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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Seventh Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 16 May 1956, at 2.45 p.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. ARENALES CATALAN	(Guatemala)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. VIXSEBOXSE	(Netherlands)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. CUTTS	Australia
	U PAW HTIN	Burma
	Mr. YANG	China
	Mr. de CAMARET )	France
	Mr. REMOVILLE )	
	Mr. KESTLER	Guatemala
	Mr. RAGHU RAMAIAH )	India
	Mr. JAIPAL )	
	Mr. PACHACHI	Iraq
	Mr. GRADER	Netherlands
	Mr. THORP	New Zealand
	Mr. CALLE y CALLE )	Peru
	Mr. PAREJA )	
	Mr. GIDDEN	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. SEARS	United States of America
	Mr. RIVAS	Venezuela

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. GAVIN	International Labour Organisation
Miss McNAUGHTON	Food and Agriculture Organization
Mrs. MEAGHER	World Health Organization

<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. BENSON	Representative of the Secretary- General
	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN RESPECT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued):

- (a) GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS (A/AC.35/L.229 and L.230);
- (b) INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (A/AC.35/L.227 and Corr.1)

Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) said that the information given in document A/AC.35/L.227 was much more detailed than had been the case in past years. He would not expatiate on the international technical assistance received by the Territories under United Kingdom administration, though he would like to know whether the Secretariat would include the data given in the document in the Committee's report, for if so a number of minor changes would have to be made. Altogether, a sum of \$700,000 had been allocated to twenty-three Territories in 1955, considerably more than in 1954. The technical assistance furnished was necessarily confined to fields in which the United Kingdom alone could not further the Territories' advancement, and was a useful supplement to its own assistance, given mainly under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts.

While several speakers had referred to the work of the Caribbean and Southern Pacific Commissions, the work of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara (A/AC.35/L.230, paragraph 44) had not so far been commented upon, and he wished to make good the omission. Although the Commission had been established as recently as 1950, it had already undertaken an impressive list of activities. Its permanent institutions now included an Inter-African Bureau for Soils and Rural Economy, a Tsetse Fly and Trypanosomiasis Bureau, as well as an International Scientific Committee for Trypanosomiasis Research, an Inter-African Bureau for Epizootic Diseases with an advisory committee, an Inter-African Labour Institute, also with an advisory committee, and an Inter-African Pedological Survey. There was also an Inter-African Committee on Statistics, a panel of nutrition correspondents, an Inter-African Committee for Social Sciences, an Inter-African Centre for Information and Liaison in Rural Welfare, an Inter-African Committee of Maps and Surveys, an Inter-African Committee on Housing, and also regional committees dealing with the conservation and utilization of land. Those were all permanent bodies. The Commission had also set up an Inter-African Research Fund and an Inter-African Foundation for the exchange of assistants and

(Mr. Gidden, United Kingdom)

technicians. In addition to all those activities, the Commission had organized a series of international conferences, in close collaboration with one or more of the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Conferences had been held to consider such subjects as soils, animal husbandry, flora and fauna, forestry, hydrobiology, climatology, geology, trypanosomiasis, malaria, nutrition, medical co-operation, indigenous rural economy, co-operative societies, mechanization of agriculture, hydrology, labour, housing, rural welfare, treatment of offenders, education, social sciences, statistics and maps and surveys. The Commission, which had been set up to promote technical co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara, was assisted by the Scientific Council for Africa South of the Sahara, which was affiliated to it.

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) paid a tribute to WHO for its invaluable work in vast areas, and to UNICEF for its constant participation in a generous undertaking. He regretted that Belize was not mentioned in document A/AC.35/L.229 among the Territories in the American continent which had received assistance in the field of public health. He hoped that in the future WHO and UNICEF would help that Territory to combat the serious diseases afflicting the population, such as malaria, dysentery and tuberculosis.

The Governments of some countries recently admitted to the United Nations had replied to the communication sent to them by the Secretary-General concerning Chapter XI of the Charter. He hoped that all the Governments of countries known to be administering Territories coming within the terms of Article 73 of the Charter would study that communication soon and answer it in the affirmative. If they were to do otherwise, they would disappoint the hopes which Guatemala had entertained in voting for their admission under Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Charter. He asked the Secretariat for particulars concerning the exchange of communications mentioned in document A/AC.35/L.230, paragraph 6.

The various specialized agencies had offered the Committee valuable material relating to social problems in the Non-Self-Governing Territories; he hoped that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development would also broaden the scope of its activities and consider the possibility of granting fresh financial assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in cases in which such assistance would contribute decisively to the attainment of the objectives set forth in the

(Mr. Kestler, Guatemala)

Charter. In connexion with section IV of document A/AC.35/L.230, he referred to the terms of Economic and Social Council resolution 585 (XX) relating to the world social situation. He hoped that the States which had accepted as a sacred trust the obligation to promote to the utmost the well-being of the Non-Self-Governing Territories world, in a spirit of co-operation, take that resolution into account. He also hoped that they would heed the Council's recommendations and resolutions concerning the status of women, human rights, forced labour and narcotic drugs. In so doing, the Administering Powers would not only directly benefit the Territories under their administration, but would give unmistakable proof of their sincere desire to collaborate with other countries in ensuring respect for the dignity of the human person.

His delegation was in favour of regional co-operation, on condition that that form of co-operation was used for the purpose of dealing with common or similar problems and not with artificial ones. He had listened with keen interest to the United States representative's statement on the point. Regional co-operation could produce good results, but only if it was carried on with the freely given consent of the inhabitants of the Territories concerned.

With reference to document A/AC.35/L.227, he noted that from 1954 to 1956 the number of fellowships awarded had decreased while the number of experts sent out had risen markedly. It would seem to him that the services of experts were much more expensive than fellowships. Moreover, in the field of technical assistance such action might not have the desired results, either because the expert's advice was not taken, or because the expert was not familiar with all the specific problems of the Territory in question, or else because the necessary material resources were lacking. Because of the present policy of the Technical Assistance Programme, the Non-Self-Governing Territories would have to make a more strenuous effort than in the past, and he feared the strain might be too great. Consequently, he considered that the Committee should be given the fullest possible data concerning the effectiveness of international technical assistance in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and concerning the problems peculiar to those Territories. He did not question the value of the Technical Assistance Programme, but the work undertaken should be successful in every respect.

Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq) said that according to the documents before the Committee the bulk of the international technical assistance given to Non-Self-Governing Territories had come from WHO; the agency had done a great deal to improve the well-being of the populations concerned. The establishment of the Regional Office at Brazzaville was a gratifying development, as was the admission of Morocco, Tunisia and the Sudan as members and of the Gold Coast, the Federation of Nigeria and Sierra Leone as associated members, of WHO. Those events testified both to WHO's concern with the situation in those Territories and to the enlightened policy of the United Kingdom in promoting the political advancement of the Territories under its administration.

Noting that document A/AC.35/L.230 had been circulated in April, he asked whether countries other than Cambodia, Ceylon, Finland, Italy, Laos and Libya had replied to the Secretary-General's communication. His delegation attached great importance to the matter and hoped that new Members administering Non-Self-Governing Territories would reply to the communication in the affirmative and would send information as soon as possible. In any event, the Fourth Committee would consider the question at the General Assembly's next session. He was glad to see that special attention was being given to the financing of the economic development of Non-Self-Governing Territories and that the establishment of a special fund was contemplated. The Administering Powers had a two-fold responsibility; the well-being of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories depended upon them and, being highly advanced countries, they were able to contribute to the success of bodies like the proposed fund.

He noted that the sums allocated to Non-Self-Governing Territories and the number of experts sent under the Technical Assistance Programme had been larger in 1955 than in 1954, but that as a percentage that assistance had decreased. The population of the Non-Self-Governing Territories represented some 20 per cent of the total population of the under-developed countries, but received only 3 per cent of the sum total of United Nations technical assistance. He hoped that, in the future, the Administering Powers would make more requests for assistance and that those Territories would receive a larger share. Lastly, he paid a tribute to the other specialized agencies which assisted in the advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular, the ILO and FAO.

Mr. RAGHU RAMAIAH (India) associated himself with the other delegations which had congratulated WHO on its excellent report. The General Assembly had invited the specialized agencies to report annually on their work in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In 1956, apparently WHO alone had reported, and he would like to know why the other specialized agencies had not done so. UNESCO, however, had furnished some interesting studies on educational developments, which the Administering Powers might study with advantage.

In addition, the representatives of UNESCO, the ILO and FAO had told the Committee of the work of their agencies in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was presumably because the Committee, at the current session, was devoting special attention to educational conditions that the specialized agencies not specially concerned with that aspect had not thought fit to submit reports to the Committee. His delegation hoped that all the specialized agencies would report to the Committee when, at its next session, it considered economic conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

In its resolution 444 (V) the General Assembly had invited Administering Members to submit requests for technical assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to include yearly in the statistical information they transmitted a report on the assistance furnished by the United Nations and the specialized agencies. His delegation had the impression that the Administering Powers did not furnish information on that subject regularly, as the Secretariat report seemed to be based mainly on the documentation furnished by the Technical Assistance Board and the Technical Assistance Committee. His delegation hoped that the Administering Members which had received technical assistance would in future transmit the information to the Committee.

WHO deserved to be congratulated on its report (A/AC.35/L.229). The work of WHO in the Non-Self-Governing Territories was impressive, and his delegation would be interested to learn further details. The Secretariat's report on international collaboration for economic, social and educational advancement (A/AC.35/L.230) was also extremely useful. It was, however, much too brief and might well have been more comprehensive.

(Mr. Raghu Ramaiah, India)

The activities of the Economic and Social Council included some which concerned the Non-Self-Governing Territories; closer co-operation between the Committee and the Council was desirable. It was interesting to note that the Social Commission had recognized that a purely statistical approach was not adequate in view of the deficiencies in statistical information, and that statistical information should be considered together with descriptive and narrative information. That opinion confirmed the view previously expressed by his delegation. In its resolution 585 C (XX), the Economic and Social Council had requested the Secretary-General to assist in the study, evaluation and development of techniques of improving living conditions of local communities; his delegation would like to know whether the Secretariat had prepared any reports or studies on that subject. In the same resolution the Economic and Social Council had asked the Technical Assistance Board to give sympathetic consideration to projects of regional co-operation in the field of community development; his delegation would like to know how many requests for assistance had been received. It appeared that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had undertaken a study which included a tentative analysis of information on Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Secretariat ought to have circulated that analysis to members of the Committee. His delegation hoped that the various studies undertaken by the Economic and Social Council and its commissions would, so far as they related to Non-Self-Governing Territories, be circulated to the Committee's members. In its report to the General Assembly, the Committee should mention the offers of scholarships which several Member States had doubtless made during the past year. Accordingly, the Secretariat should prepare suitable material for the purpose.

At its next session the Committee would consider economic conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In 1955, the Economic and Social Council had reviewed the world economic situation and considered future prospects of regional economic co-operation and commodity price stabilization. His delegation took the view that industrialization integrated with other forms of development was essential to the economic advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that international co-operation in that field would accelerate industrial progress.



(Mr. Raghu Ramaiah, India)

It hoped that the Secretariat would keep those points in mind in preparing the documentation for the Committee's next session. In that connexion, a close watch should be kept on developments affecting the establishment of the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development.

It was gratifying to note from the Secretariat's report (A/AC.35/L.227) that international technical assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories had increased in recent years. It was to be hoped that requests for international technical assistance would be made freely, so that they might be integrated into the long-range development programmes of those Territories.

The help given by UNICEF to fourteen Non-Self-Governing Territories should also be acknowledged.

Mr. BENSON (Secretariat), in reply to the United Kingdom representative, said that any information the Administering Powers could furnish to supplement the data given in the Committee's working paper would be most useful and would be used by the Secretariat in writing its final report. He would therefore be grateful if members would draw his attention to any changes that ought to be made therein.

In reply to a question by the representative of Guatemala concerning paragraph 6 of document A/AC.35/L.230, he explained that normally the award of scholarships was preceded by an exchange of correspondence between the Secretariat and, first, the candidates, then the Administering Powers and, lastly, the States offering the scholarships. The Secretary-General had been asked to report on that procedure to the General Assembly at its next session.

Since the publication of document A/AC.35/L.230 the Secretary-General had received two replies, from the Governments of Romania and Austria, which stated that they did not administer Territories of the kind referred to in Article 73 of the Charter.

He added that the reports and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council were at the disposal of any member of the Committee. The effects of those resolutions on the Committee's future proceedings were indicated in paragraph 23

(Mr. Benson, Secretariat)

of document A/AC.35/L.233, which surveyed the Committee's future programme of work in the light of United Nations activities generally. The Secretariat was at the moment contemplating a number of studies, but could not as yet state their exact scope.

Mr. CUTTS (Australia) said that his Government had long maintained a deep interest in all efforts to give effect to the principle of international collaboration in all fields, and not only in respect of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He referred to the part played by his country in such international institutions as the Economic and Social Council, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, UNICEF, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the Colombo Plan and the South Pacific Commission, all of which exercised a beneficial influence upon economic, social and educational conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The South Pacific Commission was designed to encourage and strengthen international co-operation in promoting the economic and social welfare of the peoples of the South Pacific region. Its members were precisely the Administering Powers represented on the Committee. The Commission's activities were extremely numerous and varied, and extended even beyond the scope of the matters customarily discussed in the Committee. Although the South Pacific Commission had existed for relatively few years, it had made a substantial contribution to the welfare of the South Pacific peoples, both through the advice it had given and through the practical research and experimental projects it had conducted.

As was well known, the Colombo Plan was directed towards improving the level of living of the countries and Territories of South and South-East Asia, including, of course, the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Several of the Committee's members participated in the Plan, to which his Government attached great value and to which it contributed financially.

(Mr. Cutts, Australia)

The spirit of international collaboration was being fostered in all those international organizations, and his Government was endeavouring to encourage that attitude for in its view, international collaboration was bound to benefit all the peoples of the world, including the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The reports circulated to the Committee by the Secretariat formed a useful basis for discussion; the annual reports of the Administering Powers and the documents published annually by the international organizations made it possible for the Committee, if necessary, to supplement the summaries it received. With regard to international technical assistance, his delegation thought that the Administering Power should draw upon international resources, which were already much in demand, only when it was unable itself to grant specialized technical assistance to the territories under its administration. The progress made in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, or even in sovereign States could not be judged by the amount of technical assistance they received from sources outside the metropolitan country.

With regard to New Guinea, his Government had requested international assistance on different occasions and the Committee could be sure that it would do so again if the need arose. Moreover, Australia would always be prepared to lend assistance of every kind to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the independent nations of the entire world.

Mr. YANG (China) registered his appreciation to the Secretariat and WHO for the documents they had prepared concerning international collaboration in respect of economic, social and educational conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories. His delegation was also appreciative of the efforts the Administering Powers had made to comply with General Assembly resolution 444 (V). He cited paragraph 8 of the Secretariat's report on international technical assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. His delegation was gratified to note that since 1953 the number of experts sent to the Non-Self-Governing Territories had increased but it failed to understand why the number of fellowships and scholarships had dropped from 114 in 1952 to twenty-one in 1953. Nor did it understand why the total volume of technical assistance had declined in 1954 and why the Expanded Programme had operated at a lower level in the Non-Self-Governing

(Mr. Yang, China)

Territories that year. In that connexion his delegation was gratified to note that the number of experts sent to the Gold Coast, Malaya, Jamaica and Morocco had increased.

He read out paragraph 12 of the same report. He would like to have further details concerning the technical assistance given to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He regretted that, out of twenty-seven Territories receiving technical assistance, only eight had been given assistance in three or more fields in 1956. He wondered whether other Non-Self-Governing Territories had received any kind of technical assistance in 1956.

He also wondered whether UNESCO was continuing its efforts to obtain low-interest loans for introducing compulsory primary education in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Mr. GAVIN (International Labour Organisation), replying to the Indian representative who had expressed regret that in 1956 ILO had submitted no report on its work in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, said that the General Assembly had adopted only two resolutions on the subject, resolution 221 (III) and resolution 331 (IV). The resolutions were not couched in terms as precise as those used by the Indian representative.

The previous year he had made a very detailed report to the Committee on ILO's work over the previous four years. He was prepared to give the members of the Committee any information which they might request on ILO's work in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He mentioned the very full report that ILO had compiled on the question of migrant workers. Moreover, the Secretariat's report on international technical assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories contained information on labour problems and he did not feel that any further amplification was needed.

ILO was always ready to collaborate with the Committee. It wished however to reserve to itself some latitude with regard to the precise manner in which it kept the Committee informed of its activities in so far as they might be of interest to the Committee.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued):

- (a) QUESTIONS ARISING OUT OF THE SPECIAL REPORT ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1954;
- (b) INFORMATION ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE SUMMARIES PREPARED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/3105-3110, A/3110/Corr.1, A/3111 and Add.1, A/3112 and Add.1 and 2, A/3113 and Corr.1, A/3114 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/3115);
- (c) OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN HANDICRAFT AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES (Economic and Social Council resolution 587 F I (XX) (A/AC.35/L.230)

Mr. REMOVILLE (France) wished to draw what might be called the balance sheet for 1954 of French economic policy in the overseas territories. He would dwell on two problems in particular - the diversification of production and the campaign against price fluctuations - which were apparently of concern to some members of the Committee, especially the representatives of Guatemala and India in the first instance and secondly the representative of China. Lastly, to satisfy the concern of the Indian representative he would give a brief review of the concepts underlying the preparation and execution of the plan for the economic and social development of the Territories under French Administration.

The French Administration was endeavouring to diversify production, starting with food crops. Thus, in Senegal, in order to avert the danger inherent in the growth of peanuts only, efforts had been made to revive the production of millet and at the same time, rice production had been extended in the Senegal valley and in the neighbouring territory of the Sudan. In other cases, however, as for example in Niger and the northern part of Guinea, soil crops such as potatoes and manioc had been introduced or expanded to offset the possible loss of other crops. Above all, efforts had been made to encourage and develop the growing of rice in Tropical Africa, inter alia by building irrigated areas (particularly in Niger), by organizing agricultural units where flat-lands rice was grown (Upper Guinea) or by improving quality and yield.

He quoted figures for coffee exports from Guinea and the Ivory Coast to illustrate the impetus given to export crops. The growing of pineapple had

(Mr. Removille, France)

been introduced in those two Territories and efforts were being made to introduce the para-rubber plant and the coconut palm in the Ivory Coast. The same desire to diversify production had led to the renovation of palm plantations particularly in Dahomey and the Ivory Coast. The industrial exploitation of palm plantations had begun at the same time and 11,500 tons of palm oil with a low acid content had been exported in 1954.

Industrial crops had been introduced or developed, including cotton in the Upper Volta and sisal in Madagascar.

As examples of recently created processing industries, mention might be made of the oil refineries in French West Africa at Senegal and Dahomey, the fruit juice industry and the plywood industry in the Gabon.

In order to level out price fluctuations, the Administration had attempted to organize the market for soft edible fats and it had established stabilization funds which regulated the price of certain products (copra, cocoa, coffee and cotton).

The decree of 19 November 1954 guaranteed the peanut, rapeseed and olive producers throughout the territories an outlet for their products at a minimum price if the market declined below the guaranteed price, while industry was guaranteed regular supplies at a maximum price in the event of a rise in prices above the authorized price.

The stabilizations funds established by the decree of 14 October 1954 assisted the copra, cocoa, coffee and cotton producers when the market was low, while they retained a part of the profits when prices exceeded a certain level. A metropolitan organization, the Stabilization Reserve, which had been set up recently, granted loans to the funds and facilitated the financing of their operations.

He could provide the members of the Committee with figures on agricultural production for local consumption and for export, on mining output for export, on industrial production, on consumption of the principal industrial products, on the foreign trade of the overseas territories and on the traffic in the principal ports of the territories, which showed the steady and general growth of production in all those fields.

(Mr. Removille, France)

In reply to the concern expressed by the Indian representative who had emphasized the importance of development plans, he then described the principal features of the programme of economic and social development of the overseas territories.

He pointed out firstly, that when France had undertaken to develop the overseas territories they had not been "under-developed" but "undeveloped" countries. France had not found living economic structures in those territories but it had been confronted with economies that after the traditional forms of exploitation had been exhausted had been stabilized at an inadequate level of development. It had not been enough to administer a number of well-chosen stimulants that might have acted as a catalyst for latent energies and unleashed a chain reaction that would have enabled the Territories to enter a new stage of their development. The establishment of a few industries, the investment of some capital, national or foreign, the creation of a system of technical education, did not meet the needs of territories that were economically socially and culturally unorganized, where everything had to be built up from the very foundations and where everything had to be done at once. Those demands had given a different character to the development of the overseas territories which France had undertaken in accordance with a general plan that covered all branches of activity and that was aimed at their integrated development as part of a balanced economy.

Secondly, the work done by France in the overseas territories was the result of collective efforts which were made by the entire nation, were far greater than those that might have been made by private enterprise or by State or quasi-State agencies, whether national or international, even if they had had at their disposal such powerful resources as those at the command of the Office du Niger, the Tennessee Valley Authority or the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Thus, France made available to its overseas territories its capital and experts, both public and private, its capital equipment and its long experience in administrative and technical matters.

(Mr. Removille, France)

In making the best use of those resources, France was applying flexible and original formulae whereby public and private initiative could be introduced or associated (State-owned and semi-public corporations, agencies, etc.); it was working out new types of organization (mutual rural production associations, paysannat sectors, rural communities, producers' co-operatives, agricultural and industrial associations), and establishing specialized finance agencies (Fonds d'Investissements pour le développement économique et social - FIDES - and the Central Fund for Overseas France). Indigenous participation in the carrying out and control of that work was provided for at various levels, particularly in the case of FIDES.

Thirdly, the economic and social development of the overseas territories, carried on by means of the resources of FIDES, was promoting the harmonious development of all the economic, social and cultural potentialities of those territories and the raising of the overall level of living, in all its forms, of the people. The pursuit of such a goal called for unified planning, correlation of the objectives in view, and the co-ordination and continual adjustment of the necessary action, in other words, complete control of the implementation process, in order to ensure maximum efficiency; those factors constituted a third characteristic of the development plan.

Fourthly, the overseas territories derived advantages, which rendered the implementation of the development plan easier, from the existence of the franc area. There could be no doubt that many achievements in the fields of agriculture, forestry and industry could never have seen the light if it had been necessary to rely at the outset on the resources of the local market alone. Hence, by allowing the free movement of individuals, capital and services and by providing larger outlets for various kinds of production, that free-trade area contributed towards the exploitation and development of local resources, acting as a stimulus of an effectiveness not to be underestimated.

Fifthly, the French plan had proved sufficiently flexible to meet all the requirements of the rising level of development of the overseas territories.



(Mr. Removille, France)

Having installed in its initial stages a basic infrastructure, without which it would have been impossible to take action which was directly related to the raising of the level of living of the local population, the development plan was at present concentrating on the promotion by all possible means of the expansion and modernization of agricultural production, in particular food production. The experience gained had shown that the achievement of those purposes was more capable than any other type of action, including industrialization, of raising the overall level of living of the overseas peoples to the extent and with the speed that were needed. An improved level of living was bound to encourage the appearance of an active, dynamic local market. The conditions would then exist for the systematic development of the conversion industries required to exploit local resources, which were regarded, rightly or wrongly, as the most solid proof available of the economic advance of the under-developed countries.

Side by side with agricultural development, the plan aimed to establish large industrial aggregates to exploit the power and mineral wealth of the overseas territories. Such aggregates would make a powerful contribution to the diversification and strengthening of the economy of those territories, which would in turn be further factors favourable to the development of new industries, derived or independent.

At that stage of their development, the overseas territories would have reached their full economic maturity. Receiving the combined benefits of the systematic efforts to improve productivity which France had made in all fields of activity, they too could hope to achieve the level of highly-developed countries. Moreover, it was a fact that in some fields the productive capacity of the overseas territories already exceeded the absorption capacity of the French market and that, similarly, the investment required exceeded the action that French finance could take at the moment.

It would be a policy of restrictive self-sufficiency to refuse help from abroad. On the contrary, as the Indian representative had pointed out, such help should be welcomed and used in a way which most suited the development of the territories. Foreign assistance was particularly required in establishing the large industrial aggregate for the aluminium production made possible by the

(Mr. Removille, France)

natural wealth of Guinea and the Middle Congo. It was, therefore, pleasing to note the recent formation, under the auspices of the French Government, of a company which included the Central Fund for Overseas France and French industry (Péchiney) and German, Canadian, Italian and Swiss undertakings, to study the hydro-electric development of the Konkouré, in Guinea and the Kouilou, in Gaboon, which would become industrial areas with a potential comparable with those of the most highly developed countries.

He thought it might be useful to cite some figures showing the extent of the financial effort made by France to implement the plan for the economic and social development of the overseas territories. Public investment in the overseas territories under FIDES alone was of the order of \$1,600 million. The present rate of investment was of the order of \$230 million per year for territories with a population of 31 millions. Private investment of French origin, which was additional to public investment, was estimated at about 20 to 25 per cent of the public effort, or at least \$52 million. To that should be added private investment of local origin, created by ploughing back profits or by drawing on the resources of the territories themselves, amounting to about \$71 million. Thus, public and private investment by France in the development of French overseas territories amounted to \$350 million, or about 1 per cent of the national income. If investments in other French territories, such as French North Africa and the Overseas Departments, were taken into consideration, the proportion of the national income devoted by France each year to the assistance of under-developed territories came to 2 to 3 per cent.

Thanks to those efforts, an entirely new type of society was being developed in the overseas territories, and new types of economic, social and cultural organization were emerging and gradually finding their feet. The financial and technical transfers were accompanied by a "transfer of civilization". France was using every method of helping the overseas territories to develop their own personalities and was giving them the means to develop a modern civilization and to take a full part in the comity of nations. France was carrying out not merely purely technical work but truly humanitarian work.

Mr. JAIPAL (India) understood that the United Kingdom representative had referred at the morning meeting to a quotation which he (Mr. Jaipal) had made at the previous meeting from the "Manchester Guardian" editorial. He wished to explain that his purpose in quoting that editorial was to draw attention, not to the extent of the financial assistance of the United Kingdom to United Nations agencies, but to the holdings of sterling accumulated by Governments of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and by some undertakings with interests in those territories. Such holdings might be used to finance the establishment of higher educational institutions in the territories concerned.

He thanked the representative of the International Labour Organisation for his statement, in reply to a question he had asked, that the ILO wished to continue to work with the Committee and that in doing so its methods of presentation would be adapted to the special needs of that organization.

In conclusion, he thanked the French representative for his account of the principles by which his country was guided in discharging its civilizing mission and of how those principles were serving the interests of the territories administered by France. His delegation looked forward to applying those principles to the examination of the economic position in French administered territories at the next session of the Committee.

#### THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME OF STUDIES (A/AC.35/L.233)

Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) thanked the Indian representative for his clarifications. He wished to explain, for the information of the other members of the Committee, that the United Kingdom did not control the holdings of sterling accumulated by certain countries, which of course were not interchangeable.

Mr. BENSON (Secretariat) introduced the working paper drawn up by the Secretariat, which contained suggestions on the programme of studies that might usefully be undertaken by the Committee on Information (A/AC.35/L.233). The Secretariat had assumed in preparing the document that the Committee would in 1947 study economic conditions and economic development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and that in 1948 session would be devoted to the consideration of social conditions. The Secretariat suggested that the Committee

(Mr. Benson, Secretariat)

might concentrate on a selected strategic sector of social problems. In view of the importance attached by the Committee to the place of the family and the community in social development, the Secretariat suggested that the Committee might consider that particular aspect of the social problem and of social policy in 1958.

The Secretariat also stated that the World Health Organization was to submit to the Committee at its 1958 session a document on long-term health programmes in the Territories.

Other specialized agencies would undoubtedly be able to make a similar contribution to the studies to be undertaken. They would decide later what form they wished their assistance to take.

After reviewing the Committee's practice with regard to the dates of its sessions, he explained that the General Assembly would still be sitting at the beginning of 1957, which would perhaps mean that the Committee might have to drop the Spring session, for one year only, and hold its 1957 session in the autumn. The Secretariat was merely drawing attention to the problem. In selecting the date of the session, which was of course the Secretary-General's responsibility, it would also be necessary to consider the requirements of the Trusteeship Council's work.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.