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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Ninth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 22 April 1958, at 10.45 a.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. ALFONZO-RAVARD	Venezuela
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. KELLY	Australia
	Mr. CASTRO ALVES	Brazil
	Mr. DURAISWAMY	Ceylon
	Mr. YANG	China
	Mr. de CAMARET)	France
	Mr. POURCHEL)	
	Mr. URRUTIA APARICIO	Guatemala
	Mr. JAIPAL	India
	Mr. KITTANI	Iraq
	Mr. VIXSEBOXSE)	Netherlands
	Mr. GRADER)	
	Mr. THORP	New Zealand
	Mr. CHINN)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. CASTON)	
	Mr. MORE)	United States of America
	Mr. OSBORNE)	

Representatives of specialized agencies:

	Mr. PAYRO	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. ORR	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
	Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	Dr. SACKS	World Health Organization
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. COHEN	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self- Governing Territories
	Mr. PEREZ GUERRERO	Director, Division of Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

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

- (a) GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS 1954-1956 (A/AC.35/L.274 and Corr.1);
- (b) SOCIAL ASPECTS OF URBANIZATION:
 - (1) FAMILY CHANGE IN URBAN-INDUSTRIAL AREAS (A/AC.35/L.278);
 - (11) FAMILY EARNINGS IN URBAN-INDUSTRIAL AREAS (A/AC.35/L.282);
 - (111) HOUSING CONDITIONS AND POLICIES (A/AC.35/L.274 and Corr.1, A/AC.35/L.277);
- (c) JUVENILE DELINQUENCY (A/AC.35/L.270);
- (d) SOCIAL ASSISTANCE MEASURES (A/AC.35/L.267);
- (e) ASPECTS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
 - (1) PEASANT SOCIETIES IN TRANSITION (A/AC.35/L.248);
 - (11) INDIGENOUS LAND TENURE IN A CHANGING ECONOMY (A/AC.35/L.268);
- (f) PUBLIC HEALTH (A/AC.35/L.276):
 - (1) POPULATION TRENDS AND PUBLIC HEALTH (A/AC.35/L.266 and Corr.1, A/AC.35/L.275);
 - (11) LONG-TERM HEALTH PLANS (A/AC.35/L.279);
 - (111) MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (A/AC.35/L.271, A/AC.35/L.272);
- (g) RACE RELATIONS (A/AC.35/L.269);
- (h) OTHER QUESTIONS (A/AC.35/L.273)

The CHAIRMAN announced that the list of speakers on sub-items (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the agenda would be closed following the statements of sub-items (c) and (d) to be made at the present meeting.

Mr. CASTRO ALVES (Brazil) emphasized the importance of the documents submitted by the Secretariat concerning social conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories and took note of the statements made by the representatives of the Administering Powers. He thought that information furnished on social and economic conditions should conform as far as possible to the principles of economic development as laid down by the regional economic commissions.

He confirmed that the Brazilian Government had offered two scholarships to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

His delegation reserved the right to speak again in later debates if it saw fit to do so.

Mr. CHINN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation agreed as to the need for social security measures in the Territories under United Kingdom administration. The question had been under review since 1944.

The report prepared in March 1957 by the Colonial Labour Advisory Committee pointed out that the purpose of social security was to provide freedom from fear of want. That was being achieved to some extent in communities which accepted certain traditional obligations to care for the needy. The problem was more urgent in societies in the transition stage. There were several ways of settling it. Schemes financed on a contributory basis must be supplemented by non-contributory schemes and voluntary societies could deal with special categories of individuals.

In that connexion, there were several very important points. All social security systems depended in the last resort on the aggregate income of the community. Moreover, it was necessary to build up alongside any social security provision in the strict sense the social services to provide for the medical, health and nutritional needs of the people. It was also important to distinguish, in the overseas Territories, between the traditional agricultural communities and industrialized societies now growing up, where more elaborate provision might be required. Again, provisions which had developed gradually over a considerable period of time in the metropolitan countries could hardly be introduced in a single operation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Governments wishing to introduce social security systems should see to it that they reflected permanent taxable capacity and not a temporary increase in that capacity. Finally, the necessary action covered a very wide field, as social measures ranged from old age pensions, public assistance, unemployment and sickness benefits to health services and child welfare schemes.

As the representative of India had pointed out, in some of the Territories administered by the United Kingdom there was a severe means test for beneficiaries under old age pension schemes. That was because the schemes were non-contributory in character. It was a matter of providing relief in a form which would have to be continued even when contributory schemes had been introduced. Brunei was

(Mr. Chinn, United Kingdom)

in a particularly fortunate position, but there were also public assistance schemes in Mauritius, Trinidad and the Bahamas. All Territories under United Kingdom administration with large urban populations made some provision for temporary relief from distress. In some cases, as in Singapore and Hong Kong, such measures were supplemented by the work of voluntary organizations. In addition, all governments had pension or provident fund schemes for their employees. The Singapore Central Provident Fund was a fund administered by a board consisting of representatives of employers, employees and the Government. All employees were required to contribute to the Fund, unless they were already covered by some other scheme, and the employers also contributed. In Cyprus and Gibraltar, part of a comprehensive scheme had already been introduced. The difficulties were greater in the less industrialized Territories, particularly in those parts of Africa where the economic and social structure was in the transitional stage, and in Territories which still had an agricultural economy. In all such Territories, social security would at the outset affect those urban areas where there was already a relatively stable labour force entirely dependent on wages.

The most important first step was to ensure a stable and satisfactory family life through the payment of adequate wages and the development of social services. That was the policy followed in most of the Territories administered by the United Kingdom, while the authorities were making preparations for more comprehensive schemes to be introduced when the economy of the countries and the structure of society made it possible to do so.

The use of family allowances to adjust wages to meet family responsibilities presented both advantages and disadvantages which it would be profitless to discuss unless agreement could be reached on the purpose of family allowances. In the United Kingdom, the payment of such allowances had no relation to wage structure. The Falkland Islands followed the United Kingdom practice of paying a flat rate family allowance for each child after the first. A number of United Kingdom Territories provided statutory maternity grants for working women.

He assured the Committee that the Territories under United Kingdom administration were well aware of the need to provide services for the stabilization of family life. Social security schemes had already been introduced in a few of the more economically developed Territories and would undoubtedly be extended to most Territories in the future.

(Mr. Chinn, United Kingdom)

But they would only be a part of the Social Services. The assumption that the welfare of the family could be assured solely by State aid in the form of grants should be avoided. Such an interpretation of Social Security might undermine the basis of community life and prevent the growth of a sense of public service without which a stable urban community could not be established.

Mr. POURCHEL (France) brought up the question of rural development in French overseas territories. The first attempt at collective organization of agricultural production had been the creation of provident societies in 1910; the main drawback of the system was that the peasants had not participated wholeheartedly in the activity of those societies. A proposal in 1951 for a reform had led to the creation of mutual societies for rural production, with a view to bringing the economic development of the rural areas into line with political developments. A system of elections ensured that the peasants were represented in such societies. An elected assembly, composed of persons interested in the societies' activities, nominated a certain number of representatives to the administrative board, which also included technical specialists, circonscription chiefs and territorial advisors. To ensure unity of action, a director was appointed to the society for four years by the Governor, with the approval of the administrative board.

The mutual societies encouraged the creation of co-operative groups which like individuals could belong to a society and were represented on the administrative board. The activities of the societies had three aims - loan facilities, increased production, and disposal of products. They induced the peasants to take an interest in economic problems to which they were unaccustomed owing to their strictly family type of economy. They brought a sense of fellowship and co-operation and were a means of educating the rural population and adapting it to its environment, while at the same time co-ordinating the rural economy as a whole.

Loans to farmers were another inducement to co-operation; government or social credit associations made loans to small businesses which until then had not been able to obtain bank loans. The provident and mutual societies could also call upon such services.

(Mr. Pourchel, France)

The aim in all instances was not merely to bring about technical modernization and improve farming methods, but also to promote the advancement of the rural populations through education and organization. In French Equatorial Africa, such experiments had since 1953 been called by the generic name of "paysannat", a term which covered all action, including technical and administrative establishment, designed to give the farmer stability and induce him to stay on his land. Thirty such paysannats had been created since 1953 in French Equatorial Africa.

In Madagascar "rural indigenous communities" (Collectivités autochtones rurales - CAR) had been set up by the Decree of 7 June 1950. The CAR, a body with legal status and its own financial resources, was developing within the traditional framework of the Fokonolona, represented by a Council of Notables elected by universal suffrage. One hundred and thirty-seven CARs had been set up in Madagascar since 1950. In addition, the Decree of 8 October 1951 had established in Madagascar the supreme paysannat Council (Conseil supérieur de paysannat - CSP) and its administrative organ, the Centrale d'équipement agricole et de modernisation du paysannat (CEAMP). Indigenous rural communities could receive assistance from CEAMP in carrying out any programme first approved by the CSP. They could then conclude an agreement with CEAMP defining the nature of the work to be done, the time schedule and the means of execution; they were then given the name (Collectivités autochtones rurales modernisées - CRAM) of modernized rural indigenous communities. Under the provisions of FIDES, the CRAMs had received over 383 million francs CFA for the execution of agricultural development programmes approved by the CSP. Thirty-nine CRAMs had been created in that manner in Madagascar since 1951.

In order to extend as quickly as possible the benefit of appropriate forms of technical assistance to the bulk of the peasant population in Madagascar, local administrative authorities had seen fit to institute "community groups". He gave the Committee details of the role and structure of those bodies. With the help of credits opened with the local branch of FIDES in Madagascar fifty-four such community groups had been started, and it was hoped that before the end of the fourth four-year plan the number would increase to seventy-seven.

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(Mr. Fourchel, France)

Alongside those developments in the French overseas territories, the Fund for rural equipment and economic and social development (FERDES) was performing an important function. Its aim was to improve the conditions of the indigenous peasant by transforming the environment in which he worked and lived. FERDES was based on the principle of collaboration between the local communities and the administration. The initiative rested with the community in deciding on the work to be done, and the community partly financed it, either in cash or in kind by the contribution of labour and of local materials. Any work undertaken, however, had to be directly aimed at land betterment (irrigation, drainage, clearing, terracing, erosion control, action to combat noxious insects, etc.); the improvement of living conditions of rural populations (construction of dams, laying of water supply lines, well-digging, water sterilization, malaria control, improvement of rural dwellings, electricity supply in the villages, etc.); the construction of buildings to be used for collective purposes by the rural area (barns, silos, storehouses and depots, cattle sheds, rural markets, schools, dispensaries, etc.); the installation of facilities for collective processing of products (drying areas, fermentation vats, factories for processing agricultural, forestry and live-stock products, etc.); or the construction of country roads (new or improved routes to and from rural export centres).

He went on to give the Committee detailed indications of the procedure followed in the execution of the various projects, under which 26,000 hectares of land had been improved; more than 600 wells had been dug; about 200 dams, reservoirs or water supply networks had been constructed and nearly 250 storehouses or silos, seventy-one markets, fifty-two schools and thirty-seven dispensaries had been built. Over a hundred miscellaneous projects had been executed and about 2,500 kilometres of road or track had been improved, with bridges and similar constructions at about one hundred different points. But it was not only such tangible results that made FERDES a remarkable institution. The influence it exercised on the social environment showed it to be a factor in social evolution more than an instrument for rural equipment. It had in fact been decided that after completion the constructions would become the property of the community, which would then be responsible for their proper functioning and

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(Mr. Pourchel, France)

maintenance. The community was thus considered as a responsible body. It would acquire a sense of its social function and it would have to take over the management of community property - which would involve some little organization and hence the growth of a sense of real community spirit.

Finally, he gave the Committee some figures concerning the amount of French investment for rural economy in the overseas territories from 1946 to 1957. The total amount invested by metropolitan France over that period was 148.151 million francs.

Mr. DURAISWAMY (Ceylon) complimented the Secretariat for the excellent report it had prepared on juvenile delinquency in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.35/L.270), and he thanked the experts of the French and United Kingdom delegations for the supplementary information they had given the Committee with regard to juvenile delinquency and the measures adopted by their respective Governments for the treatment of juvenile delinquents.

The Ceylonese delegation was happy to note that, according to the conclusions of the Secretariat's report, there was in nearly all Non-Self-Governing Territories a strong movement away from orthodox methods of dealing with juvenile delinquents and that educational methods aiming at social rehabilitation had taken or were taking the place of punitive methods. However, his delegation, together with the Guatemalan delegation, hoped that the Administering Powers would in the future provide more complete statistical information so that the Committee could better evaluate the progress achieved in the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

His delegation was also happy to note the assurance given by the representative of the United Kingdom that in the British territories neither expulsion nor deportation was resorted to against juvenile delinquents. It regretted, however, that corporal punishment was still used in those territories, although it had been abolished in the United Kingdom in 1948.

(Mr. Duraiswamy, Ceylon)

According to the table on page 11 of the Secretariat's report, there had been an increase not only in the total number of persons (adults and non-adults) convicted since 1945 but, in certain Territories, also in the total number of juveniles convicted. It was stated in paragraph 12 of the Secretariat's report that the increase in the number of juveniles convicted was in part due to the fact that changes had occurred in law enforcement in many Non-Self-Governing Territories and that the growth of welfare services and the increasing size of the police forces had probably resulted in a general tendency towards a stricter enforcement of the law in regard to juveniles, with a consequent increase in the proportion of juvenile offenders brought before the courts. His delegation nevertheless agreed with the statement in paragraph 89 of the report that the various measures for the control and prevention of juvenile delinquency might in the long run fall short of their purpose unless they were established as an integral part of a broad social programme aimed through a variety of social and economic measures at the strengthening of the family as the basic unit of society and at the creation of conditions which would hasten and facilitate the evolution of the impermanent and badly-integrated urban structures of the present transitional stage into stable and progressive urban communities.

Earlier, at the last session of the Committee, his delegation had stated that while industrialization brought about some material improvements, it frequently resulted in an acute social crisis affecting the well-being of rural and urban groups, and even impeded further development. Juvenile delinquency was only one aspect of that social crisis, whose causes, to name only a few, were inadequate wages, lack of social security, lack of proper education, and discriminatory practices. As rightly stated in the conclusion of the Secretariat report, the problem of juvenile delinquency was not a choice between two policies but the integration into a single programme of the two aspects of prevention and cure.

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Mr. PAYRO (International Labour Organisation) recalled that the Committee had been informed that the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation had authorized the International Labour Office to undertake a comprehensive survey of labour and social conditions in Africa. A draft of the survey had been laid before the Committee of Experts on Social Policy in Non-Metropolitan Territories at its fifth session in December 1957. With the aid of the information which it had itself gathered and of the observations made by the United Nations, and in particular the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and by the relevant specialized agencies, the ILO was now able to put the finishing touches on the African Labour Survey, which would be published as soon as possible. The survey had a three-fold purpose: first, to be a point of departure for the future work of the ILO in Africa; secondly, to provide government departments and employers' and workers' organizations in African territories with fuller information, of which they had increasing need, concerning the manner in which problems of common concern in the various territories of that continent were being dealt with; and thirdly, to contribute to the understanding of the social and labour problems of Africa.

The Governing Body, at its 138th session held in March, had taken the initiative in two other ways. The first was the provision in the ILO budget for 1959 of funds for the establishment of an African Field Office. The second was a proposal to set up an African Advisory Committee which would advise the Governing Body on African problems and on African aspects of general problems. The African Advisory Committee might determine, in the light of the survey mentioned above, what action should be taken in furtherance of the objectives of the ILO.

With regard to the document on family earnings in urban industrial areas, prepared by the ILO (A/AC.35/L.282), and to the problem of family change in those areas, he drew attention to the changing position of the wife as economic unit in the family. In the Non-Self-Governing Territories the following situations might be found: the support of the family might be assured not only by the husband's wages but also by the work of the wife in the family agricultural holding or in trading activities; the husband, according to the custom of the locality, might still feel no obligation to contribute by his wages to the upkeep of his wife and the rest of the family; if the wife accompanied her husband to the town, circumstances might rapidly force him to assure support of his wife and

(Mr. Payro, ILO)

family in the same way as in industrialized societies in Western countries; frequently the existing wage patterns made it impossible to meet the new situation and therefore the worker found himself unable to meet his family obligations. He had drawn the attention of the Committee to those different situations primarily in order to point out the necessity for further study of the developing position of women in the employment field in Non-Self-Governing Territories. That was a matter to which the Committee of Experts on Social Policy in Non-Metropolitan Territories, at a recent meeting, had directed the attention of the ILO and to which the African Advisory Committee would no doubt give consideration in due course.

Turning next to race relations, he quoted the statements made by the Committee of Experts. The general tenor was that if social development was not to involve conflict between the different elements of the community, measures must be taken to end discrimination, especially in the fields of labour and social policy. In that respect, the role of the ILO was to encourage mutual understanding as the basis on which voluntary acceptance of the principle of non-discrimination and the social progress of the African Territories depended. The Committee of Experts had drawn attention to the proposals which would be considered by the International Labour Conference in 1958 concerning the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation. The practical aspects of those proposals called for a sustained effort on the part of the ILO, particularly in connexion with training and the improvement of human relations in industry-fields in which the ILO had considerable experience. The Committee on Information could rest assured that the ILO was giving the issue of race relations all the attention desired and that it would undoubtedly give further study to that problem in so far as the African territories were concerned.

It was encouraging that social security was being given particular attention in Africa. No general plan in that field could be prescribed, but achievements in some territories encouraged hope for others. Among those achievements were the improvement in the systems of workmen's compensation in the territories under French administration, the system of family allowances introduced in those territories and in the Belgian Congo, and the system of old-age pensions financed by contributions from the Government, employers and workers in the Belgian Congo.

Sickness insurance was a relatively recent development in Africa, and, in the view of the Committee of Experts, considerable time would probably elapse before any large section of the population could be covered by it. Meanwhile, according to the Committee, contributory sickness insurance schemes might be established to cover the total or particular categories of workers, or particular areas. As an initial measure, employers might be required by law to pay full wages to employees in case of illness, and that obligation would extend over a limited period which might depend on the length of the employee's services and other conditions.

In conclusion, he said a few words about the application of international labour conventions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The average number of conventions that were fully applied to the Non-Self-Governing Territories was sixteen, a figure which, if the Western European Member States were left out of account, was very near the average number of ratifications for each Member State, which was seventeen. He was pleased to note that solid progress had been achieved and hoped that such progress would be clearly shown in the ten-year report on progress in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that was to be submitted to the General Assembly in 1959.

Mr. JAIPAL (India) said that the United Kingdom delegation had rightly stressed the importance of rural development. He agreed with the United States delegation that the social policy of Non-Self-Governing Territories should be based on the people's needs and aspirations. He hoped that when the Committee came to draft the report on social conditions, it would keep in mind the impact made by community development methods on rural development.

He was disappointed that only two studies on rural development had been prepared. Those two documents were very valuable, but they did not treat the problem of rural development in all its aspects. For example, the questions of co-operative movements and community development were dealt with in only eight paragraphs of document A/AC.35/L.248. Community development was, however, studied at far greater length, in connexion with general social conditions, in document A/AC.35/L.274.

(Mr. Jaipal, India)

With respect to the Secretariat's report on peasant societies in transition (A/AC.35/L.248), he noted with satisfaction that paragraph 8 recognized that agricultural development was a prerequisite to development in all other directions. In paragraph 107 the pertinent point was made that any new methods must have been proved in conditions which were familiar to the peasant and which he could imitate with the means at his disposal. It was clear that today any movement in order to succeed must be based on popular support and be led by the people's representatives.

The co-operative movement, which was based on that principle, had made notable progress in many territories but appeared to be confined largely to rural credit and the marketing of products. In Asian territories, however, there were multipurpose co-operatives which were effective instruments of social policy.

It was the community development programmes which had attracted the most attention by their dynamism and imaginative approach. There was a direct connexion between community development and the growth of local government, for both educated the people in the theory and practice of democracy. An ideal situation was one where representatives of local government institutions were in a position to formulate and implement community development policies and programmes designed to provide the services needed by the people. In such a situation the key figure was, of course, the local leader, and the success of the experiment often depended on his qualities of leadership. In many British territories community development was regarded as an integral part of national development programmes. In French territories the movement, which had begun as part of the fundamental education programmes, had now been extended into other fields. Those were encouraging developments, but it would be interesting to know more about the results that had been achieved. It would, of course, be wrong to expect too much, for the movement itself was in its initial stage. Little progress had been made in rural housing, for example, except in certain parts of areas administered by France and Belgium. That problem created countless difficulties, but it was sufficiently important to warrant the attention of a separate department of the local Administration.

(Mr. Jaipal, India)

Some lessons could perhaps be learned from India's five years of experience in the field of community development. It was interesting to note, firstly, that workers at the village level were being asked to devote almost all their time and attention to agricultural development, for the Indian Government was convinced that national development depended primarily on agricultural development. Secondly, the various development blocks were being developed as self-sufficient administrative units and each family was assigned a special target, which aroused the people's interest. Thirdly, frequent reviews of the results obtained were undertaken, and the workers and leaders joined in investigating the reasons for success or failure. Such reviews had shown that where community development programmes had failed, the people had not been associated with their execution; they had also shown that in that field the power should be exercised and the machinery operated by popular representatives. The African territories might profit by that experience, although the techniques used in those territories differed considerably from those applied in India. He was aware that in Africa the tribal system called for the application of suitable methods.

Turning to the Secretariat report on indigenous land tenure (A/AC.35/L.268), he said that the members of the Committee were familiar with his delegation's views on land tenure, land utilization and alienation; he would therefore confine himself to a few remarks. The FAO representative had already pointed out that in many territories the land was the very basis of indigenous society. The Secretariat also stated, in paragraph 19 of its report, that there was a relative lack of interest in land as a commodity, and that land had a broader function. Naturally, since the land had no commercial value, great difficulties arose not only in regard to its disposal but also in regard to its utilization.

The greatest possible care should therefore be taken in determining what authorities were entitled to establish land rights. The Secretariat report pointed out that according to circumstances the authority could be the tribe, the clan, the extended family or, in some cases, the village community itself. In practice it was often the traditional chief or the council of elders which made decisions on land rights. Some Administering Powers had obtained the consent

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(Mr. Jaipal, India)

of the traditional leaders in regard to land disposal sometimes with consequent hardship for certain sectors of the group. That was evidence of the unsatisfactory situation regarding recognition of indigenous rights to land. As indicated in paragraph 41 of the Secretariat report, a condition should be created in which those rights would be respected as a matter of law instead as a matter of policy.

With respect to vacant land, it was usually assumed that such land could be acquired by non-indigenous interests or by Governments; that was a dangerous concept. There again, policies varied considerably; in the Belgian Congo all objects without owners belonged to the Colony, while in Papua all unalienated land was presumed to be indigenous land. As a result of an erroneous conception of indigenous practices, there had been a substantial amount of land alienation in African territories. An interesting table appeared on page 13 of the report, but the information it contained was inadequate, for it did not relate the proportion of alienated land held by non-indigenous inhabitants to the total area of arable land. The Committee should suggest that the Administering Powers exercise extreme caution in undertaking further alienations of land, since all possible measures should be taken to safeguard the future interests of the rapidly growing indigenous population.

On the question of land tenure, the Indian delegation had no firm views on the controversy between corporate land tenure versus individual tenure. The FAO representative had said that the land tenure conflict was a conflict between traditional rights and the needs of progressive agriculture. The Indian delegation would like the FAO representative to expand on that remark. He drew attention to paragraph 79 of the report, which stressed the social advantages of a system of corporate land tenure, and to paragraph 64, which stated that in American Samoa there was no formal individualization of property and the lands were retained in the hands of the Samoan families.

In conclusion, he said that in the Non-Self-Governing Territories the indigenous population was a particularly vulnerable social group and that the greatest care must be exercised in changing its traditions in regard to the land, which was the very basis of its life. The introduction of indigenous tenures,

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(Mr. Jaipal, India)

however great their advantages might be, should be effected in Non-Self-Governing Territories with a high degree of flexibility and without prejudice to the interests of the community as a whole.

Mr. KUNST (Secretary of the Committee), in reply to the Indian representative's observations on the paucity of documents on rural development, said that when the Committee had studied its programme of work for 1957 its Secretary had pointed out that the subjects under agenda item 4 would be taken up in the general report on the progress of the Non-Self-Governing Territories which the Secretariat would submit to the General Assembly in 1959. With regard to the co-operative movement, according to document A/AC.35/L.285 the ILO was to prepare a study on co-operative societies for inclusion in that report.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.