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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 (e) OF THE CHARTER

First Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York
on Tuesday, 5 September 1950, at 3 p.m.

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<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. Shiva RAO	India
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. SPIES	Netherlands
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. HAY	Australia
	Mr. HOUARD	Belgium
	Mr. JOBIM	Brazil
	Mr. KANNUNG	Denmark
	Mr. EL MESSIRI	Egypt
	Mr. GARREAU	France
	Mr. de ARAOZ	Mexico

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Members: (continued)

Mr. CRAW	New Zealand
Mr. LOPEZ	Philippines
Mr. WOLLIN	Sweden
Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. GERIG	United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. DESTOMBES	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. PAWLEY	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. MEFAL	International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Secretariat: Mr. HOO Assistant Secretary-General in charge
of the Department of Trusteeship and
Information from Non-Self-Governing
Territories

Mr. BENSON Secretary of the Committee

REVISION OF THE STANDARD FORM (A/AC.35/L.4, A/AC.35/L.4/Add.1)

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SUMMARIES OF INFORMATION VOLUNTARILY TRANSMITTED UNDER
THE OPTIONAL CATEGORY OF THE STANDARD FORM (A/1295) (concluded)

1. Mr. LOPEZ (Philippines) supported the proposal to postpone revision of the Standard Form until the next session of the Special Committee. In the meantime, however, suggestions for its revision should be communicated to the Administering Powers for their comments; a sub-committee on the problem should meet just before the next session of the Special Committee; and the Secretariat, in preparing its documentation, should not fail to take account of the requests made for additional information and the inclusion of certain statistics.

2. Pending formal revision of the Standard Form, the Administering Powers were urged to include in their reports to the Secretary-General more ample data on the following subjects: social welfare, land utilization and tenure, migratory labour, wages, and the teaching of the purposes, principles and activities of the United Nations. The Committee would especially welcome data showing wage levels in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in relation to costs of living and comparative figures on wages for indigenous and non-indigenous workers. The teaching of United Nations activities might be included in the section on curriculum in the present Standard Form.

3. With regard to the possible transfer of items from the optional to the obligatory category of the Standard Form, as suggested by the Chairman, Mr. Lopez considered that information on human rights should come under Part II (Social Conditions). Interest in the observance of human rights was not primarily based on political or legal considerations; the problem had been dealt with in the past by organs of the Economic and Social Council and should be seen in relation to general social conditions. On that understanding it might be included in the category of subjects on which information was requested under Article 73 (e) of the Charter.

4. The Philippine delegation appreciated the voluntary contribution by several Administering Powers of a considerable volume of information on items in the optional category, especially on political development in the dependent territories. In view of the postponement in revision of the Standard Form, the Committee was warranted in encouraging those Powers to submit even more detailed data and in requesting the other Administering Powers to furnish such information for discussion at the next session.

5. Mr. GARREAU (France) assured the Committee that his Government was prepared to submit the fullest possible information on the items suggested by Mr. Lopez in its next report to the Secretary-General. Data on the teaching of United Nations activities might either be included under the heading of curriculum or sent in separately by the Administering Powers. Mr. Garreau further agreed that the subject of human rights should be transferred to Part II which dealt with social conditions.

/6. However,

6. However, the French Delegation was disturbed by the abuse in the past of certain optional information. It would be recalled that at earlier sessions of the Special Committee one of the members, who was absent from the Committee table at the current session, had made unjustified propaganda attacks on the French Administration which had voluntarily submitted political information, and had provoked considerable unpleasantness. As a result, the French Administration no longer submitted optional information on political conditions. It had no obligation to do so under Chapter XI of the Charter. There was also a question of sovereignty involved.

7. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) suggested that a distinction should be made between information submitted by the Administering Powers in accordance with the Standard Form, and additional data on specific questions which should be included in the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Committee's next session. All information on Non-Self-Governing Territories under United Kingdom administration could be found either in the actual data submitted annually under Article 73 (e) or in various reports to the United Nations upon which the Secretariat could draw without consulting the United Kingdom delegation. Those reports were supplied in compliance with various resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. They covered a variety of economic matters affecting both the United Kingdom and the dependent territories. They also included data concerning observance of human rights and the teaching of United Nations activities. The Secretariat was at liberty to extract from those comprehensive reports all the facts it required for its documentation.

8. The Committee should bear in mind that the Standard Form was designed to guide the Administering Powers in selecting material for transmission to the United Nations under Article 73 (e); it was not an obligatory questionnaire. To the best of its ability the United Kingdom would furnish all the data requested in the existing Standard Form and the revised version. While his delegation was taking no final position at that stage regarding the transfer of items from the optional to the "obligatory" category, Mr. Fletcher-Cooke did not consider that the labeling of Part I as optional necessarily implied that the remaining parts were obligatory. In fact, the United Kingdom had included some data called for in Part I in the so-called obligatory category where it was considered necessary for a proper understanding of social conditions in the dependent territories.

9. Mr. GERIG (United States of America) felt that the proposed sub-committee and the Secretariat required guidance for their work on the revision of the Standard Form. As suggested by the Chairman, it might be advisable to focus attention, in the new Form, on revealing trends, rather than on the accumulation of additional detailed material. The principal task should be to combine and simplify the items enumerated in the Standard Form in order to bring out the larger issues and to avoid assembling a mass of elaborate and often unrelated data. In view of the many specific requests for additional information by members of the Committee and by the specialized agencies, there was a danger that the revised Standard Form might be even more over-elaborate than the one in use. Moreover, if the Administering Powers were to confine themselves to answering the specific questions listed, the general picture of conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories might not emerge.

10. Mr. BENSON (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out the difficulties encountered by the Secretariat in preparing a working paper to be used as a basis for revising the Standard Form. It was bound to take into account specific suggestions of the specialized agencies and concrete recommendations by the members of the Committee. On that basis it could do no more than reproduce a working paper similar to the one before the Committee. If, however, the Form were to be revised with a view to revealing general trends, the Secretariat required very definite instructions from the Committee. It had been the practice to submit information under Article 73 (e) for each separate Non-Self-Governing Territory. The representative of India, however, had discerned in the relevant data a general trend in United Kingdom policy for all its territories. It was difficult for the Secretariat to undertake responsibility for that type of analysis. It might be more advisable for the Administering Powers to submit a general introduction to the detailed information, indicating over-all trends.

11. Mr. HOUARD (Belgium) thought that the Committee should consider supplemental information for discussion at the next session under item 13 of the agenda. His Government would be glad to supply any additional data requested.

12. He shared the view of the Committee Secretary that, in order to avoid placing a delicate and onerous responsibility upon the Secretariat, the Administering Powers themselves should include a short introduction on trends in their annual reports under Article 73 (e).

13. The Standard Form was essentially a convenient guide to the Administering Powers in assembling and selecting their material. In doing so, the Belgian Government based itself on a legal interpretation of Article 73 (e) and made no distinction between the optional and obligatory categories of information. The competence of the Special Committee had thus been specifically circumscribed and it could not, under its current terms of reference, exceed the scope of that Charter provision.

14. The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of India, wished to clarify certain points in his speech at the preceding meeting. He was well aware that the Standard Form was intended only for the guidance of the Administering Powers, and that they were under no obligation to adhere to it. An examination of the details of the Standard Form, however, led to the inescapable conclusion that the distinction drawn between the "optional" part of that Form and the remainder was an illogical and arbitrary one. In view of the specific information requested in parts II to V inclusive of the Form, the questions listed under part I could not logically be regarded as in any way excessive in scope. He felt, moreover, that the revision of the Standard Form was not a matter merely of simplification, but of rationalization; some duplication existed which was causing unnecessary work on the part of the specialized agencies and the Administering Powers.

15. In regard to the United States representative's suggestion that the Secretariat should, in its working papers, indicate general overall trends, the Chairman felt that such a task would be a difficult and delicate one for the Secretariat. The various Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned were at different levels of development; and the Special Committee's relationship to them

was not that of a governmental body competent to administer such Territories. It was his desire that the basic principles enunciated in Article 73 (e) of the Charter, such as "just treatment" and "protection against abuses", should be borne in mind by the Administering Powers when they submitted information. On that basis, general trends of development could be indicated with sufficient precision so that the Committee could decide whether or not the basic principles of Article 73 (e) were being respected. The Chairman suggested that if a draft resolution on the subject were presented at the next meeting, the Committee could then decide whether or not further discussion of the question was necessary.

16. In reply to Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom), who said that his delegation would not be prepared to take a position at the next meeting on the question whether the proposed sub-committee should meet immediately before the next session of the Committee or at a later time, the CHAIRMAN observed that the presentation of a draft resolution would enable the members of the Committee to study the question along more concrete lines. The final decision of the Committee could be taken at a later moment.

17. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) asked, in view of the recent discussion, whether the Committee envisaged a revision of the Standard Form designed to show general trends, or whether the revised Form would be similar to the present one, the Secretariat being entrusted with the task of presenting such general trends on the basis of the information submitted. If the former was the case, he requested indications of the approximate type of changes contemplated.

18. Mr. GARREAU (France) was not sure of the exact significance of the word "trends", for purposes of the current discussion. The preparation of reports showing trends in the social, economic and educational fields would be too difficult and delicate a task for the Committee to lay upon the Secretariat. Such trends should be explained by the Administering Powers themselves; and, indeed, they were already clearly indicated in the information submitted on the basis of the Standard Form. All that the Secretariat could be asked to do was to abstract from that documentation the indications given concerning such trends.

19. Mr. GERIG (United States of America) felt that the Committee's discussions would be more profitable if based upon Secretariat papers which presented certain clear conclusions, drawn from the vast amount of material submitted, and indicating the broad lines of development. For example, as regards agricultural development, the Secretariat might show how much progress had been made in the past five years in the development of co-operatives, the increase of mechanization, and other important activities, breaking down the information by regions of the world. With respect to economic development, a graph might be prepared showing progress over a period of five years in the establishment of certain types of industry; such a graph would indicate the degree of balance between agricultural and industrial development.

20. Mr. GARREAU (France) considered the United States representative's suggestion a useful one; it should be taken into consideration by the Administering Powers in the preparation of their reports.

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the suggestion embodied many of his own ideas. He illustrated his main point by referring to the United Kingdom report, "The Colonial Territories, 1949-1950". That report included seven paragraphs on the subject of animal husbandry in the Non-Self-Governing Territories; the first two sentences set forth clearly the basic policy of the United Kingdom Government on the question, the remainder of the text being devoted to detailed information. The same procedure was followed in connexion with other subjects, such as fisheries and co-operatives. In the Chairman's opinion, all the Administering Powers in submitting information should follow such a procedure and indicate clearly their official policies in the various fields of activity; it would then be much easier for the Secretariat to summarize objectively and usefully the information submitted.

22. Mr. BENSON (Secretary of the Committee) assured the Committee that one of the Secretariat's chief aims, in preparing its analyses, was to draw conclusions regarding general trends from the mass of detailed information with which it worked. He had been under the impression that that had been done satisfactorily in the papers presented at the current session relative to education, public health and other subjects. For example, the documents prepared on medical and health information definitely outlined the trends in development in public health and there had been some discussion in the Committee on the points made. To present any such report a really representative amount of detail had also to be given. If, on the other hand, the trends ensuing represented broader questions of policy it was the Administering Powers who could undertake this. He pointed out, however, that it was equally necessary to include in the papers sufficient quantitative information on which to base those conclusions.

23. As regards broader basic policies, those must be indicated by the Administering Powers themselves. He recalled that at the preceding session the Secretariat had presented a working paper on the analyses as a whole, in which it had endeavoured to bring out general trends in a more concise manner. As a result of criticism by certain of the Administering Powers, such a paper had not been prepared for the current session.

24. Referring to document A/1295, Mr. GERIG (United States of America) suggested that the word "controversy", in the first line of paragraph 17, might be replaced by "discussion". In connexion with paragraphs 17 to 21 inclusive, he wished to stress the fact that the people of Puerto Rico had been entrusted with the responsibility of drafting a constitution for their Territory. Further information on the subject would be included in the next report submitted by his Government.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (A/AC.35/L.21)

After a brief exchange of views it was agreed to consider the report paragraph by paragraph, leaving open the possibility of a discussion on the report as a whole following that paragraph-by-paragraph consideration.

Introduction

After a short discussion in which the CHAIRMAN, the RAPPORTEUR, Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom), Mr. LOPEZ (Philippines), Mr. GERIG (United States of America) and Mr. GARREAU (France), took part, it was agreed to expand the introduction by including therein the names of the members of the Sub-Committee as well as of the Committee itself.

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 1 was adopted without comment.

Paragraph 2

25. Mr. HOUARD (Belgium) considered paragraph 2 was superfluous and therefore suggested its deletion.

26. Mr. LOPEZ (Philippines) also considered that paragraph 2 might be deleted provided that paragraph 3 were prefaced by the phrase, "in accordance with Resolution 333(IV)".

It was agreed to delete paragraph 2 and to preface paragraph 3 as suggested.

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 3, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6

Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 were adopted without comment.

Paragraph 7

Paragraph 7 was adopted with certain drafting changes suggested by Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom).

Paragraphs 8 and 9

Paragraphs 8 and 9 were adopted without comment.

Additional paragraph

27. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) stated that several Administering Powers had demonstrated the fact that they had attached special attention to the relevant resolution of the General Assembly by appointing educational experts to their respective delegations. That fact was worthy of note and should be mentioned in the report.

28. The CHAIRMAN suggested that a paragraph along that line should be drafted by the Secretariat and should be inserted following paragraph 9.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 10

Paragraph 10 was adopted.

Paragraph 11

29. The CHAIRMAN called attention to a typographical error in the third line of paragraph 11 (a), where the word "not" should be substituted for the word "now".

30. Mr. CRAW (New Zealand) thought that the use of the word "recording" in the second line of paragraph 11 was perhaps somewhat too grandiloquent and categorical.

31. Mr. HAY (Australia) and Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) agreed with the New Zealand representative.

32. Mr. BENSON (Secretary of the Committee) thought that the point could be met by inserting the words "its view" after the word "recording".

It was agreed to amend the text by inserting the words suggested by the Secretary.

33. Mr. GARREAU (France) did not consider that the second sentence of paragraph 11 (f) was very realistic. Although he was not quite sure what was meant by the words "drastic reorientation", he did not believe that the passage in question applied to any Non-Self-Governing Territories under French administration. He also considered that the phrase "an increased proportion
/of expenditure

of expenditure to be devoted to education" was ill-advised and, at any rate, inapplicable to France.

34. He would have no objections to the adoption of the sub-paragraph by the Committee, but wished to make it clear that the French Government would not regard the second sentence thereof as referring to itself.

35. Mr. HAY (Australia) associated himself with the French representative's statement.

36. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) stated that he had just received a press release from the Colonial Office in London stating that a further sum of 1,700,000 pounds sterling from money voted under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1945, was to be contributed towards the costs of establishing new colonial colleges of arts, science and technology in Nigeria and the Gold Coast, of constructing the University College in the Gold Coast and of expanding Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone. Consequently, the United Kingdom Government was actively furthering education in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under its administration at the very time that the Committee was dealing with that subject.

37. He considered the second sentence of paragraph 11 (f) to be so ambiguously worded as to be almost meaningless. If the words "drastic reorientation... needed in public attitudes towards educational requirements" referred to the attitude of the man in the street, they were entirely superfluous, because every member of the Committee had noted that there existed a wide-spread popular demand for education in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. If, however, the phrase in question, taken in the context of the reference to a "need for an increased proportion of expenditure to be devoted to education" was directed to the Administering Powers, the Committee would be running the risk of going beyond its competence.

38. He therefore suggested the following rewording of the second sentence of paragraph 11 (f): "Yet it is hoped that a still wider recognition of the essential importance of education will result in devoting the maximum available resources to the furtherance of education."

The United Kingdom representative's amendment was adopted.

Paragraph 11, as amended, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.