

# United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SEVENTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1425th  
MEETING**

Friday, 14 December 1962,  
at 4.15 p.m.

**NEW YORK**

## CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda items 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 and 55:</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) <i>Political and constitutional information on Non-Self-Governing Territories;</i>	
(b) <i>Information on educational, economic and social advancement;</i>	
(c) <i>General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information</i>	
<i>Dissemination of information on the United Nations in the 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>Preparation and training of indigenous civil and technical cadres in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (continued)</i>	
<i>Racial discrimination in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (continued)</i>	
<i>Election to fill vacancies in the membership of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (continued)</i>	
<i>Consideration of draft resolutions (concluded)</i>	
<i>Election under agenda item 55. . . . .</i>	661

**Chairman:** Mr. Guillermo FLORES AVENDAÑO  
(Guatemala).

## AGENDA ITEMS 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 AND 55

**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/5078 and Add.1-19, A/5079 and Add.1-6, A/5080 and Add.1-19, A/5081 and Add.1-5, A/5120, A/5215, A/C.4/L.771) (continued):**

- (a) **Political and constitutional information on Non-Self-Governing Territories;**
- (b) **Information on educational, economic and social advancement;**
- (c) **General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information**

**Dissemination of information on the United Nations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5244 and Add.1) (continued)**

**Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5242 and Add.1) (continued)**

**Preparation and training of indigenous civil and technical cadres in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5122, A/5125, A/5215, A/5235) (continued)**

**Racial discrimination in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5215, A/5249 and Add.1) (continued)**

**Election to fill vacancies in the membership of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (continued)**

## CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/C.4/L.771) (concluded)

1. Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) said that he would vote for draft resolution A/C.4/L.771. His delegation thought nevertheless that the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, like other similar committees, should be dissolved, and that the functions of those committees should be entrusted to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, established under General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI), for the information transmitted by the Administering Members was no longer of a kind to accelerate the process of decolonization, nor could it alter the aims which had been defined by the General Assembly. If it was true, however, that the Committee on Information must be considered as a technical body responsible for helping the Special Committee then he hoped that the Committee would be able to prove during the coming year that it had contributed to the work of the Special Committee, and he reserved the position his delegation would take at the eighteenth session on the renewal or the dissolution of the Committee.

2. Miss KAMAL (Iraq) recalled that her delegation had indicated, at the 1170th plenary meeting, that it was in favour of reducing the number of committees so as to ensure better co-ordination and a greater concentration of work at the level of the Special Committee. As several delegations considered, however, that the Committee on Information was doing useful work and should be continued, her delegation would look on it as a technical body to help the Special Committee. With that in mind, it would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/L.771, while reserving the position it would take at the next session regarding

the dissolution or renewal of the Committee on Information.

3. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) pointed out that draft resolution A/C.4/L.771 was to some extent a compromise, since it put off until the next session of the General Assembly a decision concerning the future of the Committee on Information.

4. Mr. BRYKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that his delegation had already made its position clear. His delegation would vote for the draft resolution, and reserve the position it would take at the eighteenth session. It would at the same time emphasize that the Committee on Information should meanwhile review its methods of work and of co-operation with the Special Committee.

5. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) said that his delegation would vote for the draft resolution, because it was inclined to extend the mandate of the Committee on Information for one year and await the final decision which would be taken at the eighteenth session.

6. Mr. CALINGASAN (Philippines) pointed out that under the terms of operative paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 1700 (XVI), the Committee on Information was continued "on the same basis as hitherto until such time as the General Assembly has decided that the principles embodied in Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples have been fully implemented". It would therefore seem that there was a contradiction between the provisions of that paragraph and those of operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.4/L.771. Moreover, that draft resolution appeared unnecessary. There was in fact no need for the Committee to adopt a draft resolution in which it would decide to continue the Committee on Information for one year. That being so, he asked the sponsors of the draft whether they could not consider withdrawing the text.

7. Mr. HAMDANI (Pakistan) said that his delegation was a co-sponsor of the draft resolution but wished to dissociate himself from the fifth preambular paragraph, for Pakistan, a member of the Committee on Information, would not like to be criticized for praising itself.

8. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) associated herself with the observation of the representative of Pakistan.

9. Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) said that his delegation had explained at the 1423rd meeting why it was against continuing the Committee on Information. It had been said that the Committee was a purely technical body, but since Administering Members were in future bound to transmit to it information of a political and constitutional nature, the Committee had thereby lost its technical character. His delegation would therefore not vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/L.771.

10. Mr. SANKEY (United Kingdom) considered, like the representative of the Philippines, that the draft resolution was unnecessary. The question of the future of the Committee on Information had given rise to palpable differences of opinion in the Committee. The Committee would either adopt no resolution, and the Committee on Information would continue automatically; or it would adopt the present draft resolution, which served no purpose, since it simply provided for the position of the Committee to be examined at the eighteenth session, which would be done in any case.

11. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) expressed doubts about the usefulness of the Committee on Information and thought that all bodies dealing with questions regarding the Non-Self-Governing or Trust Territories should be dissolved and their duties entrusted to the Special Committee established under General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI). Out of respect for the members of the Committee on Information, his delegation had decided to vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/L.771, while reserving its position on the substance of the matter.

12. The observations of the representatives of the Philippines and the United Kingdom were no doubt correct from a technical point of view, but it must not be forgotten that in the introduction to his annual report (A/5201/Add.1) the Secretary-General had stressed that it was desirable to bring about a concentration of work in the field of decolonization. The draft resolution under consideration was useful because it provided proof that the Committee had not lost sight of the Secretary-General's remarks and because it settled the question in a satisfactory way for those who held either view.

13. Mr. AGUIRRE (Uruguay) considered that, even though the representatives of the Philippines and of the United Kingdom could be said to be right technically, since General Assembly resolution 1700 (XVI) put no restriction on the length of the mandate of the Committee on Information, the draft resolution before the Committee should none the less be adopted so as to give the Committee on Information the necessary powers, which might remain uncertain if the long discussions which had taken place did not come to a positive conclusion.

14. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) respected the view of the representatives of the Philippines and of the United Kingdom, but in his opinion the representative of Yugoslavia had stated the matter clearly: the question of the future of the Committee on Information had arisen again at the present session and the Committee must make a decision one way or the other: the best solution was a compromise which consisted of putting off a decision until the next session. If the draft resolution was not adopted, that would amount to saying that the Committee was in favour of the immediate dissolution of the Committee on Information. He appealed urgently to the representative of the Philippines not to pursue an aimless discussion about the technical usefulness of the draft resolution.

15. Mr. CALINGASAN (Philippines) said that his delegation would vote for the draft resolution if it was put to the vote, but he still wondered what would happen to the Committee if the draft resolution was rejected.

16. The CHAIRMAN put draft resolution A/C.4/L.771 to the vote.

*The draft resolution (A/C.4/L.771) was adopted by 70 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

#### ELECTION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 55

17. The CHAIRMAN invited members of the Committee to proceed to the election of a new member of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, as a replacement for Argentina whose term of office had come to an end. In accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure, that election would take place by secret ballot.

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. O'Sullivan (Ireland) and Mr. Allouni (Syria) acted as tellers.*

18. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) said that his delegation thought that without preliminary consultations the vote might be inconclusive. He therefore proposed a brief suspension of the meeting.

*The proposal of the representative of Ghana was adopted.*

*The meeting was suspended at 4.50 p.m. and resumed at 5.5 p.m.*

19. Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) suggested that, in order to avoid wasting time, the Committee should put off the election until the morning meeting on 17 December. By then, all arrangements would have been made and the vote would be no more than a simple formality which could take place without delay.

20. The CHAIRMAN emphasized that it was contrary to the rules of procedure to interrupt a ballot once it had begun, and asked the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for the vote.

21. Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) pointed out that the ballot had already been interrupted by the suspension of the meeting. While recognizing the need for speeding up the work of the Committee, his delegation, as well as numerous other delegations, would prefer to be able to consult further. To insist on an immediate vote was to risk destroying the atmosphere of friendship in which the work of the Committee had taken place and to give rise to feelings of bitterness in some.

22. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) supported the representative of Guinea. If the Chairman did not feel that he could agree to the request of the latter, perhaps he could leave to the Committee the task of taking a decision on the date of the vote.

23. Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) believed that the vote should occasion no difficulty whatsoever; it was merely a question of filling the seat vacated by Argentina on the Committee on Information and that seat belonged to a Latin American country. He wished to remind the representative of Guinea of the part played by the Latin American countries, particularly Mexico, in the settlement of the colonial issue; that emerged clearly from the reports of meetings of United Nations organs ever since the San Francisco Conference.

24. The Bolivian delegation therefore requested that the vote should be held immediately. In that way the Committee would decide whether certain other countries were more qualified than the Latin American countries to fill the vacancy.

25. Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) said that he had never questioned the support given by Latin America to those who were fighting against colonialism. It was for the very reasons mentioned by the representative of Bolivia that he was asking for the vote to be deferred. His delegation therefore maintained its proposal.

26. Mr. ALVAREZ VIDAURRE (El Salvador) supported the representative of Bolivia and asked for an immediate vote.

27. Mr. BINDZI (Cameroon) said that his delegation acknowledged the debt of gratitude which the African countries owed to the Latin American nations for their effective contribution to their liberation, but was dismayed by the Bolivian representative's statement, which showed in some respects how much opinions had crystallized and tempers become heated.

28. The proposal of the representative of Guinea was very much to the point. Since the suspension of the meeting had not been enough it was only normal that members should be given the possibility of further consultations, which would make it possible to find a solution acceptable to all delegations.

29. Since there had already been one suspension of the meeting, the Cameroonian delegation would request a further suspension of the meeting if the vote could not be deferred until 17 December as requested by the representative of Guinea.

30. The CHAIRMAN said that by asking the Committee to vote without further delay, he was acting in accordance with the provisions of the rules of procedure, which did not permit any interruption of a vote once it had begun. Furthermore, the vote had been foreseen since several days and the various delegations had had all the time needed for any consultations which they considered necessary. Lastly, though it was true that a suspension of the meeting had been granted, several delegations had expressed themselves against deferring the vote to a subsequent date. In those circumstances he did not believe that he was authorized to take a decision himself.

31. Mr. ALLOUNI (Syria) appealed to the Chairman to grant a further suspension of the meeting, as requested by the representative of Cameroon.

*There being no objection, it was decided to suspend the meeting again.*

*The meeting was suspended at 5.20 p.m. and resumed at 5.40 p.m.*

32. Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) expressed regrets for the rather sharp way in which he had intervened before the second suspension of the meeting. If he had done so, it was because his delegation had had the impression that on a question of the highest interest to his country and the group of nations to which it belonged, the spirit of co-operation which had hitherto prevailed in the Committee was about to be compromised. Its doubts had now been dispelled. He wished to reiterate that his delegation, as well as those of the other Latin American countries, had demonstrated through their acts their sense of responsibility.

33. Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) said he was glad that the misunderstanding had been cleared up. His delegation and he himself had always had friendly relations with the Bolivian delegation and Mr. Salamanca. The second suspension of the meeting had been valuable, since some delegations were not fully informed of the true situation. It now emerged that there was only one seat to be filled on the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. Now all misunderstandings had been cleared up and the Guinean delegation was glad to note that the solidarity of the African and Latin American countries had been strengthened in the greater interest of the peoples who were still colonized.

34. Mr. BINDZI (Cameroon) agreed with the representative of Guinea. His delegation accepted the apology of the representative of Bolivia, but could not disguise its surprise at the sharpness of the latter's words. While paying a tribute to the Latin American countries for their activities on behalf of the colonized peoples, the Cameroonian delegation believed that the African countries fully deserved the trust of the Latin American peoples.

35. Some agreements which had remained unchanged since 1945 should now be re-examined in the light of

the principle of geographic distribution. The Cameroonian delegation was surprised by the forcefulness with which certain persons asserted that a vacancy on a United Nations body had to be filled by a delegation from the same geographical region as the outgoing delegation. Those who had fought to help the colonial countries to obtain their independence must now accept the latter without reservation had grant them the posts which were their due, not only on the Committee, but also in all the other United Nations organs.

36. Nevertheless if the Latin American countries insisted on having a seat on the Committee on Information, the Cameroonian delegation would gladly agree to vote for one of them.

37. Miss BROOKS (Liberia), supported by Mr. BINDZI (Cameroon), proposed that the election should be by acclamation, since there was only one post to fill.

38. The CHAIRMAN said that such a procedure was inadmissible. Rule 94 of the rules of procedure was quite explicit: the vote had to be held by secret ballot.

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	85
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	84
<i>Abstentions:</i>	6
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	78
<i>Required majority:</i>	40

*Number of votes obtained:*

Honduras . . . . .	74
Cameroon . . . . .	3
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics . . . . .	1

*Having obtained the required majority, Honduras was elected member of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.*

39. Mr. ALLOUNI (Syria) congratulated the delegation of Honduras on its election.

40. Mr. BINDZI (Cameroon) thanked those delegations which had voted for Cameroon and congratulated the delegation of Honduras on its election.

41. Miss SUNSERI (Honduras) thanked members of the Committee for having elected her country to membership of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. She would do her best to prove worthy of the trust placed in her country, which would sit on the Committee not merely as a Latin American country but as the representative of all geographical regions.

42. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had now completed its consideration of all items relating to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.