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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Seventh Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 27 April 1956, at 11.20 a.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Acting Chairman:</u>	Mr. THORP	(New Zealand)
<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. ARENALES CATALAN	(Guatemala)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. CUTTS	Australia
	U MYA SEIN	Burma
	Mr. LIU YU-WAN	China
	Mr. BARGUES	France
	Mr. KESTLER	Guatemala
	Mr. JAIPAL	India
	Mr. PACHACHI	Iraq
	Mr. VIXSEBOXSE )	
	Mr. GRADER )	Netherlands
	Mr. CALLE y CALLE	Peru
	Mr. GIDDEN	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Miss ARMSTRONG	United States of America
	Mr. RIVAS	Venezuela

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. GAVIN	International Labour Organisation
Mr. ORR	Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. ARNALDO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Dr. COIGNY )	
Mrs. MEAGHER )	World Health Organization

Secretariat

Mr. BENSON	Representative of the Under-Secretary
Mr. KUNST	Secretary of the Committee

## OPENING OF THE SESSION

The ACTING CHAIRMAN, opening the seventh session of the Committee, said that the Committee would greatly miss Mr. Loomes of Australia, Mr. Frazao of Brazil, U Hla Aung of Burma and Mr. Khalidy of Iraq. He extended the Committee's good wishes to them and welcomed their successors. He also welcomed Mr. Rivas, the representative of Venezuela, which had been elected to the Committee at the tenth session of the General Assembly. It was traditional for the representatives of FAO, the ILO, UNESCO and WHO to participate very fully in the Committee's discussions and he expressed to the representatives of those specialized agencies the Committee's pleasure at their attendance. In conclusion he referred with regret to the absence of the Under-Secretary, who was visiting Africa.

## ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) nominated Mr. Arenales Catalan (Guatemala).

Mr. JAIPAL (India) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Arenales Catalan (Guatemala) was elected Chairman by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Committee for electing him. He asked the New Zealand representative to tell Mr. Scott, the former Chairman, how much he was missed.

## ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. CUTTS (Australia) nominated Mr. Pachachi (Iraq).

U MYA SEIN (Burma) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Pachachi (Iraq) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

## ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) nominated Mr. Vixseboxse (Netherlands).

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Vixseboxse (Netherlands) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

REPRESENTATION OF CHINA

Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked the Chairman what procedure he intended to follow with regard to the examination of credentials.

The CHAIRMAN replied that in the past no special provision had been made for the examination of the credentials of representatives accredited to the Committee. The credentials as received were examined by the legal officers of the Secretariat and the list of representatives was placed before the Committee for information, first in provisional and then in final form.

Mr. JAIPAL (India) said that as there would apparently be no special examination of credentials he felt bound to place on record his Government's views on the representation of China. His Government believed that a country should be represented by the Government in that country which enjoyed the people's allegiance and was able to discharge the obligations implicit in its being a Government. The Chinese seat in the Committee was not occupied by a representative of the legitimate Government of China, namely the Central Government of the People's Republic of China. That fact constituted an obstacle to the Committee's work, for the Government of the People's Republic of China represented 600,000,000 people and it was anomalous that its voice should not be heard.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the representative of the Government of China recognized by the United Nations was the representative present in the Committee.

Mr. LIU YU-WAN (China) protested against the Indian representative's uncalled-for remarks. The Government on Taiwan was the legitimate and only truly representative Government of China. It had the wholehearted support of all the Chinese people including those on the mainland. It had fought earliest, hardest and longest on the Allied side during the Second World War and was now fighting again against the new menace of world communism. In addition it had co-sponsored the Conference at San Francisco and was named in Article 23 and other Articles of the Charter. The Government he represented had represented China in the United Nations and the specialized agencies since the inception of the United Nations; it had faithfully discharged its obligations under the Charter and it maintained diplomatic relations with most free nations and was recognized by the majority of Member States.

(Mr. Liu Yu-Wan, China)

It was the first time that the question of his Government's representation had been raised in the Committee and he felt that the time and place were wrong. It was particularly distressing to note that the matter had been brought up by a delegation outside the Soviet bloc, which normally raised the issue. In brief, he considered the Indian representative's statement uncalled for and impertinent.

Mr. CUTTS (Australia) observed that the points raised in the Indian representative's speech had no application in the Committee, where the situation was rather different from the situation in other United Nations bodies, in that the Government of China was represented not by right but by election of the General Assembly. The delegation at present represented in the Committee was the delegation elected by the General Assembly.

Mr. JAIPAL (India) took exception to the contention that his Government's very clear statement of policy was impertinent. The Indian Government recognized only one Government in China and felt bound to state its position. On the point raised by the Australian representative, he said that the question of credentials was a fundamental question, which must affect every committee of the United Nations.

U MYA SEIN (Burma) said that his Government, like that of India, recognized only one Government of China. He regretted that the Government recognized by Burma was not participating in the Committee's work. He therefore endorsed the views expressed by the Indian representative.

Miss ARMSTRONG (United States of America) wished to place on record her Government's continued opposition to the seating of representatives of the Chinese communist regime and its support for the continued seating of representatives of the Government of the Republic of China in all United Nations bodies. The reasons for its attitude were too well known to need repetition.

Mr. BARGUES (France) felt that the whole discussion was out of order. It might be within the Committee's competence to verify credentials but it was certainly not within its competence to discuss the legitimacy of the Governments represented.

The CHAIRMAN said that the various statements would be included in the Committee's records.

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/AC.35/9)

Mr. JAIPAL (India) proposed that a new item, "Race relations in education", should be added to the agenda as sub-item 4 (h), the present sub-item 4 (h) becoming 4 (i). In its resolutions 328 (IV) and 644 (VII) the General Assembly had clearly established the principle of equal treatment in matters relating to education in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the Committee had examined reports submitted by the Secretariat and discussed the question at previous sessions. It was surprising that the subject had been omitted from the agenda of the present session. He expressed the hope that, if the Committee decided to place the item on its agenda, the Secretariat would be able to prepare a suitable background document.

Mr. BENSON (Secretariat) said that Mr. Cohen, the Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, regretted that the mission on which he was now engaged in Africa prevented his attending the Committee's session.

Referring to the point raised by the Indian representative, he said that there was at present little that the Secretariat could add to the information it had already supplied on discrimination but it could make an annotated and analytical statement of the information available in the reports which had already been circulated.

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) supported the Indian proposal. To omit the question of race relations in education from the agenda might give the impression that it was no longer important, which was not the case.

Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) said that the Committee was concerned with two fundamental questions, the progress of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-government or independence and the economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories, on which information was transmitted under Article 73(e) of the Charter. The question of race relations in education was closely linked to both points. He therefore supported the Indian proposal.

U MYA SEIN (Burma) supported the Indian proposal.

Mr. CUTTS (Australia) felt that the sub-item proposed by India was unnecessary for the question could be discussed under items 4 (a) and 4 (h). A considerable amount of documentation was already available on the subject, which would doubtless be discussed in connexion with a number of other items. It might be unwise to stress its importance by including it as a separate item, since that might tend to stimulate a debate on racial discrimination, in particular to the neglect of other no less deplorable forms of discrimination.

Mr. BARGUES (France) said that some members of the Committee seemed to be interested mainly in the political aspects of the educational methods employed by the Administering Authorities. By using the expression "racial discrimination", they gave a political twist to a question which should be considered purely from the technical point of view.

In some territories, different types of education were provided for different ethnic or language groups. In speaking of racial discrimination in connexion with such types of education, the technical reasons for the differences were ignored and the Administering Authorities were accused of having political ends in view.

France did not fear a discussion of racial discrimination, for such discrimination did not exist either in France or in its dependent territories, but it could not countenance any discussion of the political aspects of the information on educational questions which it transmitted under article 73 (e) of the Charter.

Mr. LIU YU-WAN (China) said that the item proposed by India could be discussed under the existing agenda items. He felt that the expression "race relations" was too wide and that some such formula as "equality of opportunity in education" might be more advisable.

The CHAIRMAN put the Indian proposal to the vote.

The Indian proposal was adopted by 5 votes to 2, with 6 abstentions.

Mr. BENSON (Secretariat) drew attention to agenda item 7 (d). The Committee might wish to delete that sub-item and replace it by a new item numbered 8, entitled "Programme for the study of economic conditions in 1957 and social conditions in 1958".

Mr. CALLE y CALLE (Peru) proposed that the item should cover educational studies too, since the Committee had the benefit of the presence of educational experts in the delegations to the present session.

Mr. BENSON (Secretariat) suggested that the new item 8 should be entitled "Future studies of the Committee" and that the present items 8, 9 and 10 should be renumbered 9, 10 and 11.

It was so decided.

The provisional agenda, as amended, was adopted.

#### STATEMENT BY THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. BARGUES (France) said that his delegation wished to state the French Government's position with regard to its participation in the work of the Committee.

Under Article 73 (e), France had undertaken to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General, for information purposes, statistical and other information on economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories under its administration other than Trust Territories. The information therefore related only to economic, social and educational conditions and not to political questions; it was addressed to the Secretary-General and to no one else and it was transmitted purely for information purposes. The French delegation would therefore be obliged to oppose any discussion of political problems and any critical appraisal of the information supplied by his Government.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.