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Chairman: Mr. Rafik ASHA (Syria).

AGENDA ITEM 34

Question of South West Africa: report of the Committee on South West Africa (A/2666 and Corr.1 and Add.1) (*continued*)

1. Mr. RIFAI (Syria) emphasized that his silence at the previous meeting should not be construed as indicating his delegation's willingness or desire to continue to serve on the Committee on South West Africa. Recent developments had made it imperative for his delegation to reserve its position on its future participation in the Committee's work.

2. Mr. KHOMAN (Thailand) reminded the Committee that on 12 October his delegation had sent a letter to the President of the General Assembly announcing its withdrawal from the Committee on South West Africa (A/2753). Since the report of the Subcommittee on South West Africa (A/C.4/274) mentioned Thailand among the proposed members of the enlarged Committee, he wished to point out that his Government's position had not changed; it was not prepared to continue as a member of the Committee on South West Africa.

AGENDA ITEM 32

Cessation of the transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter: report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2729):

(a) **Communication from the Government of Denmark concerning Greenland (A/AC.35/L.155 and Corr.1);**

(b) **Other communications.**

3. The CHAIRMAN welcomed the Greenland members of the Danish delegation.

4. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq), speaking as Chairman of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, introduced part one, section IX, of the

Committee's report (A/2729), which summarized the Committee's work on the cessation of the transmission of information under Article 73 e.

5. The Committee had been mainly concerned with the communication dated 3 September 1953 (A/AC.35/L.155 and Corr.1) in which the Danish Government had conveyed to the Secretary-General its decision to cease the transmission of information on Greenland. The Danish Government's communication had been amplified in a preliminary statement to the Committee on Information and in replies to a number of questions asked by members of the Committee. The Danish delegation had included two representatives from Greenland, who were members of the Danish Parliament and had been specifically chosen by the Greenland National Council to inform the Committee on Information of the constitutional changes in Greenland. Members of the Committee on Information had expressed their appreciation of the Danish Government's action in that respect, a sentiment that would undoubtedly be shared by the Fourth Committee.

6. Some of the views expressed by the members of the Committee and the questions addressed to the Danish representatives together with their replies were set out in paragraphs 51-60. He drew particular attention to the draft resolution unanimously adopted by the Committee and reproduced in paragraph 61. A separate vote had been taken on paragraph 6 of the resolution, which expressed the opinion that the information before the Committee indicated that Greenland might be considered as falling outside the scope of Chapter XI of the Charter and that, consequently, it was no longer necessary or appropriate to transmit the information under Article 73 e. The voting was reported in paragraphs 62 and 63 of the report.

7. Paragraphs 66 and 67 of the report drew attention to General Assembly resolution 747 (VIII) concerning the cessation of the transmission of information in respect of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam. Paragraph 9 of the report recorded the Netherlands representative's statement that the final result of the negotiations in progress between his Government and those of the two Territories concerned would be communicated to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of paragraph 4 of that resolution. The Netherlands representative had added that until the final result was reached, his Government could not submit a final communication for discussion by the Committee. It should be recalled that in paragraph 6 of resolution 747 (VIII) the Netherlands Government was requested to continue transmitting information until such time as the General Assembly had taken a decision that the transmission of information should be discontinued. To the best of his knowledge, no new communication had been received on the constitutional negotiations.

8. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand), speaking as Rapporteur of the Committee on Information, drew the Fourth

Committee's attention to the records of the discussions in the Committee on Information which showed the care with which the Committee had considered the developments leading up to the Danish Government's conclusion that it would no longer be appropriate to continue transmitting information on Greenland under Article 73 e. In addition to the detailed documentation submitted by the Danish Government, the Danish delegation had included officials of the Greenland Department and two members of the Greenland National Council. Many members of the Committee on Information had expressed their appreciation in that connexion. The Danish representative's statement to the Committee on Information could be found in document A/AC.35/SR.102 and the questions and answers in documents A/AC.35/SR.101 to 103.

9. The Committee on Information had heard with regret that Denmark would no longer be a member of the Committee by virtue of its administration of Greenland. Its members had expressed their appreciation of the Danish Government's contribution to the Committee's work.

10. Mr. LANNUNG (Denmark) said that in September 1953, in conformity with the relevant United Nations resolutions, his Government had informed the Secretary-General that pursuant to Denmark's new Constitution of 5 June 1953, Greenland had become an integral part of the Danish Realm with the same rights and the same full measure of self-government as other parts of Denmark. His Government had further stated that in the light of that change in the constitutional status of Greenland it regarded its responsibilities under Chapter XI of the Charter as terminated. At the same time his Government had forwarded to the United Nations an explanatory memorandum giving the background of constitutional developments in Greenland, a translation of the Constitution of the Danish Realm and a translation of the records of the meetings of the National Council of Greenland at which the constitutional change had been discussed and unanimously approved.

11. Mr. Lannung then reviewed the geographical and climatic conditions and the history of Greenland. It was by its very nature a poor country and would afford only a very modest standard of living if no outside support were forthcoming. During the past fifty years the population had more than doubled. Even now it totalled only about 24,000. It was distributed among approximately 180 settlements and outposts scattered over about 1,700 miles of coast.

12. Greenland had never been a colony in the classical sense of the word, but as far back as the days of the Vikings it had been considered a Nordic dominion. Since the re-establishment of regular communications between Scandinavia and Greenland in the eighteenth century, there had been countless marriages between the indigenous population and Scandinavians so that the present population was Eskimo-Scandinavian. Mr. Lannung mentioned in passing that the word "Eskimo" was never used in Greenland.

13. Against the background he had described, the Danish Government might perhaps have been justified in considering Greenland as part of the metropolitan territory. Nevertheless, in 1946 it had decided that it would be appropriate to transmit information under Article 73 e. Since then information had been furnished not only on economic, social and educational conditions in Greenland but also on political advancement. Over

the years, his Government had explained in detail all the facts leading up to the new constitutional status.

14. The policy of the Danish Government and people towards Greenland had for centuries been in keeping with the spirit of Chapter XI of the Charter. Their policy had been first and foremost to further the educational, social and economic progress of the Greenlanders and, as a corollary, their political advancement. Greenland had never been exploited. For well over one hundred years all State revenues and profits derived from Greenland had benefited only the Greenlanders, and for the last generation that policy had been expressly laid down in the Greenland Act. Denmark had long considered that one of its most important tasks in Greenland was to promote the educational advancement of the Greenlanders, with due respect for their culture and language, which had been preserved and developed into a written language. Despite the serious obstacles of vast distances and scattered settlements, illiteracy had been practically eliminated as far back as the mid-nineteenth century. The fact that all Greenlanders were literate had laid a solid foundation for the steady development of local government since that time. Schooling was free of charge and there was a free health service.

15. In recent years his Government had kept the United Nations informed of the far-reaching economic, social and administrative reforms which had taken place in Greenland in connexion with the transition from a hunting community and a barter economy to a modern society, with a specialized economic structure based on money. During the last three or four decades seal hunting, which had originally provided the Greenlanders with food, fuel and materials for their clothes, boats and housing, had, as far as the main part of the population was concerned, been replaced by fishing and in particular, cod-fishing. That change had been due to three concomitant factors. Two of those factors—a scarcity of seals, and the appearance in Greenland waters of fish in great numbers, particularly cod, which had been practically unknown in Greenland before 1920—had been due to a slight change in climate. To those should be added a third: the considerable increase in the population. As fisheries had become the basic industry, the seal hunter had had to turn into a fisherman and to adopt a monetary economy; he had had to learn to co-operate with other fishermen in order to prepare and sell his catch for export. That had meant a great social and economic revolution with far-reaching consequences, including a change in mentality.

16. The Danish Government had had to adapt its policy, the main object of which had been to protect the Greenlanders through isolation, to the new situation. It had become the policy of the Danish people not only to assist their Greenland fellow-countrymen as hitherto but also to do their utmost to help them to reach the same economic, social and educational level as the rest of Denmark. Immediately after the Second World War a Royal Greenland Commission, including representatives of the Greenland population, had drawn up far-reaching plans, which had meant that the inhabitants had acquired new and better hospitals, schools, welfare institutions, houses, fish-processing plants, motor boats, canning factories and research stations for sheep-farming. The Danish Government had constantly intensified its efforts; it had done so to an even greater extent since 5 June 1953, when Greenland had been fully integrated into the Danish Realm. A main objective had been to raise the standard of living and to help the

Greenlanders to help themselves to increase productivity and lead a richer life.

17. An intensified drive to combat disease and in particular tuberculosis was under way. The *per capita* ratio of hospital beds in Greenland was approximately double that in the rest of Denmark. Nevertheless, it had been found desirable to transfer many tuberculosis patients from Greenland to sanatoria in Denmark. In that connexion, it should be noted that a new sanatorium, the second largest in Denmark, had been opened in Greenland only a few days previously.

18. The reforms in Greenland had cost Denmark a very considerable amount of money, both in capital investments and current expenses. In 1951 his delegation had stated that capital expenditures were estimated to reach in a short period of years a total which, if converted into U.S. dollars and if the purchasing power of the Danish currency were taken into account, would correspond to about 1,000 dollars for each Greenlander. In reality that amount had become almost 50 per cent greater. Capital expenditures in Greenland for the period 1946 to 1953 amounted to 142 million kroner and the net subsidy to current expenditures concerning Greenland would amount to more than 30 million kroner in 1953. The expenditures of the metropolitan Treasury on Greenland were still rising appreciably. The annual expenditure for education amounted to from 15 to 20 dollars *per capita* and for health to 40 dollars *per capita*. In that connexion it should be borne in mind that the general purchasing power of the Danish currency was about double the value indicated by the official rate of exchange with United States dollars. That rate of expenditure was certainly much greater than Greenland's own economy would ever be able to support. Indeed, corresponding *per capita* expenditures could not be contemplated in Denmark itself. Thus, far from discriminating against the Greenlanders, the Danish Government spent more on each individual Greenlander than on each person in the rest of Denmark. Such extensive assistance was possible only because the Greenland population amounted to only about one-half per cent of the total population of Denmark.

19. The Danish Government had always felt that the improvement of the educational, social and economic conditions of the Greenlanders was the necessary prerequisite for their political development. Local self-government based on the election of representatives to local councils had been developing since the middle of the last century. In 1908, 1912, 1925 and 1950 the scope of self-government in local affairs had been extended to keep pace with the increasing maturity of the population. In many respects it was based on the same pattern as in other provinces and countries of Denmark; in some important respects it had developed even further.

20. In accordance with the proposals of the Royal Greenland Commission, in 1950 the two provincial councils had been combined into the National Council of Greenland, which had wider powers and final authority to decide important matters. The members were elected for a term of four years by direct, universal suffrage. In that connexion, it should be noted that women in Greenland enjoyed the same legal and economic status as men; there was equal pay for equal work. Generally speaking, the National Council of Greenland corresponded to the county councils in other parts of Denmark, but it had far more extensive powers. All bills affecting Greenland had to be submitted to the National Council for deliberation and recommendation before being laid before Parliament. In the same

way all administrative regulations affecting Greenland had to be submitted to the National Council before being put into effect in Greenland. That meant, to all intents and purposes, that no bill or administrative regulation would be carried through against the wish of the Greenlanders. The Council was competent to take the final decision on matters referred to it by Parliament or the Government. It had authority, for instance, to decide on the appropriation of receipts derived from import duties in Greenland. Its powers to make decisions were particularly in evidence in the field of social welfare services. In that connexion, he stressed that the proceeds of all the excise taxes levied in Greenland went into a fund of which the Greenland National Council alone disposed. On all matters not delegated to the Council for decision, it might submit proposals and it could also submit inquiries and complaints to the Government. The very sparsely populated parts of North and East Greenland participated in local government through their representatives on the Hunters' Council and on the District Councils respectively.

21. The evolution during the last hundred years in educational, social and economic matters as well as in self-government had prepared the population for the radical change in Greenland's position and status. Since the Second World War modern means of communication had placed Greenland in a much more central position. Greenland was only a few hours' flying time from Copenhagen and it therefore had the benefit not only of the regular shipping service as before but also of a regular and frequent air service.

22. Denmark had, during the years, seized every opportunity to keep the Committee on Information and the Fourth Committee informed of the social, economic and educational progress and, not least, of the political development in Greenland. The new status could therefore not come as a surprise to those who had participated in the work of those committees in previous years. A compendium of the developments leading up to the new Constitution of 5 June 1953 would be found in the *Report on Greenland 1954*,¹ which had been distributed to all delegations.

23. Since the Second World War, particularly, the question of Greenland representation in Parliament had been brought up by both Greenlanders and Danes and discussed in the standing Greenland Committee of Parliament. Following a recommendation submitted in 1948 by a joint session of the two then existing provincial councils in Greenland, the Royal Greenland Commission had proposed that as long as Greenland had no direct representation in Parliament, the National Council of Greenland should appoint representatives to the Greenland Committee of Parliament. That proposal had been given effect almost immediately. In the light of the changes taking place in those years, it had been natural that the desire of the Greenlanders for direct representation in Parliament should be increasingly expressed. The question of the future status of Greenland had been widely discussed prior to and during the election of the Greenland National Council in the summer of 1951; study circles and discussion groups had studied the report of the Royal Greenland Commission and had held debates on their country's future. The elected representatives of the National Council had no doubt that the whole population of Greenland was desirous of obtaining integration in the Danish Realm on an equal

¹ Published by the Prime Minister's Second Department, the Greenland Department, Copenhagen, 1954.

footing with the rest of the country. The only problem had been how that could be done in view of the special rules concerning revision of the Constitution. That question had been taken up by the Constitutional Commission set up to prepare a draft constitution embracing Greenland as well as Denmark. In February and March 1952, the new Constitution had been the subject of discussions in the Greenland Committee of Parliament, in which the delegates appointed by the Greenland National Council had taken part. They had declared that there was a general wish in the Greenland National Council that Greenland should be bound more closely to Denmark by a clause in the Constitution to the effect that Greenland should become an integral part of the Danish Realm and that the people of Greenland should be represented in Parliament on equal terms with those of the rest of Denmark. The Danish delegation had apprised the Fourth Committee of the wishes of the Greenland population during the discussion of the list of factors at the Seventh Session (275th meeting). He quoted again certain passages which he had quoted on that occasion from a statement made in the National Council by a spokesman of the Greenlanders. The Greenland National Council had had the opportunity freely to debate draft proposals prepared by the Constitutional Commission concerning the status of Greenland and had unanimously adopted a resolution accepting a draft clause by which the Constitution of the Kingdom of Denmark was extended to comprise Greenland and by which Greenland was to be represented in the Danish Parliament. The National Council had also endorsed a reservation proposed in the draft with respect to certain sections of the Constitution, but on examination it had proved unnecessary to make special reservations for Greenland except in two cases of very limited importance and of a technical nature.

24. The new Constitution had been adopted by the legislature and later approved by the Danish people in a referendum, as required by the Danish Constitution in order to validate a change therein.

25. A referendum had not been held in Greenland for several reasons: the Constitution in force at that time had not comprised the territory; moreover, unanimity had been expressed again and again by the chosen representatives; no opposition had been expressed; and public opinion was well able to express itself by such means as public meetings, the Press and the radio. In the event of any future referenda, the Greenlanders would, of course, participate on the same footing as the other Danes.

26. The new Constitution had entered into force on 5 June 1953. Greenland had constitutionally, administratively and in all other respects been placed on an equal footing with other parts of the Danish Realm. By the new Election Act, the whole of Greenland was divided into two constituencies, each of which elected a member of Parliament. The Act thus comprised all parts of Greenland, but owing to the particularly severe climate and other natural obstacles, it had not yet been possible, in the sparsely populated areas of North and East Greenland, to give effect to the suffrage provisions as far as elections to Parliament were concerned. That would, however, be done as soon as technically possible. Thus in principle there was no exception to the rule of universal suffrage for all Greenlanders. The representation provided for Greenland exceeded the number warranted by the mathematical proportion between the population of Greenland and the total population of Denmark.

27. The first Parliamentary election in Greenland had taken place in the summer of 1953. The two candidates elected were, as representatives chosen by the Greenland Council, members of the Danish delegation to the ninth session of the General Assembly.

28. When considering the matter, the Committee on Information had taken note that the people of Greenland had freely exercised their right of self-determination when deciding on their new constitutional status through their duly elected representatives. The speaker could not remember that there had ever been any criticism of Denmark's administration of Greenland in the Committee on Information or in the Fourth Committee. On the contrary, there had been many friendly words about Denmark's work in the Territory.

29. Denmark's responsibilities according to Chapter XI of the Charter having been terminated, he took the opportunity to express the Danish delegation's gratitude to all the members of the Fourth Committee. In particular, he paid a tribute to the Chairman of the Committee on Information, the representative of Iraq, and its members, and to Mr. Gerig of the United States delegation, and Mr. Shiva Rao, of the Indian delegation, who were not present at the current session.

30. The Danish Government had been glad that the Committee on Information had been able to adopt its report unanimously, without sterile discussion of doctrine, and hoped that the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly would deal with the matter in the same spirit of co-operation and understanding.

31. The survey that he had given of the relations between Greenland and Denmark had been only a summary, but he trusted that the material placed by the Danish Government at the disposal of the Committee was sufficient to provide such supplementary information as might be desired. The Danish people had considered it a responsibility and at the same time a privilege to lead the people of Greenland towards the goal of full equality and complete self-government and they could not but feel a certain pride in seeing a good piece of work brought to a happy conclusion. He realized that there were still shortcomings, and Denmark's efforts in Greenland would therefore continue without remission. Greenlanders and other Danes were confident that the new order would best serve the interests and well-being of the Greenland people. The Government and Parliament of the Danish Realm, where Greenlanders were now seated side by side with their fellow-countrymen, would, in co-operation with the National Council of Greenland, continue all efforts to promote to the fullest possible extent the welfare and prosperity of the people of Greenland.

32. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) said that from the time the subject of the factors which should be taken into account in deciding whether the people of a Territory had or had not attained a full measure of self-government had first been discussed, his delegation had maintained that full self-government could be attained in three ways: by the achievement either of independence or of some other form of self-government, or by incorporation on an equal footing with other parts of the State concerned.

33. The case of Greenland fell into the third category. It was true that, as the Danish representative had himself pointed out, there were two exceptions, but they were determined by conditions of climate and distance and were therefore unavoidable. On the other hand the figures given of the sums expended by the Danish Gov-

ernment in Greenland were impressive. It was clear that the resources of the more prosperous regions of the Realm were used to benefit the less prosperous, as was done in any sovereign State.

34. He drew attention to one statement made by the Danish representative which he regarded as particularly important: owing to inter-marriage with Scandinavians, the population of Greenland today was Eskimo-Scandinavian. He had already had occasion to point out in connexion with Latin America that independence in that continent had been achieved only when the population of mixed blood had taken part in the movement.

35. He would support any draft resolution similar to that approved by the Committee on Information.

36. Mr. SCHÜRMANN (Netherlands) congratulated the Danish representative on the admirable manner in which he had presented his country's case. It was a matter for rejoicing that an Administering Member which had gradually developed self-government in a Territory for which it was responsible had now crowned its achievement with an amendment in its Constitution whereby the previously Non-Self-Governing Territory had become incorporated in the Realm with the same rights and privileges as any other part thereof. Since the resolution recommending the constitutional change had been unanimously adopted by the Greenland National Council, freely elected by the people of Greenland, there could be no doubt that the new status was in complete accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants, whose interests under the terms of the Charter were paramount. There remained nothing for the General Assembly to do but to note with satisfaction that the people of another previously Non-Self-Governing Territory had reached the goal set by the Charter.

37. He would vote for any draft resolution similar to that adopted by the Committee on Information.

38. Mr. JOHNSON (United States of America) extended a warm welcome to the two Greenland members of the Danish Parliament who were present to assist the Fourth Committee in its deliberations.

39. The United States Government wished to express its appreciation of the way in which the Danish Government had complied with General Assembly resolution 222 (III). He would also congratulate the Danish delegation on the volume and quality of the documentation supplied.

40. In the Committee on Information the United States delegation had shared the unanimous view that Greenland could now be considered as falling outside the scope of Chapter XI of the Charter and that consequently it was no longer necessary for the Danish Government to transmit information under Article 73 e.

41. He hoped the peoples of Denmark and Greenland would be successful and prosperous as a single nation, and thanked the Danish Government and delegation for their valuable co-operation with the United Nations.

42. He paid a tribute to Mr. Lannung, the Danish representative, for his long record of valuable collaboration with the Fourth Committee.

43. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) congratulated the Danish Government on its fine achievement in terminating its responsibilities as an administering Power of a dependent territory.

44. Certain basic considerations naturally arose in connexion with the question concerning the cessation of the transmission of information. The information under consideration was essentially of a political nature. That fact brought out the importance and timeliness of the

draft resolution (A/C.4/L.353) adopted at the Committee's 424th meeting inviting the Administering Members to submit political information so that the United Nations could be better guided in assessing how far dependent peoples were being prepared for self-government.

45. It has been claimed that the functions of the United Nations in connexion with the cessation of the transmission of information should be confined to noting the decision to cease the submission of information on a given Territory. The Philippine delegation was convinced that the functions of the United Nations could not be limited to merely noting a decision by an Administering Member. General Assembly resolution 742 (VIII) set forth certain factors to be considered in assessing whether or not self-government had been attained.

46. Questions had been asked in the Committee on Information regarding the way in which the decision of the people of Greenland in favour of integration in the Danish Realm had been made manifest. The answer had been that the people had made their wishes known in a resolution of the Greenland National Council to that effect. He wondered, however, whether a mere resolution of the Greenland National Council was the best expression of public opinion that could have been found. Universal suffrage was in force in Greenland. Unless the Greenland National Council had been elected on the specific issue of integration, it would have been better to ascertain the wishes of the population by a special referendum. However, the statements of the Danish delegation seemed to show that the result would have been the same, whether expressed through the Council or through a referendum. He would therefore accept at its face value the spontaneous support of the Greenlanders for integration.

47. Reference had been made on several occasions to the need for a definite machinery or set of rules which would assist the Committee on Information and the General Assembly in coming to a decision when informed of the desire of an Administering Member to be relieved of the duty of submitting information under Article 73 e of the Charter. The Fourth Committee might well ponder that question and consider it in detail at an early date.

48. In the light of those considerations, he would associate himself with any reasonable proposal that would, due consideration having been given to the facts of the case, allow the Government of Denmark to feel that at long last it had fulfilled its obligations under the sacred trust set forth in Chapter XI of the Charter.

49. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) associated himself with those speakers who had congratulated Denmark and Greenland upon the happy outcome of several hundred years of Danish effort in the Arctic regions. Denmark was no longer an administering Power; Greenland, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of its people, had become an integral part of the Danish Realm. He was sure that, although any obligation to transmit information had lapsed, the Government and people of Denmark would continue to provide the most generous assistance to Greenland.

50. He would vote in favour of any resolution in conformity with the principles of the Belgian delegation, recognizing the culmination of the work of Denmark in Greenland. If the resolution in paragraph 61 of part one of the report of the Committee on Information was voted upon, he would be able to vote in favour of the second paragraph of the preamble and paragraph 5 of

the operative part. He would unfortunately have to abstain on the rest of the resolution for reasons of principle, on the grounds that the General Assembly was not competent to make any pronouncement upon the sovereign decision of the Danish Government.

51. Mr. SINGH (India) said that the Indian delegation on the Committee on Information had listened with interest and appreciation to the Danish statements in that Committee, and had carefully examined the detailed documentation that had been submitted. Denmark had consistently supplied information on political developments that could be used as a general background against which to examine the constitutional changes which had resulted in the integration of Greenland into the Danish Realm. The delegations of India, Brazil and Guatemala had jointly sponsored the draft resolution adopted unanimously by the Committee on Information, expressing the opinion—within the limits of the Committee's terms of reference and without anticipating the final disposal of that question by the General Assembly—that the information before it indicated that Greenland could be considered as falling outside the scope of Chapter XI of the Charter. The Indian delegation had no reason to change that opinion in the Fourth Committee, and felt that the General Assembly should pass final judgement along those lines.

52. The Indian delegation on the Committee on Information had suggested that it might be valuable in cases of the cessation of the transmission of information for the United Nations to have an opportunity to visit Territories which were on the point of attaining a full measure of self-government. However, in the case of Greenland, so much information was already available that the suggestion was hardly appropriate. Moreover, in 1950 the Danish Government had invited members of the United Nations Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories to visit Greenland.

53. The sponsors of the resolution adopted by the Committee on Information, together with the delegation of Peru, would submit a draft resolution on the same lines for adoption by the Fourth Committee.

54. Mr. JOUBLANC RIVAS (Mexico) congratulated the Danish representative on the admirable work of the Danish Government in Greenland. He had already had occasion to congratulate Denmark on having succeeded in eliminating illiteracy in Greenland. Danish work in education as a whole had been exemplary. He had also been impressed by the Danish representative's figures for the money spent each year on each inhabitant of Greenland. It was remarkable that a country with a relatively small population, such as Denmark, should be able to spend so much on the welfare of the Greenlanders. The detailed information which had been made available to the Fourth Committee and to the Committee on Information has made it possible to appreciate the firm basis of the political development achieved. He noted with satisfaction that there had been no indication of any opposition among the inhabitants of Greenland to integration on an equal footing with the former metropolitan country. The Mexican delegation would vote in favour of any draft resolution similar to the resolution unanimously adopted by the Committee on Information.

55. Mr. OFTEDAL (Norway) congratulated the Danish Government on its adoption of Greenland as an integral part of the Danish Realm, and the Danish representative on his able and sympathetic representa-

tion of Denmark and Greenland in the Fourth Committee.

56. In connexion with the account of Greenland presented to the Committee in the two publications circulated by the Danish delegation—the *Report on Greenland 1954* and the booklet entitled *Greenland* published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—he briefly reviewed the part played by Norway in the history of Greenland and recalled the ruling given by the Permanent Court of International Justice in 1933,² in the territorial dispute between his country and Denmark, to the effect that Denmark had sole and sovereign rights to all Greenland, a ruling which both parties had accepted.

57. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the substantial progress achieved by Greenland so far; he was confident that as an integral part of Denmark, it would continue to prosper.

58. Miss OROZCO (Costa Rica) congratulated the Danish representative on his clear and full report. She felt that the fact that the people of Greenland had been literate for 100 years had been of fundamental importance in their achievement of self-government through integration into the Danish Realm. She would vote in favour of any resolution on the lines of the one adopted by the Committee on Information.

59. Miss SHELTON (Cuba) congratulated the Danish Government on the manner in which Greenland had achieved self-government. She had been particularly struck by the Danish representative's statement that the people of Denmark had considered it both their responsibility and privilege to guide the people of Greenland towards the goal of self-determination, which had now been reached. She would vote in favour of any resolution similar to that adopted by the Committee on Information.

60. Mr. KHOMAN (Thailand) said that he had been greatly impressed by the amount accomplished by the Danish Government for the benefit of the people of Greenland during their long association, which had now culminated in the free integration of the people of Greenland in the Danish Realm. It was a happy occasion for the United Nations, which could regard it as an example of the complete fulfilment of the requirements of the Charter and the faithful observance of the principle of self-determination, which was one of the main pillars of the Organization. He offered his best wishes for the happiness and prosperity of Greenland in its new and freely chosen status. He would support any draft resolution taking cognizance of the new constitutional order in Greenland.

61. Mr. CALLE Y CALLE (Peru) said that his delegation agreed with the conclusion of the Committee on Information that the obligations of Denmark under Chapter XI of the Charter in respect of Greenland had now ended owing to the change in that Territory's constitutional status. The Peruvian delegation had therefore joined with the sponsors of the resolution adopted by the Committee on Information in submitting a draft resolution (A/C.4/L.354) which would recognize that the people of Greenland had freely exercised their right of self-determination and that the provisions on Chapter XI of the Charter were no longer applicable. The conduct of Denmark towards both Greenland and the United Nations had been exemplary. The people of Greenland had advanced progressively in all fields,

² Permanent Court of International Justice: *Judgments, Orders and Advisory Opinions, Series A/B*, No. 53.

through their own efforts and through those of the Danish Government. Both sides deserved congratulation.

62. Mr. QUIROS (El Salvador) said that the full and frank information consistently transmitted by Denmark on developments in all aspects of life in Greenland, together with the documentation supplied and the admirable statement just made by the Danish representative, had made it possible for his delegation to conclude that Greenland could be regarded henceforward as being outside the scope of Chapter XI of the Charter. He was quite sure that in the case of Greenland, the opinion of the population as to the status which they desired had been freely expressed by informed and democratic processes, thus conforming to the first in the list of factors indicative of the attainment of other separate systems of self-government, annexed to General Assembly resolution 742 (VIII). His delegation would therefore vote in favour of any resolution similar to the resolution unanimously adopted by the Committee on Information.

63. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) said that his delegation had read the documents on the cessation of the transmission of information on Greenland and listened to the Danish representative's statement with deep interest. It had always thought that the goal of develop-

ment in Non-Self-Governing Territories and Trust Territories alike should be self-government in the sense of complete independence. However, it had agreed to modify that view to some extent by voting in favour of the list of factors annexed to General Assembly resolution 742 (VIII), which contemplated the existence of other separate systems of self-government, each concrete case being considered and decided upon in the light of the particular circumstances.

64. It would appear that in the case of Greenland there had been no alternative to integration. However, he regretted that there had been no popular referendum. The Greenland National Council was undoubtedly entitled to speak on behalf of the people of Greenland, but recourse to popular consultation would have seemed the natural method of deciding the issue. In view of the small population of Greenland, it was unlikely that any particular difficulties would have arisen.

65. The Danish Government had always transmitted detailed information on developments in all spheres of life in Greenland, and it was to be congratulated on the successful completion of its work on behalf of the people of that Territory. He reserved the right to speak again on any draft resolution which might be submitted.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.