

No. 53/72

INFORMATION FROM  
NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

The following are the texts of statements made on October 21, 1953 and on October 23, 1953, by the Canadian Representative, Mr. G.S. Patterson, in the Fourth Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on agenda item 32 - Report of the Committee on Information from Non-self-governing Territories.

Statement made on October 21

After studying the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as the summary records of the meeting of the Committee last summer, it was the opinion of my delegation that the Committee had done an excellent job, and it was felt that there was little to add to the recommendations ultimately formulated by the Committee. For this reason my delegation did not consider it necessary to take part in the general debate of the last few days.

Before commenting on the specific proposals before us, may I say, therefore, that my delegation concurs in the report of the Committee and is prepared to approve it, together with the draft resolutions it contains.

With regard to the amendments relating to draft Resolution A, I wish to state first that my delegation will support the proposal of Guatemala as outlined in Document L. 280.

My delegation is also in sympathy with the objective which the Egyptian Delegation no doubt had in mind in submitting its amendment to draft Resolution A as presented in Document L. 281. The basic principle of this amendment is commendable, and I presume the principle would be accepted by the majority of the members of this Committee. I have some doubt, however, as to whether it is the duty of this Committee to suggest that we place expressly on the shoulders of the Administering Powers the onus of giving favourable consideration to any offer of technical assistance in the field of education of non-self-governing territories. I believe that an examination of the various reports available on non-self-governing territories will show that the Administering Powers have not failed in the past to provide their non-self-governing territories with the technical assistance of which they stood in need and which they were in a position to absorb. There would seem to be no reason to think that the Administering Powers are likely to deviate from this enlightened policy of drawing suitable technical assistance for their non-self-governing territories from any source which might be available. The Administering Powers are undoubtedly best qualified to appreciate the need for and the type of expert assistance which may facilitate the educational advancement of their non-self-governing territories. It would hardly seem to be doing justice to the initiative which they have displayed in the past in this field, nor to their intentions for the future, if we were to insist on the inclusion, in Resolution A, of a paragraph along the lines of the Egyptian amendment. For this reason, my delegation is not