

The Report owes much to the happy conjunction of a distinguished Chairman, in the person of Ambassador Quaison-Sackey of Ghana, and a vigorous drafting sub-committee led by Mr. Rasgotra of India. As a newcomer to this Committee I am personally very grateful to them and their associates, including the Secretariat, for the able manner in which they have highlighted the significant aspects of the Report on Progress in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The Progress Report reflects the great variation in conditions in dependent territories and the diversity in methods adopted by administering members in order to foster the economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples in these territories. While results have been uneven the Committee has concluded that in these fields substantial progress was achieved by most of the non-self-governing territories on which information was transmitted.

On the other hand we are aware and fully share the Committee's concern that the aspirations of peoples towards self-government or independence have too often far outstripped the pace of their economic and social advancement. There is no absolute guide here and accession to independence has occurred under widely varying circumstances but if the transitional period, to quote paragraph 25 in Part 2 of the Committee's Report, is to be "smooth, constructive and purposeful" it would seem that a solid structure of essential public services and of primary and secondary educational facilities must be created. Above all there must be - and again I quote the Report - "a progressive transfer of responsibility on both the technical and the political planes to qualified persons and chosen representatives of the population".

The people of the territories must be trained to occupy positions at all levels of the civil service; they must play an increasingly active and responsible part in the municipal, legislative and executive branches of government and they must be equipped with the technical knowledge which is indispensable to economic development. Progress depends upon popular support ultimately, on the association of leaders of the people with plans for measures of development and the active participation of the local inhabitants at all stages of their implementation. Here I must say how