

UNITED NATIONS

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A/AC.35/SR.256
15 August 1962

1962

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Thirteenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 11 May 1962, at 3.25 p.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. MALALASEKERA	(Ceylon)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. ROS	Argentina
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. HOOD	Australia
	Mr. de COSTA	Ceylon
	Mr. VALENCIA	Ecuador
	Mr. de CAMARET	France
	Mr. EASTMAN	Liberia
	Mr. CALVILLO	Mexico
	Mr. GOEDHART)	Netherlands
	Mr. JOUWE)	
	Mr. HENSLEY	New Zealand
	Mr. KIBRIA	Pakistan
	Mr. CALINGASAN	Philippines
	Mr. PEREZ RUIZ	Spain
	Mr. SANKEY	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. POPPER	United States of America
	Mr. ILBOUDO	Upper Volta

Representatives of specialized agencies:

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

Dr. SACKS) Mrs. KALM)	World Health Organization
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<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. PROTITCH	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self- Governing Territories
	Mr. CHU	Secretary of the Committee

ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/4371, A/5078 and Add.1-6, A/5079 and Add.2, A/5080 and Add.1, 5, 7, 9, 18 and 19, A/5081 and Add.2; A/AC.35/L.353, L.354, L.360) (continued)

SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/4371, A/4785, A/5078 and Add.1-6, A/5079 and Add.2, A/5080 and Add.5, 7, 9, 18 and 19, A/5081 and Add.2; A/AC.35/L.353, L.354, L.360) (continued)

Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that at the present session his delegation had much information concerning economic and social development in Papua which it considered to be of special interest and value. In order to save the Committee's time, however, he would speak only on the subject of economic advancement and would circulate the information concerning social advancement in written form.

To survive and prosper in the twentieth century nations must trade. That need was particularly vital for countries such as Papua and New Guinea, which until recent times had been bypassed by the main currents of European civilization. The concept of trade was not new to the people of the Territory; for centuries the islanders had traded with the coastal people, the coastal people with those of the hinterland and vice versa. Such had been the pattern of the Territory's primitive economy until shortly after the middle of the nineteenth century, and it was still the same in some areas.

Basically Papua and New Guinea were agricultural countries and the indigenous people were subsistence farmers. Individual families had usufructuary rights to land vested in the clan. Certain tasks, such as the fencing of gardens or the building of houses, were organized on a communal basis. The main task, however, that of providing food, was the responsibility of the individual family unit. In some areas the indigenous inhabitants had sought to emulate their European settler neighbours and had established plantations of cash crops. In other areas, encouraged by Government officers, they had cultivated coco-nuts, cocoa or coffee and were thus participating in what was for them a new concept of trade. That aspect of economic development had resulted in the value of exports being trebled over the past ten years. The output of the coco-nut industry had nearly doubled, that of rubber had nearly trebled and there had been spectacular developments in the relatively newly established industries of timber,

(Mr. Hood, Australia)

coffee, and cocoa. The Papuan people already produced about one quarter of all copra and coco-nut and one third of all coffee exported, but they could and must contribute much more to the development of the Territory's economy.

There were several reasons why they had been so slow in doing so. Firstly, the Papuan as a subsistence cultivator was generally satisfied with his lot. There was no shortage of productive land and while the produce grown might not be of a high nutritional value or of great variety, it was adequate in quantity. Famine was unknown and hunger was rare. The Papuan's wants were few and his tastes simple; if he required a few shillings for a blanket or a cooking pot he would sell some of his surplus produce to a nearby Government station or at the town market, or he might seek employment for a time. There had never been any desire or any need to work really hard. It had been estimated that the subsistence farmer in Papua did no more than eight to twelve hours of work a week. Poor nutrition and poor health were other reasons for the slow rate of development. Poor nutrition could be overcome by educating the farmer to improve his subsistence crops and thus his basic diet or by encouraging him to plant cash crops in order to increase his buying power and thus to purchase better foods than he would otherwise be able to afford. First of all, however, the farmer must be taught the benefits of such extra enterprise. To one who was satisfied with the old system, who was rarely hungry, who believed that death was caused not by poor nutrition and poor health but by sorcery and malevolent spirits, who in short had all he wanted, the benefits were not so obvious. With an essentially conservative people the necessary education took time.

Even when the planting of cash crops was desired, the incentive to do so on an economic scale was lacking owing to a complex traditional land tenure system. As he had already stated, land was vested in the clan and the family had usufructuary rights only for planting annual or bi-annual subsistence crops. If the individual wished, for example, to plant coffee on the clan land, the proceeds would have to be shared with all members of the clan and if upon his death he wished to leave his crop of coffee to his son he could not do so. Hence indigenous cash cropping was usually organized on a small marginal basis.

(Mr. Hood, Australia)

Few indigenous entrepreneurs had adopted a complete cash-crop economy. Clearly the land tenure system must be changed to a system whereby individual title could be granted and the producer given the incentive to develop his holdings on an economic basis. That was a task of great magnitude, but it must be done and the Administration was undertaking it with energy. Machinery had been set in process to determine indigenous ownership for particular areas. In view of the constant bickering and disputes among the indigenous inhabitants themselves on the rights to land, that in itself was an immensely difficult and tedious task but a good start had been made in some areas. The target in land development was over 7,500 new blocks for indigenous settlement in the next five years, involving the investigation by the Lands Officers of over a quarter of a million acres. That would provide additional opportunity for indigenous farmers who had no access to suitable land under customary land tenure.

The Government was fully aware that there must be provision of credit facilities to foster indigenous economic development, and it had therefore established a Native Loans Fund. During the financial year 1960-1961 the Native Loans Board had granted loans totalling £41,082 to 111 Papuans and New Guineans. Forty of those loans had been made to Papuan people or organizations and sixty-two loans had been granted to individual settlers to assist in the agricultural development of their leasehold blocks. In other areas the Department of Native Affairs had organized co-operative societies which were developing activities and providing incentives for cash cropping by arranging the marketing of commodities and introducing consumer goods. Changing economic conditions, resulting from rising standards of living and the improving educational level, were leading to increasing appreciation of the value of co-operation and a steadily growing knowledge of societies and co-operative organizations generally.

Those combined efforts had already shown tangible results and over 25 per cent of total agricultural exports were being produced by the indigenous people of Papua and New Guinea, for which they received annual cash incomes totalling about £A3 million.

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(Mr. Hood, Australia)

The problem of improving techniques in cash cropping and hence increasing production was being tackled in two principal ways. Firstly, the Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture was training indigenous extension workers in planting and processing techniques; secondly, farmer training schools had been established and were conducting practical courses relating to cash cropping and animal husbandry, as also the improvement of subsistence cropping. It was hoped to train 1,500 farmers a year and to increase the number of agricultural extension centres in Papua and New Guinea from forty-five to 110 and the number of agricultural colleges from one to four. At the same time both the indigenous and expatriate staff of the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries would be greatly increased.

The economy of the Territory was likely to remain predominantly agricultural for a considerable time to come. Though the level of living of the people was rising, the country was a long way from having a viable economy. The ultimate desideratum was of course that Papua should be not only politically independent and self-governing but also economically independent. That was far from being the case at present; the internal revenue, which in 1961 had been approximately £A8 million, had to be substantially supplemented by a Government interest-free grant, which for 1961-62 had been £A17.3 million.

Clearly the goal of economic independence would never be achieved as long as the economy was based on primary industries alone. In the early stages the Administration's aim had been to raise the output of the indigenous farmer by improving land use and by higher labour efficiency. Now efforts must be made to establish secondary industries. The Australian Government's policy was to encourage secondary industries in the Territory providing that there were reasonable market prospects and that the industry was likely to operate on an economic basis. There were three principal reasons why the establishment of secondary industries was an urgent necessity: such industries would bring about a fuller development of the Territory's resources, they would offer scope for employment, and they could contribute substantially to the creation of a viable

(Mr. Hood, Australia)

economy and help to sustain the services and facilities which the Territory required. Secondary industries already established ranged from large projects requiring much capital and complex techniques to "cottage" industries at the village level. The Department of Trade and Industry had been established for the express purpose of fostering and assisting the development of primary and secondary industries. It would be especially concerned with indigenous undertakings of an economic nature.

Nevertheless, the economy of Papua and New Guinea would have to depend chiefly on agriculture for some years to come. It was anticipated that the increase in the production of both cocoa and coffee between 1961 and 1963 would be 100 per cent, the increase in rubber production between 1961 and 1966 would be about 50 per cent and the increase in the production of sawn timber between 1961 and 1965 would be about 50 per cent. It was also proposed to increase the cattle population, both by importation and breeding, to 50,000 in five years. There was a plan for the distribution of 2,500 cattle for indigenous cattle projects and for the production and distribution of pigs and poultry.

The Australian Government was continually carrying out surveys to determine the potentialities of other industries which might benefit the indigenous people. Two investigations at present under way concerned rattan cane and pyrethrum. The Director of Forestry had recently estimated that the Territory could have a £A100,000 yearly export market for rattan cane.

Economic development was very largely dependent upon communications. It was the Australian Government's policy progressively to increase annual expenditure on the maintenance and construction of roads, bridges, wharves and airfields throughout the Territory. The hazards and difficulties caused by climate and terrain were formidable, but efforts to overcome the obstacles were being vigorously pursued and the programme had resulted in major achievements in recent years.

Mr. CALINGASAN (Philippines) recalled that at its previous session the Committee had paid special attention to the question of social advancement in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Seeing that only a year had passed since that time, no very great improvement could be expected. Nevertheless, on the basis of the summaries of information before the Committee his delegation was happy to commend the Administering Members for the steps they had taken and the plans they had formulated, though the progress achieved in many of the Territories was only a modest beginning and still fell far short of the needs of the people. The plans should be followed through with zeal and a sense of urgency.

The existence of racial discrimination was a serious obstacle to the social advancement of the dependent peoples. Unlike problems which affected only physical well-being, racial discrimination affected the innermost feelings of the people and their outlook on every phase of life. He hoped that the Administering Powers concerned would redouble their efforts to stamp out the practice wherever it still existed in the Territories they administered.

With regard to economic advancement, his delegation noted with regret that most of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were still dependent on the production of a few primary products which to a large extent were generally tied for export trade with the Administering Power. There was not enough diversification and in many of the Territories, as Mr. Jouwe of the Netherlands delegation had pointed out, industrialization was still in the embryonic stage or had barely emerged from it.

Together with the intensification of agricultural and industrial production for export purposes, equal attention should wherever possible be devoted to the attainment of self-sufficiency in the basic necessities of the dependent peoples and particularly in their staple food. In his own country, before the achievement of independence in 1946, agricultural production had been concentrated on exports, while large quantities of rice, the staple food of the people, had had to be imported. Since the achievement of independence his Government had made efforts to attain self-sufficiency in that basic crop, but some time had been

(Mr. Calingasan, Philippines)

required to solve the problem. One of the important means of aiding the dependent peoples to emerge into independence in the best possible conditions was to help them in the attainment of self-sufficiency in their staple food.

Mr. VALENCIA (Ecuador) observed that economic conditions in most of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were similar to those in under-developed independent countries. His own country was among the latter and was therefore in a position to understand the economic problems confronting the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Like many of the under-developed countries, the Non-Self-Governing Territories, whose one-commodity economies made them dependent on the international market for a single product, suffered from the effects of the instability of primary commodity prices, which had been steadily declining in recent years. Except for a few cases in which a fair and reasonable price had been assured by contract, those prices were imposed by the buyers, who sought to defend only their own interests without concern for the situation of the producing countries. Moreover, agriculture was by its very nature subject to factors which could not be anticipated or controlled. As a result of the combination of those two circumstances, countries or Territories with one-commodity economies could never be sure what their revenues in a given year would be.

In the Non-Self-Governing Territories the population was steadily increasing and the spread of education, although slow, was stimulating a demand for better living conditions while at the same time the Governments had proportionally less money with which to meet that demand. Thus poverty increased and an atmosphere of tension and discontent was engendered. In that situation, the Administering Powers had to resort to the expedient of increasing their subsidies to the Governments of Territories whose natural resources would enable them to support themselves if they were duly exploited. The solution would seem to lie in the effective expansion of the economies of those Territories on the basis of carefully worked out, integrated development plans taking into account the particular circumstances prevailing in each case. Such plans should include the

(Mr. Valencia, Ecuador)

search for new sources of wealth in the Territories concerned. For example, little had been done to develop the mineral wealth of most of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and even in those where mining was an important industry it was usually based on a single mineral resource. Another factor which was hampering the development of agriculture, mining and industry was the lack of adequate communications. Industry in the Non-Self-Governing Territories was, indeed, practically non-existent. It was true that a few small manufacturing industries had been established, but industry would have to be developed on a broader scale if there was to be a break in the vicious circle constituted by the exportation of raw materials to obtain the foreign exchange with which to import the finished products manufactured from those same raw materials. It was, of course, difficult to industrialize countries where the population was too small and its needs still too limited to justify the establishment of large industries. Even in such cases, however, a study could be made of ways to integrate the economy with that of neighbouring countries or Territories.

Although much had been done to bring about a fairer distribution of land, a thorough study of the problem of land tenure was required in many Territories and a far-reaching land reform programme designed to enable the indigenous inhabitants to acquire ownership of land should be introduced. More thought should be given to the possibility of establishing banks or credit institutions for the development of agriculture. At the same time the indigenous inhabitants should be encouraged to form consumer, agricultural and industrial co-operatives.

As far as public finances were concerned, the Administering Powers would obviously have to continue their subsidies to certain Territories but they should do everything they could to promote the integrated development which would enable those Territories to become self-sufficient.

The inadequacy of the available economic resources was reflected in the slow pace of social advancement in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In some Territories, for example, social security programmes were entirely lacking. A serious obstacle to social advancement was racial discrimination, whether legally sanctioned or existing simply as a long-established custom. He recognized, of course, that the problem was a difficult one inasmuch as the inhabitants of the Territories themselves were in some cases opposed to integration, failing to realize that it would contribute to their own social advancement. His delegation

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whole-heartedly welcomed the statement made at a recent meeting that the United Kingdom Government was opposed to all forms of racial discrimination and was doing everything in its power to eradicate the discriminatory practices persisting in the Territories under its administration.

He had read with great satisfaction of the strides made in rural and town planning and the construction of low-cost housing for the indigenous inhabitants. Those programmes should be continued and extended. In many Territories, however, the problem of overcrowding in urban areas was acute and its solution required careful planning of housing construction as also programmes to increase employment opportunities in rural areas so that the rate of migration to the urban centres could be decreased.

In some Territories the economic and social status of women had been greatly improved but in others little had been accomplished in that direction. To overcome that problem an effort should be made to awaken in indigenous women a desire for education and to provide them with employment opportunities.

With regard to health services, he noted that in most of the Territories there was an acute shortage of hospitals, doctors and so forth. The problem was both an economic and an educational one, for its solution required not only an increase in the funds allotted to health services but also an increase in the number of trained indigenous medical personnel. More scholarships should be provided to enable indigenous inhabitants to study medicine in the metropolitan countries. WHO and UNICEF were to be commended for the work which they had done in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

In conclusion, he congratulated the United Kingdom Government on the establishment of the Department of Technical Co-operation. The fact that it was to assist not only the Non-Self-Governing Territories but also newly independent countries was particularly important. He welcomed the statement by the United Kingdom representative at the previous meeting that his country recognized its obligation to continue assisting dependent Territories and newly emerging countries through carefully planned technical assistance programmes.

Mr. EASTMAN (Iberia) said that he wished to make some observations on the item under discussion, not in a spirit of criticism but bearing in mind that there was room for improvement in the economies of all countries. Since education was a prerequisite for sound economic advancement, the assurances given by the Administering Powers of increased efforts in that field inspired confidence that the social and economic needs of the people would also be satisfied, either subsequently or concurrently.

With reference to Basutoland, he had noted from the report (A/5078) that the adverse balance of trade was offset by remittances from the Basuto working in South Africa. Indeed, there had been reports of thousands of Basuto being uprooted and sent to the mines in South Africa. Remittances from such a source were not a suitable basis for a people's economy. His delegation would like to know whether the entire amount received by the United Kingdom Government was used for the development of Basutoland. It was pointed out in the report that pressure on land was one of the factors causing the Basuto to seek employment away from home; he therefore felt that the policy of migrant labour should be replaced by a change in the traditional system of land tenure, thereby providing negotiable titles on which credit could be based. The report also stated that the relations of the small European and Indian populations with the Basuto had not caused any serious problems. If that meant that there were problems, the Committee should be informed of them so that it might seek an acceptable solution.

Even where the economy was undergoing changes, agriculture was likely to remain a key factor in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in Africa. Agricultural produce constituted the main export of those Territories. Hence the most urgent common problem of all the Territories was that of diversifying their economies and extending the range of crops. At the same time the development of mineral resources should be encouraged. Mineral-producing areas such as the Rhodesias and Nyasaland had had the largest national incomes and highest annual rates of growth over the last ten years, as also the highest rates of capital formation in Africa south of the Sahara. In Northern Rhodesia copper mining was

(Mr. Eastman, Liberia)

the mainstay of the economy. Yet the price of copper was subject to great fluctuations and diversification was therefore important. In its annual report the Rhodesian Anglo-American Company Limited, which controlled the mineral resources of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland, had announced a net profit after taxation of nearly £4 million, an increase of more than £1 million over the previous year. Despite that huge profit, it could be seen from the Rhodesian Federal Economic Report for 1961 that the average annual income of wage-earning Europeans was £1,209 while that of the wage-earning African was £87. Such low wages were paralysing the Africans economically and socially. With regard to Bechuanaland, he would mention only two of its many economic problems. Its customs duties were collected for it by the South African Government. The previous year those duties had amounted to about one quarter of the country's revenue and he wondered how much of it was being used for economic development. The second problem was that cattle breeding, its main industry, had had a serious set-back in 1959 owing to drought and disease. The decision to give Northern Rhodesian miners money instead of meat rations had contributed to the decline.

There were still vast areas in the Non-Self-Governing Territories which had not been explored for minerals. There was a great need for topographical and geological surveying, and hence for trained geologists, geophysicists, mining engineers and technicians.

Another problem was that of transport. Improvement in roads and transport facilities was vital not only for the export market but also for the creation of an internal market system.

The social and economic situation in Papua was highly unsatisfactory. No form of industry existed for the indigenous people. Although there were coffee, cocoa and small rubber plantations owned by expatriates, the Papuans themselves had not been sufficiently discouraged from their traditional way of living in order

(Mr. Eastman, Liberia)

to progress economically. No indication had been given that the inhabitants could be self-sufficient when the Territory became independent. He recommended that the Administering Power should use the services of the United Nations specialized agencies in order to develop the services of which the people were in such dire need.

Mr. CALVILLO (Mexico) said that the information received on economic and social advancement in the Non-Self-Governing Territories confirmed his delegation's impression that only when they had attained independence would the people of those Territories be able to develop their potentialities to the full and make an effective contribution to the well-being of all mankind. It also confirmed, however, the conviction that the Administering Powers were for the most part becoming increasingly aware of the changes taking place in the world. There were some, unfortunately, who were still closing their eyes to the lessons of history. His delegation wished to express once again its hope that they would change their attitude and decide to submit information to the Secretary-General in accordance with their obligations under Article 73 of the Charter.

While progress along some lines had been made in certain Territories, they all continued to have agricultural economies based on the export of raw materials and it seemed certain that until there was a shift in the direction of industrialization their peoples would continue to live in poverty. The land tenure system prevailing in most of the Territories, under which a few proprietors owned most of the land and those who worked it were paid low wages, was anti-economic. In those Territories land reform - in other words a fundamental revision of the system of land tenure - was imperative, as was the introduction of improved farming techniques. Until those steps were taken the economy could not prosper, the purchasing power of the inhabitants could not be raised and industrialization accordingly could not be established on a broad popular base.

Another important consideration was the fact that most of the Territories had a one-commodity economy. The difficulties which certain Latin American countries with such economies were experiencing demonstrated only too clearly the relationship between that situation and political instability. The need to

(Mr. Calvillo, Mexico)

diversify the economies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was urgent and at the same time the Administering Powers and the other importing countries should modify their price policies in order to establish a fairer balance between the prices paid for the products which those Territories had to sell and the products which they imported. Diversification of their economies would enable the Non-Self-Governing Territories not only to strengthen their economic structure but also to put an end to their dependence on foreign countries for the satisfaction of many of their requirements. It would thus increase their wealth and make them less likely to suffer periodic social upheavals.

Industrialization should be adapted to local characteristics and those responsible for promoting it, whether private interests or the public authorities or, as in his own country, a combination of both, should think in terms not only of the traditional markets but also of local markets.

Land reform, improved agricultural techniques and industrialization should all have one fundamental goal; namely, to enable the Territories to attain economic as well as political independence. Otherwise political independence would be a mere fiction, as had already been the case in certain Territories.

The Administering Powers had a moral and political obligation to improve social services and establish social security systems. Some progress had been made along those lines but much remained to be done.

The United Kingdom had taken an important step in the direction of solving the complex problems attendant upon the preparation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for independence when it had established the Department of Technical Co-operation. His delegation was confident that the Department would be of great assistance to the territorial Governments in formulating both short- and long-term development plans.

The fact that the Administering Powers could take advantage of the assistance offered by international credit and development institutions, certain of the specialized agencies, the Technical Assistance Board and the Special Fund in preparing the Non-Self-Governing Territories for independence was another circumstance which caused his delegation to view the prospects for decolonization with optimism.

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Mr. PEREZ RUIZ (Spain) said that he would like to give the Committee a few additional data concerning Territories under Spanish administration. His Government had always sought to improve living conditions in those Territories and had accordingly been concerned to promote their economic and social development. That effort had been stepped up considerably in recent years, as could be seen from the fact that the budget for Fernando Poo and Río Muni, which had totalled 61 million pesetas in 1949, had risen to more than 310 million by 1961, while special allocations of more than 181 million pesetas had brought the 1961 total to 492 million. The services which had benefited from those increases were mainly public works, urban construction, education and health. The greater part of the special allocations for 1961 had been applied to the construction of the new airport at Santa Isabel and other important public works which were being carried out at the expense of the local Treasury.

The expansion of public services had been accompanied by an increase in personnel, particularly indigenous employees. The assistance which the regional administration gave to local bodies had increased considerably: the subsidy to the diputaciones provinciales, for example, had amounted to 30 million pesetas in 1961 as compared with 350,000 made available to the corresponding body in 1949, while the subsidies to the town councils had risen in the same period from 1,775,000 pesetas to 26,950,000.

Great progress had been made in public health. The first campaign to treat lepers with modern drugs, instituted at the end of 1948, had had great success and the impression which it had made on the patients and their families had done much to promote the success of subsequent efforts to improve public health in the Region. Such endemic diseases as yaws, sleeping sickness, smallpox and yellow fever had practically disappeared. Special pavilions had been established for tubercular patients, who were treated entirely free of charge. The extent to which the women were taking advantage of the gynaecological and obstetrical services provided by the Administration was indicated by the fact that the maternity hospital at Santa Isabel had had to be remodelled to provide additional space. There were first-class central hospitals at Santa Isabel and Bata and second-class hospitals at San Carlos, Río Benito and Puerto Iradier. The diputaciones provinciales also maintained benevolent institutions such as homes for orphans, a preventive ward for children at the leprosarium and reformatories for juveniles.

(Mr. Perez Ruiz, Spain)

The production, credit and consumer co-operatives voluntarily established by the farmers were an important feature of the economic structure. There were now twenty-seven such co-operatives in all. An official body called the Provincial Union of Farm Co-operatives of Fernando Poo had just been established to promote agricultural co-operation. The fundamental law setting forth the rights of the inhabitants was, as in the metropolitan territory, the Charter of the Spanish People. The recently adopted legislation concerning political, professional and labour rights of women was equally applicable to Fernando Poo and Río Muni.

Mr. KIBRIA (Pakistan) said that the information submitted showed that, while much good work had been done in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, it was far from adequate when related to the pace of development in the rest of the world. Economic development could not be achieved by piecemeal measures; it required simultaneous action in various fields including the utilization of human resources. It was most important for the people of the Territories to be associated in the formulation of economic policies and projects. In the schools, for example, they should be made aware of the alternatives and encouraged to express their views. Unfortunately, there was little evidence that that was being done; most of the progressive measures were simply handed down from above.

Little progress appeared to have been made in the fields of power, transport and communications. The report on African and adjacent territories (A/5078) stated that Basutoland had only one power station and that the road system was poor. Little had been done to introduce new industries. The same applied in the case of Gambia, where according to the report there were very few industrial undertakings, the main occupation being the production of ground-nuts for export. Many of the Territories had a single-crop economy, which made them very vulnerable to price fluctuations; that instability could be overcome only by the diversification of agriculture and the introduction of manufacturing industries. Moreover, much more should be done to develop the mineral resources of the Territories.

It was encouraging to note the progress made in abating racial discrimination. Purely legal measures were not sufficient, however; what mattered was how they operated in practice. For example, despite the new land law in Kenya removing

(Mr. Kibria, Pakistan)

former racial restrictions on land ownership and establishing a multi-racial Central Land Advisory Board, it seemed that the most fertile land was still owned by Europeans and that the position had not materially altered.

The various reports showed that foreign enterprise played an important role in the Territories. There was nothing wrong in that, provided that care was taken to associate the local inhabitants with their operation by training them and enabling them to acquire experience. The aim of economic policy should be to achieve a self-supporting economy and not to maintain a colonial-type system. His country's experience had shown that the pace of development in agriculture and industry could best be accelerated after government schemes had been worked out to promote economic growth. The plans should cover measures to promote education and public health and to introduce new industries. Despite progress in some areas, the general picture left much to be desired. Greater efforts were needed to enable the Non-Self-Governing Territories to make more rapid progress and to take their place in the modern world.

Mr. ILBOUDO (Upper Volta) observed that the representatives of newly independent countries were better able to appreciate and judge economic and social development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In his delegation's view the development of those Territories was essentially dependent on social structures. It was common knowledge that the social structures in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as also in certain newly independent States, were frequently far from favourable to economic and social development. The African peoples were conservative by nature and reluctant to accept modern techniques. It was therefore the duty of the Administering Powers to educate them in that direction, through the Administration and the indigenous cadres. Such a process would inevitably be slow.

In addition to unsatisfactory social structures there was the burden of racial discrimination, which, whether on the political or the social plane, had the effect of stifling the personality of the indigenous inhabitants, with direct results on economic production and the social situation. In all the Non-Self-Governing Territories one of the manifestations of racial discrimination was the difference in the housing and living standards of the colonialists and the

(Mr. Ilboudo, Upper Volta)

indigenous inhabitants. Furthermore, the Administering Powers had encouraged an indigenous élite who lived in the European quarters of the towns, cut off from the great mass of the population. In any modern African town there was a striking contrast between the luxurious life led by the colonialists and that of the indigenous masses, housed in miserable huts in insalubrious neighbourhoods and a constant prey to epidemics of all kinds. His delegation once more appealed earnestly to all those Administering Powers which continued to practice racial discrimination to make every effort to eradicate it without delay.

He thanked the World Health Organization for the work which it had done in Africa. It was very satisfactory to learn that diseases such as leprosy and malaria and seasonal epidemics which ten years ago had devastated "Black" Africa had been virtually eliminated. Great progress had also been made in combatting infant mortality.

In conclusion, he hoped that a special effort would be made to develop cheap transport so as to facilitate the distribution of food products and to put an end, once and for all, to the threat of hunger and famine which perpetually hung over the under-developed countries.

The meeting rose at 5.5 p.m.