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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Thirteenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 17 May 1962, at 3.15 p.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. MALALASEKERA	(Ceylon)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. ROS	Argentina
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. HOOD)	
	Mr. WHITE)	Australia
	Mr. SHANMUGARAJAH	Ceylon
	Mr. VALENCIA	Ecuador
	Mr. de CAMARET	France
	Mr. EASTMAN	Liberia
	Mr. GOEDHART	Netherlands
	Mr. HENSLEY	New Zealand
	Mr. AKHUND	Pakistan
	Mr. CALINGASAN	Philippines
	Mr. de PINIES	Spain
	Mr. SANKEY	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. BINGHAM)	
	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
Mrs. KALM	World Health Organization
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non- Self-Governing Territories
Mr. PROTITCH	
Mr. CHU	Secretary of the Committee

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CO-OPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1699 (XVI) ON TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION (A/AC.35/L.363)
(continued)

FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE (A/AC.35/L.364) (continued)

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION (General Assembly resolution 1272 (XIII))
(continued)

Mr. AKHUND (Pakistan) said that he was sorry to note that the United Kingdom Government had failed to transmit any information on Southern Rhodesia. As, however, the question had been discussed by the Committee of Seventeen, which had already taken a position on the matter - at least unofficially - he would not labour the point. He thought that that was one of the question on which the two Committees should co-operate and he hoped that in future the Administering Power would provide information concerning the Territory. What he had just said applied equally, mutatis mutandis, to the Territories under Portuguese administration.

His delegation had also expressed the wish that the United Kingdom would provide sufficiently detailed information on political conditions in the Territories it administered to enable the Committee to judge the pace of development in that field and its likely outcome. The Mexican representative had indicated many items on which information was lacking. The United Kingdom representative had replied that much of that information was available in the archives of the Secretariat. His delegation was therefore pleased that the Committee had asked the Secretariat to prepare studies on various matters relating to the political development of the Territories, for submission to the Committee at its next session. It hoped that, in preparing those studies, the Secretariat would pay special attention to the aspects to which the Mexican delegation had referred.

The information available to the Committee was nevertheless useful; in particular, the outline provided in document A/5120 gave a good indication of the manner in which political development was taking place in the Territories under

(Mr. Akhund, Pakistan)

United Kingdom administration. The usefulness of the information transmitted by the United Kingdom and by the other Administering Powers would, however, be greatly enhanced if some indication could be given of the time the process would require in the various Territories, or if the Committee could at least be informed at its next session of the approximate date by which the next step in the process of political development could be expected to take place. The Committee would thus have an assurance that there was no slackening in the pace of progress. That would dispel some of the pessimism that inevitably arose from a consideration of the situation in some of the Territories - such as the three High Commission Territories, to mention only one example and not the most important one.

Reverting to the question of the future work of the Committee, he reiterated that the Committee's efforts at the present session had been somewhat too dispersed. It was unrealistic to expect the Committee to be able to examine in the course of a short session the political, constitutional, social, economic and educational conditions in some fifty odd Territories. The final decision on the matter was not for the Committee to take, but his delegation, for one, felt that it might be useful to revert to a system similar to the previous one, under which the three functional items would be examined in rotation. Development in the various fields did not take place so rapidly that there was need to review the situation every year. At the present session the Committee had examined conditions in the educational field. Even if its suggestions were put into effect, the results would hardly be apparent by the following year. That did not apply, of course, to political conditions, where changes were rapid; it would be desirable for the Committee to consider that situation every year. As far as functional items were concerned, the Committee might perhaps examine the information in respect of each Territory. The time was past when the Committee could confine itself to the statement of objectives, for there was now general agreement upon them. The Committee should now see in what manner and at what speed progress was being made towards the achievement of those objectives. For that purpose it would be necessary to study the conditions in each Territory.

Mr. VALENCIA (Ecuador), referring to agenda item 9, said that the impression given by the documents provided by the United Nations and the specialized agencies was entirely favourable and he congratulated the various bodies concerned on the useful work they had done. He drew attention, in particular, to the praiseworthy activities of UNESCO, whose literacy campaigns were of the greatest value to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(Mr. Valencia, Ecuador)

He hoped that the close co-operation which already existed between the international community and the Non-Self-Governing Territories through the United Nations and its various agencies would continue to increase. Examples of that co-operation were the studies made by the Economic Commission for Africa, particularly those on the economic and social consequences of racially discriminatory practices in seven countries and the urgent need for modernization of agriculture. Such studies were extremely useful both for the Non-Self-Governing Territories and for the Administering Powers. The Conference of African States on the Development of Education, convened jointly by UNESCO and ECA at Addis Ababa, had approved various resolutions which were of undeniable significance for the advancement of the Territories. He hoped that the Administering Powers would do everything possible to implement them.

With regard to the Caribbean region, he attached the greatest importance to the joint statement made by France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States on 6 September 1961, establishing the Caribbean Organization, the main purpose of which was to stimulate economic, social and cultural progress in that area. His country wished that organization success. The establishment of a technical assistance regional office for the Caribbean at Port of Spain was also an important step forward.

The work accomplished by ECAFE and the programmes which it intended to put into effect likewise merited the highest praise. For example, there was every reason to commend the way in which the seminars on technical aspects of the development of those Territories had been conducted. At its thirty-second session the South Pacific Commission had decided to continue organizing training courses for the inhabitants of the Pacific Islands; that decision deserved wholehearted support. It was, of course, essential that the Administering Powers should co-operate actively in the implementation of those programmes, as the Australian Government had done, for example, when it had offered the services of a nutritionist. The South Pacific Commission's offer concerning the organization of sub-regional seminars in which the representatives of the different islands could examine their joint problems deserved mention. Work along those lines had been started in 1961.

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Similarly, the importance of the co-operation offered under the technical assistance programmes should not be overlooked. While the nearly \$3 million earmarked for some twenty-five Territories was far from adequate in terms of their requirements, the effort on the part of the Technical Assistance Committee which it reflected was nevertheless considerable; that sum represented 3.4 per cent of the total funds at the disposal of the programmes, whereas the amount earmarked for those countries in 1960 had been only 1.9 per cent and the corresponding figure for 1959 had been 2.3 per cent. The increase would be seen to be all the greater if it was borne in mind that, as was pointed out in document A/AC.35/L.359, many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories which had been receiving technical assistance had now acceded to independence.

The World Health Organization was doing highly commendable work, as shown by the fact that it had provided nearly two thirds of the experts and scholarships allotted to the Territories in 1960 under various programmes. Document A/AC.35/L.360 gave detailed information on the work done by WHO in more than forty-six Non-Self-Governing Territories. The decision adopted at the twenty-ninth session of the WHO Executive Board, held in January 1962, to ask the Director-General to continue his efforts to contribute to the development of health services in the Non-Self-Governing Territories was to be welcomed.

He went on to congratulate all the other bodies which had likewise given assistance to the Territories.

Turning to agenda item 13, he said that the studies envisaged in document A/AC.35/L.364 appeared to him most useful. He had noticed, however, that there were two schools of thought on that subject in the Committee. One stressed the importance of the studies mentioned in paragraph 2, which had been suggested by the United Kingdom, while the other held that emphasis should be placed on the economic studies proposed by Spain, which were mentioned in paragraph 7. In the view of his delegation, however, those two approaches were complementary. Both aspects were of great importance and neither should be omitted in favour of the other. The importance of political and constitutional advancement was obvious, for the purpose was to lead the Non-Self-Governing Territories to independence, in accordance with the declaration adopted on that subject. It was

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therefore natural to request the Secretariat to prepare the studies referred to in paragraph 2, with emphasis on the first two subjects mentioned if it had to limit the scope of its work.

At the same time, and for the same reasons, the economic advancement of the Territories was likewise of the greatest importance. He therefore supported the Spanish representative's suggestion with equal enthusiasm.

It was essentially to those two major problems that the Committee should devote its attention at its next session, without, of course, neglecting the other matters referred to in document A/AC.35/L.364. Of the latter he singled out the study on the status of teachers, in connexion with which UNESCO could offer valuable assistance, and community development in relation to literacy campaigns and racial discrimination.

As far as co-operation with the Committee of Seventeen was concerned, he fully shared the opinion expressed by the Chairman in his opening statement. In the present circumstances, the best way in which the Committee on Information could help the Committee of Seventeen would be to transmit its report to the latter.

Co-operation with the Special Committee on Territories under Portuguese administration was made difficult by the absence of any Portuguese representative in the Committee on Information. By its absence Portugal had manifested once again its intention not to co-operate with the Committee. His delegation regretted that the Lisbon Government was persisting in that negative attitude, which was also reflected by the fact that it was not transmitting information under the terms of Article 73 e of the Charter. It was to be hoped that Portugal would reconsider its attitude and would adopt a position more in conformity with the exigencies of the modern world. Referring to document A/AC.35/L.363, he expressed the hope that the Special Committee would succeed in carrying out the task which it had undertaken.

With reference to item 10, he felt that the Secretariat was to be congratulated; without the abundant documentation which it had prepared the Committee on Information would have found it impossible to carry out its task. The Administering Powers should, however, try to transmit the required information in good time so that neither the Secretariat nor the Committee would be held up in their work.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia) shared the opinion of the representative of Pakistan concerning the organization of future work. He thanked the specialized agencies for the important part which they had taken in the work of the Committee.

Mr. ROS (Argentina) said that he too was of the same opinion as the representative of Pakistan. The Committee should avoid dissipating its effort if it wanted to work effectively, without neglecting important political and constitutional matters. It would be preferable if each year the Committee examined one particular question thoroughly. Furthermore, resolution 1700 (XVI) permitted the Committee, in case of need, to study the particular circumstances prevailing in a given Territory. In that way the Committee could do more concrete and fruitful work, in co-operation with the other United Nations bodies and particularly with the Committee of Seventeen.

Mr. de PINIES (Spain) noted that in the Secretariat's report on International Collaboration for Economic, Social and Educational Advancement (A/AC.35/L.359) there was mention of a resolution of the Economic Commission for Africa according to which Spain, not having replied to the communication sent to it by the Executive Secretary of ECA, should be deprived of membership of the Commission. Three weeks prior to the publication of that report, however, Spain had sent the Economic and Social Council a memorandum (E/L.953, dated 17 April 1962) in which it had stated that it was prepared to comply with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1466 (XVI) and of ECA resolution 24 (III). He asked the Rapporteur to note that decision so that it could be taken into account in the Committee's report.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia) said that in his view it was inadmissible that African Territories should be considered to be overseas provinces of the administering countries. It was the duty of the metropolitan countries to recognize the personality of each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to lead them to independence as rapidly as possible.

Mr. SANKEY (United Kingdom), replying to the statement made by the Pakistan representative said that his Government's position on the submission of information on Southern Rhodesia had been fully explained at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly when it was stated that the United Kingdom Government could not

(Mr. Sankey, United Kingdom)

give what it did not receive. Under the constitutional arrangements which had been in effect for a generation the Southern Rhodesian Government was under no obligation to report on economic, social and educational matters to the United Kingdom Government. It had not done so and the United Kingdom Government had no right to demand it. It was this plain fact which had precluded the United Kingdom from submitting such information to the United Nations.

Mr. ILBOUDO (Upper Volta) said that he was entirely in agreement with the representative of Liberia; moreover, it was not only the Territories of Africa which were concerned. The development of Non-Self-Governing Territories, however slow, should ultimately lead them to independence. The colonialists were mistaken if they thought that it was possible, despite differences of race, culture and personality, to assimilate the populations of the Territories. He, for his part, refused to recognize that the development of the Territories could lead to anything other than independence.

The CHAIRMAN asked the Secretariat to take note of the proposals made concerning the future work of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 4.5 p.m.