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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Third Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 11 September 1952, at 11 a.m.

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<u>Acting Chairman:</u>	Mr. HOO	Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories
<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. ASAD	(Pakistan)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. FORBETH	Australia
	Mr. RYCKMANS	Belgium
	Mr. CALERO RODRIGUES	Brazil
	Mr. BLANCO	Cuba
	Mr. BORBERG	Denmark
	Mr. BUSTAMANTE	Ecuador
	Mr. FAHMY	Egypt
	Mr. PIGNON	France
	Mr. SHIVA RAO	India

Members (continued):

Mr. TAJIBNAPIS	Indonesia
Mr. von BALLUSECK	Netherlands
Mr. DAVIN	New Zealand
Mr. ROSCHIN	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. MATHIESON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. GERIG	United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. GAVIN	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Mr. ARNALDO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. STOCK	World Health Organization (WHO)

Secretariat:

Mr. BENSON	Secretary of the Committee
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OPENING OF THE SESSION

The ACTING CHAIRMAN declared open the third session of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and welcomed the new members of the Committee and the representatives of specialized agencies. The preceding year, the Food and Agriculture Organization had laid before the Committee a number of important papers relating to various aspects of the agricultural economy of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. At the current session, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization would present a number of studies and reports bearing on the questions which the Committee would have to discuss during the session.

In accordance with the work programme laid down for it by the General Assembly in 1949, the Committee had already, in 1950 and 1951, adopted reports on educational and economic conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In those reports the Committee had emphasized the need for a co-ordinated programme for the advancement of non-self-governing peoples in the two fields studied. The Committee would complete its work in 1952 by paying special attention to social conditions in these Territories.

The Committee had before it the provisional agenda and a series of documents presenting the principal aspects of the social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Owing to the vastness of the problem involved, a high degree of selectivity had had to be exercised as regards those documents. The Committee had already recognized, at its preceding session, that such selectivity was necessary.

In general, the documentation reflected the information received by the Secretary-General on the standard of living of the peoples, the main aspects of the public health situation, social welfare services, and labour problems such as migration and peasant settlement. In addition, the Secretary-General was also submitting to the Committee a report on policies with regard to the various aspects of the social situation, and a study of race relations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The seventh regular session of the General Assembly would open on 14 October 1952. It would therefore be necessary for the Committee to conclude its work no later than 7 October. The Committee would undoubtedly wish to organize its work in such a way as to deal with all the matters on its agenda within that time limit.

After drawing the attention of the Committee to document A/AC.35/L.81, "Introductory Note on the Work of the Committee", which he thought would prove particularly useful to the new members, the Acting Chairman invited the Committee to proceed to the election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND RAPPORTEUR

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) nominated Mr. Asad (Pakistan) as Chairman.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers</u>	16
<u>Invalid ballots</u>	-
<u>Number of valid ballots</u>	16
<u>Abstentions</u>	-
<u>Number of valid votes cast</u>	16
<u>Required majority</u>	9

Mr. Asad (Pakistan) was unanimously elected Chairman.

The Chairman

The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for their confidence and for the honour they had done him in electing him Chairman. He felt that it was in reality his country which had been honoured, as he himself was a new member of the Committee and could not claim the experience acquired by other members over a period of years. In carrying out his task he relied upon the co-operation of all members of the Committee and the assistance of the Secretariat.

Mr. FARMY (Egypt) nominated Mr. Blanco (Cuba) as Vice-Chairman. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers</u>	16
<u>Invalid ballots</u>	1
<u>Number of valid ballots</u>	16
<u>Abstentions</u>	1
<u>Number of valid votes cast</u>	15
<u>Required majority</u>	8
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Mr. Blanco (Cuba)	13
Mr. Mathieson (United Kingdom)	1
Mr. Shiva Rao (India)	1

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Blanco (Cuba) was elected Vice-Chairman.

Mr. BLANCO (Cuba) extended his thanks to the members of the Committee for the honour they had done him and his country, and in particular to the representative of Egypt for his kind remarks in connexion with the nomination.

/Mr. SHIVA RAO

Mr. SHIVA RAQ (India) nominated Mr. Davin (New Zealand) as Rapporteur.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers</u>	16
<u>Invalid ballots</u>	-
<u>Number of valid ballots</u>	16
<u>Abstentions</u>	-
<u>Number of valid votes cast</u>	16
<u>Required majority</u>	9
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Mr. Davin (New Zealand)	15
Mr. Fahmy (Egypt)	1

Having received the required majority, Mr. Davin (New Zealand) was elected Rapporteur.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand) thanked the representative of India for nominating him and the members of the Committee for their confidence in electing him Rapporteur. He would carry out his duties to the best of his ability.

ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA (A/AC.35/4/Rev.1)

Mr. BENSON (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that the UNESCO expert in the use of the vernacular languages would not arrive in New York until 25 September. Since that subject had been placed as item 4 on the agenda, it might perhaps be better to postpone it until after the discussion of basic social conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories which had been placed as item 6.

The FAO representative, on the other hand, would be present to answer any questions concerning agriculture as from the afternoon meeting on Friday, 12 September.

Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) proposed that the Committee should, as usual, start its work with the most important question, namely the basic social conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Mr. CALERO RODRIGUES (Brazil) supported that suggestion.

/Mr. MATHIESON

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) explained that he found it difficult to accept the Egyptian representative's suggestion, because his delegation's expert on social questions would not be available before Monday, 15 September. He would therefore prefer to leave the discussion of basic social conditions until that date. In the meantime, the Committee could quite well start discussing item 5 of its provisional agenda since the FAO representative would be able to be present as from Friday, 12 September.

Mr. GERIG (United States of America) agreed with the United Kingdom representative, because his delegation's expert who was to take part in the discussion on basic social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories would not arrive until the beginning of the following week. The Committee could quite well start discussing item 5 of its agenda on the following day, starting with paragraph (b) if the FAO representative was not yet present.

Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) saw no reason why the Committee should not start with item 5 of the provisional agenda provided that it turned as soon as possible to the study of basic social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) asked which documents dealt with item 5 of the provisional agenda. He also wanted to know whether the summaries prepared by the Secretariat were based on oral or written information from FAO.

Mr. BENSON (Secretary of the Committee) explained that the Secretariat had prepared two documents in connexion with item 5 (A/AC.35/L.102 and A/AC.35/L.109). These documents contained summaries of the information transmitted to the United Nations under Article 73 e of the Charter. The FAO had not yet transmitted any information but its representative intended to make a statement to the Committee during the discussion of item 5 of the agenda.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) considered, in the light of that reply, that the wording of item 5 should be changed.

/Mr. MATHIESON

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) proposed the following wording;
"Secretary-General's summaries of information transmitted under Article 73 e
and statement by the representative of FAO".

That proposal was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN concluded from the remarks made that item 4 of the
provisional agenda was to become item 6 and that items 5 and 6 were to become
items 4 and 5.

The provisional agenda, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. TAJIBNAPIS (Indonesia) reserved his delegation's right to make a
statement at the appropriate time regarding the transmission of information by
the Netherlands Government concerning West New Guinea (A/2132, A/2132/Add.1).

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) remarked that members had not yet had
time to study the documents. He, personally, would prefer to postpone the next
meeting until the afternoon of Friday, 12 September, so that delegations would
have time to prepare for the discussion on item 4 of the revised agenda.

He also felt that it would not be advisable to hold two meetings a day.
The questions to be discussed were so important that they could not be taken up
until members had studied the documents in detail. The Committee's work would
therefore be more valuable if delegations could as a general rule devote the
morning to the study of documents and the afternoon to a thorough discussion in
a Committee meeting.

The CHAIRMAN recognized the justice of the United Kingdom
representative's remarks but wondered whether the Committee would be able to
get through its heavy agenda if it held only one meeting a day. On the other
hand, he emphasized that certain delegations would find it difficult to attend
two meetings a day. He asked members to express their views on the United
Kingdom representative's proposal.

/Mr. FORSYTH

Mr. FORSYTH (Australia) accepted the United Kingdom representative's suggestion that the discussion of item 4 of the revised agenda should be postponed until the afternoon of 12 September. He also felt that the proposal to hold only one meeting a day had very definite advantages. Delegations would have time to study the documents and that would facilitate the discussions. The Trusteeship Council had successfully organized its work in that way - not that the status and functions of the Trusteeship Council were in any way a precedent for the Committee. Furthermore, most members of the Committee had other work to do and the Secretariat itself would certainly derive advantage from the programme proposed by the United Kingdom representative. For those reasons, he heartily endorsed that proposal.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) associated himself with the statements made by the representative of the United Kingdom and Australia. The United Kingdom representative's proposal should help the Committee in its work. Consequently, he proposed that the Committee should meet every day at exactly 2 p.m.

Mr. SHIVA RAO (India) saw no reason why the Committee should not discuss item 4 of the revised agenda at its next meeting. Unlike the United Kingdom representative, however, he did not think there was any advantage in deciding from the very outset exactly how often the Committee should meet.

Mr. von BALLUSECK (Netherlands) supported the United Kingdom proposal. He saw no reason for the doubts expressed by the Indian representative since, even if the Committee decided in principle to meet only in the afternoons, it could still meet more often if it wished.

Mr. BENSON (Secretariat) recalled that up to and including its 1950 session, the Committee had met twice a day. In 1951, it had decided to meet only once a day, a decision which had caused unfortunate delays towards the end of the session. He wished to draw the Committee's attention to that point.

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) recalled that the delays to which the Secretary had just referred had been largely due to the fact that the 1951 agenda had included the item entitled: "Factors which should be taken into account
/in deciding

in deciding whether a territory is or is not a territory whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government." That item, which had given rise to lengthy discussions, was not included in the agenda of the current session.

In addition, he was convinced that, with the prevailing spirit of co-operation among members, the Committee would be able to complete its work within the time limit.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, in accordance with the United Kingdom representative's suggestion, that the Committee should hold one meeting a day at exactly 2 p.m.

It was so decided.

Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) drew the attention of the members to item 5 of the revised agenda (basic social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories). When the Committee came to that item, he thought it should hold a general discussion followed by a detailed study, point by point. He recalled that the Committee had already adopted that procedure in the past.

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) supported that proposal.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.