



C O N T E N T S

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 (*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

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 (*continued*)

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Chairman: Mr. Luciano JOUBLANC RIVAS
(Mexico).

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, 2 and 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*)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) said that at the previous meeting he might unwittingly have referred to matters which did not fall within the purview of Article 73 e of the Charter. If he had in fact done so, he asked the Committee to consider that such references had not been made.

2. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) observed that the aim of the Fourth Committee in examining the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-

Governing Territories (A/2908 and Add.1) was to ascertain whether during the year that had elapsed the Administering Members had made greater efforts to guarantee the rights of the indigenous population as laid down in Chapter XI of the Charter or, if they had not, whether that had been due to disregard of the Charter and of the General Assembly resolutions on the subject or to factors which were beyond the control of the Administering Members. Furthermore, the Committee had to determine to what extent the indigenous populations had availed themselves of the opportunities offered them, whether they had shown any apathy, and if so what the causes of such apathy were. A summary of those points would simplify the report and might avert the criticism that certain achievements of the Administering Members had been overlooked. Nevertheless the report was an improvement on those of previous years and she would vote in favour of it.

3. Her delegation had been interested to note that the Committee had, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 847 (IX), examined the Standard Form and had unanimously agreed that it needed amplification or amendment. She regretted that no specific recommendations had been made in that respect. She hoped that before the opening of the eleventh session of the General Assembly some action would have been taken to provide for concrete information concerning particular problems common to certain regional groups of Territories.

4. She regretted that the Committee had failed to consider the question of the direct participation of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work.

5. She had been glad to note the contributions made to the report by the International Labour Office, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization, and she congratulated the delegations of France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States for the inclusion of specialist advisers in their delegations.

6. She expressed her delegation's appreciation to the administering Powers which had facilitated the work of the Committee on Information by transmitting information under Article 73 e of the Charter. Their doing so was a manifestation of good faith and of respect for the Charter. She had been glad to note the statement by the Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (474th meeting) with respect to information transmitted by Belgium, but regretted the continued absence of Belgium from the Committee on Information. She also regretted the absence of a French delegation from the Fourth Committee, and hoped it would not be of long duration.

7. Her delegation had noted with interest from the information furnished by the United Kingdom Gov-

ernment that some of the Territories under British administration had developed to such an extent that political independence might soon be achieved. She drew attention to General Assembly resolution 848 (IX) and urged that all Administering Members should co-operate by furnishing the Committee with information on political developments in the Territories they administered.

8. The Committee had devoted much attention to the question of community development. Undoubtedly urbanization and industrialization would have unfavourable results in certain phases of the social structure of the Territories, but where such changes were directed towards the development of the economic structure of the Territories and the raising of the standard of living of their inhabitants it could be expected that favourable readjustments would be made by the peoples.

9. The United Kingdom representative in the Fourth Committee, while admitting that the evil of racial discrimination continued to exist in certain Territories administered by the United Kingdom, had stated (473rd meeting) that his Government's policy was directed towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination. At the 475th meeting the representative of the Union of South Africa had mentioned his Government's concern over the pressing need for adequate housing in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and had stated that research was being undertaken in connexion with low-cost housing projects and that there was great need for expansion of public health and nutrition. She had been glad to note those statements, which disproved the assertion sometimes made that it was useless to bring problems affecting the interests of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories to the General Assembly. The Fourth Committee must continue to discuss the problems of dependent peoples, if only to let the world hear the various opinions expressed on the subject.

10. She congratulated the Administering Members on the economic, social, educational and even political advancement of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. At the same time she felt bound to add that much still remained to be done.

11. She would not make a detailed statement concerning the unfavourable conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, since a number of previous speakers had already done so. Furthermore, her remarks would not apply to any particular Territory which might be the exception to the general rule.

12. The peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories had legitimate aspirations. They wanted to be free, to manage their own affairs, to have independence and economic security. To realize those aspirations they needed mass education that would equip them to cope with the problems not only of today but of the future. That could not be obtained where there were separate and inferior schools for the indigenous population and where appropriations for indigenous schools were much smaller than those for the European schools, which had far fewer pupils. Discrimination existed even where life and death were at stake, since indigenous inhabitants were usually not admitted to European hospitals.

13. As long as the economic structure was geared to the interests of the administering Power instead of the well-being of the indigenous inhabitants, as provided under the Charter, the peoples of the Ter-

ritories would continue to be deprived of fundamental human rights. The emphasis should be on giving the indigenous people a sound education in order to awaken a desire for betterment, giving them freedom of action in managing their own affairs and leading them to self-determination and independence. If, after so many years of colonial rule, the peoples of most of the Territories were still primitive, the blame could rest only on those who administered them. The problems in the areas were delicate and could not be ignored by the United Nations. The peoples must be prepared to meet the rapid changes that were taking place in the world.

14. She thanked those countries that had offered scholarships to students from the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and hoped the administering Powers would encourage people to take advantage of those offers.

15. She expressed her appreciation to India, Indonesia and the other nations that had initiated the Asian-African Conference held at Bandung. The results of that Conference would undoubtedly aid in carrying out the objectives of the Charter with respect to the dependent peoples of the world.

16. In conclusion, she said that until every Non-Self-Governing Territory was liberated and the purposes for which the Fourth Committee had been established were achieved, her delegation would continue to support the renewal of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

17. Mr. MALLI (Pakistan) observed that every delegation which had commented on the report of the Committee on Information had done so from its own particular point of view, as was only natural. He would make his statement on the subject in the light of his delegation's own ideology and the spirit of the United Nations Charter.

18. The report of the Committee on Information was, perhaps necessarily, largely a document of generalizations and compromises. However, in view of the limitations within which it functioned, the Committee had produced a useful document containing valuable information which would form a good basis for discussion of the subject. The report would have been even more valuable if all the Administering Members had truly co-operated.

19. References had been made to the benefits of the colonial relationship as compared with its disadvantages. Pakistan, which had so recently experienced that relationship, could not feel that any benefits derived from it could possibly outweigh its fundamental and inherent disadvantages. The colonial relationship was in its essence a negation of the dignity and worth of the human person. It placed a segment of the human race in an indefensible position of inferiority and subjection, and all who would truly serve the ideals of the Charter should endeavour to abolish it at the earliest possible moment.

20. After carefully studying the report, the Pakistan delegation had come to the conclusion that no significant social or economic changes had taken place in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that could be regarded as bringing closer the ultimate goal of independence. The new wave of hope generated after the Geneva Conference of Heads of Government afforded the administering Powers an opportunity to do something really effective in that direction. In the

atomic age speed was an important factor in determining the efficacy of any measure. He would point out to the administering Powers that peaceful co-existence did not exclude the possibility of peaceful competitive co-existence; in other words the healthier a country's political system and the more helpful the country was to the inhabitants of the backward and under-developed territories the better position it would be in to influence those Territories in moulding their policies and shaping their destinies. The administering Powers should pay more heed to the facts of history which directly affected them and should dispassionately review the whole situation and reorient their policies with respect to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The countries which had taken part in the Asian-African Conference had unequivocally expressed disapproval of any form of colonialism. It could hardly be denied that it was inconsistent with the spirit of the Charter and the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Any obstacle that was likely to disturb the peace of the world should be removed without any unnecessary delay.

21. He would not discuss in detail every issue in the report, since other delegations had already dealt with them at length. He would, however, make a few brief observations.

22. He considered that the information transmitted to the Secretary-General failed to give a complete picture of conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

23. With reference to the report on social conditions (A/2908, part two), he emphasized that economic development was a pre-condition for all social and cultural advancement. If the administering Powers dealt successfully with the economic problem, their work in the field of social reforms would be immensely facilitated. They should therefore endeavour to develop the natural resources of the Territories for the ultimate benefit of the indigenous populations and not for exploitation by the metropolitan countries.

24. Labour conditions in the Territories were far from satisfactory. There was a marked difference in the level of wages between Europeans and foreigners on the one hand and indigenous inhabitants on the other, which could not be justified on any reasonable grounds. He hoped the ILO would pay special attention to that state of affairs.

25. The Secretariat's report on public health development (A/AC.35/L.190 and Corr.1) disclosed that the number of physicians in proportion to the population was low in most of the Territories, which was a matter of grave concern in view of the fact that in many of the Territories in question malnutrition was prevalent.

26. In some of the Territories the vast majority of children still received no schooling at all. Without proper education there was little chance for the indigenous inhabitants to understand their real problems or to realize the significance of independence. The greatest possible effort should be made to provide them with proper education so that they might be able to play their full role in the advancement of civilization.

27. The Committee on Information had noted that urbanization had led to the disintegration of family ties and traditions and the disruption of the rural economic structure, with a resultant spread of crime,

prostitution and other social evils. The only way to escape those consequences was by sound and scientific planning well in advance of the time of actual implementation of any such schemes.

28. Great emphasis had been laid on the question of community development. The term itself signified that it was the people of the community themselves who played a significant part in such a programme. That would be possible only if a feeling of national consciousness was aroused in them through a movement towards freedom and economic, social and cultural development.

29. Lastly he observed that there were still some Non-Self-Governing Territories in which racial discrimination continued to exist. His delegation took a serious view of that state of affairs and hoped that no time would be lost in eradicating the evil.

30. He agreed with the Mexican representative that the United States Government had transmitted excellent information on the Territories for which it was responsible and that they were making great strides towards full self-government under excellent administrations and assisted by United States experience and economic aid. He also congratulated the United States representative on his statement (474th meeting) that one of the great historic movements of the present day was the shift from the unequal relationship of colonialism to the relationship of equality between European and non-European and of equal status in the community of free nations, and that the United States Government fully supported the aspirations of all peoples to govern themselves. He paid a tribute to the specialized agencies for the interest they had taken in the affairs of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

31. His delegation took the view that the Committee on Information should be renewed on a permanent basis.

32. Mr. JOSKE (Australia) praised the spirit of co-operation and conciliation that had marked the work of the Committee on Information and was particularly manifest in the special report on social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The representative of Australia in the Committee on Information had co-sponsored the unanimously adopted draft resolution A (A/2908, part one, annex II), and the Australian delegation would support the adoption of that draft resolution by the Fourth Committee.

33. The report on social conditions was an undeniable improvement on the rather abstract report on economic conditions which had been before the ninth session of the Assembly (A/2729, part two). Despite certain minor shortcomings, it was a serious and constructive attempt to survey the principles and practices governing social development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Committee on Information had received much valuable assistance from the representatives of France and the United Kingdom, and other Administering Members also had provided information based on their particular experience. Another extremely interesting feature of the discussion had been the contributions to the knowledge of the Committee, based on experience in their own countries, of the representatives of India, Burma and China. Such action deserved every encouragement. Many of the problems which came under discussion in the Committee on Information were of an almost universal character, and the report on social conditions took into full

account the results of technical studies of self-governing as well as Non-Self-Governing Territories.

34. Although most of the report was concerned with problems and policies in Territories with social environments differing substantially from that of Papua, some of the principles affirmed in it were relevant to Papuan conditions. The Australian Government would therefore give the report careful study.

35. He drew the Committee's attention to a number of outstanding features in social development in Papua, and a few points which concerned the administration of Papua as a whole. The inhabitants of Papua were primarily owners and cultivators of the land and shared equal and expanding opportunities to acquire skills and to advance their status and comfort accordingly. The whole life of the community revolved around a communal system, with the family as a basic unit, families frequently being further grouped into clans. Ownership of the tribal land was strictly safeguarded by the Administration. The people had ample land for their requirements and food was plentiful. The Administration was making every effort to ensure that the economic and social development of the Papuans would take place without disrupting the existing traditional village society; to that end it was concentrating on the encouragement of better agricultural methods and the development of co-operatives and rural progress societies. However, efforts to preserve communal and family life were not being allowed to retard the development of the people in the social, economic and political fields. Papua was passing through a period of great social change, the effects of which were more evident, though still not yet serious, in urban areas. Problems of urbanization and industrialization were not at present significant in Papua and could be handled effectively and without difficulty. Special steps were being taken to watch over the welfare of detribalized people and to preserve the links between them and their kin.

36. One of the Administration's main tasks was to bring adequate health, educational and other services to isolated village communities. Annual expenditure on health services had risen to close to half a million pounds, exclusive of capital investments on new hospital buildings, etc., and maintenance costs. Through careful planning and organization the Administration had been able steadily to increase health services in the Territory. There were now substantially more doctors and medical personnel, and hospitals, clinics and medical aid posts had also increased in number between 1949 and 1955. A major step had been taken in 1953-1954 towards ensuring stability in the recruitment of non-indigenous medical personnel through a system of medical officers' cadetships.

37. The representative of the USSR had said in his statement at the 475th meeting that government expenditure on health services in Papua had decreased between the years 1952 and 1954. A comparison of the details of expenditure given in the annual reports for 1952¹ and 1954² would reveal that expenditure in 1954 had generally been on a higher level. There was an apparent decrease in the item "Hospital Serv-

ices" owing to a marked drop in the purchase cost of drugs in that year, to a generally lower level of purchases because substantial stocks had been built up and to a general increase in efficiency of control and distribution. Reference to the annual report would show that in fact in 1954 very large increases had been recorded in the number of medical treatments given in the Territory.

38. In matters of education, the Administration had as its goals universal literacy, the development of English as a universal language and the provision of a full range of educational facilities, including technical adult education, for men and women in all groups in the Territory. To that end, more and better indigenous teachers were needed, more primary schools, and more facilities for craft and vocational training. A special technical industrial training division had been set up and a system of scholarships for the secondary and higher education of Papuan students in Australia had been initiated in 1954. Special provisions had also been made to stimulate and facilitate the entry of Papuans into the administration of the Territory on the same basis as non-Papuan personnel. The Administration was also devoting special attention to the problem of the supply of literature and follow-up reading matter for the Papuans. It had received considerable help in that connexion from the South Pacific Commission.

39. It had been suggested during the debate that there was racial segregation in schools in Papua. The fact that there were separate schools for Papuan and other groups in the Territory was not a reflexion of racial discrimination but of linguistic difficulties. Papuan schoolchildren had first to learn to speak English and to overcome the obvious practical handicaps which must affect any child emerging from a primitive environment into an educational system designed to carry him to the highest level of modern education.

40. The representative of the USSR had drawn attention to a small decline in the total number of schools in Papua and a decrease in the number of pupils. The total number of schools had declined between 1953 and 1954 but the number of schools established and operated by the Administration had increased. The abandoned schools had been run by certain mission groups, and their abandonment was largely due to the fact that those schools could transfer their pupils to other nearby schools. The small decline in the number of pupils was due mainly to a drop in attendance by pupils in the upper age groups resulting from a general improvement in educational standards and in increased employment opportunities. That sudden slight reduction was an exceptional and transitory development. The general trend was substantially upwards.

41. One of the major difficulties in the field of education was the lack of qualified personnel, and, as in the case of doctors, the Administration was tackling that difficulty by developing cadet training schemes for teachers. Many of the Governments represented in the Fourth Committee would be well aware from their own experience of that particular difficulty.

42. Paragraph 66 of the report on social conditions rightly stated that the co-operative movement pursued similar aims to those of community development. There had been a striking increase in co-operative undertakings among the indigenous inhabitants of

¹ Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, Territory of Papua, *Annual Report for the period 1st July, 1951, to 30th June, 1952* (Department of Territories, Canberra, 1953).

² Commonwealth of Australia, Territory of Papua, *Annual Report for the period 1st July, 1953, to 30th June, 1954* (Department of Island Territories, Canberra, 1953-1954).

Papua. The Administration was giving the development of co-operatives every support. As the report on social conditions recognized, the co-operative movement stimulated the spirit to advance economically as well as the idea of developing socially by the use of co-operative methods, with the inspiration which community activity supplied. The Administration did not therefore draw any rigid distinction between the economic and the social aspects of the co-operative movement. Rather it endeavoured to channel the initiative which the co-operative movement engendered into every avenue of development. It was the Administration's policy to lay adequate economic foundations for future social well-being rather than to introduce *ad hoc* changes for purely economic purposes. The very laying of those foundations had in itself brought about social change and a general desire for improved social conditions, together with the realization that they were better obtainable by hard work than as a gift from the Administration. The success of the Administration's initial efforts in that direction and certain experiments that had been made in local government gave promise that the transition to a new social structure adapted to the stresses of the modern world would be effected without serious disruption.

43. Since the Fourth Committee had become familiar with the operation of the Colombo Plan and of the South Pacific Commission, as a result of statements by the Australian delegation at previous sessions, he would not follow his delegation's usual custom of describing Australian activities in the field of international co-operation.

44. The views of the Australian delegation on the question of the renewal of the Committee on Information for Non-Self-Governing Territories were also well known. He would reserve the right to re-state them if necessary, when the question came up for special debate.

45. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) said that his delegation had served on the Committee on Information during its sixth session and also on the Sub-Committee which had produced the special report on social conditions. The Chinese delegation's full and active participation in all phases of the work of the Committee had been in line with its Government's continuous policy of supporting the legitimate aspirations of dependent peoples. The Committee on Information had done a great deal to further the cause of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, owing to the spirit of harmony and conciliation demonstrated by all its members, administering and non-administering Powers alike. He regretted that so important a member as Belgium had been absent from more than one session of the Committee, and he hoped that the Belgian Government would be induced by the success of the Committee on Information to reconsider its position in the near future.

46. He congratulated the administering Powers on their understanding approach to the views of other members of the Committee on Information, and on what they had done or attempted to do to promote the advancement of the Territories for whose administration they were responsible. The non-administering Powers also had shown great co-operation. The Committee on Information had further profited from the invaluable assistance of the Secretariat and the specialized agencies.

47. Some criticism had been made of section II of the report on social conditions, entitled "Principles of policy". It had been argued that the Committee should have focused its attention more on specific programmes than on generalizations. The Chinese delegation believed that a number of general postulates could serve as a useful background for concrete measures to meet the many social problems which arose in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Indeed, it attached special importance to some of those principles. For instance, the definition of the word "inhabitants" as embracing both the indigenous and immigrant portions of the population in each Territory was worthy of emphasis. The stress which was laid on the basic importance of the family in social evolution was also fully justified.

48. The special report devoted considerable attention to the subject of community development. The Chinese delegation had been gratified to learn of the progress made in that connexion in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The report showed that in some areas the results of community development programmes had been spectacular and the people's capacity for participation and the development of leadership had outstripped official expectations. He looked forward to receiving further encouraging news of community development from all the Territories.

49. In order to enable the Committee on Information to deal adequately with community development, it was essential to secure further and more detailed information from the administering Powers concerned. In the course of the discussion in the Committee on Information, the Chinese delegation and others had spoken of the necessity of revising the Standard Form so as to make provision for the topic of community development. He urged the General Assembly to adopt a change to that effect in the Form.

50. The Chinese delegation was also particularly interested in the question of race relations. At the 474th meeting the representative of Thailand had referred with approval to the United Kingdom's long-term policy in that matter and the Chinese delegation joined in that approval. However, the argument of public opinion which had been advanced by more than one Administering Member to explain existing racial discrimination in Non-Self-Governing Territories could not be accepted. He appealed to the Administering Members to adopt urgent measures for the total elimination of racial discrimination. Wherever it existed, there was bound to be discontent and resentment leading to strife and unrest. As an organization whose main concern was to ensure international peace and security, the United Nations could not shirk its responsibility in the matter of eradicating racial discrimination and bringing about complete racial equality.

51. The Chinese delegation had also been interested in the question of labour conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories. Some progress had been made in that field, and commendable steps had been taken by some administering Powers to promote the welfare of the workers, but there was still a long way to go before satisfactory working conditions were secured, particularly in regard to wages. He hoped that the subject of labour would be kept under review and that future reports of the Committee would contain more satisfactory information.

52. The Chinese delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A in the report of the Committee on

Information (A/2908, part one, annex II), approving the report on social conditions.

53. In regard to the renewal of the Committee on Information, much had already been said of the useful part which the Committee had played ever since its establishment. The Chinese delegation was convinced that there was every reason to renew the Committee. It would prefer it to be re-established on a permanent basis but, for the sake of compromise, it had agreed in the Committee on Information to renewal for a further period of three years. In the Committee on Information, the Chinese delegation had co-sponsored, with the United States, some amendments (A/2908, part one, para. 104) to the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of Burma, India and Iraq (A/2908, part one, para. 88). The Committee on Information had later adopted those amendments, and the draft resolution as amended had been approved, and was annexed to part one of the report before the Fourth Committee as draft resolution B. In co-sponsoring the amendments to the draft resolution, he had been animated by a desire to achieve agreement on the renewal of the Committee, without prejudice to his delegation's position on indigenous participation in the work of the Committee and on regional groups of Territories. That reservation was still valid and the Chinese delegation would bear it in mind when voting on draft resolution B.

54. In conclusion, he reiterated his delegation's abiding interest in the well-being of the non-self-governing peoples and in the work of the Committee on Information. He pledged its support to every move designed to accelerate the advancement of the dependent peoples towards the ultimate object of freedom and independence.

55. Mr. RIFAI (Syria) said that the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories took on a new complexion in 1955. The first decade of international accountability was drawing to a close and the United Nations might soon be called upon to re-examine the principles and rules which had governed its conduct in that regard. The successes and failures of the past ten years would have to be assessed in terms of those rules, together with the extent to which Member States had abided by them.

56. Year after year the Committee came to the conclusion that much had been done to promote the advancement of dependent peoples towards the objectives set for them in the Charter, but that a great deal more remained to be done. While a large measure of progress had admittedly been achieved in the development of the dependent areas, the crux of the matter was not whether the people were being educated or enjoyed better economic and social conditions than a decade earlier, but whether the tempo of progress was such as to meet the psychological and political realities of the times, in other words, whether progress in the functional fields was directed to the attainment of the broader objectives of political freedom and human dignity. It would be a profound mistake to believe that the colonial problem could be solved solely by policies designed to raise the educational, social and economic standards of the non-self-governing peoples. Indeed, the more advancement that was realized in those fields without concomitant political progress, the more difficult it would be for the Administering Members to discharge their duties under the Charter. The

imbalance between political and other advancement constituted the major source of trouble in the evolution of the dependent peoples and the Committee should not continue to ignore it.

57. His delegation had been led to that conclusion not only by its experience in the last ten years, but also by the explosive situation obtaining in certain parts of the colonial world and the turmoil in others. The regrettable state of affairs in those areas undoubtedly arose first and foremost from the reluctance of the rulers to grant political freedom to their subjects and allow them to exercise their right of self-determination. With that in mind, the Asian-African Conference had stressed that freedom and peace were interdependent and that the right of self-determination must be enjoyed by all peoples, and freedom and independence must be granted with the least possible delay to those who were still dependent. It was idle for the Committee to speak about progress in the various functional fields while paying only lip-service to the basic aim. It must realize that its work would continue to be incomplete as long as political progress remained the exclusive concern of the Administering Members. The Charter undoubtedly imposed certain limitations on the Committee's responsibility in that field, but the legal difficulties did not seem insuperable to his delegation, given a reasonable amount of mutual trust and goodwill. In that connexion he regretted certain delegations' persistence in refusing to submit political information on the Territories under their administration. He hoped that they would soon realize that the transmission of such information would facilitate their task and that of the General Assembly in leading the dependent peoples towards their final goal.

58. The special report on social conditions (A/2908, part two) suffered from the same drawbacks as the 1954 report on economic conditions (A/2729, part two): it was far too general. Paragraph 16, for example, could scarcely be applied to family conditions in the relatively advanced Tunisian society. He agreed with the Thai representative that as long as the Non-Self-Governing Territories fell into different categories as far as their development was concerned, generalizations about their problems or proposed solutions might lead to grave mistakes. It was therefore a matter of profound regret that the Committee on Information had been unable to comply with the General Assembly's recommendation in resolution 847 (IX) and that the formula suggested in paragraph 12 of the Brazilian working paper submitted to the Committee on Information (A/2908, part one, para. 93) had not been accepted.

59. He did not wish, however, to detract from the value of the report on social conditions, and had noted with great satisfaction the findings and conclusions on health conditions, community development and labour problems. While the report indicated generally satisfactory progress, it was regrettable that little mention was made of exactly where progress in the economic, educational and social fields had been achieved, and that there was a dearth of information on certain aspects of development. That lack of information, coupled with the defects to which he had already referred, made it almost impossible for the Committee on Information and the Fourth Committee to evaluate the real progress achieved.

60. It was sometimes very difficult to reconcile the general conclusions in the Committee's reports with

the actual state of affairs in certain regions, such as Morocco. While every report by the Committee on Information spoke of progress in the functional fields, such progress had certainly not taken place in Morocco. The distribution of income between the French and Moroccan segments of the population was as unsatisfactory as ever. The average Moroccan worker in Casablanca spent 66 per cent of his income on food. While the minimum wage had been increased by 10 per cent on 1 April 1955—the first change since 1952—price rises since 1952 had more than offset the increase. Furthermore, the workers were given no share in the country's increased productivity. Industrial *per capita* output had been greatly increased during the past three years by important new buildings and the import of over 200 million dollars' worth of industrial equipment. In one phosphate mine production had increased 40 per cent although there had been only a 3 per cent increase in the labour force. At the same time, however, the phosphate mines were in the next to lowest wage area. Approximately 10 per cent of all cultivable land was owned by 5,000 colonists, while hundreds of thousands of Moroccans had no land at all and had to work on the colonists' farms for a pittance. Trade union organizations for Moroccans were still non-existent. The first Moroccan union, formed in 1955, had immediately been branded as illegal by the French authorities. The situation was no better in the realm of education. In his book *Inside Africa*, John Gunther had reported the glaring bias in educational institutions. According to him, 90 per cent of the French children of school age and something less than 10 per cent of the Moroccan children of school age went to school; roughly 1,800,000 children did not attend primary schools and higher education was almost non-existent. Racial discrimination was not limited to education; it existed in all fields of human endeavour. It was scarcely possible to speak of progress towards objectives of the Charter when such conditions prevailed.

61. He had referred specifically to Morocco because the consequences of injustice had already upset the balance of life there, but similar injustices existed in other parts of the colonial world. If it was to remove those injustices and lead the dependent territories progressively towards full self-government, the Assembly must have a clear picture of the situation everywhere and co-operation and understanding must prevail in its deliberations. The methods followed so far were not adequate to meet the challenge. Admittedly the main burden for ensuring the peaceful evolution of the dependent territories towards the common goal rested with the Administering Members. Yet no one could deny that the Charter imposed obligations in that respect on every Member of the United Nations. His delegation's views on the legal basis of that obligation were well known and he would not repeat them.

62. It was regrettable that the fate of the Committee on Information should remain in doubt. The Administering Members were still unwilling to accept it as a necessary organ for the effective discharge of the United Nations duties in regard to non-self-governing peoples. He found it extremely difficult to understand that position either from the practical or the legal point of view and associated himself with those delegations that had called for the Committee's renewal on a permanent basis.

63. In conclusion, he warned the Administering Members that development and tutelage could not take place in an atmosphere poisoned by mistrust in the United Nations and by political repression and racial tension in the dependent territories. There must be concrete political advancement according to a fixed time-table. The Non-Self-Governing Territories would eventually attain their freedom and independence; it was for the administering Powers to choose how that would come about.

64. Mr. CORTINA (Argentina) noted the harmonious spirit prevailing in the Committee. The co-operative and constructive analysis of the information transmitted by the Administering Members was the best means of complying with the provisions of Chapter XI and assisting the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve full self-government.

65. The social conditions described in part two of the report of the Committee on Information deserved the greatest attention, as they affected the lives of vast numbers of peoples. Section III not only contained a number of general observations on urbanization and industrialization but also extremely interesting information on the impact of new ways of life on the family in dependent territories. The Committee had stressed the importance of that aspect of the question. The report indicated that notable progress had been made in community development, which was rightly linked to educational advancement. His delegation had been particularly struck by the statement in paragraph 53 that the results of the community development programmes were spectacular in some areas and that the people's capacity for participation and the development of leadership had outstripped official expectations. It had also been interested in section XI on training and leadership. It should never be forgotten that the Preamble to the Charter had been drawn up in the name of the peoples of the United Nations. Those peoples must be given a growing part in the management of their own affairs in order to prepare them for self-government. The United Kingdom and French Governments had transmitted particularly interesting information in that respect. The picture of the labour situation given in section V was unsatisfactory, particularly as far as wages were concerned.

66. Every effort must be made to promote programmes aimed at the gradual and complete elimination of all types of racial discrimination. Race relations were especially important in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and deserved particular attention.

67. His delegation had studied carefully the sections in part two of the report dealing with public health and health administration, nutrition, the planning of social development and international and regional co-operation. The Committee on Information's report was a valuable and objective document and his delegation would be glad to vote in favour of draft resolution A in annex II of part one, approving it.

68. He paid a tribute to the Administering Members for the information they transmitted and reiterated the reservations which his delegation had expressed at the 472nd meeting about certain information given in the summary of general tendencies in United Kingdom Territories (A/2894).

69. His delegation would vote in favour of renewing the Committee on Information.

70. In conclusion he cautioned the Committee against exaggerated criticism of the work of the Administering Members, which would not promote the

fulfilment of the objectives of Chapter XI or contribute to the solution of a problem which was so important to so many people.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.