

# United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1512th  
MEETING

Thursday, 12 December 1963,  
at 11 a.m.

NEW YORK

## CONTENTS

Agenda items 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 and 54: 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) Political and constitutional information;	
(b) Information on educational, economic and social advancement;	
(c) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information..	
Dissemination of information in the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples: report of the Secretary-General (continued) . . . . .	561
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (continued) . . . . .	
Question of the continuation of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (continued) . . . . .	
Election, if required, to fill vacancies in the membership of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (continued) . . . . .	
Special training programme for Territories under Portuguese administration: report of the Secretary-General (continued) . . . . .	
Agenda item 13: Report of the Trusteeship Council . . . . .	563

Chairman: Mr. ACHKAR Marof (Guinea).

### AGENDA ITEMS 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 AND 54

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/5401 and Add.1-12, A/5402 and Add.1-5, A/5403 and Add.1-11, A/5404 and Add.1-4, A/5514, A/5524) (continued):

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

Dissemination of information in the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples: report of the Secretary-General (A/5523) (continued)

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5548 and Add.1, A/C.4/L.788) (continued)

Question of the continuation of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/C.4/630, A/C.4/632) (continued)

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

Special training programme for Territories under Portuguese administration: report of the Secretary-General (A/5531/Rev.1 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.4/L.787) (continued)

1. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) informed the members of the Committee that, as a result of the comments on draft resolution A/C.4/L.787 made by some delegations at the previous meeting, the sponsors had decided to replace the text of operative paragraph 2 by the following:

"Draws the attention of Member States within whose boundaries great numbers of refugees from Territories under Portuguese administration reside to the existing possibilities of obtaining assistance from the United Nations programmes of technical co-operation, for the purpose of providing these refugees with more facilities for secondary, vocational and technical education;"

2. Assistance under the technical co-operation programmes was furnished only if the countries concerned made a direct request. He was sure that if draft resolution A/C.4/L.787 was adopted, the Secretary-General would bring it to the attention of the Member States concerned.

3. His delegation thought that the draft resolution, as amended, could be put to the vote without difficulty.

4. Mr. LUQMAN (Mauritania) thanked the representative of Ghana for the explanations he had given. He still believed, however, that the amendments he had proposed at the preceding meeting went further towards accommodating the views of delegations which had put forward objections.

5. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Secretary-General would draw the attention of Member States to the resolution, if it was adopted.

6. Mr. IDZUMBUIR (Congo, Leopoldville) said that the hesitance which his delegation felt was due to the fact that the refugees from the African Territories under Portuguese administration were also the responsibility of the United Nations. A formula requesting the Secretary-General to draw the attention of Member States to the problem under consideration would have the advantage of emphasizing the Organization's responsibility for those refugees. However, his dele-

gation would support the text proposed by the representative of Ghana which, in a different way, emphasized that there was a dual responsibility for the refugees.

7. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the text of the resolution must be considered only from the standpoint of assistance to refugees within the context of the special training programme for Territories under Portuguese administration, and not within that of the refugee problem in general.

8. Mr. PEON DEL VALLE (Mexico), replying to the representative of Mauritania, pointed out that one of the main principles in the administration of the technical assistance programmes was that any assistance given must first have been requested directly by the recipient country. There could therefore be no question of forcing assistance on a country. His delegation would request a separate vote on any paragraph of the draft resolution which might create the impression that the Committee was trying to impose technical assistance in a manner not agreeable to States.

9. Mr. LUQMAN (Mauritania) entirely agreed with the representative of Mexico. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, he recalled that all he had asked was that the Secretary-General should be requested to discuss with those Member States in whose territories most of the refugees from Territories under Portuguese administration resided the possibility of allowing the refugees to receive assistance under the existing technical co-operation programmes of the United Nations. His delegation fully appreciated that it was always the Secretary-General's responsibility to draw the attention of Member States to matters of that kind, and that there could be no question of forcing any assistance on Member States. He would not press for the adoption of his proposal, but he emphasized that it reflected both the view expressed by the representative of Ghana and the position of those who had raised objections.

10. The representative of Ghana had not accepted the Mauritanian delegation's suggestion concerning operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, which merely repeated an idea already expressed in the fourth preambular paragraph. In his opinion, either the latter paragraph or operative paragraph 4 should be deleted in order to avoid repetition.

11. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) felt that there was little difference between the version he had proposed and that proposed by the representative of Mauritania. The question whether the Secretary-General or the General Assembly should request Member States to take any given action was of minor importance. The real problem in the present instance was that, under the regulations of the Technical Assistance Board and Special Fund, Member States which wanted to receive assistance must apply for it. Ghana had no intention of forcing a Member State to request assistance which it did not want.

12. His delegation was aware that the countries concerned had already done everything in their power to help the refugees, but it wished to draw the attention of Member States to the possible availability of additional United Nations assistance. Such an approach could not be interpreted as an attempt to force a State to accept assistance. Moreover, his delegation had prepared the amended version of operative paragraph 2 after consultation with the delegations of Senegal and the Congo (Leopoldville).

13. With regard to the Mauritanian delegation's suggestion concerning operative paragraph 4, he did not think that there was really any duplication, since in the preambular paragraph the Assembly would note that offers had been extended by several Members and in operative paragraph 4 would express its appreciation of that fact.

14. Mr. IDZUMBUIR (Congo, Leopoldville) said that he would prefer the words "possibilities of obtaining" in the new text of operative paragraph 2 to be replaced by the words "entitlement to".

15. Mr. ANOMA (Ivory Coast) thought that the word "possibilities" was better. If Member States had the possibility of obtaining assistance, it followed that they were entitled to apply to the United Nations for it. That explanation should satisfy the representative of the Congo (Leopoldville); the idea that he wished to express was implicit in the text before the Committee.

16. Mr. Natwar SINGH (India) thought that, as the Committee was working on the English text of the draft resolution, the Secretariat experts might be relied on to find an exact translation into French.

17. Mr. IDZUMBUIR (Congo, Leopoldville) said that he did not agree with the representative of India. His delegation would be voting on the French text of the draft resolution, and it therefore had the right to request that the text should be finalized.

18. The CHAIRMAN asked the representative of Ghana if he would be prepared to replace the words "the existing possibilities" by "the possibilities available to them".

19. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) accepted that amendment.

20. Mr. LUQMAN (Mauritania) requested a separate vote on operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution (A/C.4/L.787).

*Paragraph 2 was adopted by 78 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.*

*The draft resolution (A/C.4/L.787) as a whole was adopted by 82 votes to 1.*

21. Mr. Natwar SINGH (India) stated that he had not wished to take up the Committee's time before the vote, but he wished to place a fact on record. In his intervention, the representative of the Congo (Leopoldville) had stated that he did not agree with the representative of India. The delegation of India wanted to clear up the misunderstanding, as there was absolutely no disagreement between the delegation of the Congo (Leopoldville) and that of India on the substance of the matter. All that the Indian delegation had said was that since the English text had been accepted by the co-sponsors, it could be left to the Secretariat to produce an exact French text. He had made that suggestion to facilitate the work of the Committee and had had no desire to challenge the delegation of the Congo (Leopoldville) or its right to move an amendment. English was as foreign to the Indian representative as French was to the representative of the Congo (Leopoldville); they used those languages for historical reasons and also as a matter of convenience.

22. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) said that his delegation's support for draft resolution A/C.4/L.787 had been based on the text as it stood. In particular, it noted that operative paragraph 1 requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in making use as



fully as possible of the existing United Nations programmes of technical co-operation. The Secretary-General's report (A/5531/Rev.1 and Add.1 and 2) indicated that the Technical Assistance Board, the Special Fund and the specialized agencies were all prepared, in varying degrees, to give their support, and in the opinion of the United Kingdom delegation it was quite clear from that report that there was no justification for seeking provision in the regular budget of the United Nations until the full extent of the assistance which those bodies could offer was known. His delegation felt that operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution confirmed its own view that the programme in question should be based on the existing programmes of technical co-operation. The paragraph clearly did not endorse any provision in the regular budget of the United Nations, as had been suggested in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Secretary-General's note on the financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.4/635). Although the wording of the draft resolution now adopted was sufficiently clear, his delegation had felt it necessary to stress the point, in order to avoid any misunderstanding at a later date.

23. Mrs. TREE (United States of America) said that the United States delegation's vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/L.787 should not be interpreted as an endorsement of the suggestion made by the Secretary-General in document A/C.4/635, paragraph 5, concerning its financial implications. In the opinion of the United States delegation, any proposal of a budgetary nature should be examined by the competent Committee.

24. Mr. LUQMAN (Mauritania) said that the Ghanaian representative's explanation and the changes made in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution had not convinced him that that paragraph, as adopted, did not duplicate operative paragraphs 1 and 3. The Mauritanian delegation considered that the ideas contained in those two paragraphs were essentially the same as that expressed in paragraph 2, which was therefore a repetition. For that reason, it had felt obliged to abstain from voting on that paragraph.

25. However, the Mauritanian delegation had voted for the draft resolution as a whole because it served the African countries' aim of giving all possible help to the peoples of the Territories under Portuguese rule.

26. Mr. PATRICIO (Portugal) said that his delegation had voted against draft resolution A/C.4/L.787 for the same reasons as had compelled it to vote against General Assembly resolution 1808 (XVII). Those reasons were to be found in the records of the Fourth Committee at the seventeenth session (1419th meeting).

27. Mr. DIALLO Seydou (Guinea) considered that the Ghanaian representative, in introducing draft resolution A/C.4/L.787 at the previous meeting, had fully explained the aims of the sponsors. The Guinean delegation wished to thank Member States which felt concern for the training and assistance to be given to those who were suffering because the chances of history had placed them under the arbitrary rule of the Salazar Government. The Portuguese delegation's negative vote was a further expression of Portugal's refusal to co-operate with the United Nations and an indication that that country would not associate itself with any training programme for the peoples it governed. That latest display of ill-will should serve as a lesson; Portugal was still not prepared to co-

operate with the United Nations and was holding fast to its position.

28. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.4/L.788, on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

*The draft resolution (A/C.4/L.788) was adopted unanimously.*

29. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the draft resolution contained in part two, annex II, of the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/5514).

*The draft resolution (A/5514, part two, annex II) was adopted unanimously.*

30. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the Secretary-General's reports on the dissemination of information in the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (A/5523), and on racial discrimination in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/5524).

*The Committee took note of the reports.*

### AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/5496, A/5504, A/C.4/L.789)

31. Mr. BARNES (Liberia), President of the Trusteeship Council, introduced the Council's report (A/5504). The Council was now far advanced towards accomplishing the goals set for it by the Charter, since eight Territories formerly under trusteeship had attained independence. At its thirtieth session, in June 1963, the Council had examined the progress made in the remaining three Trust Territories. It had inquired very comprehensively into the administration of each Territory, heard statements by the Administering Authorities, questioned their special representatives, and also heard political leaders from the Territories, and considered petitions; in addition, it had approved arrangements for the dispatch of a visiting mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in 1964.

32. As could be seen from the report, the future of the Nauruan community had dominated the consideration of the question of Nauru. On that subject, the Council had listened carefully to the Head Chief of the Nauruan people and to the Australian representative's account of the progress of negotiations to find an acceptable new home for the Nauruan people. The Council had reiterated that the wishes and interests of the Nauruans should be paramount in those negotiations and had urged the Administering Authority to speed up political progress in Nauru pending a decision on resettlement.

33. On the Trust Territory of New Guinea, the Council had also heard an account by the Administering Authority of progress in political and other development. It had been gratified to note that the recommendations of the last visiting mission had been, or were to be, carried out. For instance, in April 1964 a House of Assembly would be elected by adult suffrage on a common roll. The Council had been of the opinion that such a measure would awaken a sense of nationality and political unity. The Council had also noted with satisfaction the forthcoming enlargement of

the Administrator's Council to include indigenous elected members—a step towards the establishment of an executive responsible to the House of Assembly.

34. In conclusion, he thanked the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Corner (New Zealand), and wished him and the representatives of Liberia, China and the United Kingdom a fruitful journey to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and he also ex-

pressed his gratitude to the other members of the Council for their co-operation.

35. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee would probably have before it at the next meeting a new draft resolution on the question of South West Africa. He hoped that the Committee would be able to complete its work on Friday, 13 December.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.