

Information From Non-self-governing Territories

Under the terms of paragraph (c) of Article 73 of the Charter, members of the United Nations which have, or assume, responsibilities for the administration of non-self-governing territories undertake to transmit to the Secretary-General information relating to economic, social, and educational conditions in the territories for which they are respectively responsible.

What exactly would be done with information thus transmitted has always been a matter of controversy, but on the recommendation of an *ad hoc* Committee set up by the General Assembly in 1946 to study the matter, the Assembly at its second session established a Special Committee¹ to examine this information. This Committee recommended to the Assembly the adoption of four draft resolutions aimed at perfecting procedures for the transmission and consideration of the information transmitted under the terms of Article 73 (c) of the Charter. These resolutions were essentially compromises between the views of administering and non-administering Powers (the Soviet Union alone dissenting).

In the general discussion of the report of the Special Committee the great majority of representatives expressed their willingness to vote for these resolutions as they stood. Many of the delegates representing non-administering Powers stated that, while they would favour more radical proposals, in the interests of promoting co-operation they would accept the compromises arrived at by the Special Committee.

Several of these representatives stated that it was quite understandable that the colonial Powers should resent the aggressive attitude of those who were attempting to use Chapter XI of the Charter as a convenient weapon in the East-West ideological struggle. For instance, General Romulo of the *Philippines* asked that the Special Committee's report should be considered on an "extra-political level apart from the ideological and propaganda contests of the Great Powers," and the representative of *Iraq* requested the latter to "take their quarrels to the First (Political) Committee."

The *Slav* States, however, made repeated attacks upon the administering Powers for their "oppression" and "exploitation" of the colonial peoples, directing their vehemence especially against British policy in Africa, which they claimed was being used as the "milch cow of Europe in the struggle of the pound against the dollar." In reply to

¹ Composed of the eight member States transmitting information (Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and United States) and eight members elected by the Fourth Committee (China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, India, Nicaragua, Soviet Union, and Sweden).