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Chairman: Mr. ACHKAR Marof (Guinea).

AGENDA ITEM 78

Question of Oman (A/5492 and Add.1, A/5562, A/C.4/604 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.4/619, A/C.4/L.785) (concluded)

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/C.4/L.785)

1. Mr. MARSH (Jamaica), Rapporteur, introduced the Committee's draft report on the question of Oman (A/C.4/L.785).
2. Mr. KHALAF (Iraq) felt that the reference in the second sentence of paragraph 5 to "Sultan Said bin Taimur of Muscat and Oman" was misleading. His delegation and many others had contested that title and the Committee had not taken any decision on the

matter. He hoped that the Rapporteur could find a satisfactory solution to the problem.

3. Paragraph 9 summarized the salient points of the draft resolution (A/C.4/L.783) sponsored by eighteen States including his own. As an important part of that draft resolution had been the preambular paragraph recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), he suggested that that paragraph, too, should be mentioned in the second sentence of paragraph 9.

4. Mr. EL-SHAFEI (United Arab Republic) supported the suggestions of the representative of Iraq.

5. Mr. MARSH (Jamaica), Rapporteur, suggested that the words "Sultan Said bin Taimur of Muscat and Oman" in paragraph 5 should be placed in inverted commas.

6. Mr. HASHIM (Sudan) thought that the correct form of words would be "Said bin Taimur, Sultan of Muscat and Oman".

7. The CHAIRMAN said that the form of words used in the telegram (A/C.4/619) should be adhered to. He suggested that the Committee should adopt the report subject to the changes to be made by the Rapporteur in accordance with the suggestions put forward.

*It was so decided.*

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) (continued)

Question of the continuation of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/C.4/630, A/C.4/L.786) (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) (continued)

8. Mr. SHAMMOUT (Yemen) expressed his Government's reservations regarding its rights over the territory of occupied Southern Yemen, otherwise known as Aden and the Eastern and Western Protectorates. He reiterated the statements made by his delegation at the 1217th and 1266th plenary meetings of the General Assembly rejecting the false claims of the United Kingdom to sovereignty over that part of Yemen.

9. Mr. SANKEY (United Kingdom) said that his Government had no doubts regarding its sovereignty over the territory of Aden and formally reserved its rights in the matter.

10. Mr. HASHIM (Sudan) said that in The Times Literary Supplement of 5 December 1963 there was a review of a book by Harold Ingrams, an expert on Southern Arabian problems, who apparently considered that Aden was part of Greater Yemen.

11. Mr. SANKEY (United Kingdom) said that he had not stated that Mr. Ingrams had no doubts regarding United Kingdom sovereignty over Aden, but that the United Kingdom Government had no such doubts.

12. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) said that her delegation had been most interested when the representative of Ceylon, at the 1267th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, had suggested that, in order to avoid duplication, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should take over the work previously done by other bodies such as the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. He had added that the same suggestion had been made by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report to the seventeenth session (A/5201/Add.1). Her delegation was a little surprised that the question of the discontinuance of the Committee on Information was being presented at the present session primarily as a problem of avoiding duplication.

13. As her delegation had discussed the historical background of the question in the Fourth Committee (1424th meeting) at the previous session, she would merely point out certain considerations which must be borne in mind if the Special Committee was to assume the functions of the Committee on Information in addition to its own. When the Secretary-General had written the report in question, there had been five committees—the Special Committee to which she had referred, the Committee on Information, the Sub-Committee on the Situation in Angola, the Special Committee on Territories under Portuguese Administration and the Special Committee for South West Africa—each dealing with a specific aspect of the colonial problem. Although the territories with which those Committees dealt were all dependent territories, the individual problems were not the same and she did not think that there had been any question of duplication of work by those bodies; duplication had been avoided where possible even between the Sub-Committee on Angola and the Special Committee on Territories under Portuguese Administration. The question raised by the Secretary-General had been considered by the General Assembly at its seventeenth session, when it had decided to discontinue three of the Committees concerned and to place the question of the continuation

of the Committee on Information on the agenda of the eighteenth session.

14. Her delegation felt that the question must be examined in the context of the responsibilities of the United Nations under Chapter XI of the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). In pursuance of Chapter XI of the Charter, a procedure had been established for the transmission of information and its examination, under which summaries and analyses of the information were prepared by the Secretary-General. She agreed that the information transmitted was not always up to date or complete, but it was nevertheless important as a recognition by the Administering Members of their international responsibility. As long as there were Non-Self-Governing Territories, it would be the duty of the United Nations to examine the official information. It was open to question whether the information should continue to be summarized and analysed in the same way as in the past, but the fact was that the Committee on Information had had a particular function to perform under Chapter XI of the Charter and that that work had not been duplicated by the Special Committee.

15. The ultimate goal was to enable colonial territories to attain full self-government and independence, and the problem was how that could best be done. In the course of two years the Special Committee had made recommendations on twenty-six Territories, some of which would require that Committee's continued attention. There had also been proposals, with which her delegation was not in full agreement, that the United Nations should study the particular problems of small Territories and suggest how they could best emerge to full self-government. She wondered whether, in the event of the Committee on Information being discontinued, the Special Committee would be expected to examine all the information transmitted regularly by the Administering Members on each Non-Self-Governing Territory. It was hard to see how the Special Committee could shoulder the additional responsibility unless procedures were simplified, and how the Fourth Committee could attempt to simplify procedures without a careful study of all the work that the Committee on Information had previously carried out.

16. In the light of those problems, the matter seemed to require further consideration. If it was thought best to discontinue the Committee on Information forthwith, all the functions of that Committee should perhaps be transferred to the Special Committee, which would be instructed to study the general problem, in consultation with all the Administering Members, and to inform the General Assembly, at the nineteenth session, of its plan of work for the implementation of Chapter XI and of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). A better course would seem to be to discontinue the Committee on Information after its 1964 session and to ask it to draw up recommendations to the General Assembly regarding future work relating to Chapter XI of the Charter. That alternative would give the General Assembly the benefit of the experience of the Committee on Information and enable the Special Committee to concentrate on the immediate problems of decolonization. Her delegation would be interested to hear the views of others before coming to a decision.

17. Mr. HAMDANI (Pakistan) proposed that the full text of the Liberian representative's statement should be circulated as a Committee document.

*It was so decided.*<sup>1/</sup>

18. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) said that Australia, a member of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, was responsible for the administration of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Papua. Papua was in an administrative union with the Trust Territory of New Guinea, and Australia made no distinction in its administration of the two Territories; both were administered in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and the ideals of the United Nations. He would therefore not speak at length on Papua at the present time but would report on the two Territories together in the Trusteeship Council. He wished, however, to say that progress was evident in all fields. In the political field, progress had been made towards self-determination, in which all the people, regardless of race, creed or colour, would have a full voice. Economic development was being pursued, with assistance from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and great advances had been registered in the social, health and educational fields. The participation of indigenous officers in the public service was being continually expanded. Particular attention was being given to the elimination of all practices which might be regarded as discriminatory.

19. His delegation included two representatives of the indigenous people of Papua and New Guinea. Mr. Sigomun Peta was an acknowledged leader of a populous district in New Guinea who had served in the Legislative Council of Papua and New Guinea and was a candidate in the forthcoming elections to the new House of Assembly. Mr. Sinaka Goava served in the Administration and was Vice-President of a local government council.

20. As the Australian representative had said at the 267th meeting of the Committee on Information, the task of building a homogeneous self-governing community in Papua and New Guinea remained considerable, but his Government was proud of the progress which had been made as a result of the combined efforts of the Administration and the indigenous people.

21. He was confident that the Committee would recognize that the efforts of the Australian Government were in line with the policies urged by the United Nations. Much information regarding the United Nations had been distributed in the area through all information media and particular attention had been given to the distribution of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. Another important factor had been the establishment of the United Nations Information Centre at Port Moresby in 1961; that Centre had received assistance and co-operation from the Administration.

22. With regard to the question of the continuation of the Committee on Information, Australia had always valued its association with that Committee. He had listened to the views expressed on the matter, including those of the Secretary-General as expressed by the Under-Secretary at the 1501st meeting and reproduced in document A/C.4/630. He sympathized with the desire of the Secretariat to avoid duplication,

but wondered whether the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which had been created for a specific purpose, could adequately discharge the responsibilities which had formerly been those of the Committee on Information. The Committee itself recorded in paragraph 124 of part one of its report (A/5514) the consensus that the Committee should be continued, since its work was important and it had a special competence to evaluate the information transmitted by Administering Members. His delegation doubted whether the somewhat specialized work of the Committee on Information could be adequately carried out by the Special Committee, whose workload was already heavy. Indeed, the Special Committee had been unable to complete its work during its last session, although it had produced a report of some 900 mimeographed pages. The proposal to abolish the Committee on Information would add to the burden of the Special Committee even if that Committee established a sub-committee to assist it.

23. His delegation was willing to provide the Committee with any additional information which was required regarding the Territories under Australian administration.

*Mr. Carducci-Artensio (Italy), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

24. Mr. VALENCIA (Ecuador) said that his delegation's views on the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories were to be found in the report of the Committee on Information (A/5514) of which Ecuador was a member. He would therefore confine himself to the question of the continuation of the Committee on Information.

25. The consensus in the Committee on Information had been that the Committee should be continued. His delegation had shared that view. It had been suggested by some that the Committee on Information had failed to achieve the objectives for which it had been established and that it evaded the issue of self-determination and the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. His delegation disagreed: the functions of the Committee on Information were primarily technical and were in line with the aims of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) since the Committee's work helped to establish the best conditions for the attainment of independence. The balanced composition of the Committee made it a useful organ for analysing the information submitted under Article 73 e of the Charter. Its work assisted other United Nations bodies, including the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The value of the work done by the Committee on Information compensated, in his view, for any duplication of effort which might be involved.

26. The Secretary-General's view (A/C.4/630) was that there was a great deal of duplication of work in the field of Non-Self-Governing Territories and that the discontinuance of the Committee would help to increase efficiency and reduce expenses. He welcomed the request made by the Pakistan representative at the 1506th meeting for more data on the matter, but he respected the views of the Secretary-General, which should be carefully considered. His delegation would be prepared to accept the majority view on the question

<sup>1/</sup> See A/C.4/632.

of the continuation of the Committee. If the General Assembly decided to abolish the Committee, he hoped that its valuable work would be adequately carried on by a new body.

*Mr. Achkar (Guinea) resumed the Chair.*

27. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana), introducing draft resolution A/C.4/L.786, recalled that the view that the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories should be discontinued had been advanced at the seventeenth session. The main contention of those holding that view had been and still was that the continuance of any sub-committee or committee dealing with the economic, social or educational aspects of the colonial problem was a negation of the provision of operative paragraph 3 of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples that "inadequacy of political, economic, social or educational preparedness should never serve as a pretext for delaying independence". He was aware that the Committee on Information had been primarily concerned with giving effect to the provisions of Chapter XI of the Charter. The latter, however, could not be dissociated from General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV); moreover, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had primary responsibilities for decolonization in all its aspects. The Special Committee, which included Administering Members, was fully capable of performing the tasks hitherto discharged by the Committee on Information.

28. In the introduction to his annual report to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly on the work of the Organization (A/5201/Add.1), the Secretary-General had expressed concern over duplication of work and the overlapping of responsibilities of certain United Nations bodies. The discontinuance of the Committee on Information and the transfer of its responsibilities to the Special Committee would eliminate such overlapping and would save effort and money.

29. The Special Committee could enjoy the services hitherto provided by the Secretariat to the Committee on Information, including the preparation of special studies and analyses. Provision to that effect was included in the draft resolution. It should also be remembered that whenever the need had arisen, the Special Committee had appointed sub-committees to deal with particular problems. There was nothing to prevent it from establishing a sub-committee to deal with the aspect of the problem which had hitherto been within the purview of the Committee on Information.

30. It had been suggested to the sponsors that they should revise operative paragraph 5 of their draft resolution to specify that the Special Committee would take over all the functions of the Committee on Information. The sponsors would give consideration to that suggestion. In his view, however, the draft resolution automatically provided for the transfer to the Special Committee of the duties and functions of the Committee on Information.

31. An arrangement whereby the Special Committee became responsible for all activities in the field of decolonization would promote effective and speedy solutions. He therefore hoped that the draft resolution would receive unanimous support.

32. The sponsors fully recognized the useful work performed by the Committee on Information over the years. He would like to pay a tribute to its members, particularly the non-administering members, and to the Secretariat of the Committee for the work they had accomplished.

33. Mr. SILVA (Ceylon) associated himself with the tribute paid by the previous speaker to the members and secretariat of the Committee on Information.

34. At the 1506th meeting the Pakistan representative had expressed doubts concerning the nature and timing of a question asked by the delegation of Ceylon at the 1496th meeting and the reply furnished by the Secretary-General's representative at the 1501st meeting (A/C.4/630). Every delegation had the right to ask questions affecting the work of the Committee and to receive replies from the Secretary-General or his representatives. In the case under discussion, the question asked by his delegation had enabled other members of the Committee to study the various aspects of the matter well in advance, thus helping to expedite the work of the Committee, which was pressed for time.

35. Turning to draft resolution A/C.4/L.786, of which his delegation was a sponsor, he said that the Committee on Information had originally been established to study information of a technical nature relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, covered by the provisions of Article 73 e of the Charter. The Committee's terms of reference had subsequently been enlarged to enable it to consider political and constitutional information transmitted by the Administering Members. That had led to the duplication of work and the overlapping of responsibilities. In terms of practical good sense and economy, the time had come to terminate the Committee on Information so as to ensure that all the work in the field of the liquidation of colonialism should be done smoothly and rapidly by the body with the widest terms of reference, namely the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In its work the United Nations should seek the most effective procedures and the most practical solutions.

36. As could be seen from the Secretary-General's reply to his question (A/C.4/630), there was in fact a great deal of duplication of work and overlapping of responsibilities in the handling of questions relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories. While it could not be denied that there was a fundamental difference of emphasis and approach between the work of the Committee on Information and that of the Special Committee, the two bodies were basically considering the same problems and working towards the same objectives. The time had come for their work to be concentrated in one body, thereby saving time, money and effort.

37. A comparison of the programmes of work of the Committee on Information and of the Special Committee showed that both bodies would be considering the same Territories. The Special Committee had now committed itself to the consideration, as a matter of priority, of the twenty-six Territories which it had not hitherto considered. The Secretariat would have to supply the Special Committee with a mass of information. The same information would have to be supplied

to the Committee on Information, thereby creating duplication of work and confusion.

38. It should be remembered that the adoption of the draft resolution would not jeopardize the role of the United Nations in pursuance of the provisions of Article 73 of the Charter. The sponsors merely sought to ensure that the massive resources available to the United Nations in that field should be concentrated in a single body working towards the immediate implementation in all remaining dependent territories of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

39. Mr. DIALLO Seydou (Guinea) paid a tribute to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, which had rendered immense services to the cause of decolonization. In the new circumstances, however, the transmission of information had ceased to be the main source of United Nations action in the matter of decolonization and the time had come to dissolve the Committee and transfer its functions to a more appropriate body. As his delegation had stated on 30 September 1963 (1220th plenary meeting), the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples had superseded Chapter XI of the Charter. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should be strengthened and endowed with adequate powers and means that would enable it to work for the peaceful decolonization under United Nations auspices of the remaining dependent territories. United Nations activities in the most important field of decolonization should be pursued with increased vigour. The Special Committee should lay stress on the political aspects of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories rather than on social, educational and economic advancement, although the two aspects could not be divorced.

40. He appealed to all the African delegations to help to strengthen the Special Committee.

41. Miss BROOKS (Liberia), replying to the representative of Ghana, recalled that in her statement she had said that, if the Special Committee was to take over the functions of the Committee on Information in addition to its own, certain facts would have to be taken into consideration, and she had enumerated those facts.

42. Furthermore, she pointed out to the representative of Ghana that Liberia's three-year term as a member of the Committee was about to end, so that her delegation had no vested interest in its renewal. It was because of its desire that the progress of dependent peoples to independence should be accelerated that her delegation had urged the sponsors to take certain factors into consideration.

43. Mr. HAMDANI (Pakistan) assured the representative of Ceylon that his delegation had no doubts whatsoever about the right of the delegation of Ceylon to ask the Secretary-General whether in his opinion there was any duplication of work in the activities of the Committee on Information and those of the Special Committee, or about the right of the Secretary-General or his representative to reply. His delegation's objection had been to the fact that the question had been raised and the reply given when the item had not been on the agenda. If the item had been on the agenda of the meeting, delegations who were interested could have been present and would have been able to take part in the discussion.

44. He would express his delegation's views on the draft resolution after the Secretary-General's survey had been received.

45. Mr. DIALLO (Mali) said that his delegation recognized the important role played by the Committee on Information, which had enabled the United Nations to carry out its work of decolonization. The situation had, however, been changed by the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the establishment of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. At the stage that had now been reached in the process of decolonization, although information on the Non-Self-Governing Territories was of course still necessary, what was chiefly needed was to seek appropriate means for the implementation of the Declaration.

46. The Committee on Information had been a very effective organ, but in the present circumstances the Special Committee had a more advanced role to play and it should therefore be entrusted with the function of collecting information. If the Committee on Information were to be discontinued the Administering Members could co-operate with the Special Committee by transmitting to it all the information it needed and allowing it to visit Territories under their administration in order to obtain firsthand information. His delegation was convinced that if the Administering Members co-operated with the Special Committee the solution of the various problems of decolonization would be greatly facilitated.

47. For all those reasons, and because there was undoubtedly duplication of work between the Special Committee and the Committee on Information, his delegation considered that the efforts of the United Nations in the field of decolonization should be concentrated in a single body.

48. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) said that in his delegation's view all the points raised by the representative of Liberia were covered by the draft resolution.

49. Mr. PEON DEL VALLE (Mexico) said that his delegation could see reasons why the Committee on Information should be renewed and reasons why its functions should be taken over by the Special Committee. In order to reach a decision consideration should be given to the functions and composition of the Committee on Information. It should be borne in mind that while technical experts should not be influenced by political considerations, a political body could always ask the advice of technical experts.

50. With regard to the question of composition, a committee set up by the General Assembly should reflect the composition of the General Assembly, whereas the composition of the Committee on Information was paritary, like that of the Trusteeship Council.

51. In the past, committees had been able to submit a majority report and a minority report and the principal organ had been able to decide between the opinions expressed in the two reports.

52. He paid a tribute to the work performed by the Committee on Information and said that his delegation would be guided by the general feeling of the Committee and the points he had made.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.