



CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Tribute to the memory of Mr. Georgi Damianov, President of the Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria	409
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 (continued):	
(a) Information on social conditions;	
(b) Information on other conditions;	
(c) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information;	
(d) Methods of reproducing summaries of information concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General;	
(e) Report of the Secretary-General on developments connected with the association of Non-Self-Governing Territories with the European Economic Community;	
(f) Offers of study and training facilities under resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954: report of the Secretary-General	
General debate (continued)	409

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

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Georgi Damianov, President of the Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to observe one minute's silence as a tribute to the memory of Mr. Georgi Damianov, President of the Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The Committee observed one minute's silence.

2. Mr. MITCHEV (Bulgaria) thanked the Chairman and the members of the Committee for that expression of sympathy to the Bulgarian people in its recent bereavement.

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 (continued)

3. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) noted with satisfaction that the volume of the information on Non-Self-Governing Territories received by the United Nations was increasing year by year, the position in that respect having been particularly gratifying during the current year. The Secretary-General had circulated nine documents to delegations containing summaries of the information transmitted by Australia, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Those seven countries, which administered most if not all of the present Non-Self-Governing Territories, should be thanked for the way in which they had been complying with the provisions of Article 73 e of the Charter since 1946, and it was to be hoped that all new Member States administering Non-Self-Governing Territories would follow their example. In addition to the documents already mentioned, delegations had received reports prepared by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and many studies on various economic, social and cultural aspects of conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, not to mention the excellent report on social conditions in those Territories issued as part two of the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/3837). The importance of the work done in that field was shown not only by the list of documents, but also by the list of representatives and experts who had participated in it. There were also grounds for satisfaction in the circumstance that, contrary to the practice in previous years, when the representatives of the administering Powers had not participated in the Committee's debates on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, the current debate had been opened by the representative of the United Kingdom, which administered the greater part of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. Accordingly, the Committee's problem was no longer, generally speaking, lack of information, but rather the difficulty of assimilating a considerable volume of information at present provided in a rather incoherent form. In that connexion, the Committee on

Information was doing the Fourth Committee a great service by summarizing the information in readily usable form. It could only be regretted that the Committee on Information did not have all the powers necessary to enable it to discharge its task to the full. It was unfair to accuse it of keeping to vague generalities, when, as was clear from the draft resolution relating to the renewal of that Committee (A/3837, part one, annex II, draft resolution B), it was prohibited from making the substantive recommendations it was instructed to make relating to functional fields, with respect to individual Territories. His delegation had no intention for the time being of asking for an amendment to that provision, but would point out that the restriction was due to the intransigent position taken by one of the administering Powers in 1955. It was also to be regretted that, as the draft resolution indicated, the Committee's terms of reference could not be automatically renewed for a period of three years every time the occasion arose.

5. The primary problem with regard to the Non-Self-Governing Territories was that the anti-colonialist countries considered the provisions of Chapter XI of the Charter inadequate, while the administering Powers thought them extremely dangerous. For forty years, the world had been the scene of far-reaching changes which had undermined traditional positions at every stage. In 1918, the victorious Powers had had to contend with the right of self-determination of peoples and had been unable to take over the colonies of their defeated enemies, because it had been recognized that the populations of those colonies had the right to decide their own destiny. It had, however, been necessary to enable those populations to prepare for independence, and the Mandates System, and later the Trusteeship System, had been established to that end.

6. When the United Nations Charter had been drafted in 1945, there had been a proposal that all the non-self-governing peoples, whether administered by the victors or the vanquished, should be placed under the same Trusteeship System. The colonial Powers had unfortunately succeeded in having included in the Charter a distinction between the Trust Territories and the Non-Self-Governing Territories, but the proposal had left its mark in Chapter XI of the Charter. The distrust and misgivings which had been shown concerning that Chapter, and the obstacles which had been put in the way of the Fourth Committee's work, were vestiges of the reaction which had led to rejection of the revolutionary proposal of 1945, anachronistic survivals of an age when some men had thought themselves superior to others, the age which had preceded the advent of the world community. The separation of Chapter XI of the Charter from Chapters XII and XIII had created one of the greatest injustices of the modern world, in that the peoples placed under trusteeship enjoyed more favourable treatment, solely because the countries which had administered them had been defeated. That injustice could only be remedied by a very enlightened policy on the part of the Powers administering the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was doubtless because they had been aware of that fact that certain of those Powers had in recent years adopted a policy which was leading to the attainment of independence by a large number of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Fourth Committee need do no more than continue its work without trying to exceed the limits set by Chapter XI of the Charter,

and the evolution which had begun would continue of itself and nothing could stop it.

7. His delegation would vote for the draft resolution renewing the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories for a further period of three years; it thought that, despite the present limitations on the Committee's terms of reference, it could to a large extent carry out the task for which it had been established. His delegation hoped that the Powers responsible for administering the Non-Self-Governing Territories would discharge their task with as much zeal as they would have shown in the case of Trust Territories. His delegation had suggested that the success of the Trusteeship system would perhaps persuade States to place Territories for whose administration they were responsible under that system voluntarily, a suggestion which did no more than repeat the terms of Article 77, paragraph 1 c of the Charter. The very limits imposed upon the Committee on Information would perhaps enable the Fourth Committee to make better use of its services; the Committee might for instance make an over-all survey of conditions in, and the future of, the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

8. The Secretariat had to some extent remedied the defects in the report of the Committee on Information to which his delegation had referred in the Fourth Committee at the twelfth session (672nd meeting) but the report should open with a paragraph giving a list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerning which information had been transmitted. A map showing the position of Non-Self-Governing Territories throughout the world, and perhaps some more detailed maps, might usefully be attached to the report.

9. With regard to race relations, the subject of section XII in part two of the Committee's report, one of the most striking aspects of relations between Europe and Africa was the way in which contemporary history had suddenly brought into contact after a long period of separation the inhabitants of two great regions with different racial characteristics. There could be no doubt that the countries administering many African Territories must act in accordance with a general plan which could not fail to be of great interest to the world; thus an over-all survey of the question would be of great value.

10. With regard to the Spanish Government's reply (see A/C.4/385/Rev.1) to the Secretary-General's note concerning Chapter XI of the Charter, he noted that, despite certain features likely to give rise to doubt, it indicated that Spain intended to act in keeping with the spirit of the United Nations. He would like to be able to interpret the letter as meaning that Spain, while making reservations, agreed to place information at the Secretary-General's disposal in full knowledge of the fact that the latter would by virtue of his office transmit it to the General Assembly. He hoped that the Spanish delegation would elucidate that point. The elucidation would be of special interest to the Spanish-American countries, which had to remain faithful to their past opinions if they wished to maintain their prestige and the seats they had hitherto occupied on the Committee on Information. His delegation was prepared to help any other delegation to defend its legitimate interests, if it could do so without impairing its own prestige and position, and without going against the authority of the General Assembly.

11. U ON SEIN (Burma) thought that the Committee should appoint more representatives of the Asian and African countries to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, because those countries had some experience of the problems arising from the liquidation of colonialism.

12. Although the report of the Committee on Information did not in his delegation's opinion go far enough, it drew attention to the main aspects of social policy in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

13. With regard to community development, which was discussed in the report (A/3837, part two, section III), he noted that his Government had some experience in the matter, as it had been engaged on a mass education programme since 1948 and the Burmese Social Welfare Department had been carrying out a community development project. Community development programmes placed greater emphasis than programmes of social action of the old type on community participation in the organization and execution of projects. It was desirable that community development should be organized on a national basis, each local programme being integrated in an over-all plan, as a means of awakening national consciousness. The best results could only be obtained within a context of political emancipation, which might perhaps explain why only a few Non-Self-Governing Territories had an active community development organization operating at the Territorial level. The Fourth Committee should continue to take an interest in the preparation of community development and mass education programmes and the evaluation of the practical results obtained.

14. His delegation attached special importance to the section of the report on race relations (A/3837, part two, section XII). The Committee had noted some encouraging developments, in particular measures taken to eliminate racial discrimination in the Belgian Congo and in some African Territories administered by the United Kingdom. Segregation in education, however, continued in various forms in a number of Territories. It was clear that racial discrimination had hampered political progress and aggravated political conflict in some parts of Africa.

15. In his delegation's view, an education programme could not succeed without the co-operation of the local inhabitants. In many Territories efforts were being made to ensure such co-operation, and education was one of the first services to be placed under the control of the local authorities. For an education programme to be effective, however, it must be directly related to the life of the community; in a poor community, for example, it was important to train citizens who could solve practical problems and whose knowledge could be applied to immediate needs. In the under-developed countries the need was not to train an intellectual élite cut off from the rest of the population. The object should be to organize mass literacy campaigns that would reach large numbers of people and to provide technical training which would help meet the country's most urgent needs.

16. Article 71 of the Charter provided that the Economic and Social Council could make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, and certain organizations were co-operating in the improvement of economic and social conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories. In a number of

Territories education was being carried on thanks to the co-operation of the population, of the Government and of private organizations, and it was regrettable that non-governmental organizations which maintained relations with the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council should not be accredited in a similar way to the United Nations itself in so far as questions connected with Non-Self-Governing Territories were concerned.

17. His delegation believed that the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories should be continued so long as Non-Self-Governing Territories still existed. It also believed that the Fourth Committee would be unable to study economic, social and cultural questions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories satisfactorily so long as it did not also study political conditions in those Territories.

18. His delegation supported the Committee's report on social conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories and would vote in favour of the draft resolution on that subject (A/3837, part one, annex II, draft resolution A). It would also vote in favour of the draft resolution regarding the renewal of the Committee (*ibid.*, draft resolution B).

19. Mr. WESTERMAN (Panama) said that since the establishment of the United Nations the application of Chapter XI of the Charter had done much to help forward the progressive development of the political, social and economic institutions of Non-Self-Governing Territories. There was a trend towards the diversification of the economies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Industrialization programmes were being put into effect and efforts were being made to increase agricultural production. Efforts were being made to solve housing problems, to develop mass information media, and to intensify community development.

20. His delegation wished to draw the Committee's attention to the position of the federation of islands in the Caribbean area known as the West Indies which had been established in January 1958 and which, like Togoland under French administration, was about to accede to independence. He hoped that the United Kingdom would take steps to ensure that the federation maintained close relations with international bodies, which would make it easier for it to obtain technical assistance and would prepare it for participation in the work of the United Nations as a Member State when the time came. It should be noted that Canada had already given the federation a certain amount of assistance and that the United States of America was considering doing so. Assistance agreements were already in force between the United States International Cooperation Administration and the members of the federation. The United Kingdom should now encourage the federation to seek the technical assistance it so badly needed. It was true that the United Kingdom had already undertaken to meet a considerable part of the federation's financial obligations. It seemed, however, that the provisions of the Charter were also applicable to the Territory, which was nearing political independence and should therefore receive all the assistance it required to make itself ready to take its place in the community of nations. After the goodwill already shown by Canada and the United States, there was reason to believe that the United Kingdom would give favourable consideration to the action by the United Na-

tions and its specialized agencies to provide technical assistance to the federation.

21. The delegations of the Latin American countries would probably not hesitate to support any reasonable proposal which was likely to assist in the regional development of the Caribbean area. The federation would one day play its full part in international life. By promoting the social and economic progress of the three million inhabitants of the federation, the United Nations would be strengthening the solidarity of the Western Hemisphere and assisting in the maintenance of international peace and security.

22. Mr. EL HAMID (United Arab Republic) recalled that the Conference of Independent African States, which had been held at Accra in April 1958, had adopted two resolutions, one concerning the future of dependent Territories in Africa and the other the problem of racialism. The first resolution had, among other things, requested the administering Powers to respect the United Nations Charter, to facilitate the accession of dependent peoples to self-government, to respect all human rights, and to put an end to all forms of discrimination; the first resolution further recommended that Governments taking part in the Conference should assist the dependent peoples in their struggle. Some months after the Accra Conference, Guinea had seized the opportunity to free itself of foreign domination, preferring poverty and freedom to riches and slavery.

23. The differences of opinion which were apparent in the Fourth Committee on certain questions like the majority required for the adoption of resolutions relating to the problems of Non-Self-Governing Territories, the two-thirds majority or the simple majority, also the transmission of political information, and the jurisdiction of Article 73, and the somewhat unconciliatory attitude of certain delegations could not halt the African people's march towards freedom. The question was whether the United Nations would be in a position to help the indigenous inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories or whether it would be paralysed and forfeit the confidence which the inhabitants of those Territories had placed in it. The reply to that question depended entirely on the attitude of the administering Powers and on their willingness to co-operate with the United Nations.

24. In adopting resolution 1155 (XII) regarding the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa and resolution 1240 (XIII) setting up the Special Fund, the General Assembly had taken further steps to assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories to move towards

the aims set forth in the Charter. Certain administering Powers, however, still wished to associate some Territories with the European Economic Community without taking account of the United Nations point of view regarding the economic problems arising in those Territories. Any association of Non-Self-Governing Territories with the European Economic Community would tend to nullify the efforts which the United Nations was making in the political and economic fields. The Treaty setting up the Community—signed at Rome on 25 March 1957—was inconsistent with the spirit of resolution 1155 (XII), which presupposed that close co-operation with the United Nations and its subsidiary organs was desirable. In other words the establishment of the European Economic Community would not facilitate the task of the Economic Commission for Africa, for it would be the Commission's task to advance the interests and welfare of all Africans, including the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, while the European Economic Community was essentially designed to serve the interests of its European members. The Rome Treaty was also inconsistent with resolution 1240 (XIII) which aimed at eliminating economic and political interference by foreign Powers in the internal affairs of the countries concerned. It would be worth providing a similar guarantee regarding the internal affairs of Non-Self-Governing Territories which were moving rapidly towards independence.

25. Urgent economic problems were arising in Non-Self-Governing Territories and the United Nations was attempting to solve them in accordance with the Charter. No Member State could avoid taking account of the United Nations decision to use international agencies to promote the social and economic advancement of all peoples. The Treaty establishing the European Economic Community stood in the way of the achievement of the aims set forth in Article 73 d of the Charter and in resolutions 1155 (XII) and 1240 (XIII), as the attachment of dependent African Territories to the economic systems of the colonial Powers could not serve the interests of the populations of the Territories concerned.

26. Mr. AZNAR (Spain) said that he was in full agreement with the Mexican representative on a number of points; there were, however, a number of questions which he interpreted differently, and he would explain at a later stage in what respect his point of view was different.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.