



COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Eleventh Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 26 February 1960, at 10.45 a.m.

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- (d) General Survey (A/4192)

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. QUAISON-SACKEY	(Ghana)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. BACON	(United States of America)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS	Argentina
	Mr. CURTIS	Australia
	Mr. GIBSON BARBOZA	Brazil
	Mr. KANAKARATNE	Ceylon
	Mr. de CAMARET )	France
	Mr. DOISE )	
	Mr. DADZIE	Ghana
	Mr. GUPTA	India
	Miss KAMAL	Iraq
	Mr. GOEDHART	Netherlands
	Mr. WATT	New Zealand
	Mr. CASTON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. SPALDING	United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. REYMOND )	International Labour Organisation	
Mr. KHAN )		
Mr. ACHARYA	Food and Agriculture Organization	
Miss PROCTOR	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	
Mrs. MEAGHER	World Health Organization	
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. PROTITCH	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN PURSUANCE OF CHAPTER XI OF THE CHARTER (continued):

- (a) Educational conditions (A/4131, A/4144)
- (b) Economic conditions (A/4105, A/4108, A/4109, A/4129, A/4134, A/4142, A/4162 and Corr.1, A/4165, A/4166, A/4178, A/4195)
- (c) Social conditions (A/4106, A/4107, A/4114, A/4124, A/4128, A/4136, A/4137, A/4152, A/4167, A/4175, A/4181, A/4193, A/4194)
- (d) General survey (A/4192)

General debate

Mr. GIBSON BARBOZA (Brazil) recalled that his delegation had repeatedly expressed the opinion that a general review of the progress achieved by the Non-Self-Governing Territories in pursuance of Chapter XI of the Charter was a task of sufficient importance to warrant a special study by a representative body of the United Nations prior to its final consideration by the General Assembly. It had accordingly given its full support to General Assembly resolution 1461 (XIV). The terms of that resolution, of the Assembly's two previous resolutions on the progress report and of Chapter XI of the Charter should be borne constantly in mind if the Committee was to perform its task effectively.

His Government was particularly interested in the examination of the progress report because most of the Territories covered by the report were, like many of the Latin American countries, situated in the tropical belt and dependent on the export of primary commodities for their economic well-being. The peoples of both the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the Latin American Republics had a common desire to improve the economic and social conditions prevailing in their countries. Indeed, the evolution of dependent Territories towards self-government was part of the struggle to overcome all forms of under-development. The consideration of the progress report should be of assistance in the appraisal of basic economic and social trends and in the understanding of certain important phenomena such as those associated with capital formation, industrialization and land tenure.

(Mr. Gibson Barboza, Brazil)

The extensive documentation comprising the progress report showed that the progress made had on the whole been significant. The available financial resources, most of which had been provided by the Administering Powers, had been concentrated primarily on infrastructural development and social services and the adoption of certain special legislation had had the effect of attracting private capital investment. As a result of those efforts several favourable trends could be observed, such as an increase in production, consumption and per capita income, a shift towards a money economy, and the increasing absorption by domestic markets of goods of higher quality and price. The fact remained, however, that the economies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were still excessively dependent on world markets. The proportion of agricultural and mining products in their total volume of exports did not appear to have declined and the results of the efforts made to stimulate industrial production with a view to meeting the domestic demand for the major categories of consumer goods had proved disappointing, the only notably successful industries being those which processed raw materials for export. It was to be hoped that that pattern of dependency would soon begin to change.

With regard to social conditions, he would like to emphasize two matters which his delegation considered to be of the utmost importance: namely, human rights and race relations. His delegation held that under the terms of Chapter XI of the Charter the Administering Powers had the legal and moral obligation to ensure full respect for human rights in the Territories which they administered, in the spirit of Articles 1 (3) and 55 of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and General Assembly resolutions 446 (V) and 551 (VI). The question of race relations was closely related to that of human rights, as was indicated by the fact that much of the section of the progress report covering race relations dealt not simply with racial tensions but with racial discrimination which constituted a violation of human rights and had a delaying effect on the process of development as a whole. His own country was vigorously opposed to racial discrimination or segregation of any kind and had banned them by law. Thus it could not but welcome any progress in race relations achieved in the dependent Territories and at the same time deplore the failure to eliminate

(Mr. Gibson Barboza, Brazil)

discriminatory practices entirely and to implement the fundamental principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in all Territories.

The objectives of education in the Non-Self-Governing Territories as set forth in General Assembly resolution 743 (VIII) were still entirely valid. His delegation was confident that in planning educational policies the Administering Powers would continue to be guided by the principle that the aims of education should be to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take an increasing share of responsibility in the conduct of their own affairs, to raise the level of living and to promote social progress, taking into account the basic cultural values and the aspirations of the peoples concerned. He noted the efforts made by the Administering Powers and the territorial authorities to improve educational services at all levels and particularly welcomed the assertion in the UNESCO report (A/4131, paragraph 5) that the educational goals of the Administering Powers corresponded closely to the broad objectives enumerated by the General Assembly. He was glad to know that the maintenance of separate systems of schooling for different ethnic or social groups was the exception in Non-Self-Governing Territories and he noted with satisfaction the progress being made towards the establishment of unitary school systems. The question of participation by the indigenous inhabitants in the formulation of local educational policies was also of great importance and the steps taken in that direction were a significant indication of the progress being made towards the achievement of the objectives of Chapter XI of the Charter.

Mr. SPALDING (United States of America) said that the progress report might justly be described as a monumental work. Notable advances had been made in the Non-Self-Governing Territories during the previous ten years; much remained to be done, however, and, in view of the importance and urgency of the goals to be attained his country fully realized the necessity of pressing forward in social, economic and educational matters.

Certain data relating to United States Territories which appeared in the report required correction or clarification, although he appreciated the fact that the information which he would provide might not have been available at the time the report had been written. With regard to the reference in

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(Mr. Spalding, United States)

paragraph 149 of document A/4181 to the adoption of children and their emigration to the United States under the Refugee Relief Act of 1953, he felt that mention should have been made of the additional legislation introduced in his country in September 1957. As a result of that legislation and pursuant to the terms of its contract with the United States Department of State, the International Social Service maintained a staff in Hong Kong to give assistance in connexion with the adoption of children and their emigration to the United States.

The implication in paragraph 94 of document A/4142 that there was only a pilot pulp plant in Alaska was not correct; a full-scale commercial plant with a capacity of 150,000 tons a year had begun producing pulp there in 1953. Although Alaska was no longer a concern of the Committee, he would add that a second plant of about the same size was to start production in 1960.

Certain figures on the financing of education given in document A/4131 were incomplete and others appeared to be in error. For example, in paragraph 133 the relative place of local contributions in the total public expenditure was shown as "not available" for American Samoa and as "100 per cent in 1953-1954 and 1955-1956 (for recurrent costs)" in the case of Guam. In paragraph 134 the proportion of federal funds to total public expenditure was shown as "not available" for American Samoa and "nil" for Guam. In fact, the Federal Government contributed approximately two-thirds of the cost of all governmental services in American Samoa, and thus of the non-recurrent costs of free public education. In Guam all federal taxes collected were remitted direct to the Territory for appropriation by the local Legislature. Income taxes paid by United States citizens from the mainland residing in or stationed in the island constituted a substantial proportion of all such taxes. If the federal revenues had in fact been paid into the United States Treasury and had then been appropriated to the Territory of Guam, it would have been necessary to show local contributions of 30 per cent and federal contributions of 70 per cent for the years in question.

His delegation had already transmitted to the Secretariat some suggestions for changes in the statistical data appearing in document A/4106 relating to the existing United States Territories and to the former Territories of Alaska and Hawaii.

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(Mr. Spalding, United States)

The outstanding development in the Territories under his country's administration had been the accession to statehood of Alaska and Hawaii, as a result of which the area on which the United States submitted reports had been greatly reduced. Through its various governmental programmes, the United States continued to be greatly interested in assisting the development of Non-Self-Governing Territories and of those less developed areas which were now independent States. His delegation would refer later to the progress made in the existing United States Territories since the period covered by the progress report.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that in accordance with the consultations which had taken place the sub-committee to be appointed to consider the progress report should consist of the representatives of Brazil, Ghana, India, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and, as on previous occasions, the Rapporteur of the Committee itself as an ex officio member. The representatives of the specialized agencies should also be invited to participate in its deliberations. It should be empowered to make its own working arrangements and to choose its own officers. As it would be much more than a mere drafting committee it should be given the widest possible latitude in preparing its report to the Committee; and in the examination of the progress report, it would be guided by General Assembly resolution 1461 (XIV).

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) observed that as the task of examining the progress report was different from the tasks entrusted to similar sub-committees in the past the Committee should have a clear idea of what the Sub-Committee's terms of reference in that respect were. As he understood it, the Sub-Committee was to draft a report summarizing the progress report and to submit it, together with observations and conclusions, to the Committee, which would then approve it and transmit it to the General Assembly. The "wide latitude" referred to by the Chairman would not exceed that sanctioned by past practice. He would like to know if the other members of the Committee agreed with that interpretation of the Sub-Committee's terms of reference.

The CHAIRMAN said that the United Kingdom representative's interpretation was in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1461 (XIV), under which the study of the progress report was to be made. If he heard no

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(The Chairman)

further observations he would take it that his suggestions concerning the Sub-Committee were satisfactory to the Committee

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.