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CONTENTS

Page

Agenda items 39, 42, 43 and 44:

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):

(a) *Information on social conditions;*

(b) *Information on other conditions*

Dissemination of information on the United Nations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (continued)

Participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies: report of the Secretary-General (continued)

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (continued)

General debate (continued) 159

Chairman: Miss Angie BROOKS (Liberia).

AGENDA ITEMS 39, 42, 43 AND 44

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/4754 and Add.1, A/4755, A/4756 and Add.1, A/4757, A/4758 and Add.1, A/4759, A/4785) (continued):

(a) **Information on social conditions (A/4760, A/4785);**

(b) **Information on other conditions (A/4785)**

Dissemination of information on the United Nations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/4863, A/C.4/L.700) (continued)

Participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies: report of the Secretary-General (A/4852) (continued)

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/4862 and Add.1) (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. NABAVI (Iran) thanked the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories for having submitted a report (A/4785) that was instructive, objective and constructive. Great progress had been made in the Territories during the past sixteen

years, and most of the Administering Members had shown intelligence and realism in carrying out their obligations under Chapter XI of the Charter, although there were also some colonial Powers that could not take pride in their achievements. He was glad that the Spanish Government had decided to participate in the work of the Committee on Information, but regretted that the Committee's report was necessarily incomplete owing to the refusal of the Portuguese Government to comply with its obligations under Article 73 of the Charter. He particularly welcomed the announcement the United Kingdom delegation had made at the 1017th plenary meeting of the Assembly and in the Fourth Committee (1156th meeting) that the United Kingdom would in future transmit information of a political and constitutional character on the Territories under its administration, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1535 (XV). As was noted in operative paragraph 7 of that resolution and reiterated in paragraph 65 of part one of the Committee's report, the absence of information of that nature had made it impossible for the Committee to assess the progress achieved in some of the Territories towards the goals of the Charter. In taking that important decision, the United Kingdom Government had once again shown intelligence and understanding in its colonial policy.

2. His delegation had been particularly glad to learn that, as the result of an agreement between the administering Power and the indigenous authorities of Uganda, that Territory would shortly accede to independence.

3. The Committee's report brought out the whole problem of colonialism. Although that was a moribund institution, millions of human beings still lived under the colonial yoke. The Charter, in Chapters XI, XII and XIII, enunciated principles such as equality and self-determination of peoples as a basis for the work of the United Nations and its organs in helping dependent territories and peoples towards independence. Those principles, which had seemed new at the time of the drafting of the Charter, had been overtaken by events and the rate of emancipation of the colonial peoples. The Asian-African Conference held at Bandung in 1955 had been a landmark in that process of emancipation, which had culminated in the adoption of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)). The principles proclaimed in that Declaration might be described as general principles of law and were an essential complement of the principles set out in Chapter XI of the Charter. Any future measures concerning the still dependent peoples and territories must be viewed in relation to those standards and principles. In that connexion, he wished to associate himself with the observations of the representative of Mexico reproduced in paragraph 77 of part one of the report. It had become essential to prepare the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories as rapidly as possible

for real independence. That was the meaning of the "sacred trust" referred to in Article 73 of the Charter.

4. Despite the encouraging progress achieved in the Territories, advancement had not kept pace with events, as the Committee on Information had pointed out in its preceding report (A/4371, part two, para. 24). The United Nations should therefore do its utmost to accelerate the attainment of self-government by the colonial peoples, and should ensure that the transfer of powers took place in accordance with the freely expressed will of the peoples concerned, without conditions or reservations.

5. In regard to the preparation and training of indigenous civil and technical cadres, his delegation was satisfied with the measures recently taken by the Administering Members to vest an increasing measure of responsibility in the indigenous inhabitants for the administration of their own affairs. Events in the Congo had proved that the training of indigenous cadres was a necessity for countries preparing for self-government, and the administering Powers should intensify their efforts in that respect.

6. Where economic advancement was concerned, most of the Territories unfortunately remained entirely dependent on trade with the metropolitan countries, because their economies were neither diversified nor balanced. It was disappointing that, in certain cases, the methods the administering Powers had used to develop the economies of the Territories had made the latter even more closely dependent on the metropolitan countries, which too often put their own interests and needs before those of the Territories. Although certain Territories were economically more developed than a number of independent countries, in the majority of cases—especially in Angola, Mozambique and other African Territories administered by Portugal—the basic structure of the economy remained primitive and levels of living were among the lowest in the world. The efforts made to diversify agricultural production had, on the whole, been very slow and inadequate. Urgent steps should be taken, with the help of United Nations technical assistance agencies, to accelerate the economic development of the Territories, but in any event under-development should never serve as a pretext for further delay in granting those Territories independence.

7. Turning to the question of racial discrimination, he expressed his delegation's regret that General Assembly resolution 1536 (XV) had not been fully applied by the Administering Members: that major obstacle to the advancement of the Territories still subsisted, in a blatant form in Angola and the other African Territories administered by Portugal, and in more or less subtle forms elsewhere.

8. Generally speaking, his delegation felt that the composition and the terms of reference of the Committee on Information called for some modification. The problem was closely linked to that of the application of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, and the Committee's powers should be broadened to enable it to play a more important role in regard to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. His delegation might wish to submit precise proposals on the subject to the Fourth Committee at a later date.

9. Mr. GRINBERG (Bulgaria) thought that the report of the Committee on Information and the other documents before the Committee differed little from the

reports submitted in previous years. Year after year, those reports had simply described, in greater or less detail, the deplorable conditions under which the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories still lived. In support of his argument, he quoted paragraph 152 of part two of the Committee's report (A/4785) and the figures given in table 2 of document A/AC.35/L.345 and Corr.1.

10. Perhaps the most important information in the Committee's report was to be found in paragraph 7 of part two, which stated briefly that, during the period under review, "basic social conditions had not significantly changed". That conclusion, which the Committee had expressed on a number of occasions, in connexion with economic conditions, social conditions and educational conditions, acquired special significance because, at the time the Committee had reached it, the colonial Powers should already have taken energetic measures to give effect to the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

11. Only independence could remove the obstacles to rapid and all-round progress in the Territories, and all that now mattered was the immediate implementation of that Declaration. There was no longer any need to elaborate upon urbanization or the fauna of the Territories. The peoples of the Territories were expecting the United Nations to take steps to ensure that all powers were transferred to them forthwith, in accordance with the Declaration. Political progress in the Territories was evident everywhere. The whole edifice of colonialism was falling apart; Sierra Leone was already independent, and the same would soon be true of Uganda, Guiana, Kenya and other Territories. Yet, having achieved their freedom after a hard struggle for independence, many of those Territories would still have to rid themselves of the deplorable legacies of colonialism—hunger, illiteracy and disease. Even before they acquired independence, the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories also had to take action to ensure that the promised independence was not fictitious and that the neo-colonialists did not succeed in perpetuating the economic privileges of the white settlers and foreign monopolies and in maintaining foreign military bases in the Territories. The United Nations could therefore do much for those peoples by ensuring the faithful implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and by setting up machinery for a detailed study of the situation in Non-Self-Governing Territories and of the steps needed to implement the Declaration.

12. Even stronger steps were needed with regard to the group of Territories to the south of the Congo, in which international colonialism was determined to maintain at all costs the monstrous privileges of white settlers and of United States, British and other monopolies. The South African newspaper *The Star*, of 8 July 1961, quoted Prime Minister Salazar of Portugal as saying that Angola should form some sort of a defence bloc with South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Mozambique. According to the same newspaper, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of South Africa had held "extremely successful" talks with the United Kingdom Minister of Defence, and had visited Lisbon shortly after the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. According to *The Times* of 6 June 1961, Prime Minister Salazar had also had talks with the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The results of those talks had of course been kept secret, but it was hardly possible to conceal the

fact that the Portuguese, the South Africans and other colonialists were using arms provided by NATO against African patriots in that region. The United Kingdom was following up those diplomatic and military moves by taking steps in Northern and Southern Rhodesia which were probably designed to establish, once and for all, the supremacy of the white minority over the African population of those Territories. In the benevolent picture he had drawn of British colonialism at the 1175th meeting, the United Kingdom representative had not, of course, mentioned those Territories, but Mr. Kenneth Kaunda, the Northern Rhodesian nationalist leader had eloquently summed up developments in his own Territory by saying: "McLeod sold us to Welensky".

13. Those facts were clear enough proof of the gravity of the situation in that group of Territories. At the risk of provoking from the United Kingdom representative a further comparison between General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and a magic lamp, along the lines of his statement at the 1175th meeting, the Bulgarian delegation intended to co-sponsor a draft resolution providing that the Declaration should be brought to the knowledge of the indigenous populations of Non-Self-Governing Territories without delay. In view of the urgent need for specific steps to give effect to that Declaration, the Bulgarian delegation also wholeheartedly supported the draft resolution (A/L.355) submitted by the Soviet Union under item 88 of the General Assembly's agenda, under which colonialism would be completely eliminated by the end of 1962.

14. Lastly, he wished to reply to certain remarks made by the United Kingdom representative at the 1175th meeting. Sir Hugh Foot had said that the United Kingdom did not exploit the Territories for which it was responsible nor did it withdraw any funds from those Territories. Yet according to a White Paper published by the United Kingdom Government and entitled Assistance from the United Kingdom for Overseas Development,^{1/} the assistance extended by the United Kingdom to all Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories under its administration had in 1957-1958 amounted to £63 million. In its previous report (A/4371, part three, para. 24), the Committee on Information had stated that during the same period, the United Kingdom had withdrawn the equivalent of £70 million from those Territories in the form of invisible transactions alone.

15. The United Kingdom representative had said that there had since been a further increase in the aid the United Kingdom had furnished to Non-Self-Governing Territories, but according to the September 1960 issue of the British periodical Venture, the increase was almost entirely in the form of loans, on which the charges were particularly heavy. The interest was 6 per cent; in 1959-1960 alone, it had added an annual charge of £3,500,000, apart from capital repayment, to the budgets of the recipient countries. The whole of the grant aid given by the United Kingdom to colonial territories over a period of fourteen years was no more than the amount of government subsidies to British agriculture for the 1959-1960 financial year alone.

16. At the same meeting the United States representative, Mr. Bingham, had answered Mr. Morse's criticisms of the United States Government's policy on colonialism by saying that they did not apply to the present Administration. Yet the present Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Bowles, in a statement quoted in

The New York Times of 16 August 1961, had urged his compatriots to recognize that most Africans, Asians and Latin Americans were now profoundly sceptical of the capacity of the United States consistently to live up to its revolutionary traditions in support of self-determination and equality for all peoples.

✓ 17. Mr. PEIRIS (Ceylon) congratulated the authors of the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/4785) on having presented an excellent document which was extremely clear and comprehensive.

18. The Ceylonese delegation was glad that the United Kingdom Government had now agreed to provide information of a political and constitutional nature on the Territories for which it was responsible. That decision would make it possible to fill a serious gap and would greatly facilitate the work of the Committee on Information, which had hitherto been much handicapped in regard to an important point. His delegation was also very glad that the Government of Spain had agreed to co-operate with the Committee and to transmit information called for under Article 73 of the Charter.

19. The attitude of Portugal was in line with the general policy adopted by that country in reference to its colonial territories. The Ceylonese delegation considered that, if Portugal continued to ignore its obligations, steps should be taken with a view to the United Nations Secretariat procuring from reliable sources all available information on the situation in the Territories under Portuguese administration. Portugal's attitude was akin to South Africa's, and unless those two countries changed their stand they would inevitably have to bear the consequences.

20. It was satisfactory to note that the report on social advancement in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/4785, part two) had been prepared with an eye to the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as in the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, the provisions of which were binding and peremptory. In view of paragraph 3 of that Declaration, it was the duty of the Committee on Information, the Trusteeship Council and the Fourth Committee to try to terminate their own activities as soon as possible by ensuring that the Territories still within their field of competence obtained their independence. That was their essential task, and all the other problems of social, economic and cultural development would be resolved as those Territories moved towards independence. The report on social advancement was, however, incomplete, for it did not examine economic and social advancement in relation to progress in the political field. The Ceylonese delegation had helped to draft the report on social advancement and had noted that, in most cases, the information supplied by the Administering Members contained no data on the political situation in the Territories concerned. It felt, however, that it would have been possible for the Committee to obtain the information required, either from published reports or from various other sources. In that way the Committee would have been able to evaluate the over-all progress made in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to indicate in its report the steps taken by the Administering Member's to implement General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

21. The report would also have been better if the observations on the social situation had been of a less general nature. It was hardly logical, for example, to include the Caribbean Territories and the Central

^{1/} Cmd. 974, London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1960.

African and East African Territories in the same section. Without studying each Territory separately, it would have been better to have arranged the Territories by regions, as that would have enabled the Committee to obtain a clearer and fuller picture of current problems and conditions in the Territories.

22. Nor did the report give any clear indication of the policy followed by the administering Powers in regard to the language of instruction used in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It appeared that primary education was given in the language of the Territory but that secondary and higher education, where such existed, were given in the language of the administering Power. From his own country's experience, he considered that instruction should at all levels be given in the language of the country, so as to avoid the emergence of an intelligentsia speaking a language different from that of the mass of the people. The Ceylonese delegation thought that, whatever difficulties there might be in using the language of the Territory as the language of instruction, they had to be overcome. Similarly, in cases where the language of the metropolitan country was used as the official language of the Territory, the administering Power ought to consider changing that practice. By encouraging the use of a Territory's language, the administering Power would contribute substantially to the harmonious development of the countries for which it was responsible.

23. The section of the report dealing with aspects of rural development (A/4785, part two, paras. 9-15) referred to rural stagnation and impoverishment, and to means of eliminating those conditions. In the opinion of the Ceylonese delegation, the migratory movements described in the first two sentences of paragraph 14 of that section represented an inevitable process which no rural development measures could halt. Generally speaking, it would scarcely be logical to subject the people to subsistence agriculture. The rural problem could be attacked in various ways, such as encouraging cottage industries, combating rural indebtedness, or improving methods of cultivation. If agriculture was to provide a livelihood for a large population and to bring about an adequate level of living for individuals, it must cease being a mere subsistence activity, and agriculture and industry should develop *pari passu* within the framework of well-conceived general economic development. That was a problem to which the administering Powers should devote more attention; they should try to promote both the creation of industry and the diversification of the economy. It was a field which should not be left to private enterprise alone, but in which private enterprise should work in co-operation with the public sector.

24. While on the subject of rural and industrial development, he wished to refer to a phenomenon which was quite normal in South Africa and which possibly affected the situation existing in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

25. Mr. HATTINGH (South Africa), speaking on a point of order, emphasized that the representative of Ceylon had not twice referred to South Africa, although it had nothing to do with the agenda item under discussion. The Chairman had requested speakers to keep to the question before the Committee, and he hoped that members of the Committee would comply with that request.

26. Mr. WEEKS (Liberia), speaking on a point of order, pointed out that the representative of Ceylon had spoken of South Africa, not of the Republic of South

Africa. The representative of the Republic of South Africa should have given the speaker time in which to explain his ideas.

27. Mr. PEIRIS (Ceylon), replying to a question by the CHAIRMAN, stated that the remarks which he was about to make arose directly from study of the agenda item before the Committee.

28. The CHAIRMAN invited the representative of Ceylon to continue his statement.

29. Mr. PEIRIS (Ceylon) recalled that in South Africa the labour force was huddled into what were termed Native reserves. That practice was of course the result of racial discrimination; but it was also connected with the desire to have available a large body of indigenous unskilled labour living in primitive conditions in rural reserves and prevented from organizing itself to take collective action in the defence of its interests. The part of the report dealing with the living conditions of urban workers gave the impression that that situation also obtained in certain Non-Self-Governing Territories. His delegation insisted that the administering Powers should take all the necessary measures, legislative or otherwise, to remedy that state of affairs and to eliminate every obstacle to the urbanization of workers and their participation in urban life as fully integrated citizens. The administering Powers ought also to close the gap between the wages paid to indigenous inhabitants and those paid to Europeans. Technical qualifications, productivity and expatriation were the only factors which would justify a difference in salary.

30. Furthermore, in the report on social advancement it was stated that the installation of military bases was aggravating the problem of the scarcity of land available for agriculture. That question had a political as well as an economic side: for numerous countries which had already attained independence, the existence of foreign military bases on their territory ran counter to the policy which those countries would want to follow as independent nations. Ceylon had had the good fortune to escape that situation, but other countries had been less fortunate.

31. The question of military bases raised, in any case, the more general problem of the responsibility of the Administering Members under Article 73 of the Charter. They were not supposed to make the Territories which they administered participate in international agreements if such participation was not justified by the interests of the population concerned. That excluded political, military or other agreements concluded in the interests of the administering Powers and arising from obligations contracted by those Powers within the framework of their international relations. He likewise recalled the provisions of Article 73 b and emphasized that the populations of Non-Self-Governing Territories did not wish to find themselves involved in the cold war before they were in a position to choose their policy for themselves. In that respect, the Ceylonese delegation considered that attempts to influence the Territories in the direction of this or that ideological policy should cease, in the interests both of the Territories themselves and of international peace. All the Territories should be allowed to develop as they wished, and the administering Powers should refrain from using their privileged position in order to influence them. The establishment of military bases and the stationing of armed forces in the Territories, as well as the conclusion of political or other agreements in their name, were contrary to the provisions

of Article 73. The Committee on Information should in future examine that problem and indicate in its report the matters in which the Administering Members had taken steps that might be regarded as contrary to the spirit of Article 73.

32. With respect to the dissemination of information about the United Nations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Ceylonese delegation observed that no information centre had yet been set up in Papua, but noted the Australian delegation's statement at the 1165th meeting that an agreement in principle had already been reached for the opening of such a centre in Papua, which would also serve New Guinea. It was to be hoped that that centre would soon be established. It was also noteworthy that the report did not deal separately with measures taken by the administering Powers to ensure the active support and participation of organizations representing the populations of the Territories in the dissemination of information about the United Nations. It was to be hoped that the administering Powers would take steps to that end, and that they would bring them to the knowledge of the Secretary-General. In that field, the problem of disseminating information in languages easily understood by the indigenous inhabitants was far from having been satisfactorily solved. The Ceylonese delegation hoped that the Office of Public Information would continue to be active in that question.

33. With regard to the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, it emerged from the Secretary-General's report on the question (A/4852) that in the case of many Territories nothing had yet been done in that field, and it was to be hoped that the administering Powers concerned would remedy that situation. By participating in the activities of international bodies, the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories would acquire valuable experience which would be useful to them when they came to manage their own national affairs.

34. It was also regrettable that the study and training facilities offered by certain States had not been fully utilized. The Ceylonese delegation hoped that the Administering Members would do everything possible to ensure that the opportunities offered were used to the full. It also requested Member States to intensify, whenever they could, the efforts which they had already made in that field.

35. The day was approaching when the Committee on Information would have completed its work. His delegation was awaiting with impatience the time when the few Territories which had not yet attained independence would join the numerous countries whose independence had already been secured.

36. Mr. HATTINGH (South Africa), in the exercise of his right of reply, said that African workers came from neighbouring territories to work in his country on account of the very favourable working, wage and living conditions offered to them there. The number of African workers who had entered South Africa as illegal immigrants since the Second World War was 1,300,000.

37. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana), in the exercise of his right of reply, recalled that at the time of the debate on Angola in the Security Council, his delegation had pointed out that the majority of African workers coming from Angola were sold as slaves to South Africa.

38. Replying on a point of order raised by Mr. FRAGOSO (Portugal), the CHAIRMAN observed that

the remarks made by the representative of Ghana did not relate to the situation in Angola.

39. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana), said that his remarks did not refer to Portugal, although Angola was a Non-Self-Governing Territory. He had simply wished to stress the fact that most of the colonies bordering on South Africa were under-developed countries and that if workers coming from those Territories had to go to South Africa to find work, the fault lay exclusively with the administering Powers. Such migrations could certainly not be ascribed to the existence of a luxurious standard of living in South Africa.

40. Mr. WEEKS (Liberia) said that he shared the views of the representative of Ghana.

41. Mr. HATTINGH (South Africa) declared that the migration of workers from neighbouring territories to South Africa was purely on the basis of the economic law of supply and demand. To that might be added that the wages paid in South Africa were higher than probably anywhere else in the whole of Africa.

42. Mr. KIDWAI (India) observed that the Committee was not considering the question of the terrible situation in South Africa, which was being discussed in another Committee.

43. Mr. DIALLO (Mali) shared the views expressed by the representative of Ghana. He could understand that the South African delegation should do its utmost to hamper the debate, but he failed to grasp the reason for the useless and regrettable intervention by the representative of Portugal, which was detrimental to the tone of the Committee's debates.

44. Mr. BRYKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that the statements of certain delegations were being interrupted time and again by the representatives of the colonial Powers, and was of the opinion that it would be more logical to interrupt the statements of the latter. In considering the social situation in the Territories, the Committee could not confine itself merely to repeating what had already been said in the report of the Committee on Information. He asked if it was possible to speak of progress in the social field when colonialist wars were being waged in Angola and Algeria. The Soviet delegation favoured the accomplishment of real progress in the colonies and considered that the representatives of the colonialist Powers should conduct themselves in a more moderate fashion.

45. Mr. FRAGOSO (Portugal) said that his delegation reserved its right to reply at an appropriate time to the remarks of the representative of Ghana. He had no intention of interrupting the debate, but wished to ask in his turn for the protection of the Chair.

46. The CHAIRMAN referred the representative of Portugal to the report of the Committee on Information, which contained specific allusions to the Territories under Portuguese administration.

47. Mr. McINTYRE (Australia) said that as a member of the Committee on Information Australia had a special interest in the report being considered, and although the Australian delegation did not necessarily agree with all the conclusions contained therein, in the main it found the report very satisfactory. It was a constructive approach to the kind of social problems with which Non-Self-Governing Territories and their Administrations were confronted. Those problems took on added importance under the accelerated pace at which dependent peoples were moving towards the goals

set forth in the Charter. Acceleration came more slowly in some Territories than others. In the New Guinea Territories, there were still few, if any, signs of that acceleration which springs from the indigenous inhabitants themselves when they begin to see the goal ahead; but there was every reason to be confident that acceleration would indeed come about the almost certainly rather sooner than it was at present possible to calculate with precision.

48. In addition to the substantial amount of information supplied by the Australian Government to the Committee on Information—much of it by a senior officer of many years' experience in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea—the Committee on Information had had before it at its last session a detailed report of the Australian Government's progress in Papua, including such matters as rural development, diversification of crops, co-operatives and rural credit, the question of land tenure, urban and community development, industrial relations and public health.^{2/} In accordance with resolutions of the General Assembly, Australia had also submitted reports on the training of indigenous cadres (A/4785, part one, annex IV, sect. A) and on measures taken to eliminate discriminatory provisions from legislation.^{2/}

49. In part two of its report, the Committee on Information had rightly stressed the importance of improving agricultural methods in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, most of which were still largely dependent upon agriculture. The Australian Government was very much aware of the need to educate farmers and farm workers in Papua and such efforts had recently been directed towards expanding production of cash crops. As one indication of the scope of those activities, over 3,000 farmers had already passed through special farm courses in the Territory, and a co-ordinated programme of research and extension work covering agriculture, live-stock and fisheries was being vigorously pressed forward. The Australian Government was confident that results would be good.

50. He drew attention to the increasing use being made in Papua of finance provided from the Native Loans Fund, the purpose of which was to make finance available to indigenous people for a wide range of economic projects. Added emphasis had also been given to the co-operative movement, which was regarded by the Australian authorities as an important means of promoting the material welfare of the Papuan people.

51. Turning to land tenure, he said that in the ideal the aim of the Administration would be to create at once a system of registered, individual title to land, but tribal customs varied so widely and were so complex that no quick solution was possible. The Australian authorities were giving close attention to this matter, and legislation was being drafted to pave the way for the introduction of a single system of land-holding regulated by the Administration and providing as far as possible secure, individual, registered title.

52. The growing trend towards urbanization and the increase in the labour force due to the development of secondary industries would require greater development in all sectors. As one indication of the way in which the Australian Government was thinking, he drew attention to a pilot project in housing at Port Moresby, where about 300 brick houses had been built; the rentals were well within the means of indigenous tenants, who also had the right to purchase under very reasonable terms.

53. Furthermore, the Australian Government had recently established a separate Department of Labour in the Territory to give specialized attention to the problems connected with industrial relations, which would assume added importance with the trend towards urbanization. Legislation was being discussed by the Legislative Council at Port Moresby covering a wide variety of matters affecting industrial relations and the development of trade unions. An Industrial Relations Bill would provide for the right of free association for industrial purposes, and would regulate the conditions under which industrial organizations of employers and employees would be recognized by law. However, the aim of the Australian Government was to permit the people, as far as possible, to work out for themselves the industrial system best suited to their own wishes.

54. With respect to the dissemination of information in Non-Self-Governing Territories, he recalled the agreement of his Government to the establishment of a United Nations information centre in Papua and New Guinea, with details concerning the location and staffing of the centre and linking of services between the two Territories to be worked out with the Secretariat. He said that discussions had begun with the Secretariat, and were making good progress.

55. In conclusion, he referred to two completely conflicting opinions expressed concerning the future of the Committee on Information. One was that the Committee should be abolished; the other that it should be given wider terms of reference with more authority, with duties and functions not provided for in the Charter and which would seek to impose additional obligations on all Administering Members. For the time being, he wanted to make only one point, as there would be an opportunity to discuss the matter in detail later under another agenda item. Whatever doubt there might have been at the beginning regarding the status of the Committee on Information, the Australian Government had extended its full co-operation. Over the years the Committee had come to be regarded as virtually an established organ of the United Nations with a valuable role to play. The Australian Government wanted to be able to go on co-operating. It had submitted information about political as well as economic and social matters in its Territories for a number of years. It had done so quite voluntarily. In fact, the Charter specifically allowed a good deal of discretion regarding what information should or should not be submitted, but the Australian Government had used that discretion to increase rather than restrict the flow of information. The announcement made by the United Kingdom that it was prepared to transmit information on political matters meant that the Committee on Information could in future obtain a comprehensive picture of conditions in the great majority of Non-Self-Governing Territories. He expressed the hope that the Fourth Committee would bear that in mind if it valued the support that the Administering Members had shown they were prepared to give to the Committee on Information. He hoped the Fourth Committee would continue to invite the fullest possible co-operation of the Administering Members—co-operation for which there was no substitute, and which his delegation would not want to see weakened.

56. Mr. WOLNIAK (Poland) acknowledged that the authors of the report of the Committee on Information had made strenuous efforts, and he congratulated them on it, but he did not think that the report could be taken as a basis for evaluating the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

^{2/} See A/AC.35/SR.228.

57. In the first place, the report did not contain any information on certain Non-Self-Governing Territories because some colonial Powers still refused to comply with the provisions of the Charter. Portugal had never transmitted any information concerning Angola, Mozambique and other Territories, and its colonial policy was a serious violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter. France, for its part, had discontinued transmitting information on several Non-Self-Governing Territories since 1947; the United Kingdom Government had not transmitted any information on Southern Rhodesia, and lastly, Spain had been too late in supplying information on the Territories under its administration.

58. In the second place, the report mentioned only problems of a social and economic nature or else educational problems. Without underestimating the importance of those matters, the omission of information on political conditions in the Territories could only give an incomplete and distorted picture of those Territories.

59. In the third place, the report was based chiefly on the information submitted annually by Administering Members, which did not constitute a sufficiently reliable and exhaustive source of information. In that connexion, he pointed out that, under the International Trusteeship System, not only were annual reports submitted by the Administering Authorities, but provision was made for additional sources of information such as visiting missions and petitions.

60. Lastly, the report had been prepared by a committee half of whose membership was made up of colonial Powers and whose opinion, for that reason, was very far from reflecting modern realities. That was proved by the fact that the Committee had rejected operative paragraph 3 of a draft resolution submitted by the non-administering Powers recommending the use of other sources of information until such time as the Portuguese Government itself saw fit to furnish information.^{3/}

61. It was impossible, therefore, to rely solely on the Committee's report in evaluating the present situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Moreover, that situation should be considered in the light of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, which contained the principles to be applied in putting an end to colonialism. Above all, the Committee should consider how far the provisions of the Declaration had been put into effect in the Non-Self-Governing Territories during the past year. During that time, however, the only Territory which had attained independence was Sierra Leone, which his country was glad to see take its place among the States Members of the United Nations. The reason that that was an exceptional case rather than the rule, as it should be, was that the Administering Members were reluctant to apply the principles contained in the Declaration and were boycotting the decision which had been made by an overwhelming majority of countries. Colonialism was so indefensible, however, that the representative of Spain had stated in the Committee on Information (239th meeting) that his country had never been a colonial Power, that even Portugal described its colonies as "overseas provinces" and that the United

States claimed to be an anti-colonial Power. Those professions of faith, however, were not confirmed by what the Powers in question were actually doing in the Territories under their administration. The theory that the colonial Powers could be divided into those Powers which were progressive enough to keep step with modern times and those which stubbornly adhered to the outdated methods of colonialism was no longer valid when confronted with reality. Quite often, the defenders of colonialism refrained from objecting to the idea of independence in order not to be in opposition to the rest of the world, but then they kept repeating that it was necessary to prepare for independence by long years of socio-economic development and they accused the supporters of immediate independence of trying to create States with no firm economic and social roots.

62. His delegation, for its part, was whole-heartedly with the proponents of immediate independence for all colonial peoples. Far from being a reason for retaining colonialist domination, economic and technological backwardness, which was the result of decades of colonial exploitation, and the defects in education, all spoke in favour of the immediate elimination of that system. Although it was impossible to measure scientifically the degree of maturity of peoples, the experience of the countries which had just attained independence proved that in spite of difficulties the rate of their advancement was much faster with independence than it had been under colonial rule. The attainment of independence, therefore, was an indispensable condition for progress. The elimination of colonialism, however, did not have only political, economic and social aspects. It was also a human problem, that of man's dignity and man's freedom. Colonialism meant contempt for man, the destruction of human values and of human personality. It was indeed very fortunate that the existing pattern of forces in the world made the complete and final elimination of colonialism inevitable.

63. Decolonization was not a simple process, since the colonial Powers were resisting the spontaneous movement towards independence with every means in their power. But the United Nations could not wait indifferently until those Powers deigned to respect its decisions: it must take further measures and bring pressure to bear upon the colonial Powers so that they would relinquish their rule over Non-Self-Governing Territories. Above all, it was necessary to set a definite and close time-limit for the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. In that respect, his delegation supported the proposal of the Soviet Union that 1962 be declared the year of the final and complete liquidation of colonialism (A/4889). Those in favour of the immediate abolition of colonialism were not, as some persons alleged, Utopians in search of unrealistic resolutions; moreover, if they had been concerned with Utopias, the United Nations would be much smaller than it was and the representatives of the colonial Powers would be unable to plume themselves on their progress with respect to decolonization. It went without saying that the new countries did not owe their independence solely to the anti-colonial resolutions of the General Assembly; they also owed it to the powerful movement of national liberation, supported by all progressive forces in the world. The liquidation of colonialism implied unconditional and unrestricted independence, and any mere reform of the

^{3/} See A/4785, part one, paras. 80-84.

colonial system was doomed to failure. His delegation attached the greatest importance to that problem, and it would take a position with respect to the questions

and draft resolutions before the Committee in the light of the views which it had just expressed.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.