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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Fourteenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 7 May 1963, at 11 a.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. de PINIES	(Spain)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. NORRISH	New Zealand
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. WHITE	Australia
	Mr. VALENCIA	Ecuador
	Mr. de CAMARET	France
	Mr. EASTMAN	Liberia
	Mr. CARRANCO AVILA	Mexico
	Mr. HAMDANI	Pakistan
	Mr. BRILLANTES)	
	Mr. CALINGASAN)	Philippines
	Mr. PEREZ RUIZ	Spain
	Mr. SCOTT	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mrs. TREE	United States of America
<u>Representatives of specialized agencies:</u>		
	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>	Mr. PROTITCH	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES
(A/AC.35/L.372, L.373, L.375; ST/TRI/B.1962/1-4 and addenda) (continued)

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/AC.35/L.374, L.376, L.377) (continued)

CO-OPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued)

FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. VALENCIA (Ecuador), referring to the question of international collaboration and technical assistance for the advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories, said that his delegation was in agreement with the United Kingdom Government's policy whereby the Administering Power did its utmost to provide the Territories under its administration with technical and financial assistance and, when its bilateral aid proved insufficient, encouraged territorial Governments to obtain the assistance they needed from various international and multilateral sources such as the Commonwealth, the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara, the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

International collaboration and technical assistance were steadily increasing. In that connexion, he wished to thank the Secretariat for the useful information given in document A/AC.35/L.377 and to mention the excellent work done by the Economic and Social Council in laying down guide-lines for international efforts to increase aid to Non-Self-Governing Territories. In its future work, the Council should examine in particular the measures to be adopted to increase industrialization, to stabilize the prices of primary commodities at remunerative levels, thus enabling satisfactory terms of trade and export levels to be established for the primary producing countries, to encourage private investment, which helped to raise the level of living of the peoples of the Territories, to accelerate social development by giving greater attention to the problems of housing, levels of employment and the increase of income per inhabitant, and, in the human rights field, to abolish all discriminatory measures and confer political rights on women.

(Mr. Valencia, Ecuador)

The specialized agencies were to be commended for their aid to Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of international assistance. Document A/AC.35/L.374 described the services which had been performed by UNESCO in 1962 in sending experts and missions as well as equipment. He hoped that UNESCO would continue to devote attention to questions relating to the introduction of universal free and compulsory primary education, general plans for secondary education with special emphasis on vocational and technical education, measures to overcome the shortage of teachers, and the expansion of literacy campaigns, bearing in mind the technical possibilities and the financial resources available.

It was to be hoped that WHO, besides continuing to work on the projects it had already undertaken, would grant priority in its future work to assistance in the drawing up of general health programmes, the establishment of hospitals, the establishment, in co-operation with UNICEF, of mother and child health centres, and the eradication of malaria and other endemic diseases.

The assistance provided by FAO had contributed, in varying degrees depending on the Territory, towards the improvement of their economies. FAO should concentrate its efforts on the world Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the improvement of methods of agriculture and stock-breeding, nutrition programmes and measures for improving the use of land.

The ILO, whose international conventions and recommendations should be applied to the fullest extent possible in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, might concentrate its efforts on assistance in the drafting of modern laws for the protection of workers, on measures encouraging the creation of trade unions, and on the preparation of studies concerning vocational training and of inquiries regarding social security.

It was clear from document A/AC.35/L.376 that assistance from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development mainly took the form of loans and study missions. The Bank should extend its policy of granting loans to a larger number of Territories.

It was regrettable that the specialized agencies found themselves prevented by inadequate financial resources from giving the Territories all the assistance they would wish, but they should nevertheless pursue their efforts to extend their sphere of activities and adopt recommendations which would be useful to the Administering Powers.

(Mr. Valencia, Ecuador)

The number of projects carried out in Non-Self-Governing Territories by EPTA and the Special Fund was constantly increasing and the assistance approved by the Technical Assistance Committee for 1963-1964 had increased by 52 per cent over that of 1961-1962. In addition, regional co-operation had made important advances, taking the form in Africa of participation by some Non-Self-Governing Territories in the meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the decision to set-up an African Institute for Economic Development at Dakar, studies regarding the establishment of an African Development Bank, inquiries concerning the possible establishment of an African common market, a study of the possibility of creating an African Institute of Public Administration and the holding of several seminars and meetings of experts in pursuit of decisions of ECA. Stress should be laid on the importance, for the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the American continent, of the formation of a Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, and, for those of Asia and the Pacific, of the ECAFE resolution regarding the Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning. Finally, several Non-Self-Governing Territories had been represented at the fifth South Pacific Conference, the recommendations of which would doubtless be given serious examination by the Administering Powers and Governments concerned.

Turning, in conclusion, to the question of co-operation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, he said that in adopting resolutions 1654 (XVI), 1700 (XVI) and 1847 (XVII), the General Assembly had been anxious not to make the Committee on Information subsidiary to the Special Committee, but rather to ensure that the former should co-operate closely with the latter at the technical level. That aim could be achieved by the transmission to the Special Committee of the report of the Committee on Information and of all the documents which had served as working documents during its fourteenth session.

Mr. PEREZ RUIZ (Spain) wished to associate himself with the delegations which had expressed support for the continuation of the Committee's work. The Committee had been the organ by means of which the General Assembly had studied with the greatest attention the information transmitted on the Territories. It had co-operated effectively in the achievement of the goal of developing their capacity

(Mr. Perez Ruiz, Spain)

for self-government. It had been in an atmosphere of co-operation and in an endeavour to be objective that the representatives of the Administering and non-administering Powers making up the Committee had analysed the information placed before them. As long as there were Non-Self-Governing Territories, it would be necessary to maintain a body to examine the information transmitted on the Territories, whatever functions might be assigned to other committees.

By adopting, on the day after the adoption of resolution 1514 (XV), resolution 1541 (XV) on the principles which should guide Members in determining whether or not an obligation existed to transmit the information called for under Article 73 e of the Charter, the Assembly had clearly shown that it did not intend to abolish or suspend the obligation to transmit information on Non-Self-Governing Territories. Moreover, in resolution 1700 (XVI), the Assembly had expressly recognized the usefulness and value of the Committee's work for the advancement of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories and the attainment of the objectives set forth in Chapter XI of the Charter, and had decided to keep the Committee on Information in being until the General Assembly had decided that the principles embodied in Chapter XI and in the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples had been fully implemented. The fact that, in resolution 1847 (XVII), the Assembly had decided, in the light of the rapid progress required for the accession of Non-Self-Governing Territories to independence, to review the situation at its eighteenth session with a view to taking a decision on the further continuation of the Committee on Information did not mean that it would deem it unnecessary to continue the Committee, whose work up to the present time had been satisfactory in promoting the implementation of the principles set out in Chapter XI of the Charter.

The Spanish delegation therefore supported the statement made by the representative of Mexico on that subject at the 274th meeting.

His delegation approved the broad lines of the document prepared by the Secretariat on the future work of the Committee (A/AC.35/L.380), and, in particular, the proposals in paragraphs 8 and 12 for the submission, at the Committee's next session, of papers dealing with educational and health questions.

Mr. SCOTT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had come to the current session without any preconceived ideas about the Committee's future work. It had been interested to hear the statements on that subject by the Spanish and Mexican representatives and the arguments they had adduced.

It had frequently been said that the information transmitted by the Administering Powers was not sufficiently detailed to enable the Committee to conduct a thorough examination; the Liberian representative, in particular, had drawn attention to the usefulness of statements made in the Committee by the Administering Members which cast more light on conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. There were two ways in which that desire for further information could be met.

The first would be for the Administering Powers to transmit longer and more detailed documents. Such a method, however, had its drawbacks. Any increase in the volume of documentation would impose additional work upon the Secretariat and might lead to a mass of details from which the salient facts would not stand out. Moreover, the preparation of more voluminous documents would present a bigger task both for the Administering Power and for the territorial authorities. Lastly, information transmitted in writing had the defect of not always being up to date, for there had to be a time-limit for the period it covered in order to allow for publication and distribution of the documents. Those difficulties were far from negligible. The United Kingdom Government was, however, ready to consider suggestions from members of the Committee about the form and content of the information it transmitted.

Nevertheless the United Kingdom Government, for its part, would prefer a different method, namely that followed in the past by the Committee in making a more detailed study of one particular aspect of conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories at each session. That procedure allowed of more useful and more thorough discussions than a general debate. Under that arrangement, delegations could also request that experts should supply the Committee with recent and detailed information on matters within their field of competence.

He would like to know whether the Committee intended to continue at its subsequent sessions the practice of making a more detailed study of one of the three aspects of conditions in the Territories specified in Article 73 of the Charter. The Secretariat document on the future work of the Committee did not

(Mr. Scott, United Kingdom)

seem to take that three-year cycle into account, although its proposals were in no way incompatible with the consideration of social questions which would normally take place at the fifteenth session. The document could provide useful guidelines for the discussion of educational conditions but the Committee might perhaps consider studying two other questions which were of equal importance from the point of view of social advancement. The Secretariat had already indicated that the Committee might devote a study to the most important aspects of health conditions in the Territories. The United Kingdom delegation was of the opinion that that was a most interesting suggestion and it hoped that WHO, which made a special contribution to the improvement of health conditions in the Territories, would participate in the drafting of the proposed documents. The United Kingdom was also of the opinion that the Committee might take up the question of local government in the Territories, which was becoming increasingly important with the approach of self-government. If, therefore, the Committee wished to study social conditions in the Territories at its next session, it would be useful if the Secretariat would consider drafting a document on that question.

Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) recalled that when in 1960 the Committee had paid particular attention to the question of education in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, it had noted that the main obstacles to advancement in that field arose from the inadequacy of funds. Lack of funds prevented the construction of adequate premises and the organization of the necessary facilities and was also reflected in the shortage of qualified personnel and even in difficulties of transport and communication. With reference to the same question the Committee had said in 1962 that educational advancement could not be viewed or planned in isolation or separately from progress in other fields and that real and lasting progress could be achieved only through integrated development in all fields, political, economic, social and educational. It had therefore commended to the administering Members the necessity of associating indigenous inhabitants with the planning and execution of educational policy wherever that had not yet been done. At the same session the Committee had noted that in some Territories there had still been schools, particularly at the primary level, based on racial discrimination. It had recalled in that connexion that on no ground whatsoever

(Mr. Brillantes, Philippines)

could education on a racial basis be justified and had expressed the hope that efforts towards the abolition of racial discrimination in education would be pursued with the utmost vigour (A/5215).

It was interesting to compare the present situation with the one described by the Committee in those terms at its earlier sessions. The UNESCO report (A/AC.36/L.372) provided useful information in that respect. The document listed the principal areas where difficulties were being encountered in the preparation of middle and upper level personnel for secondary education; it pointed out the factors affecting the effectiveness of secondary education and outlined considerations of general policy on that subject. Reference to the latter (paragraphs 39 to 47) and to the conclusions (paragraph 48) would show that the main problems remained the same: inadequacy of funds, shortage of qualified personnel, lack of school premises, need for viewing education in the context of the planning of economic, social and political development. The UNESCO report outlined possible solutions to those problems, and it was to be hoped that the administering Members concerned would promptly take steps to give the most effective implementation to the principles contained in the document's conclusions.

Paragraph 46 of the UNESCO report also stated that, throughout the world, secondary education was in process of change and that the problem of the adaptation of education at that level to the needs of society was of special magnitude in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Philippine delegation thought that the members of the Committee would agree that that "special magnitude" resulted from the fact that those Territories must soon attain independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). The Administering Powers certainly realized that the need to hasten educational advancement in the Territories imposed upon them a responsibility not only towards the peoples of the Territories but also to themselves, to their history, to their conscience and their dignity as progressive nations. During the Development Decade they should redouble their efforts to promote education, because the time left for liquidating all the vestiges of colonialism was running out. It was also to be hoped that in the years ahead they would ensure that the plans in that field would bestow upon the inhabitants of the Territories an education fit for free men and fit to make men free.

(Mr. Brillantes, Philippines)

All development planning in the field of education must pay due regard to the economic, social and political requirements of the community to which it was applied. In other words, there should be an integrated and balanced scheme of development. The Philippine delegation therefore earnestly appealed to the Administering Powers to take early steps to that effect. The happiness and prosperity of any country, rich or poor, independent or non-self-governing, developed or not, depended upon the use which the Government made of its powers to provide the people with a training and an education consistent with their capabilities and needs. Nor should it be forgotten that, while most of the problems of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and of many countries in the process of development were the result of low incomes, rising expenditure and fast-growing populations, and while their survival depended upon a rapid rate of economic growth, their people had a culture of their own which validated their way of life. Just as economic growth should not undermine their culture, so also educational advancement must be designed in a manner which would not create a totally alien mentality and which would change the values accepted by each society only to the extent necessary for progress and the attainment of the common good.

There were two aspects of United Nations activities in the field of human rights which could make a useful contribution to educational and social advancement in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. At its seventeenth session the Commission on Human Rights had submitted a resolution to the Economic and Social Council concerning the development of information media in the under-developed countries. While that programme was intended primarily for independent countries, it could be applied to the Non-Self-Governing Territories after the conclusion of the necessary agreements between UNESCO and the Administering Powers or the territorial Governments. Information media would clearly make a major contribution to the educational plans in the Territories concerned.

The possibility might also be explored of enabling the Non-Self-Governing Territories to participate in the seminars organized for the promotion of respect for human rights. Such meetings would give the peoples of those Territories additional opportunities to realize their entitlement to the full dignity of the human person.

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(Mr. Brillantes, Philippines)

With reference to the document concerning international collaboration for economic, social and educational advancement (A/AC.35/L.377), prepared by the Secretariat, the Philippine delegation had been glad to note that a number of African Territories under United Kingdom and Spanish administration had become associate members of the Economic Commission for Africa. The African Territories had an important role to play in the development of the continent as a whole and it was to be hoped that the number of those Territories which were members of the Commission would increase still further. It was also a source of satisfaction that representatives of some United Kingdom Territories had taken part in the meeting of the Ministers for Education of the African countries, held in Paris in March 1962. Lastly, it was encouraging to note that the South Pacific Commission was pursuing its activities in the field of co-ordinating economic, social and health development. The Philippine delegation expressed the hope that some arrangements would be made to enable the Non-Self-Governing Territories within a region, and if possible in different regions, to exchange information and share their experience.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.