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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Ninth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Monday, 5 May 1958, at 10.44 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. PAYRO	International Labour Organisation
Mr. ORR	Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. COHEN	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self- Governing Territories
	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN RESPECT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS (A/AC.35/L.272, A/AC.35/L.276, A/AC.35/L.283, A/AC.35/L.287, A/AC.35/L.288) (continued)

Mr. DURAISWAMY (Ceylon) thanked the Secretariat for its interesting report on international technical assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.35/L.283). The information in the report would help the Committee to form a more accurate idea of the assistance given to Non-Self-Governing Territories and consequently better to appraise the information transmitted by the Administering Members.

It appeared from the Secretariat's report that the Non-Self-Governing Territories would receive a smaller percentage of the global assistance programme in 1958 than they had received in 1957. As far as fellowships were concerned, his delegation noted with regret that the number awarded to Non-Self-Governing Territories in 1958 would represent 0.5 per cent of the global total compared with 4.3 per cent in 1956. The actual number of fellowships awarded to Non-Self-Governing Territories had decreased from ninety-three in 1956 to twenty in 1957 and only eleven had been approved for 1958. It was to be hoped that the Administering Members would take greater advantage of that particularly vital form of technical assistance.

The Committee had repeatedly stressed the importance of integrating technical assistance projects with long-term development programmes. To enable such a process of integration to be put into effect it was essential that the Administering Members should draw up a complete inventory of the natural resources of the Territories. For that purpose they should have recourse to the technical experts on the staffs of the specialized agencies, whose advice would also be useful to them subsequently in working out general plans for the development of the Territories. The final objective of international technical assistance was to enable a country or a territory to assume responsibility for its own development. In the case of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that assistance supplemented the help given by the territorial Governments and the metropolitan countries. His delegation felt that the technical assistance granted to the Non-Self-Governing Territories should not be limited to certain activities, such as malaria and tuberculosis control, but should be of sufficient scope to enable

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the Territories to draw up long-term programmes and establish services capable of functioning on their own in the future. It wished to reiterate the hope that the Administering Members would to the greatest possible extent seek international technical assistance or any other form of assistance that would benefit the Territories under their administration and that they would transmit to the Secretary-General detailed information on the steps taken by them in that connexion.

Lastly, he expressed his appreciation of the useful reports the specialized agencies and UNICEF had submitted on the item under discussion.

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN PURSUANCE OF CHAPTER XI OF THE CHARTER (A/AC.35/L.285)

Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary) drew the Committee's attention to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Secretary-General's report (A/AC.35/L.285), in which the anticipated length of the documentation that was to comprise the three parts of the report on the progress achieved in the Non-Self-Governing Territories was indicated, and to the table at the end of the report, which showed the anticipated length of the various special studies. As the Committee would note, those estimates somewhat exceeded the general suggestions set forth in paragraph 17 of the report (A/3196) which the Secretary-General had submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 932 (X). For several years the General Assembly had been stressing the need to limit documentation and it was the Secretariat's duty to try to keep the material intended for incorporation in the report within reasonable limits. The Secretariat would not, however, lose sight of the fact that the report requested by the General Assembly must provide a complete picture of economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories and in drawing up that report it would bear in mind the considerations set forth in General Assembly resolution 1053 (XI) and the plan approved by the Assembly in 1956.

Mr. JAIPAL (India) recalled that the report requested by the General Assembly on the progress of the Non-Self-Governing Territories pursuant to Chapter XI of the Charter was to consist of a first section made up of a set of summaries of information transmitted by the Administering Members since the

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establishment of the United Nations, and two other sections, namely, a general survey and a substantive section containing studies prepared by the specialized agencies and the Secretariat. Since the Committee would have before it in 1959 the first section containing information covering a period of ten years rather than three, his delegation saw no reason why the Committee should not make use of that information when examining conditions in the Territories. His delegation agreed that the two other sections would go directly to the General Assembly. From the Secretary-General's report (A/AC.35/L.285) it would appear that the report on the progress of the Non-Self-Governing Territories would be transmitted by the General Assembly to the Committee for its consideration. That, however, was at most, a premature supposition, since it was for the General Assembly alone to decide what action was to be taken. Furthermore, the Secretary-General's report had been submitted to the Committee because General Assembly resolution 1053 (XI) invited the Secretary-General to keep the Committee regularly informed of the progress of the report provided for in that resolution. The Committee was not, therefore, called upon to take any decision on the report, but could only take note of it.

In resolution 1053 (XI) the General Assembly had invited the Administering Members to include in the information regularly transmitted by them under Article 73 e of the Charter such information as might be practicable for the preparation of the report, including a survey of the principles and practical measures showing general trends in the Territories. The Secretariat could perhaps tell the Committee whether the Administering Members had responded to that invitation by the General Assembly.

Mr. KUNST (Secretary of the Committee) said that he was not able to give any detailed information on that point but could state that some Administering Members had offered to assist the Secretariat in preparing the statistics which were to appear in the report.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand) agreed with the representative of India that the Committee was not called upon to take any decision on the present report by the Secretariat. He recalled that the Secretary-General had been invited to prepare the report in order to make available for wide distribution an objective record of progress in the Non-Self-Governing Territories which would be more readable than the annual summaries and analyses. He therefore had certain reservations with

(Mr. Thorp, New Zealand)

regard to the second part of paragraph 11 (b), on future action to be taken by the General Assembly, of the Secretary-General's report (A/AC.35/L.285).

Mr. CASTRO ALVES (Brazil) endorsed the principle of a long report showing the progress achieved in the Non-Self-Governing Territories since the establishment of the United Nations and found the plan of work outlined in paragraph 11 of document A/AC.35/L.285 satisfactory. He reserved the right to speak again later on the subject.

His delegation had studied the draft resolution submitted by the representatives of Ceylon, India and the United States (A/AC.35/L.289) and was in favour of the Committee continuing for a further period of three years.

In reply to a question by Mr. THORP (New Zealand), Mr. KUNST (Secretary of the Committee) said that the document which was to be submitted to the Committee for its consideration in 1959 would consist of a set of summaries of information received during the period which had elapsed since the establishment of the United Nations. The two other sections of the report, namely the general section and the substantive section, would be submitted direct to the General Assembly and not to the Committee.

Mr. YANG (China), too, was of the opinion that the Committee was not called upon to comment on the Secretariat report or to take any decision upon it. He thought it would be useful for the Committee to examine the summaries mentioned in paragraph 11 (a) of the report (A/AC.35/L.285) but he reserved his delegation's position in regard to paragraph 11 (b), since the Committee was not called upon to make recommendations to the General Assembly on the report which would be submitted to that body.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) thought that in its report the Committee might with advantage express the hope that the report to be prepared by the Secretariat would be less voluminous than paragraph 7 of document A/AC.35/L.285 anticipated; indeed, a document of more than 2,000 pages was not likely to arouse very wide interest.

Mr. KELLY (Australia) asked whether the Indian delegation was proposing that the end of paragraph 11 (b) of document A/AC.35/L.285, after the words "fourteenth session" should be deleted.

Mr. JAIPAL (India) pointed out that the item in question was a report by the Secretary-General and it was not for the Committee to advise the Secretary-General on the preparation of his reports. The General Assembly had give him clear instructions and had only asked that the Committee should be kept informed of the progress of the report.

Mr. KUNST (Secretary of the Committee) explained that, as paragraph 15 of document A/3196 made clear, the Committee was authorized to co-operate with the Administering Members and the Secretariat in the preparation of the studies in question. Furthermore, it had been felt that the Committee's suggestions would be of assistance to the Secretariat.

Mr. JAIPAL (India) thanked the Secretary of the Committee for his explanation but reaffirmed his opinion that the Committee should not try to impose its views on the General Assembly. The Secretary-General was expected to carry out the instructions of the General Assembly without any advice from the Committee, which, in any case, was not authorized to give such advice.

Mr. KITTANI (Iraq) agreed with the representative of India that the Committee was not competent to consider the report of the Secretary-General. In his opinion, the Committee should leave it to the General Assembly to take whatever decision was necessary on the question.

Mr. LURAI SWAMY (Ceylon) shared the opinion of the delegation of Iraq and added that it was not for the Committee to take any decision regarding the length of a report prepared in pursuance of a General Assembly resolution.

The CHAIRMAN said it was his understanding that the Committee wished merely to take note of the report of the Secretary-General.

#### QUESTION OF THE RENEWAL OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/AC.35/L.289)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft resolution submitted by Ceylon, India and the United States (A/AC.35/L.289).

Mr. SEARS (United States of America) said that he was happy to be associated with India and Ceylon as a sponsor of the draft resolution in document A/AC.35/L.289. He observed that the atmosphere was more favourable to the renewal of the Committee than it had been three years ago and he hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without opposition or difficulties.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) asked that the draft resolution should be put to the vote.

The draft resolution was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) said that his abstention did not imply any change of attitude on the part of his Government. Chapter XI of the Charter contained a declaration by Members who administered Non-Self-Governing Territories that they accepted certain general obligations in regard to their policies in those Territories. They also accepted one specific obligation: to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General, for information purposes, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories. The Charter conferred no right upon the United Nations to consider or to discuss the information transmitted, and the Government of the United Kingdom could therefore see no constitutional foundation for the existence of the Committee. It was in order to reserve its position until the General Assembly was called upon to take a decision on the question that his delegation had abstained instead of voting against the draft resolution proposing the continuation of the Committee on the same basis as at present.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) said that the sponsors of the draft resolution were aware of the French reservations on that issue, which had already been stated by Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet. He would not, therefore, enlarge upon the subject.

Mr. KELLY (Australia) recalled that Australia, without prejudice to its rights under the Charter and as an act of international courtesy, had fully co-operated in the work of the Committee. He added that he had abstained from voting on the draft resolution and reserved his delegation's right to reconsider its position when the question came before the General Assembly.

Mr. JAIPAL (India) said that he had voted in favour of the draft resolution because the authority of the Committee derived from the Charter itself. The abstention of Australia, France and the United Kingdom showed that those countries would continue to take part in the Committee's work and he thanked them for adopting that attitude.

Mr. URRUTIA APARICIO (Guatemala) said that he had voted in favour of the draft resolution because he thought that the Committee should continue its work and even become permanent.



Mr. DURAISWAMY (Ceylon) said that his country had always looked upon the Committee as fully competent to consider the information transmitted by the Administering Powers. His delegation had made its attitude known on many occasions, in particular in its statement at the beginning of the session.

Mr. YANG (China) said that the Committee's usefulness had been generally recognized. At recent sessions of both the Committee itself and the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, many Members had emphasized the harmonious and co-operative spirit which had permeated its proceedings. As regards the draft resolution which had just been adopted, he thought that it had been submitted in a spirit of harmony and co-operation. It was in that spirit that his delegation had voted in its favour.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.