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**Chairman: Mr. Frederick H. BOLAND (Ireland).**

**AGENDA ITEM 36**

**Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter: reports of the Secretary-General and of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/3806, A/3807, A/3808, A/3809/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/3810, A/3811 and Add.1, A/3812 and Add.1, A/3813 and Add.1, A/3814, A/3815 and Add.1, A/3816, A/3837) (continued):**

- (a) Information on social conditions;
- (b) Information on other conditions;
- (c) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information (A/C.4/374, A/C.4/375, A/C.4/385/Rev.1, A/C.4/390);
- (d) Methods of reproducing summaries of information concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/3903);
- (e) Report of the Secretary-General on developments connected with the association of Non-Self-Governing Territories with the European Economic Community (A/3916/Rev.1);
- (f) Offers of study and training facilities under resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954: report of the Secretary-General (A/3917/Rev.1 and Add.1)

**GENERAL DEBATE**

1. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) said that the presence in the Committee of the representatives of sovereign States that had formerly been Non-Self-Governing Territories under British administration was living proof of the success of United Kingdom policy in that field and of the United Kingdom's good

faith in its dealings with the people of those Territories. His Government's policy was dynamic and human; it was designed to help the Territories to advance smoothly towards nationhood and to prepare the people, by education and by experience, for the responsibilities that lay ahead of them.

2. In 1957 the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had considered economic conditions in the Territories (see A/3647 and Corr.1, part two). The United Kingdom regarded economic development as a means towards the achievement of nationhood: it looked at the problem in human terms, its main objective being to help the people of the Territories to raise their level of living and to play an ever more varied and more responsible part in all fields of economic activity. To that end it endeavoured not merely to increase the national income of the Territories but to ensure that that income was spread as widely as possible among the people.

3. On the subject of education, which the Committee on Information had considered in 1956 (see A/3127, part two), he would say only that the principal aim of education must be the production of leaders in all fields of activity and that the United Kingdom had co-operated with the people of the Territories in expanding and improving education at all levels.

4. In 1958 report of the Committee on Information (A/3837) dealt with social conditions. The United Kingdom Government, which recognized the importance of that question, was doing its utmost to foster plans for social development in the various Territories. In view of the wide differences between Territories, and sometimes within a single Territory, its policy was to encourage each Territory to develop its own policy and practice in accordance with local conditions. There was thus an extremely varied pattern of social measures throughout the Territories, sometimes provided by legislation and sometimes by administrative action.

5. The United Kingdom endorsed the principal aims of social policy as outlined in paragraph 9 of the Committee's report on social conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/3837, part two); indeed, that paragraph represented what was already being done by the Governments of the Territories for which the United Kingdom was responsible. In many of the Territories social evolution had led to new problems. In both urban and rural communities there was a need for new forms of organization to replace social structures which had broken down under stresses for which they had never been intended. That need must be met by the Governments, which should not merely provide benefits and services but should foster a healthy communal spirit of self-reliance by showing the people how to help themselves.

6. The development of local government could do much to strengthen that spirit. In United Kingdom par-

lance, local government meant the initiation and execution of measures by a body of persons, representative of all those living in the area, on their own responsibility. It led to the establishment of local institutions through which local people would eventually be able to manage most of the services which affected their daily lives. It was thus closely related to training in leadership and responsibility, which was the central purpose of British administration in Non-Self-Governing Territories. A sense of responsibility could be engendered only by the exercise of responsibility. That was particularly important in the social sphere, where the efforts of groups of private citizens working together in the great voluntary social movements were likely to be even more efficacious than the efforts of the Government itself. The 1958 Annual Summer Conference on African Administration held at Cambridge had recorded that among the significant achievements of local government were that it had greatly enlarged the knowledge of public affairs among the people as a whole; that it offered an opportunity to everyone who wished to render public service; that it was demonstrating with great success the value of the democratic method of progressing from proposal to action; and that it acted as the institutional backing for community development and thereby, in addition to its routine duties, played an essential part in the economic and social aspects of local administration.

7. The United Nations had given considerable attention to community development in recent years. The principles involved, which were not new, reflected the United Kingdom policy of helping the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to prepare themselves for self-government by training in responsibility. In the early years of the century social services in those Territories had been mainly in the hands of the Christian missions, to whom all honour was due for their pioneering achievements. As early as 1925 the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on British Tropical Africa had recommended that educational plans should embrace the whole community, but it had been after the Second World War that the idea now known as community development had originated in a series of committees and conferences initiated by the Colonial Office. The dispatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies addressed to the Governments of United Kingdom Territories in 1948 and 1949 had emphasized that all efforts should be directed to stimulating initiative among the people, and by 1954 the Ashridge Conference on Social Development had been able to endorse the findings of earlier inquiries in the light of experience.

8. In working out community development policy the United Kingdom Government provided advisory services and financial assistance and played an important part in the training of community development workers. Social administration courses at various United Kingdom universities had been adapted to the needs of training such workers and frequent conferences on the subject were held in the United Kingdom, such as the Conference held at Hartwell House in 1957, which had produced a handbook on community development.

9. In the Territories themselves community development was fitted into the administrative framework in accordance with local patterns. The financial principle followed was one of devolution of the power to spend money on community development and an increasing use of the machinery of local government for that

purpose. Grants for community projects were made on the basis of a matching contribution from the community in the form of labour, materials and so forth. Training institutions were wide-spread throughout the Territories; there were permanent training centres, for example, in Eastern Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda and Northern Rhodesia, while Jamaica had developed training schemes by collaboration between the Social Welfare Commission and the University College of the West Indies.

10. Community development worked through important aspects of community life. By way of illustration he referred to a movement in Kenya for improving conditions for women through the establishment of women's clubs; a community development project in an agricultural district in Eastern Nigeria which had led to a vast improvement in the services in the area, such as village water supplies, roads, maternity homes and so forth, and to a new consciousness in the people themselves that they were capable of dealing with their own problems; the Shasha River Training Camp in Western Nigeria, which provided training in community development techniques; the Jamaica Better Village Plan, which organized groups of people to study and improve condition in their villages; and the Budu Community Development Scheme in Sarawak, under which co-operative shops had been established, dispensaries built, and a substantial area planted with high-yielding rubber.

11. A question of great importance was the part that women should play in social development. The growth of women's clubs in Non-Self-Governing Territories, and especially in Africa, had stimulated schemes of leadership training for women; in Kenya, for example, a two-year course had recently been started for African women community development officers. Valuable help in the matter had been received from the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, United Nations Technical Assistance agencies, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): women responsible for advising on policy had been able to benefit by the experience of other parts of the world, visiting experts had been invited to help in the development of territorial training schemes, and expert women staff from FAO had visited Non-Self-Governing Territories in different parts of the world to give advice. The Secretary of State for the Colonies had a Women's Committee which had established contacts between women's voluntary organizations in the United Kingdom and overseas and planned training courses and conferences. Much useful work was being done regionally, especially in the South Pacific, where women in the United States of America had offered financial help for a scheme proposed by the South Pacific Commission Research Council for increasing the participation of women in the life of their communities. The Tropical Community Development Centre in the United Kingdom, financially supported from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, had for years been offering training courses for women from all parts of the Commonwealth in education for community leadership. In Uganda excellent work was being done by the Young Women's Christian Association, with the valuable assistance of a woman worker from the United States.

12. Turning from the forward movement of community development to the remedial side of social policy, he

said that there had been a steady extension in the Non-Self-Governing Territories of legislation and administrative procedures based upon United Kingdom legislation on the subject. Most Territories had laws similar to the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933; twenty-three had laws based on the Adoption Act, 1950, and many had marriage and bastardy laws and laws providing for the beginnings of a public assistance system, especially for the aged poor. Every year saw the enactment in the Territories of legislation in the field of criminal justice and penal reform, based in principle on United Kingdom laws. Thus a common field of legal and administrative practice was being extended and consolidated.

13. Such application of United Kingdom legal and administrative principles to the Non-Self-Governing Territories was no simple matter. Remedial social services were essentially an internal affair of the Territories, which enacted their own legislation to meet local needs and did not always follow the advice received from London. Moreover, however sound the principles of United Kingdom laws, it was not always desirable or possible to apply them throughout a particular Territory. In some cases a particular law might be applied only to certain urban centres where trained staff was available; in others it might be replaced by a compromise measure that could be applied throughout the Territory.

14. In penal reform, for example, there were two main trends in modern thought. Firstly, it was felt that, although the sentence imposed must be deterrent, the prisoner's treatment should be designed to rehabilitate him. The Criminal Justice Act, 1948, had effected a great revolution in that matter in the United Kingdom. Secondly, there was a growing conviction that prisons should be used only as a last resort when no other form of treatment was likely to succeed. The probation system had accordingly been established in nearly all the Territories during the preceding ten years. Other alternative measures to prison sentences were the granting of time to pay fines or the payment of fines by extra-mural work. The Governments of the Territories would shortly be receiving advice from London about the development of after-care services.

15. The rate of development of the remedial social services varied from Territory to Territory. Much valuable work had been done for the blind, for lepers and for cripples, but not yet enough for the deaf-and-dumb and for persons of unsound mind.

16. Much was being done in the promising field of youth work. Many of the Territories had national youth councils or committees; fifteen of them were affiliated with the World Assembly of Youth and participated in the conferences it organized.

17. A great deal was being done to train local leaders to assume greater responsibility in the field of remedial social services. In 1956 forty-six local officers of the prison, probation and social welfare services had visited the United Kingdom for study purposes; in 1957 the number had risen to eighty-four. There were training courses for such officers at universities and other institutions in the United Kingdom. University training for social workers was available in Hong Kong, Singapore, East and West Africa and the West Indies and in-service training was being extended.

18. In the field of social security, the aim of the United Kingdom Government was to provide freedom

from fear of material want for the people of the Territories. In many Territories such provision was already made by the family, the tribe or other social units. Wherever possible such traditional systems were strengthened and supplemented by public social services and voluntary bodies. Where rapid social changes led to the breakdown of such systems, alternative provisions were made to protect those in need. Social security measures varied from Territory to Territory according to the differing needs and urban societies, the amount of protection a community could afford to provide and the competing claims for trained and experienced people to administer complicated schemes. It was often necessary to reinforce social security schemes by building up elementary social services to provide for medical, health and nutritional needs, and by taking steps to encourage personal savings. In many Territories there were large-scale systems of public relief, including provision for non-contributory pensions; in some Territories there were employers who organized pension funds for their employees. The Caribbean Territories had many friendly societies; in Singapore compulsory provident funds provided lump-sum benefits on retirement. There was a constant exchange of information on social security developments between the United Kingdom Government and the Governments of the Territories.

19. Industrial relations policies and methods were directed to the promotion and maintenance of industrial harmony as an essential element both in economic development and in the building up of responsible democratic societies. To that end efforts were made to improve the working and social conditions of the workers, to help sound and responsible trade-union movements to develop, and to organize machinery for industrial negotiation and the peaceful settlement of labour disputes.

20. The building up and diversification of the economies of the Territories in order to raise levels of living and increase national income had resulted in increasing and diversifying the employment available and raising wage levels. In Africa careful attention had been given to the problems of migrant labour. In the West Indies efforts were being made to lessen unemployment by arranging emigration schemes. Technical training was continuously expanding through the establishment of government technical colleges and the encouragement of training in industry, and particularly of the scheme known as Training within Industry for Supervisors. Most Territories now had legislation providing for the protection of workers, factory inspection and the health and welfare of workers and their families. Workmen's compensation legislation was wide-spread. Public assistance and social insurance schemes were being extended in the Territories whose economic and social development made them possible.

21. The Governments of the Territories gave all possible help and guidance to the trade unions. Most Territories had legislation providing for compulsory registration of unions to ensure protection of their funds and a reasonable standard of administrative efficiency. Training was provided both locally and in the United Kingdom. At the end of 1955 there had been nearly 1,400 unions with a reputed membership of more than a million, approximately a quarter of the total number in wage-earning employment in the Territories. Financial, advisory and training assistance

was freely given by the United Kingdom Trades Union Congress. Where the organization of employers and workers permitted, voluntary collective bargaining was encouraged; in other cases a simplified procedure was adopted. The creation of joint industrial councils was encouraged. Most territories had legislation providing machinery for settlement of disputes by reference to arbitration boards, but wherever possible informal conciliation by local labour officers was carried out at an early stage of the dispute. Close attention was paid to statutory minimum wage-fixing where appropriate.

22. In all but the smallest Territories Labour Departments had been established to advise the Government on labour matters, to secure improve working conditions and to foster good relations between employers and workers. There were employment exchanges in many Territories, particularly in the West Indies, West Africa and the Far East. Labour officers received full training both locally and in the United Kingdom and an increasing number of regional conferences of labour officers were organized. In London a staff of labour advisers and an advisory committee of representatives from all fields of industry, including the trade unions, gave assistance and advice both to the United Kingdom and to the Territorial Governments.

23. There was close contact with the International Labour Office. Many Conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), particularly those relating to forced labour, recruiting, contracts and penal sanctions, applied to the United Kingdom Territories and annual reports on their implementation were submitted to the International Labour Office. Government, employers' and workers' representatives from many Territories attended ILO conferences. The ILO provided technical assistance in many fields and had been of great assistance over the years in developing liberal labour policies in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

24. As in other branches of social development, housing policy was in the hands of the Territorial Governments, but help and advice were received from such sources as the Secretary of State's Housing and Town Planning Advisory Panel, the Colonial Office Housing Adviser and the Colonial Liaison Section of the Building Research Station. Financial assistance was given from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund and the Colonial Development Corporation. A technical series called Overseas Building Notes was widely circulated in the Territories.

25. In many Territories record population growth, industrialization and movement into towns had combined to cause acute urban housing problems. In order to ensure the best use of limited resources of skilled labour and money, and in general to develop balanced housing policies, Housing Ministries had been established in a number of Territories, one of their tasks being to decide how much should be done by the Government and how much left to non-governmental bodies and building firms. In parts of East and Central Africa local authorities were undertaking responsibility for housing, while in some Territories a central corporation or trust performed that function. The Singapore Improvement Trust had built nearly 17,000 houses, 700 shops and eleven markets by the end of 1957. In Hong Kong, the Housing Authority was engaged on a scheme to house over 31,000 people; in Lagos

the Executive Development Board was replanning the centre of the city and in Western Nigeria a Housing Corporation had been established.

26. The Governments of the Territories had responsibilities also in connexion with the administration of housing and building regulations. Town planning legislation and planning machinery had recently received attention in a number of Territories, including Zanzibar, Barbados and Singapore, and further stimulus to such activities had been provided by the recent addition of an overseas section to the Town and Country Planning Summer School held annually in the United Kingdom.

27. In some Territories, including British Guiana, British Honduras, Trinidad and Uganda, self-help housing schemes had been started with government assistance, usually in rural areas.

28. A number of financing devices had been borrowed and adapted from the United Kingdom and elsewhere. A notable success had been achieved in Singapore, and more recently, in Borneo, with the building society method; initial help had been given by the Colonial Development Corporation and by money raised on the Singapore market and guaranteed by the Singapore Government. In Lagos the Federal Government had collaborated with the Colonial Development Corporation in establishing a building society. Building societies that placed more reliance on small savings were operating in the Caribbean and in East and Central Africa. There were also a number of housing associations and Government housing loan funds, as well as co-operative housing societies, notably in Hong Kong and Singapore.

29. It was worth noting that much valuable training and encouragement was given to local builders and town planners by those concerned with building in Public Works Departments and other organizations.

30. In the field of public health, top priority was given to the training of local people to fill responsible posts in medical and health departments, the expansion of training schemes and the raising of standards in all grades. In curative medicine the demand for specialized and routine treatment had outstripped the provision of hospitals and other services, but hospital building was continuing at an ever increasing rate in the Territories with a view to relieving the present heavy strain on out-patient departments and the overcrowding in hospital wards.

31. Progress in preventive and social medicine had been in two main directions. Communicable disease had been attacked by mass campaigns of treatment, immunization or insect destruction and, where that had not been possible, by preliminary surveys and pilot schemes, while in the sphere of social medicine greater attention to the needs of the family and the individual had been made possible through health centres, specialized clinics and an elaboration of domiciliary care. Better health standards had been promoted by indirect measures such as large-scale housing schemes and improved urban and rural water supplies.

32. Major health problems included the reduction and ultimate eradication of smallpox, sleeping-sickness, yaws, malaria, yellow fever, leprosy and tuberculosis. Smallpox was troublesome only in the African Terri-

tories. There had been over 3.5 million vaccinations in Nigeria during 1957. Besides producing over 16 million doses of glycerinated lanolinated smallpox vaccine, the Federal Laboratory at Yaba in Nigeria had developed a dried smallpox vaccine proved in field trials to retain potency for four months after exposure to a temperature of 45 degrees centigrade and thus likely to be invaluable for field work in the tropics.

33. The success of sleeping-sickness control measures was illustrated by the fact that out of 1,364,982 people examined in Northern Nigeria in 1957, only 2,039 had been found to be infected, an incidence of 0.14 per cent, the lowest ever reported in that region. Tsetse eradication through bush-clearing and other methods was continuing in the East African Territories and in West Africa.

34. The valuable help given by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF in the continuing mass campaigns against yaws was greatly appreciated by the Governments and peoples of the Territories. In Eastern Nigeria over 384,000 people had been examined during 1957, and in Northern Nigeria over one million patients had been treated since the campaign had started in 1954. The whole population of Fiji had been examined in the course of a two-year campaign.

35. The World Health Organization had also given valuable help in malaria eradication. In some Territories pilot schemes had been carried out because of the different reactions to control measures of the many species of anopheles mosquito. A resistance to certain insecticides revealed by one such scheme in Northern Nigeria had now been overcome to such an extent that an attempt was being made at total eradication in an area with a population of nearly half a million.

36. In Nigeria a government laboratory was producing yellow fever vaccine with WHO approval. It was only the seventh laboratory in the world to be so approved.

37. Valuable assistance in the treatment of lepers had been given by the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association and by WHO and UNICEF. There was a growing realization that social rehabilitation of patients who had been rendered non-infective by treatment was as important as the initial treatment. In Hong Kong there were thirty-seven cured patients working in government departments. Out-patient clinics had been established in Territories such as Trinidad, which had nine such clinics to supplement the main leprosarium; financial aid was given to discharged patients as part of their rehabilitation. In Uganda there were 75 special treatment villages, to which admission was voluntary; in Northern Nigeria 650 treatment centres had been in operation at the end of 1957, and in Eastern Nigeria 2,500 patients had been discharged as cured in 1957.

38. A co-ordinated attack, incorporating hygiene, BCG vaccination, hospital chemotherapy and domiciliary and clinic follow-up rehabilitation, was being made on tuberculosis. Hong Kong, with an infection rate of approximately 2 per cent of the adult population, dealt with 12,000 cases a year in clinics and had an elaborate home visiting scheme as well as 1,500 hospital beds. In Aden known cases were given domiciliary treatment while awaiting admission to hospital.

39. The United Kingdom welcomed help from international bodies in the vital field of health education.

In Hong Kong some 270,000 people had attended talks and demonstrations in 1957; a health exhibition in the Seychelles had attracted over 7,000 people, about one-fifth of the entire population, and in Singapore interest and co-operation in an intensive rural sanitation campaign had been aroused by a house-to-house system of persuasion. Much was being done, too, in the African Territories.

40. The need for a central organization to deal with nutrition problems in the Territories had been met by the establishment in 1952 of the Applied Nutrition Unit, in association with the Department of Human Nutrition of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Medical Research Council's Human Nutrition Research Unit. Its main functions were to study and exchange information on nutrition and food technology overseas, to provide advice and assistance in field work and investigation, and to assist in arrangements for the training of personnel from the Territories in nutrition work. Detailed records were kept relating to nutrition in each Territory. The Unit co-operated closely with international bodies such as WHO, FAO, UNICEF and UNESCO in committee and conference work and the provision of special reports; it visited the Territories, and assisted, for example, in the analysis of dietary data, the estimating of food requirements in new towns and the investigation of outbreak of deficiency diseases. It provided lectures for students in public health or tropical medicine and hygiene, short courses for nurses and other specialists, and help in study for those able to spend longer in the United Kingdom. Most of the Territories had appointed a nutrition liaison officer.

41. In the Territories themselves Public Health Departments were active in the field of nutrition. In Uganda a national unit was being built up; in Nigeria work done by the Federal Adviser on Nutrition included a study of the value of ground-nut flour. In 1957 WHO and FAO, with the co-operation of the Uganda Government and Makerere College, had held a training course and seminar at Kampala covering the main aspects of human nutrition in the African Territories. The Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara (CCTA) was also active in the field of nutrition.

42. The activities discussed thus far could only properly be considered against a background of knowledge of demographic trends. The Territories under United Kingdom administration included some of the youngest populations in the world; in 1957, 38 per cent of the population of Singapore had been under thirteen years old and 49 per cent under nineteen years; in Jamaica, Trinidad and Mauritius over 40 per cent of the population was under fifteen years of age. That age composition meant a high dependency rate and a heavy burden on social resources and on the family unit. In Singapore in 1957 there had been an average of one dependant under thirteen years to every economically active person, twice the proportion found in the United Kingdom. That situation, itself a reflection of the success of United Kingdom social and economic policy in the past, was fraught with difficult problems of social policy in the future. High birth rates in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were traditionally offset by high death rates, but in the Territories under United Kingdom administration the death rate had fallen considerably during the present century and was continuing to fall. With expectation of life at birth in-

creasing considerably and infantile mortality rates constantly declining, the result was a general acceleration in the rate of population growth. Despite the great increase in population, the social services were expanding at an even greater rate.

43. Migration was one means of relieving the pressure population on resources. The United Kingdom maintained an open door for all citizens of United Kingdom Territories; in recent years West Indian immigrants, for example, had numbered about 25,000 a year. Migration to the United Kingdom was not, however, sufficient to solve the problem and migration to other countries encountered much difficulty. Moreover, emigration upset the age composition of the population of the country of origin and increased the ratio of dependants to the economically active. Migration within Territories from the countryside to the towns had similar effects and raised a series of social problems. Since 1921 the total population of Jamaica had increased by approximately 75 per cent, whereas the urban areas of Kingston and Port Royal had increased by over 100 per cent. That process of urbanization resulted in striking differences between the age composition of town dwellers and that of country dwellers.

44. If the challenge of those demographic trends was to be met, there must be full knowledge of them. Most United Kingdom Territories were as well equipped statistically as similar countries and some had a long experience of census-taking. Considerable progress had been made since the Second World War and most Territories would be participating in the United Nations World Census of Population. All United Kingdom Territories in the Western Hemisphere had complete records of vital events—the source of demographic information which was second only to the census—a distinction shared by only ten other countries and territories in that region. In recent years statistics departments had been established in many Territories and since 1949 the complement of statistical officers in the Territories had more than doubled. That development was of particular importance in Africa, where the problems were more complex, and an important part of the process was the training of African staff. The special problems of census-taking in Africa were being progressively met and African Territories would be taking part in the World Population Census. When that round of censuses had been completed, the demographic picture in the African Territories would be clearer.

45. The statisticians of United Kingdom Territories had played their part in helping to evolve new statistical techniques to meet the special demographic and statistical problems of the African Territories. Firstly, demographic information had been obtained efficiently and quickly in Africa by the use of sampling methods. Secondly, the use of sampling made possible household or family surveys which, aimed primarily at obtaining the basis of a cost-of-living index, had proved useful not only in measuring patterns of expenditure but also for the study of the family in its many aspects.

46. With regard to race relations, the United Kingdom Government fully subscribed to the statement on that subject in paragraph 168 of the report on social conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/3837, part two). He could say from his own experience that in many Territories there was a steadily growing

realization on the part of the immigrant communities that they must identify themselves with the aspirations of the great majority of the population, and a steadily growing realization on the part of the African majority of the value to those Territories of the contribution made by the immigrant communities. The United Kingdom was dedicated to the advancement of all communities without discrimination on grounds of race, colour or creed and was hence committed to the progressive removal of all restrictions based upon race as soon as that was practicable. The difficulties, however, could not be ignored and it should be remembered that in many cases differentiations were based on the need for protecting a certain section of the community; for example, the restrictions in certain Territories on the alienation of land by Africans to members of other races were at present vital for the protection of African land rights, which it was the sacred trust of Governments to protect. The aim was to banish discrimination wherever it still existed by the use of positive measures that would increase co-operation between the races living together and provide them with a common interest and a common purpose.

47. In the last two generations, and particularly during the last twenty years, a transformation had been achieved in the United Kingdom Territories and great advances had been made towards nationhood. Yet it would be foolish and irresponsible to ignore the great amount still to be done in the social, economic and educational spheres. Those tasks would be pursued with vigour, with the people of the Territories taking an ever-increasing part in the higher direction and planning of policy. The United Kingdom would welcome constructive criticisms of the changes and advances that were being made.

48. The United Kingdom was helping the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to prepare for nationhood; it was proud of the work it was doing and above all of its close, friendly and constructive association with the people of those countries. It was confident that in that work and in that association it was making a significant contribution to the progress of the world, to the happiness of mankind and to international peace.

49. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) suggested that in view of the importance of the statement just made by the United Kingdom representative and the great amount of detailed information it contained it should be reproduced in full and circulated to the members of the Committee.

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

50. Mr. COHEN (Chile) observed that the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories was a complete summary of the enormous amount of material made available by the administering Powers. The United Kingdom representative had also provided the Committee with a great deal of information. Nevertheless, owing to the terms of Chapter XI of the Charter and the terms of reference of the Committee on Information, the question of political advancement in the Non-Self-Governing Territories could not be debated. Much had been said and written lately about the steps being taken towards the establishment of self-government in the Territory

<sup>1/</sup> The complete text of the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom was subsequently circulated as document A/C.4/393.

of Nigeria, which in 1960 would join the peoples of Africa which had already achieved self-government or independence. Furthermore, steps were being taken in Central Africa, with the assistance of the administering Power, to establish a Central African federation consisting of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Even more important in the eyes of the Latin American countries, the Non-Self-Governing Territories under British administration in the Caribbean area had already, with the assistance and cooperation of the United Kingdom Government, begun their march towards self-government. The development of the West Indies federation was being watched with the greatest interest by all Latin American countries, which hoped to see an end of the purely colonial administrations to be found in their hemisphere.

51. In the Non-Self-Governing Territories under French administration there had been great advances towards self-government. Some of the territories formerly under French administration had achieved complete independence.

52. Those events were of the utmost significance, since the peoples who were engaged in the process of advancement towards self-government or independence represented the majority of those who up to the present had lived under foreign jurisdiction.

53. His purpose in making those remarks was to draw the Committee's attention to achievements of which the administering Powers could be justly proud.

54. The report of the Committee on Information represented a comprehensive study which was a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the subject and contained much material concerning progress achieved in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

55. The events that were taking place in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Western Hemisphere, which were viewed with so much satisfaction by his delegation and by many others, seemed to foreshadow a future which would bring other dependent Territories into the community of nations.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.