. The concept of a sacred trust was no substitute for the principle of respect for sovereignty or non-intervention. Equality was the watchword of the modern world and the continued existence of Non-Self-Governing Territories was incompatible with that equality. The nineteenth-century concept of colonies had been replaced at San Francisco by the concept of Non-Self-Governing Territories, but that was itself a transitional stage. The statements of the various Administering Members gave hope that the principles of the Charter would be fulfilled. Any derogation of those principles would be a source of danger. The United Nations must be sincere and consistent and must ensure that there was one law for all.

63. Mr. LOPEZ VILLAMIL (Honduras) said that one of the effects of the lessening of tension in international relations was that the problem of the Non-Self-Governing Territories had been brought to the fore. To some of those Territories the process of emancipation appeared to be unduly slow, and that led to violence and bloodshed, to which the United Nations could not remain indifferent.

64. The Honduran delegation felt that it was its duty, as the delegation of a small country, to point out that the acute problems harassing mankind might at any time be the spark that set off a total war, with its inevitable destruction of all man's works.

65. It was difficult for a small country not to take sides in power politics, and the Honduran delegation would always favour every measure tending to consolidate international relations. In great international disputes those not immediately involved had a clearer view. The task of the smaller countries, then, was to foster the cause of justice for all, in accordance with the principles of the Charter.

66. The authors of the Charter had carefully avoided using the terms "colonial Powers" and "colonies", with their implication of political subjection based on allegedly superior culture. The modern emphasis was on the development of human rights everywhere in the world. There were, however, some gaps in the provisions of the Charter. Whereas the Chapter referring to Trust Territories expressly stated that the Administering Authorities were to guide the peoples of those Territories to complete independence, Article 73 — dealing with Non-Self-Governing Territories — failed to make that explicit stipulation, although such was surely the underlying principle of the Charter in both cases. But at all events it was a long way from advocating the perpetuation of a situation beneficial to the colonial Powers, notwithstanding certain claims to that effect which had been made in the Assembly.

67. The Honduran delegation would support any resolutions which would call on the Administering Members to use more humane measures in their administration of dependent peoples, thus ensuring that those peoples would not make common cause with the régimes where all human individuality was stifled by a dictatorial State. As regards colonial territories in America, the Honduran delegation would continue to uphold its support for the abolition of their present

status, in the interests of justice and in the tradition of the Latin American liberators.

68. In conclusion, he offered sympathy to the Arab States in their difficult position at one of the nerve spots of the world, and expressed his regret at the absence from the Assembly of France, the cradle of democracy and a warm supporter of Latin American independence movements.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.