

United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

SIXTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1189th
MEETING

Monday, 30 October 1961,
at 10.55 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

<i>Agenda items 39, 42, 43 and 44:</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>Information on social conditions;</i>	
(b) <i>Information on other conditions</i>	
<i>Dissemination of information on the United Nations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (continued)</i>	207
<i>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)</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</i>	207

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/Rev.1; A/C.4/L.702) (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, A/C.4/L.703) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN welcomed the representative of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the Committee. She was confident that he would make a useful contribution to the Committee's work.

2. She recalled that the representative of Guinea had proposed that the full text of the statement made by the United Kingdom representative of the previous meeting should be circulated as a document. If there was no objection, that would be done.

It was so decided.^{1/}

3. Mr. EREBIH (Mauritania) said that he greatly appreciated the Chairman's welcome. His delegation was anxious to do everything in its power to help the Committee in its work and it would support all resolutions designed to improve the conditions of human life.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/4785, PART ONE, ANNEX III; A/C.4/L.700/REV.1, A/C.4/L.703)

4. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the three draft resolutions before it. She suggested that a decision should be taken first on the draft resolution submitted by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was contained in part one, annex III, of the Committee's report (A/4785).

The draft resolution (A/4785, part one, annex III) was approved unanimously.

5. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the statement of the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.4/L.700/Rev.1 submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 154 of the rules of procedure (A/C.4/L.702).

6. Mr. BRINBERG (Bulgaria), introducing draft resolution A/C.4/L.700/Rev.1, observed that almost a year had elapsed since the adoption of the historic Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) and it was essential that it should be brought to the knowledge of all colonial peoples. It was true that those peoples had been liberating themselves even without the Declaration to help them, but they were entitled to know that the United Nations, backed by world opinion, had made that solemn Declaration calling for immediate steps to be taken to transfer all powers to the peoples of the dependent territories and that it was thus standing by them in their struggle for freedom. According to paragraphs 27 and 28 of the Secretary-General's report on the dissemination of information on the United Nations (A/4863), the only thing that had been done so far to bring the Declaration to the notice of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories had been to distribute some copies in English and French to information centres. Since no adequate steps to disseminate the document had been taken automatically, his delegation and the other sponsors had felt it their duty to propose

^{1/}The statement was subsequently circulated in document A/C.4/502.

appropriate measures for that purpose. The draft resolution did not go beyond any previous General Assembly resolutions concerning either Non-Self-Governing Territories or Trust Territories. As could be seen from document A/C.4/L.702, the additional expenditure involved was negligible and he was sure it would be approved by the Fifth Committee.

7. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) warmly supported the draft resolution. His delegation had always thought it extremely important that the Administering Members should be encouraged to enlighten the people in their Territories on the activities, principles and purposes of the United Nations. There had been a good response in many Territories but much remained to be done. Wide dissemination of the famous Declaration was all-important. The number of copies circulated by the Office of Public Information had not been large and it was not clear whether the Declaration had already been translated into the local languages. In the draft resolution, stress was laid on the need for that to be done as soon as possible.

8. He noted that the draft resolution was silent with regard to information centres in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It could be seen from the Secretary-General's report (A/4863) that an information centre was to be established in Trinidad, West Indies, though not, it was true, until 1962. An indigenous recruit was to be trained as an information assistant, with a view to becoming the head of the information centre later.

9. In the light of Economic and Social Council resolution 748 (XXIX), in which the Council reaffirmed its belief in the importance of teaching about the United Nations and its related agencies as a means of promoting interest in and support for their work, his delegation suggested that the Administering Members might be requested to take steps to include the Declaration in the curriculum of the social sciences in the schools under their administration. He would not press for his suggestion to be incorporated in the resolution but he hoped that it might commend itself to the sponsors.

10. Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom) said that he had six points to make with regard to the practical action taken by the United Kingdom to disseminate information on the United Nations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Firstly, as stated in paragraph 41 of the report (A/4863), the United Nations Information Service in Bangkok provided services for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Far East area, including Hong Kong, Singapore, Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo. Secondly, the Information Centre in Ghana included Gambia in its activities. Thirdly, in co-operation with the Office of Public Information, a United Nations Information Centre had been established in Tanganyika on 16 June 1961. Fourthly, the scope of the Tanganyika Centre would cover Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland as well as Kenya, Uganda and Zanzibar. Fifthly, the information centre to be set up at Port of Spain, Trinidad, would be responsible for information in the West Indies, and by agreement with the local Governments it would cover British Guiana and British Honduras. Lastly, a Swahili translation of the Declaration had been prepared and the United Kingdom Government would be happy to co-operate in preparing translations of the Declaration into other languages.

11. It would be seen that action had been taken in the majority of the Territories still under United Kingdom

administration for the dissemination of information on the United Nations, including the Declaration. For most of the remaining Territories, which were small and remote, the best channel of communication was through London and the Information Centre in London was therefore responsible for the dissemination of information to those Territories.

12. Turning to the draft resolution, he said that, since the task of disseminating information was mainly the responsibility of the Office of Public Information, the best way in which the Administering Members could assist under operative paragraph 1 was by obtaining the agreement of the local Governments. His Government was working to that end. With regard to operative paragraph 2, he doubted whether the word "ensure" was appropriate and would prefer the word "facilitate", though operative paragraph 3 partly met his reservation on that point. He hoped that he had made clear his country's desire to co-operate with the Office of Public Information. The United Kingdom was proud of its record in permitting freedom of information; in the light of that record it might well be felt that the draft resolution was superfluous as far as the Territories under United Kingdom administration were concerned. Nevertheless, in order to manifest his delegation's support for the principle of freedom of information, he was prepared to vote in favour of the draft resolution as it stood.

13. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) observed that the United Kingdom representative had not mentioned Southern Rhodesia as being covered by the Information Centre at Dar es Salaam. He would like to know how information on the United Nations in general and on colonial peoples in particular was disseminated in Southern Rhodesia, in view of the fact that Africans formed the majority of the population.

14. Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom) replied that, for reasons which he would no doubt have an opportunity of explaining on another occasion, the matter had not been raised with the Government of Southern Rhodesia.

15. Mr. SKALLI (Morocco) said that his delegation had co-sponsored the draft resolution with a view to remedying the inadequate dissemination of the Declaration. It was important for the document to be disseminated in the vernacular languages by all suitable means, including the cinema and the radio, so as to ensure that it was made available to the mass of the people. He thanked the representative of Burma for his suggestion that the Declaration should figure in school curricula. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously so that it could be implemented as soon as possible.

16. Mr. GRINBERG (Bulgaria) announced that the representative of Indonesia had expressed a desire to co-sponsor the resolution; he felt sure that the other sponsors would agree.

17. In view of the valuable suggestion put forward by the representative of Burma, he asked for the meeting to be suspended so that the sponsors might draft a text incorporating that idea.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, the meeting would be suspended for a few minutes.

The meeting was suspended at 11.30 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

19. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) said that the sponsors, who had now been joined by the delegations of Nigeria

and of Togo, had considered the Burmese representative's suggestion and had decided to insert the following new paragraph between operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft resolution:

"2. Further invites the Administering Members to take immediate steps for the inclusion of the said Declaration in the curricula of all educational institutions in all Non-Self-Governing Territories."

20. Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom) said that he felt bound to make an important reservation where the proposed new paragraph was concerned. It was impossible for his delegation to give such an undertaking, since some forty separate Governments were involved, which had powers of their own where education was concerned; many of them indeed enjoyed full internal self-government. His Government was of course anxious that the affairs of the world and of the United Nations should be widely discussed in educational institutions, but, in the light of the wording of the new paragraph, he was compelled to make the vital reservation to which he had referred.

21. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) said that he could not understand why the United Kingdom representative found it necessary to make such a reservation. The Declaration on the grant of independence dealt with the future of colonial peoples and was surely more important than the colonial wars which school children were often asked to study. It went without saying that the United Kingdom would have an opportunity to consult the Governments concerned.

22. Mr. DIALLO (Mali) observed that the new paragraph merely contained a request; there was nothing comminatory about it. The sponsors were anxious that so important a document as the Declaration on the granting of independence should not be disseminated merely through the ordinary media of information; they wanted the schoolchildren to know that the United Nations wished to make a break with the past. He did not see why any practical difficulty should arise, since, as he saw it, all the United Kingdom would have to do would be to notify the Governments of the Territories that it was desirable that the Declaration should form part of the curricula.

23. Mr. SKALLI (Morocco) said that his delegation had noted with appreciation the co-operation of the United Kingdom delegation in the work of the Committee where the Non-Self-Governing Territories were concerned; he still hoped that the reservation would be withdrawn. If an Administering Member was able to provide information on the Territories under its administration it could obviously accept undertakings which resulted from a decision of the General Assembly. In any case it was not likely that any indigenous Government would have any reservations to make in such a matter. The Declaration was as important to children of the Non-Self-Governing Territories as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and they should learn its text by heart. It was important that, even though the Declaration had not received an affirmative vote from all Member States, its provisions should be carried out honestly and faithfully by all Administering Members.

24. Mr. CISSE (Senegal) said that the draft resolution was in conformity with the ideals of the United Nations under the Charter. His delegation would vote in favour of it.

25. Mr. HU NIM (Cambodia) asked for his delegation to be included among the sponsors of the draft reso-

lution. The new paragraph would provide an efficacious method of putting the Declaration into effect. If the Administering Members accepted it, that would be a proof of their good faith.

26. Mr. WEEKS (Liberia) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution, which would be of assistance to the Committee in carrying out its work. He would have preferred it, however, if some emphasis had been placed on the dissemination of other information as well, especially in Territories where information about the United Nations was limited and censorship existed. He felt that it was time for the Committee to take the initiative in establishing information centres in such Territories, notably in Mozambique and Angola, or at least for it to request the Administering Members to co-operate with the United Nations in doing so.

27. With regard to the new operative paragraph 2, he felt that the proposed text might provide the Administering Members with an "escape clause" by giving them a chance to say that existing school curricula could not be interfered with, and thus to postpone action. It would be preferable in his view if the wording were altered to read "... to take immediate steps for the dissemination of the said Declaration in all educational institutions so that it formed part of their curricula".

28. The CHAIRMAN noted that the representative of Liberia had not made a formal proposal.

29. Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom) said that he had felt it essential to make his reservation; but, subject to that reservation, he still intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

30. Mr. WEEKS (Liberia), Mr. DARMAN (Somalia), Mr. MVIE (Cameroun), Mr. EL SANOUSI (Sudan) and Mr. MELNICHUK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that their delegations wished to join in sponsoring the draft resolution as amended.

31. The CHAIRMAN said that the reservations made by the United Kingdom representative would appear in the records. She suggested that if there were no objections the draft resolution should be considered approved.

32. Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) said that it was important to know the views of the Administering Members. Of their representatives in the Committee only the United Kingdom representative had clearly indicated that he would support the draft resolution as amended, thereby implying that his Government would put its provisions into effect. On the other hand, he did not know what the Portuguese representative, for instance, thought of it. It was essential to avoid the possibility of any representative saying at a future date that his delegation had had reservations with regard to the draft resolution as amended but had been prevented from putting them on record because there had been no formal vote. Consequently, he proposed that the draft resolution as amended should be put to the vote.

33. Mr. GRINBERG (Bulgaria) supported the Guinean representative.

34. Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America), supported by Mr. ASSELIN (Canada), appealed to the Guinean representative, in the interests of expediting the work of the Committee, not to press his proposal in view of the fact that adopting resolutions without objection was a frequently used procedure. If the Chairman's suggestion was followed, it would be easy

for any delegation which wished to abstain or vote against the draft resolution as amended to make its views known.

35. Mr. MONGUNO (Nigeria) felt that it went without saying that silence meant consent. He appealed to the Guinean representative not to press his point.

36. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that he would agree to the course originally suggested by the Chairman if it was clearly understood that the absence of objections meant that all the members of the Committee were in favour of the draft resolution as amended.

37. Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) said that if the Committee accepted the Yugoslav representative's interpretation, he would not press for a formal vote.

38. The CHAIRMAN stated that, if there was no objection, the draft resolution as amended would be regarded as having been approved unanimously.

Draft resolution A/C.4/L.700/Rev.1, as amended,^{2/} was approved unanimously.

39. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia), introducing draft resolution A/C.4/L.703 on behalf of the sponsors, said that the objective was to remedy the unsatisfactory situation reported in the Secretary-General's report (A/4862 and Add.1), according to which a large number of the scholarships offered by Member States to inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories had remained unutilized. Without going into all the specific reasons for that unsatisfactory state of affairs, the sponsors had confined themselves to one of them which had been responsible for delays in the utilization of offers by Member States. The draft resolution envisaged a change in the procedure which now called for the prior transmission of applications for scholarships to the Administering Members for observations before the application could be forwarded to the Members offering the scholarships. It was proposed in the draft resolution that the Secretariat should transmit the applications to the offering Member States for consideration and decision as soon as they were received, the Administering Members being simultaneously notified of the applications for their information. The Administering Members had to be informed not only out of considerations of fairness but also because it was their duty to render all necessary facilities to the students applying for scholarships abroad. It was not the intention of the sponsors to bring up controversial issues at that stage since the important point was that the students from the Non-Self-Governing Territories were in need of higher and other education. Without wishing to disregard the Administering Members' own efforts in the field of education, he felt that an exchange of students on as wide a scale as possible was desirable also from the point of view of international friendship and co-operation. He hoped that the draft resolution would be approved without objection.

^{2/}This text was subsequently circulated as document A/C.4/L.700/Rev.2.

40. Mr. KHOSIA (India) said that there could be no two opinions about the urgent need to train civil servants and technologists in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The draft resolution was of tremendous importance from the point of view of the Territories which stood on the threshold of independence, since their freedom might be delayed if they lacked trained cadres. Consequently all the training facilities available, including those offered by other Member States, should be utilized fully. The Administering Members should co-operate and provide facilities to such students from the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration as wished to go to other countries for training. He hoped that the draft resolution would be approved unanimously.

41. Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation fully supported the draft resolution. He associated himself with the views expressed by the Indian representative and welcomed the change in procedure envisaged in the draft resolution. In point of fact, a procedure along similar lines had been in force in the Territories under United Kingdom administration since 1 April 1960.

42. Mr. LACKO (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation attached great importance to the United Nations campaign for the provision of training facilities for inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly at the present juncture when, in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration on the granting of independence, all Non-Self-Governing Territories should attain independence without delay. The Committee's work should be fully guided by the spirit and the letter of the Declaration. Consequently, he felt that the draft resolution could be improved by the addition of a reference to the Declaration.

43. He asked the sponsors whether they would agree to add two additional preambular paragraphs to read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples,

"Recognizing the importance of rendering assistance to colonial countries and peoples in the political and economic fields as well as in the field of general and specialized education aimed at preparing cadres to direct and administer the independent national States".

44. His amendment should not give rise to any objection. If the sponsors accepted it, his delegation would like to join them in sponsoring the draft resolution as amended.

45. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) suggested that the meeting should be adjourned to allow the sponsors to consider the Czechoslovak amendment.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.