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Chairman: Mr. Luciano JOUBLANC RIVAS (Mexico).

Requests for hearings (*continued*)

The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that a request for a hearing had been received from the Mouvement de la jeunesse togolaise (Juvento). He proposed that, in accordance with the usual procedure, it should be circulated as an official document and discussed at the following meeting.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEMS 31 AND 33

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/2892 to 2894, A/2895 and Add.1 and 2, A/2896, A/2898, A/2908 and Add.1) (*continued*):

- (a) Information on social conditions;
- (b) Information on other conditions;
- (c) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information;
- (d) Offers of study and training facilities under General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954 (A/2937 and Add.1 to 3 and Add.3/Rev.1)

Question of the renewal of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2908 and Add.1) (*continued*)

1. Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories), replying to a remark by the Mexican representative at the previous meeting, explained that the Belgian Government had transmitted information on conditions in the Belgian Congo in 1954. The information had been received by the Secretariat on 28 July 1955. The previous practice had been for the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories to examine the summaries of information at meetings held just before the General Assembly. In 1955, however, with the consent of the General Assembly, the meeting had been held in the spring. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 846 (IX), full summaries and analyses of information would be submitted to the General Assembly in 1956 instead of 1955. So as to provide for the period of transition, virtually no new summaries on the separate Territories had been prepared in 1955. Instead, the Committee on Information had been referred to the existing summaries including document A/2652 giving information on the Belgian Congo. The regular summaries would be resumed in 1956.

2. The Mexican representative had also mentioned the advisability of giving greater publicity to information about the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was quite true that events in the Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories did not receive a great deal of publicity. Unfortunately, while the developments in the Territories were continuous and constructive, they were not as "newsworthy" as certain political events and conflicts and rarely formed the subject of Press reports or radio programmes.

3. The most important material culled from the information transmitted by the Administering Members was to be found in the *Summaries and analyses of information transmitted to the Secretary-General*, published annually by the Secretariat, and in the studies prepared by the Secretariat and the specialized agencies for the Committee on Information and the General Assembly. Those publications were distributed to Governments and governmental organizations in the metropolitan countries and the Territories, governmental and non-governmental institutions in other countries, libraries, educational institutions, the Press, specialized agencies and regional organizations. In addition, the special reports on economic, social and educational conditions were communicated to the individuals and bodies mentioned in the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Lastly, dissemination in a more popular form took place through Press releases, radio programmes, the *United Nations Review* and the pamphlets available at United Nations Information Centres all over the world. Within the limits of its financial resources the Secretariat was doing very good work. Unfortunately, in many cases its publications were not put to sufficiently good use. The Secretary-General

was studying the possibility of increasing the information distributed, particularly in the Territories within the purview of the Fourth Committee.

4. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) thanked the Under-Secretary for his statement, which confirmed his idea that increased publicity about developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories was important. He would like to hear the views of other delegations on the matter, and would comment further at a later date.

5. Mr. BARRETO LEITE (Brazil) said that he was happy to note the conciliatory atmosphere in which the work of the Committee on Information had been carried out. The report before the Fourth Committee (A/2908 and Add.1) was an important contribution to the attainment of the purposes set forth in Chapter XI of the Charter; it was based on reliable data and contained a frank evaluation of progress in all the relevant fields.

6. He paid a tribute to the work of the Sub-Committee on Social Conditions, which had prepared part two of the report. That part of the report opened up new perspectives for the achievement of the objectives of Chapter XI. In its work the Sub-Committee had enjoyed the outstanding technical co-operation of the experts attached to the various delegations, in particular to the delegations of the Administering Members.

7. The summaries and analyses prepared by the Secretary-General were extremely important for the success of the Fourth Committee's work and for public knowledge of a highly important subject.

8. His delegation had been gratified to participate in the work of the Committee on Information, which was an efficient technical body, well qualified to implement one of the loftiest objectives of the Charter. It would in due course vote for the Committee's renewal.

9. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) restated the fundamental principles which had always governed his delegation's position on the Non-Self-Governing Territories. His delegation maintained that the Non-Self-Governing Territories to which Chapter XI of the Charter applied were those that had been colonies or protectorates administered by Member States at the time of the signing of the Charter. That opinion was confirmed by the fact that the Territories listed in General Assembly resolution 66 (I) were all in that category, with the exception of the Cook Islands, which the New Zealand Government had specifically stated to be an integral part of New Zealand. The admission by the administering Powers that their colonies and protectorates were not an integral part of their metropolitan territory had been one of the major steps taken at the San Francisco Conference towards the gradual and peaceful settlement of the various difficulties in the way of intercontinental amity. The long-standing opposition of the American States to the continued existence of colonies in the Western Hemisphere was well known. The understanding reached at San Francisco strengthened the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter, for it would have been difficult for the American States, among others, to reconcile their respect for the territorial integrity of States with their legitimate regional interests in the fate of neighbouring colonies, had those colonies been recognized as integral parts of the respective metropolitan territories.

10. On the other hand, the compromise reached at San Francisco had imposed certain restrictions on the

non-administering Powers, which had implicitly undertaken to respect as integral parts of the various States all those regions which had legally ceased to be colonies or protectorates by constitutional reforms in force in 1945, and which were participating in the government of the State and exercising equal rights of citizenship without discrimination as to race, sex, language or religion.

11. Venezuela categorically opposed any attempt whatever its origin, to assimilate certain areas of sovereign States to the status of colonies or protectorates or obtain information about them; such attempts were contrary to the Charter and particularly to Article 2, paragraph 4, and his delegation had not hesitated, on a recent occasion, to cast a negative vote in such a case. Thus, it had shown its respect for the agreement it had entered into in signing the Charter. On the other hand, it believed that it was contrary to that agreement to claim that the status of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which had been solemnly recognized to be a matter of international collective responsibility, could be constitutionally modified without the modification implying full self-government and the concurring vote of the General Assembly.

12. The United Nations should eschew hasty and emotional solutions that could lead only to international tension. His delegation had always sought to promote a peaceful and friendly solution of the colonial problem. As a former colony, Venezuela hoped that international co-operation in the United Nations would spare the present dependent territories the bloodshed and difficulties which it and the other American States had experienced in achieving and consolidating their independence. At the same time, as one of the Latin American countries which had been the first to proclaim the doctrine of regional interest in the fate of colonies and other dependencies administered by extra-continental Powers, Venezuela was bound to recognize that countries in other regions were equally entitled to be concerned about the fate of such neighbouring dependencies. It should be understood, however, that in the twentieth century the continental approach to the problem had been to seek solutions by peaceful means and through co-operation with the extra-territorial State. That attitude on the part of the Latin American countries had been reaffirmed in resolution XCVII of the Tenth Inter-American Conference held at Caracas in 1954.¹ While remaining faithful to the continental aspirations which it shared, Venezuela firmly believed that any efforts to promote those aspirations must be made within the framework and the limitations of the Charter. Its belief was echoed in the resolution to which he had just referred.

13. He welcomed the report of the Committee on Information and particularly the section on social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2908, part two). Social progress was an essential factor in training citizens. Illiteracy, hunger and unequal opportunities were so many barriers to the proper exercise of citizenship. In the modern world, with its ever more rapid communications, conflicts of interest increased in frequency and intensity with increasing contacts. Such conflicts were wide-spread at the present time. By its very efforts to emancipate itself, a non-self-governing people might fall into a new form of de-

¹ *Tenth Inter-American Conference, Caracas, Venezuela, March 1-28, 1954, Final Act* (Conference and Organization Series, No. 33, Pan-American Union, Washington, D.C., 1954) p. 98.

pendency. Now more than ever there was a risk that desperation, impatience and haste would blind the non-self-governing peoples to the dangers surrounding them. The masses were moved not by the simple slogans of a patriot preaching emancipation, but by leaders concerned more with ideology than sovereignty.

14. His delegation believed that education was the best means of creating in the masses the will to progress and the desire to assume collective responsibility for the management of their own affairs. While he agreed with the Committee on Information on the need for training competent administrators (A/2908, part two, para. 120), the training of an *élite* was not enough. If a community was to be able to defend itself against influences prejudicial to its welfare, it must react as a whole: there must be a single culture based on all existing cultures, complete racial equality, religious freedom and respect for acquired rights, be they those of nationals or foreigners, the majority or the minority. It was pointless to replace one discrimination by another. When the United Nations condemned discrimination on grounds of race and religion, it was not referring to one race or one religion but to all races and religions and to all countries and regions. Venezuela was enjoying the fruits of interracial co-operation and its civilization was rooted in all cultures. Regionalism should not be isolationism, but a cog in the international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples advocated in the Charter; then it was worthy of recognition and respect. If the masses in the Non-Self-Governing Territories developed along the universalist lines he had described, they would inevitably find themselves self-governing, almost by a reflex action, and no one could deprive them of that self-government, except by force. He welcomed the community development activities described in the report, part two, section IV. As paragraph 59 of the report recognized, community development covered all forms of social progress.

15. His delegation would not condone vacillations or delay in preparing the non-self-governing peoples for full self-government. The Venezuelan representative had said at the 528th plenary meeting of the General Assembly that he was confident that the spirit of co-operation would be such that the dependent territories would advance not hastily but steadily towards independence.

16. It had been suggested that the Committee on Information should be less general and relate its conclusions to specific territories or regions. As the Guatemalan representative, speaking as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Social Conditions, had pointed out at the 472nd meeting, the Committee's 1955 report went beyond abstract principles and its conclusions were based on concrete cases. The United Kingdom representative, too, had indicated in his statement at the 473rd meeting that the Committee's latest report represented an improvement over earlier ones. Any doubts on the Committee's constitutionality—and such doubts were not shared by his delegation—should give way before the practical fact that it had managed to reconcile obviously contradictory tendencies. The best way of strengthening international understanding was to maintain and strengthen the bodies which made such understanding possible. There were those who claimed that the Committee on Information extended its activities every year and that had been seen as a danger

to certain States. Such extensions, however, were a direct consequence of the growing knowledge of the Committee and the joint efforts of administering and non-administering Powers alike to solve the problem in a scientific way. His delegation would support any steps to prolong the Committee's life, as it felt that there was no better means of co-operating in the solution of colonial problems. For one thing, the Committee on Information prepared data and conclusions, thus sparing the Fourth Committee the preparatory research work which it would not have the time to do and for which its size rendered it unsuitable. Moreover, if the Administering Members continued to send information on Territories which had not yet, in the General Assembly's judgment, attained a full measure of self-government, the annual study of social, educational and economic progress would eliminate misconceptions and doubts injurious to international understanding.

17. Those were the principles upon which his delegation had always based its attitude to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and it would continue to be guided by them. The Charter was a treaty and it was in the interest of the small Powers in particular that it should be respected. To be respected, its provisions must be known, and there was nothing more dangerous to the purposes of Chapter XI than ignorance of the limitations to which the non-colonial Powers had agreed. It was greater political wisdom to abide by the Charter than to show stubborn devotion to theories. Progress had been achieved in the Non-Self-Governing Territories since the Charter had been signed but much still remained to be done, and it should be done without loss of temper or sense of proportion. Colonialism would always be a possible cause of international tension and the United Nations should not only eliminate international tension but should prevent it from arising.

18. Mr. GHANEM (Egypt) congratulated the members of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories on the report, which contained abundant information. One of the most marked features of the history of the United Nations was the interest the Organization had shown and still showed in the development and prosperity of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in the preparation of their inhabitants for self-government and participation in the international community as independent members. With the growth of the national liberation movement among all the non-self-governing peoples, the work of the current session of the General Assembly was being carried out under the shadow of the great problem of colonialism.

19. The Asian-African Conference held at Bandung had shown that world public opinion was concerned with the fate of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. All the peoples represented at the Conference had endorsed the purposes and principles of the United Nations and had agreed that colonialism and all its manifestations were an evil which should rapidly be abolished, that the subjection of peoples to foreign domination and exploitation was a denial of fundamental human rights, a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and an obstacle to world peace and co-operation. They had affirmed their belief in peace and independence for all peoples, and they had requested the Powers concerned to grant such freedom and independence.

20. In the tenth year of the United Nations' existence there appeared to be a certain lessening of international tension. The Egyptian delegation believed, however, that peace would not be consolidated unless the United Nations continued to concern itself with the economic, social and cultural situation of the non-self-governing peoples and to guide them towards self-government and independence.

21. The work of the Committee on Information, which was already valuable, would be more so if all the Administering Members took part in a spirit of co-operation.

22. Part two of the Committee's report was devoted to a study of social conditions. In that connexion the Egyptian delegation emphasized the interdependence of political, economic, social and cultural factors. Social progress was related to all the other aspects of the progress of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and called for co-ordinated measures with a view to achieving the purposes of Chapter XI of the Charter. Before there could be social development, there must be changes in the economic sphere. Furthermore, local resources must be developed for the benefit of the indigenous population and not merely for the benefit of the administering Power. In that connexion he drew attention to paragraph 7 of the report on social conditions.

23. Referring to section III of that report, he said that while the Egyptian delegation endorsed the majority of the principles enumerated, it considered that they were somewhat too general in character and that the Committee should be more specific in its suggestions on local administrations and private organizations.

24. The labour situation was unsatisfactory. As stated in paragraph 74 of the report, the basic elements of information about wage levels did not exist and it was therefore impossible to assess their adequacy in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In his delegation's opinion the Administering Members should remedy that situation by communicating the necessary information as early as possible.

25. Race relations also constituted a serious problem in Non-Self-Governing Territories. Various statements of principle in previous reports of the Committee, as well as General Assembly resolution 644 (VII), deplored the existence of racial discrimination and recommended its abolition. The Conference held at Bandung had also adopted a resolution on the subject.

26. Paragraph 87 of the Committee's report stated that the aspirations of social policy were in certain cases hampered by barriers of custom and religion. Though paragraph 88 stated that progress had been made in many Territories and in many spheres, the rates of progress achieved was insufficient.

27. The Egyptian delegation would emphasize the importance of education in any programme for improving social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Educational policy should be directed towards the preservation and promotion of the culture and civilization of the indigenous peoples.

28. According to the review of general trends in the Territories administered by France (A/2892) the number of students in the schools of Tunisia and Morocco had increased somewhat; it was to be hoped that greater efforts would be made and that vocational

training and university education would be made to correspond to the real needs of the people. The educational budget should be so designed as to cover the needs of the indigenous population as well as those of the colonists.

29. In some Territories there had been very little progress in the field of education. The information submitted in 1954 concerning the British Somaliland Protectorate (A/2657) showed that there was only one secondary school in the Territory, with a small number of pupils, despite the urgent need for the training of administrators and technicians. The administering Power should redouble its efforts in that and other fields in order to protect the rights of the inhabitants of that Territory.

30. With reference to General Assembly resolution 845 (IX), his delegation had been glad to note that a number of Member States had offered study and training facilities to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories. That was a significant fact which clearly showed the usefulness of international co-operation in connexion with those Territories. Egypt had long ago opened the doors of its educational establishments to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories. At the present time there were 289 scholarships enabling students from those Territories to follow courses in Egyptian schools and universities.

31. The Egyptian delegation regretted that the Administering Members had not supplied the information regarding political progress asked for in General Assembly resolution 637 B (VII).

32. His delegation was in favour of the renewal of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories; it felt that that Committee should continue its useful work with a view to promoting the achievement of the objectives of Chapter XI of the Charter. The progress of those Territories towards self-government in accordance with the spirit of the Charter would be in the interests of both the Administering Members and the non-administering Members of the United Nations. In his delegation's opinion the Committee should be renewed on a permanent basis. The co-operation of the administering Powers in the Committee was of the greatest value; the non-administering members of the Committee should be elected on the widest possible geographical basis by the Fourth Committee on behalf of the General Assembly.

33. The Egyptian delegation regretted the absence of France, which it hoped would be only temporary. It hoped, too, that France would soon take the necessary steps to grant self-government and independence to the non-self-governing peoples of North Africa.

34. Mr. KHOMAN (Thailand) held that the Non-Self-Governing Territories were the main concern of the United Nations, as could be seen from the provisions of the Charter. From the time when the Committee on Information had first been set up, its reports had enabled the United Nations, and particularly the Fourth Committee, to discharge its important functions under the Charter.

35. In his delegation's opinion the Committee had made a constructive effort, within its terms of reference, to present as complete a picture as possible of conditions in the Territories. That result had been achieved with the assistance of the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies and with the co-operation of the Administering Members, which had

transmitted information in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter and had, except for Belgium, participated in the Committee's work.

36. The results achieved by the Committee more than justified its continuation. As long as there were Non-Self-Governing Territories and as long as the United Nations was concerned with their progressive advancement towards the ultimate goal of self-government, such a committee would be necessary. Without its assistance the General Assembly would be unable to perform its duty in that respect. Consequently the Committee on Information should be renewed on a permanent basis; however, in view of the objections that existed to that view, his delegation was prepared to agree that the Committee should be renewed for only a three-year period.

37. Turning to the report before the Fourth Committee, he assured the Committee that his delegation had no preconceived ideas and was animated neither by selfish interests nor by so-called anti-colonialism. Its guiding principles were the role to be played by the United Nations in the matter and the paramount interests of the dependent peoples. Any criticisms he might make were not intended to reflect on the high competence and ability of the members of the Committee or the good intentions of the administering Powers, which were doing and could do a great deal to help the dependent peoples to reach the goal of freedom.

38. The report showed a general improvement and progress in what were called the functional fields. With regard to education, larger sums were being devoted to expand facilities and in many Territories the number of pupils and teachers had increased. More students had received scholarships for study in metropolitan universities. Those were encouraging signs. Economic conditions had not been dealt with in great detail, but there also some signs of progress could be traced. The greater part of the report dealt with social conditions and it was to them that he would direct his remarks.

39. With regard to section II of the report on social conditions, entitled "Principles of policy", the observations he had made at the Committee's 415th meeting, during the ninth session, were still applicable and he would not repeat them. Such generalizations might not, however, be completely without value, and he thought that the Administering Members should see to it that those who took a course on social work should read and ponder them.

40. Section III, on urbanization and industrialization, was of the greatest interest, not only because of the problems entailed by those developments but because it depicted vividly the rapid transformation that was taking place in some of the Territories in question. It gave a picture of progressive and dynamic communities greatly differing from the traditional lethargic colonial societies. The impression of progress and swift change was, however, marred by the implication, to be found in particular in paragraph 47, that the resulting problems had got somewhat out of hand.

41. His delegation attached great significance to the question of community development. As stated in paragraph 60, a number of countries, which included Thailand, were engaged in the study, experimentation and implementation of community development programmes and they would be glad to benefit from the experience gained in the Non-Self-Governing Terri-

tries. There again, however, the report gave a mainly theoretical and abstract exposition of the problem, and not enough practical evaluation of the difficulties encountered, of the ways used to meet them, and most important of all, of successes and failures. It appeared from paragraph 61 that the Committee itself was awaiting more information. His delegation hoped that the administering Powers would include in the data they transmitted as full and detailed an account as possible of their experiences and that the Committee would in due course give a comprehensive report on their activities, particularly on the programmes undertaken by the United Kingdom, France, the United States and the Netherlands in the Territories administered by them.

42. Some progress had been made in the field of labour and related questions, such as remuneration and wages and trade union organizations, which were vital for the well-being of peoples in Non-Self-Governing Territories. A number of labour conventions had been ratified by the administering Powers, while new labour legislation had been enacted and had come into effect. Furthermore, the reported development of trade union organizations and the increase in trade union membership and the strength of collective bargaining in a number of Territories were encouraging signs. It was to be hoped that similar movements would take place in other territories too.

43. Nevertheless the labour situation was still far from satisfactory. According to paragraph 33 of the report, wage policies were sometimes based on the assumption that the families of the workers normally supported themselves by the land in the rural areas. Such a policy was most objectionable and the authorities should see to it that its application was discontinued wherever it prevailed. On the other hand, his delegation welcomed the studies by the International Labour Office (A/AC.35/L.207) of the problem of incentives in employment as well as its recommendation that the system of payment by results should be further examined and developed.

44. On the practical plane, the situation was sombre. First, there was a great differentiation between the wages earned by indigenous workers and by Europeans in general, a subject which had already been dealt with at the previous meeting by the Yugoslav representative. The figures he had given had not revealed anything new or any worsening of the wage situation, but they were serious enough to warrant the most urgent consideration and the adoption of remedial measures by the authorities. Secondly, the exclusion of indigenous workers from training and from occupations reserved for Europeans in certain Territories such as Northern Rhodesia not only violated the principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights but ran counter to the ILO recommendation that the training of indigenous people should be speeded up and to the policy statements by many administering Powers that all barriers to co-operation between all races would be removed. It was curious to note that while Africans were barred from training or from employment in the mining industry, a board of inquiry set up by the same Government had found that the industrial standard of Africans was below that of the Europeans and that the establishment of the principle of awarding the European rate of remuneration to any African promoted in the industry would disrupt the African wage structure. That seemed to be a vicious circle.

45. The questions of labour and wages were indeed the core of the problem of social development in Non-Self-Governing Territories and of educational and cultural development as well. So long as the wages of indigenous workers were unduly low in relation to those of Europeans, it was idle to talk of improvement of the standards of living of the indigenous population, of the raising of their cultural level or the instilling of the spirit of leadership for community development projects. His delegation urged the Administering Powers to deal with the question of labour and wages, and to study and recommend a more appropriate system of wage payment, if necessary with the help of specialized agencies such as the International Labour Organisation.

46. He had already touched on the question of living conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and would merely note in that connexion that the Committee seemed to lack information. He hoped that the General Assembly would have a clearer exposition of the so-called component approach, and a more factual account of living conditions in the areas in question.

47. In connexion with the problem of race relations, he welcomed the United Kingdom representative's statement at the previous meeting to the effect that it would be the policy of his Government to remove all discriminatory measures and practices based on racial considerations. He hoped that other Administering Powers would follow that example. However, he could not agree altogether with the representative of the United Kingdom that racial prejudices and practices were a question of public opinion. Public opinion had an important part to play in eliminating racial prejudice, but the real responsibility for eradicating that evil lay with the constituted authorities. Most of the arguments in favour of racial discrimination centred upon differences of culture. But that argument was not valid, for culture in that sense often meant no more than a certain financial standing. If the underprivileged sections of the community were ensured better earning power, they would be able to acquire "culture". Thus, the government authorities could do much to help in eliminating racial discrimination by adopting more equitable legal provisions in order to protect the working population from being exploited. They could also enact legislation, as some had already done, in education, public service, public transport and other fields. They could help to educate not only the victims of discrimination but those who practised it.

48. The report contained a number of encouraging features in respect of public health, but there was a need for more doctors and more preventive work ought to be undertaken. In some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, malnutrition remained a serious problem. Health problems were thus interrelated not only with the question of economic development but with the need to improve means of livelihood.

49. Two important points emerged from a consideration of the report. One was the insufficiency of information in such fields as wages, living conditions, and public health. The Committee on Information must have been seriously hampered in its work by that deficiency. He hoped that in future years the authorities concerned would remedy that deficiency so as to enable the Committee to carry out its task more completely. The second point was that because of the opposition of certain Administering Members, the General Assembly's request in resolution 847 (IX), relating to

the consideration of information or recommendations concerning particular problems common to certain regional groups of Territories, had been largely ignored. It seemed clear from the report that the Committee on Information would have preferred to treat some of its problems in the manner suggested by the General Assembly. It had not done so because it had not received definite instructions from the Assembly but had only been asked for a study. The current session of the General Assembly would seem to be an appropriate time to formulate such instructions. As a co-sponsor of General Assembly resolution 847 (IX), which had gained a substantial majority, the delegation of Thailand was interested in its implementation. Since some problems were common to several Territories, it would seem logical for the Committee on Information to study those Territories in conjunction and not stop at the legal boundaries. The Australian representative in the Committee on Information had objected that that method might have the effect of singling out Territories or groups of Territories administered by one country. The report showed that one Territory or groups of Territories were continually being singled out, in order to indicate the achievements which had taken place in various fields. Perhaps, therefore, the objection related only to recommendations involving groups of Territories. If that was so, the Brazilian amendment (A/2908, part one, para. 93) to the draft resolution introduced by the representatives of Burma, India and Iraq (A/2908, part one, para. 88) should be acceptable. The delegation of Thailand would be glad to support it if it was formally introduced in the Fourth Committee.

50. The last section of part one of the report of the Committee on Information related to the amplification or amendment of the Standard Form. His delegation would support the suggestion made in the Committee on Information by the representative of Guatemala (A/2908, part one, para. 134).

51. He noted the importance of the part played by the specialized agencies. The services which the specialized agencies could render to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as to independent countries had not limits save those of finance. He wished to pay the warmest tribute to their work.

52. Though the administration of the dependent territories was in general progressive and beneficial, his country felt that there could be no greater benefits than freedom and independence. The erstwhile Administering Powers should realize that the granting of freedom and independence would not necessarily entail a loss of prestige or of economic interest. An atmosphere of freedom, and free relations among peoples, would always be more beneficial and provided greater satisfaction to all concerned.

53. In conclusion, he expressed his appreciation of the work of the Chairmen and members of the Committee on Information and of the Sub-Committee on Social Conditions.

54. Mr. BELL (United States of America) said that one of the great historic movements of the present day was the advancement of colonial peoples towards an equal status in the community of free nations, the shift from the unequal relationship of colonialism to a relationship of equality between Europeans and non-Europeans. Much progress had been made in that direction in the past ten or twelve years, and that progress was continuing at an ever-increasing rate. The trend

towards the disappearance of what was usually called Western colonialism was unmistakable. There was, however, another trend—a movement which had deprived millions of once free peoples in Europe and Asia of their independence. His delegation was struck by the fact that that trend received so much less attention in the United Nations than the rate of progress of the colonial peoples towards freedom. Nevertheless, the latter was one of the most important questions considered in the United Nations.

55. The position of the United States on the question of self-government and the rate at which it should be achieved was well known. It fully supported the aspirations of all peoples to govern themselves. At the same time, it was anxious that all peoples should obtain the kind of self-government or independence which would be genuine and lasting. It was important for the administering Powers to work closely with the dependent peoples in order to build solid educational, social, economic and political foundations in all the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The process of emancipation should be carried forward as rapidly as possible, but not so rapidly that it created a danger that the emerging nation might not be in a position to preserve its freedom, and might thus succumb to a form of domination more absolute than any it had known hitherto.

56. A question which underlay much of the discussion in the Fourth Committee was the part which the United Nations should play in promoting that progress towards self-government. The United States considered that the interests of the dependent peoples were best promoted by the United Nations when both Administering and non-administering Members worked together in a spirit of "good-neighbourliness" to promote the objectives of Chapter XI of the Charter. The Committee on Information was a concrete example of that co-operative approach. One particularly valuable feature of the Committee on Information was that it brought Administering and non-administering Members of the United Nations together, and provided an opportunity for the exchange of information and opinions. The 1955 session of the Committee had advanced that co-operation still further. He paid a special tribute to the officers of the Committee on Information and to its members, and was confident that the spirit by which they had been animated would also pervade the work of the Fourth Committee.

57. The United States had voted in favour of the adoption of the report in the Committee on Information. Although it could not be completely satisfactory to any member, it was a reasonably balanced, useful and constructive document and reflected the willingness of members with very different views, strongly held, to accommodate themselves to the views of others. The United States would support draft resolution A in part one, annex II, of the report, approving the Sub-Committee's report on social conditions. In accordance with its usual practice, the Government of the United States had already transmitted the report to the appropriate officials in United States Territories for their consideration.

58. The presence of specialist advisers on the delegations of several of the Administering Members had increased the usefulness of the Committee's work and hence of the report, and he hoped that as indigenous inhabitants became qualified specialists in the fields studied by the Committee, the Administering Members

would attach them as advisers to their delegations. Such advisers would enrich the work of the Committee, and the experience which they gained would in turn be of benefit to their Territories. The Committee on Information had also been assisted by representatives of non-administering Powers who had provided information on policy and programmes in their own countries which threw light on comparable problems in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

59. The United States considered the discussion of community development in the Committee's report on social conditions particularly useful. Apart from the material acquisitions gained from community development programmes, they developed civic consciousness and pride and helped the ordinary citizen to feel a part of the local government and even of the territorial government. Such programmes helped to provide the sound foundations which were so important for successful self-government.

60. The most important question referred to in part one of the Committee's report was of course the question of the renewal of the Committee on Information. The United States delegation considered that the Committee should be continued. However, if it were to be continued in circumstances in which it would lose the co-operation of Administering or non-administering Members, its usefulness would largely disappear. Because it appeared that changes in the basis on which the Committee was established would have that effect, the United States representative on the Committee on Information had opposed any modifications in its terms of reference, tenure and composition, and had supported draft resolution B, in annex II of the report, which would continue the Committee on the same basis for a further three-year period. His delegation believed that the adoption of that draft resolution by the Assembly was in the best interests of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the United Nations.

61. Miss SHELTON (Cuba) congratulated the members of the Committee on Information on the atmosphere of harmony and understanding in which they had carried out their work. The Committee's report could obviously not be entirely satisfactory in all its aspects to all the members of the Fourth Committee, but, in view of the difficulties which the members of the Committee had encountered in securing information in some cases, the great efforts which had been made were worthy of recognition. She was sure that the deficiencies in the present report would be remedied in succeeding years. Cuba would vote in favour of the report.

62. The Cuban delegation sympathized greatly with the social, political, economic and educational aspirations of the dependent peoples, and it had noted with pleasure that some administering Powers were co-operating with the Committee on Information to an ever increasing extent. It was to be hoped that their practice of including specialist advisers in their delegations would become general, thus facilitating the Committee's work still further.

63. The help given to the Committee by the specialized agencies was worthy of note, and the Cuban delegation would support any resolution which might be introduced in appreciation of the important services they had rendered.

64. In connexion with General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) inviting Member States to offer facilities

for the educational advancement of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Government of Cuba, though it had every sympathy with the purpose of the resolution, was for the time being unable to offer any such facilities. Her Government was continuing to make provision for two yearly fellowships at the Technological Institute of Ceiba del Agua for each Latin American country.

65. The Cuban delegation had always voted in favour of prolonging the life of the Committee, on the grounds that the reason for which it had been established still subsisted, that is, there were still dependent territories. The Committee on Information had contributed greatly to the advancement of those territories, and Cuba would again vote in favour of its renewal.

66. Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) wished to reply to a number of points raised by previous speakers. The representative of Yugoslavia had referred to the relatively low expenditure on African education in the United Kingdom Territories of Kenya and Northern Rhodesia. The Government of the United Kingdom was by no means satisfied with the state of African education in either Territory, but the most recent figures for expenditure on education showed that there had been an increase of 50 per cent in Kenya and 33 1/3 per cent in Northern Rhodesia. It should also be noted that finance was not the sole determining factor in increasing the tempo of African education in those Territories.

67. At the previous meeting, the representative of Mexico had remarked on the absence of figures for

the cost of living in United Kingdom Territories. Unfortunately, those figures were not available. There had been an interesting exchange of views in the Committee on Information on the subject of statistical development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. There were formidable difficulties in the way of arriving at conclusive evidence on levels of living, particularly in some African territories. However, much progress had been made in the post-war period. Since 1949 there had been increases in staff of up to 50 per cent in the statistical departments in United Kingdom Territories, and more staff would have been recruited if it had been available. Unfortunately, there was a world shortage of qualified statistical staff. A training course had been held recently in Nigeria for African statisticians. The Committee for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara had set up committee for the purpose of exchanging the information available to Governments. He hoped that the situation would gradually improve.

68. The United Kingdom Government was very much alive to the importance of interesting public opinion in Member States in the work being done in United Kingdom Territories and was constantly trying out new methods of disseminating information on the development and progress of those Territories. He would draw his Government's attention to the comments made by the representative of Mexico and by the Under-Secretary, Mr. Cohen, on that point.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p. m.