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INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES  
TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER

General questions relating to the transmission and  
examination of information

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with the decision of the Fourth Committee taken at its 551st meeting on 19 November 1956, the following is circulated for the information of the members of the Committee.

1. On 24 February 1956, the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the following letter to the sixteen new Members admitted to the United Nations on 14 December 1955.

"The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of ..... and has the honour to refer to the provisions of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations entitled "Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories", which relate to obligations accepted by Members of the United Nations having or assuming responsibilities for the administration of Territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government.

"Attention is drawn in particular to the obligation of Member States, contained in paragraph e of Article 73, to transmit to the Secretary-General information regarding the Territories for which they are respectively responsible other than the Territories to which Chapters XII and XIII of the Charter apply.

"By communication dated 29 June 1946, the Secretary-General requested all States which were then Members of the Organization to indicate which were the Territories under their administration whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government. On the basis of the replies received, the General Assembly, at the second part of its first session, noted in resolution 66 (I) the Territories for which information had been received as well as the Territories for which Member States intended to transmit information.

"Following the method thus initiated, the Secretary-General would be obliged if the Government of ..... could inform him whether there are any Territories referred to in Article 73 of the Charter for the administration of which it has responsibility.

"In order to facilitate the study of the activities of the United Nations arising out of the provisions of Chapter XI of the Charter, a list of the relevant General Assembly resolutions is annexed to the present communication.

"In this connexion the Secretary-General wishes to draw particular attention to General Assembly resolutions 648 (VII) of 20 December 1952 and 742 (VIII) of 27 November 1953, entitled 'Factors which should be taken into account in deciding whether a Territory is or is not a Territory whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government'.

"Attention is also drawn to General Assembly resolutions 218 (III) of 3 November 1948, 551 (VI) of 7 December 1951 and 930 (X) of 8 November 1955, pertaining to the principles governing the transmission of information; and resolution 933 (X) of 8 November 1955 relating to the composition and functions of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"Finally, the Secretary-General wishes to draw attention to resolution 845 (IX), by which all Members of the United Nations are invited to extend to inhabitants from Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities for study and training. In this connexion reference is made to the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its tenth session, contained in document A/2937 and the four addenda thereto.

"Texts of General Assembly resolutions, to which particular attention has been drawn in this communication, are herewith enclosed.

"A similar communication is being addressed to all other States which were admitted to membership in the United Nations on 14 December 1955."

2. Up to date, the Secretary-General has received the following twelve replies to the above communication:

Ceylon (2 March 1956)

... there are no Territories referred to in Article 73 of the Charter for the administration of which the Government of Ceylon has responsibility.

Libya (10 March 1956)

... the Government of Libya does not administer any Territories referred to in Article 73 of the Charter.

Cambodia (13 March 1956)

... Cambodia does not assume responsibility for the administration of Territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government.

/...

Finland (22 March 1956)

... Finland has no Territories under its administration whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government and, therefore, the obligation of Member States, contained in paragraph (e) of Article 73, to transmit information regarding the said Territories, does not concern Finland.

Italy (28 March 1956)

... Italy does not administer any Territory falling under the category indicated by Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations.

Laos (28 March 1956)

... the Royal Government of Laos does not have or assume responsibility for the administration of Territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government.

Romania (27 April 1956)

... the Romanian People's Republic has not under its administration Territories which are mentioned in Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Austria (30 April 1956)

... Austria does not administer Territories as described by Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Hungary (10 May 1956)

... there are no Territories referred to in Article 73 of the Charter for the administration of which the Government of Hungary has responsibility.

Ireland (29 May 1956)

... there are no Territories referred to in Article 73 of the Charter for the administration of which the Government of Ireland has responsibility.

Albania (27 October 1956)

... the People's Republic of Albania does not administer Territories which fall under the category indicated by Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Portugal (8 November 1956)

... Portugal does not administer Territories which fall under the category indicated by Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations.

3. No replies have been so far received from Bulgaria, Jordan, Nepal and Spain.