

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

FIFTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1024th
MEETING**

Wednesday, 26 October 1960,
at 3.25 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Organization of work (continued)</i>	139
<i>Agenda items 37, 39 and 41:</i>	
<i>Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: reports of the Secretary-General and of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (continued):</i>	
(a) Progress achieved by the Non-Self-Governing Territories in pursuance of Chapter XI of the Charter;	
(b) Information on economic conditions;	
(c) Information on other conditions;	
(d) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information;	
(e) New developments connected with the association of Non-Self-Governing Territories with the European Economic Community: report of the Secretary-General	
<i>Dissemination of information on the United Nations in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (continued)</i>	
<i>Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (continued)</i>	
<i>Consideration of draft resolutions (continued)</i>	139

Chairman: Mr. Adnan M. PACHACHI (Iraq).

Organization of work (continued)

1. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa) said that at the 1003rd meeting, when his delegation had originally asked that the item relating to South West Africa should be placed early on the Committee's agenda, it had intimated that the Union Government attached particular importance to the consideration of the question at the current session and therefore hoped that the Minister for External Affairs would be able to participate in the debate. The Committee had, however, decided otherwise and he did not wish to reopen the question.

2. At the 1023rd meeting he had expressed the hope that the Committee might be willing to give the Minister an opportunity of making a fairly brief statement explaining the reaction of the Union Government to General Assembly resolution 1360 (XIV) and in particular to the passages which called on all concerned to enter into further negotiations. He much regretted that that, as he thought, reasonable request had led to such an acrimonious discussion and personal attacks on the Minister for External Affairs. In the circumstances he had been instructed to

withdraw the request. Furthermore, it had been only too clear from the atmosphere at the 1023rd meeting that for the Minister to make a statement would serve no useful purpose.

AGENDA ITEMS 37, 39 AND 41

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: reports of the Secretary-General and of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/4360-4368, A/4371, A/C.4/L.640/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1, A/C.4/L.641 and Add.1) (continued):

- (a) Progress achieved by the Non-Self-Governing Territories in pursuance of Chapter XI of the Charter (A/4105-4109, A/4114, A/4124, A/4128 and Corr.1, A/4129, A/4131, A/4134, A/4136, A/4137, A/4142, A/4144, A/4152, A/4162 and Corr.1, A/4165-4167, A/4175, A/4178, A/4181, A/4192-4195, ST/TRI/SER.A/15/vol.5);
- (b) Information on economic conditions (A/4371);
- (c) Information on other conditions (A/4371);
- (d) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information;
- (e) New developments connected with the association of Non-Self-Governing Territories with the European Economic Community: report of the Secretary-General (A/4470);

Dissemination of information on the United Nations in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/4471 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) (continued)

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/4473 and Corr.1 and Add.1, 2 and 3) (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/C.4/L.640/REV.1 AND REV.1/ADD.1, A/C.4/L.641 AND ADD.1) (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.4/L.641 and Add.1 (concluded)

3. Mr. WEEKS (Liberia) observed that draft resolution A/C.4/L.641 and Add.1 was in accordance with the views expressed by his delegation during the general debate and with the conclusions reached by the Inter-African Conference on Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Education held in Angola in November 1957 by the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara. His delegation would therefore support the draft resolution, while hoping that the sponsors would agree to replace the expression "local officers" at the end of operative paragraph 1 by the words "indigenous officers". That would bring paragraph 1 into harmony with the second and fourth preambular paragraphs. A further reason why his delegation would prefer

the word "indigenous" was that the term "local officer" could be interpreted in various ways and might provide some of the administering Powers with an opportunity of evading the real purpose of the draft resolution, which was the replacement of non-indigenous by indigenous officers.

4. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution. The Australian Government attached great importance to the preparation and training of indigenous civil and technical personnel and a number of Papuans had already taken their place in the public services of the Territory. Provision was also made for in-service and other training courses in all branches of the civil service and other technical fields and correspondence courses and scholarships in Australia. The people were given every incentive to avail themselves of the many opportunities for advancement through study to whatever important posts they were fitted for. The replacement of expatriate officers by indigenous ones was the aim of the Administration. Information on the various training programmes and on general progress in that field was regularly forwarded by the Australian Government in its annual reports.

5. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation would gladly vote in favour of the draft resolution. At the momentous point that had been reached in the history of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, when many new countries were achieving independence, the importance of training civil and technical cadres could not be over-estimated. Experience had shown only too clearly that unless a country when it became independent had an adequate number of trained local personnel of high quality, very serious consequences might ensue. He had referred at some length to the subject in his statement at the 1006th meeting, when he said that the training of local personnel was the keystone of the arch of any new country's progress and development and that the United Kingdom Government would continue to do its utmost to help the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to extend and improve their training facilities. He had also referred to a conference held in London in March 1960 with representatives of the Territorial Governments to discuss ways of ensuring rapid progress in that vital matter.

6. In the opinion of the United Kingdom delegation, it was useful that international interest should be shown in a subject which closely affected social, economic and educational policy in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He had been particularly impressed by the remarks made by the representatives of India and Ghana at the previous meeting on the subject of the training of civil and technical cadres. The resolution would require action by the Administering Members in the Territories themselves and by the United Nations, both through the programme for the provision of operational, executive and administrative personnel (OPEX) and through training facilities under the regular and expanded technical assistance programmes, and by the various specialized agencies. The United Kingdom was well aware of the importance of that international effort and welcomed its application to United Kingdom Territories.

7. He considered the amendment proposed by the representative of Liberia to be an improvement on

the original text. He would regard the term "indigenous" as covering anyone who genuinely belonged to any of the Territories, whatever might be his race. His delegation would support the draft resolution even if the Liberian amendment was not acceptable to the sponsors.

8. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) said that his delegation attached the greatest importance to the question, since experience had shown that newly independent nations which suffered from a shortage of civil servants and technical personnel had great difficulty in formulating development policies and programmes. Until freedom was won the people were so much preoccupied by the struggle for independence that no serious training programmes could be launched. At the fourteenth session the Burmese delegation, together with others, had sponsored the draft resolution relating to the preparation and training of indigenous civil cadres in the Trust Territories which had been adopted as General Assembly resolution 1412 (XIV). The important draft resolution now before the Committee was the first that had been presented concerning the same subject in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He was glad to note the absence of opposition on the part of the representatives of the Administering Members.

9. His delegation was prepared to accept the Liberian amendment to operative paragraph 1. In that connexion he pointed out that the term "indigenous officers" should include women as well as men. He had no doubt that the women in many Non-Self-Governing Territories were capable of doing other work besides teaching and nursing. In some of the Trust Territories, thanks to the training given by the Administering Authorities, women were occupying technical posts; in New Guinea, for example, women were working as analysts and technicians in the Public Health Department.

10. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) observed that the draft resolution related to a very important problem. Only highly trained personnel could cope with the upheavals and even anarchy that might accompany the attainment of independence. Moreover, independence became a reality through the existence of such trained cadres. That had always been not only the theory but the practice of the French Government when it had been responsible for Non-Self-Governing Territories. The fruits of that policy could be seen today in the presence in the Committee of the representatives of a number of sovereign States which had formerly been French-administered Territories.

11. His delegation would whole-heartedly support the draft resolution.

12. Mr. SINGH (India) said that he too would accept the amendment proposed by the delegation of Liberia.

13. Mr. IMAM (Pakistan) said that his delegation would support the draft resolution and, indeed, had become one of its sponsors. The association of indigenous people with technical and other developments in their countries would not only prepare them for responsibility but would give an immediate impulse to the process of social and economic development.

14. Mr. KABBANI (Saudi Arabia) said that his delegation attached great importance to the objectives of the draft resolution and to its implementation by

the Administering Members. He would vote in favour of the draft resolution and of the Liberian amendment if it was put to the vote separately.

15. Mr. KUCHAVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would be unable to support the draft resolution, since it included no target date for its implementation. The colonialists would undoubtedly interpret the terms of the resolution as an authorization to establish long-term plans and so perpetuate the colonialist régime. His delegation would therefore abstain in the vote.

16. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution (A/C.4/L.641 and Add.1), together with the Liberian amendment, which had been accepted by the sponsors.

At the request of the representative of Ceylon, a vote was taken by roll-call.

The Dominican Republic, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia.

The draft resolution was approved by 73 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.

Draft resolution A/C.4/L.640/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1

17. Mr. BAMALLI (Nigeria), presenting draft resolution A/C.4/L.640/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1, said that the progress report¹ showed that a rapid advance had been made in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories during the period covered, 1946 to 1957. There had been further progress since that period, as was eloquently testified by the presence of many representatives of African countries in the Committee. Nevertheless, both the progress report and the report of the Committee on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/4371) showed that progress was not rapid enough and that achievements had fallen short of the needs of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. His delegation was aware of the immensity of the problems to be solved, but it could not but feel that the Administering Members could improve on their record if they so

wished. In that connexion he drew attention to paragraph 46 of part one of the report of the Committee on Information, which implied that the administering Powers had not so far made full use of the opportunities offered by the specialized agencies.

18. His delegation considered that, notwithstanding the usual excuse of the inexperience of the indigenous inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, one of the best ways of ensuring rapid progress was to transfer power to them. In the first place, the only way to gain experience of any work was to perform it. In the second place, however benevolent an administering Power might be, it was unlikely that it could completely identify its interests with those of the country it administered. It was significant that in almost all cases Territories progressed more rapidly after they had become self-governing or independent.

19. He had no intention of belittling the efforts of the Administering Members; he merely wished to make the point that in asking them to transfer power to indigenous inhabitants the sponsors of the draft resolution were not proposing an irresponsible act but in fact one that would work in the interests of all.

20. The purpose of the progress report was to enable the United Nations to formulate precise conclusions and recommendations. Unfortunately the report did not give comprehensive information on the political situation in most of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and, in spite of General Assembly resolution 1468 (XIV), only the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States had given political information in the reports transmitted to the Secretary-General. Without political information it was impossible for the United Nations to assess correctly how far the Administering Members had implemented the central obligation they had assumed under the Charter, that of developing self-government in the Territories they administered. The argument for the transmission of political information was incontrovertible and it was difficult to understand why most Administering Members were reluctant to furnish such information. The contention that the Charter did not call for transmission of political information was in his view a legal nicety. No constitution, however well written, could operate successfully if everyone clung to the letter rather than to the spirit of the law. There were many instances of the United Nations making compromises which did not, strictly speaking, accord with the letter of its rules. Such a compromise in the present case would enable the purposes of the Charter to be more fully realized.

21. He hoped the draft resolution would be approved unanimously. As the representative of Ceylon had pointed out, justice should not only be done but should be seen to have been done. The transmission of political information would afford the Administering Members a means of showing that they did political justice in the Territories they administered.

22. Mr. ZULOAGA (Venezuela) said that, despite the fact that General Assembly resolution 1468 (XIV) had been adopted by an overwhelming majority, the Committee on Information had found it necessary to draw attention in paragraph 14 of part two of its report to the continued failure on the part of certain

¹/ A/4105-4109, A/4114, A/4124, A/4128 and Corr.1, A/4129, A/4131, A/4134, A/4136, A/4137, A/4142, A/4144, A/4152, A/4162 and Corr.1, A/4165-4167, A/4175, A/4178, A/4181, A/4192-4195, ST/TR1/SER.A/15/vol.5.

Administering Members to provide information on political developments. During the discussion of draft resolution A/C.4/L.639/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1 the delegations of the United Kingdom and France had warmly welcomed participation by representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations, although they knew full well that the inevitable consequence would be that those representatives would be able to supply information on political developments to members of the Committee. That being so, he felt that the Administering Members should be in a position to support draft resolution A/C.4/L.640/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1, which he hoped would be approved unanimously.

23. Mr. Najmuddine RIFAI (United Arab Republic) said that the legal arguments so often adduced by the Administering Members against the transmission of political information were out of date. The pressure of events and the desire of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for freedom made it urgent and essential to adopt a liberal view of the legal framework within which the Committee operated. The Committee should be guided by the spirit of Chapter XI of the Charter rather than the letter. He found it baffling that the Administering Members should state that the goal was independence or self-government and should profess their desire to co-operate with the United Nations, while denying the Organization the all-important information which would enable that co-operation to bear fruit. Times had changed and the Administering Members could no longer take refuge behind a legalistic interpretation of Chapter XI. Since all agreed that independence or self-government should be achieved as soon as possible, he failed to understand why the Administering Members did not co-operate with the United Nations with a view to the early achievement of that goal. The failure to provide political information had always handicapped the United Nations in the discharge of its duties under the Charter. His delegation had been encouraged by the attitude of the Administering Members towards the two draft resolutions already approved and felt that it would be only logical if they adopted the same attitude towards the draft resolution now under consideration.

24. Mr. WEEKS (Liberia) observed that the draft resolution was one which at first sight had met with the full approval of his delegation. Closer examination, however, had revealed certain points to which his delegation took exception. Certain parts of the draft resolution were inconsistent with the views held by his Government on the progress of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. As he had pointed out at the 1016th meeting, progress had no doubt been made but it had been purely in the interest of the administering Powers. What his delegation wished to stress was that there had been no progress so far as the interests of the indigenous inhabitants were concerned. He could speak from experience, for he had visited such Territories as Angola, Tanganyika and Northern and Southern Rhodesia. In Angola, for example, he had been able to see for himself the health conditions of the indigenous inhabitants.

25. Mr. NOGUEIRA (Portugal), speaking on a point of order, said that he understood the Liberian representative to be dealing with the draft resolution. That being so, references to individual Territories were unnecessary and irrelevant.

26. Mr. WEEKS (Liberia) observed that the draft resolution was concerned with the interests of the indigenous inhabitants, a matter which was on the Committee's agenda.

27. The Committee on Information had referred to the discrepancy between the wages received by indigenous workers and their non-indigenous colleagues. Forced labour existed in most of the Territories, the economies of the Territories were based solely on subsistence agriculture and discrimination was rampant. The draft resolution which the Committee had approved earlier in the meeting contained a reference to the serious shortages of trained personnel in the Territories. It was scarcely possible to talk about "progress" in the light of those shortcomings and his delegation accordingly suggested that the word "gradual" should be inserted before the word "progress" in operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.4/L.640/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1. That paragraph referred to the progress "achieved in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories" and he felt that it would be more appropriate if the word "many" were replaced by the word "some". Operative paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8 were fully in accordance with the views of his Government, which laid great stress on the importance of receiving information regarding political development. His delegation would support the draft resolution and he hoped that the sponsors would see their way to accepting his amendments.

28. Mr. SIDI BABA (Morocco) said that his delegation wished to join those sponsoring the draft resolution.

29. In his view, it would be preferable if the words "realization of the goal of" were deleted from operative paragraph 5.

30. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) said that, although in principle his delegation supported the draft resolution, he felt doubtful whether its wording was in accordance with that of the Charter. The first preambular paragraph contained a reference to Chapter XI and the second to sub-paragraphs a and b of Article 73; operative paragraph 5 referred to the goal of the Non-Self-Governing Territories as being independence and the word "independence" was also used in operative paragraphs 6 and 8. He liked to believe that that was indeed the objective, the more so as his delegation had fought hard at San Francisco for the insertion of "independence" as an alternative goal in Article 73. It was an unfortunate fact, however, that the word "independence" did not appear in Article 73 or indeed anywhere else in Chapter XI, though it was used in Article 76, which dealt exclusively with the Trust Territories. He would emphasize that he in no way disagreed that independence should be the goal of those Non-Self-Governing Territories which were ready for it, but the fact remained that Article 73 b spoke only of self-government. Even if self-government could imply almost complete independence, there was nevertheless a difference.

31. In his view, it would be more appropriate if the word "and" before the word "notes" in operative paragraph 3 were replaced by the word "but", thus establishing a contrast between the progress in some Territories and the lack of it in a substantial number of others.

32. Mr. KENNEDY (Ireland) observed that his delegation, which had always been in favour of an orderly

transition to self-government and independence, fully agreed with the general principle embodied in the draft resolution and was anxious to support it. It felt, however, that the words "under no circumstances" in operative paragraph 5 went too far. It was possible to envisage circumstances in which it would be wise to prepare the infrastructure of political independence. He was not referring to any specific Territory, but in the future there might be cases of Territories where the low economic, social and educational standards would cause the Committee to hesitate and to feel that those standards should first be raised. His delegation agreed that economic, social and educational standards should not be a reason for delaying independence, but the wording of the draft resolution went further than that.

33. He accordingly proposed that the last part of operative paragraph 5, after the words "Non-Self-Governing Territories" should be replaced by the words "independence should not be delayed until economic, social and educational problems have been solved". Such an alteration would not alter the principle of the draft resolution and would be closer to the facts.

34. Mr. Zaïd RIFAI (Jordan) said that his delegation attached particular importance to the provision of information on constitutional and political developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It had no objection to the Moroccan amendment, which merely altered the words, but not the spirit, of the draft resolution. The Irish amendment, however, involved a change of principle and he would therefore reserve his position on it.

35. Mr. RAHNEMA (Iran) moved the suspension of the meeting under rule 119 of the rules of procedure in order to allow the sponsors time to confer.

The motion was adopted.

The meeting was suspended at 5.15 p.m. and resumed at 5.40 p.m.

36. Mr. Zaïd RIFAI (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, welcomed the addition of Morocco to the list of sponsors. The sponsors would accept the Moroccan amendment to operative paragraph 5 and the second Liberian amendment to operative paragraph 3 but they were unable to accept the Liberian suggestion for the addition of the word "gradual" before "progress". They could not accept the wording of the Irish amendment; but they were willing to alter the last part of operative paragraph 5 to read "...independence should not be delayed on the ground of inadequate economic, social and educational standards prevailing in the Territories".

37. Mr. WEEKS (Liberia) thanked the sponsors for accepting his second amendment. He would not press for the adoption of the first.

38. Mr. KENNEDY (Ireland) thanked the sponsors for their efforts to accommodate his views.

39. The new wording of paragraph 5, however, although an improvement, did not quite meet the point he had raised: namely, that in certain circumstances—such as obviously inadequate economic, social and educational standards—it might be wise to delay independence. He would not press his amendment, however, but would ask for a separate vote on

paragraph 5 and would like to hear the views of other delegations on what his delegation felt to be an important point of principle.

40. Mr. BA (Mali) said that he had co-sponsored the draft resolution because he regarded it as a contribution to the development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards independence. He must emphasize, however, that he regarded it as a purely transitional measure pending the adoption of the draft declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (A/4502 and Corr.1). When the end of colonialism was proclaimed and the Territories became independent there would be no need to appraise the progress made under foreign domination.

41. Some delegations had seemed inclined to compare the progress made in various Territories. He would point out, however, that progress was not a matter for rivalry. The task of the Fourth Committee was to bring colonial practices to an end and abolish colonialism, not to make an inventory of the progress made. The majority of delegations seemed to be in agreement that, despite certain positive aspects, colonialism was a harmful phenomenon and that only after a country became independent could true progress be made. There were many living examples of that truth represented in the Committee itself: one such was the Soviet Union, which in the space of forty years had overcome the lag of centuries in such fields as science and culture. Whatever progress had been achieved in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, it must be recognized that that progress would have been greater had those Territories been independent.

42. If the meaning of the Irish amendment was that independence should await a fully developed economic, social and educational infrastructure, it would merely reflect the interests of the colonial Powers, which would lack the incentive to make that infrastructure a reality. The Irish amendment was therefore diametrically opposed to the intentions of the sponsors.

43. He had been surprised to hear the Philippine representative, a champion of the liberation of the Territories, indulge in legal quibbling regarding the difference between self-government and independence. Legal science should be used for a better purpose than to defend a bad cause.

44. One of the purposes of the draft resolution was to urge the Administering Members to transmit full information on their Territories. The Administering Members should be compelled to transmit information under the terms of the Charter, though there would of course be no further need for such information when the draft declaration on independence was adopted.

45. The statement that some Territories were part of their metropolitan countries was pure hypocrisy. It was regrettable that the curtailment of freedom of information and other such practices in those Territories had delayed their emancipation.

46. Mr. ORTIZ DE ROZAS (Argentina) said that his delegation shared the concern of the Irish delegation. Argentina had always favoured the independence of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and felt that, in principle, all Territories should achieve independence as quickly as possible. The circumstances

in which a Territory did so, however, concerned not only the Territory itself but also the international community, since international peace and security might be involved. Most of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were ready for independence but in some cases there were individual circumstances to be taken into account. He found the Irish amendment more in conformity with his delegation's views than the new wording of operative paragraph 5 and hoped that the sponsors would reconsider it. If they could meet that point, Argentina would be able to vote in favour of the draft resolution as a whole.

47. Mr. BRAIMAH (Ghana) recalled that in its statement at the 1009th meeting his delegation had drawn attention to some far-reaching constitutional changes which had been made in certain Territories during the period under review but which were not mentioned in the progress report. The purpose of the draft resolution was to bridge that gap by urging the Administering Members concerned to transmit information of a political and constitutional character.

48. With regard to the Irish amendment, no one could deny that independence was more substantial if it was preceded by a high degree of economic, social and educational advancement; the point was that such advancement should not be a prerequisite for independence. The recent history of Ghana and of other new countries showed that people rose magnificently to the challenge of independence and developed much more rapidly than under even the most benevolent alien rule. That was a recognized psychological and political phenomenon. The first goal of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Terri-

tories was independence and national freedom. While the Administering Members had the sacred duty to promote progress in the Territories, independence could no longer safely be delayed because of an inadequate stage of advancement.

49. He regretted that the refusal of certain Administering Members to transmit information of a political and constitutional character had made it impossible for the Committee on Information to assess the extent of the progress made in their Territories. That unfortunate situation was due to the limited terms of reference of the Committee. The claim advanced by some delegations that political advancement was not a legitimate concern of the Committee was unrealistic, short-sighted and dangerous. The case of the Belgian Congo showed how vital it was for the General Assembly to participate actively during the transition stage between dependence and independence. The General Assembly was now supremely qualified to do so because of its many new Members who had been through the same experience. The draft resolution was intended to further the orderly transition of the Territories from dependence to independence. The Fourth Committee could not give good advice in that respect unless full information was provided on political and constitutional changes in the Territories.

50. His delegation hoped that Portugal and Spain would take account of the draft resolution. Although very little was known about their Territories, one thing was sure: they were not immune to the wind of change.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.