

The Committee has done a great deal of useful work in its investigation of the issues involved in the areas which it has studied. The scope of the report shows the magnitude of the problems still unresolved. The experience of the Committee clearly demonstrates that progress in this most important and complicated field can best be achieved in a spirit of accommodation between all parties concerned. Whenever it has been possible to reach a consensus, the Committee's proposals have pointed the way to practical progress.

Unfortunately the Soviet Delegation used the Special Committee's deliberations as an opportunity to put forward extreme proposals on colonial territories, which were known to be unacceptable to the administering power, rather than to find practical solutions to existing problems. Mr. President, the subject with which the Committee is concerned, the achievement of self-government by dependent peoples, is too important to be used as a means for scoring meaningless victories in Committee debates, or for the passing of resolutions which have little or no prospect of being carried out.

The Committee on occasion adopted resolutions addressed directly to the Administering Power. This, in our view, goes beyond the mandate of the Committee, and is a most undesirable development in terms of the authority and prestige of the General Assembly. The Committee should confine itself to reporting to the General Assembly. If it believes that the situation in a particular territory demands urgent consideration by the Assembly it is at liberty to say so; the Assembly can then take action if it sees fit under the procedure for holding emergency or special sessions. In any case, the responsibility for making direct recommendations to the Administering Powers should remain with the General Assembly.

Having made these comments, I should like to emphasize that my Delegation feels that the fundamental idea which led to the creation of the Committee of Seventeen is a sound one, namely that there should be some body, responsible to the Assembly, which has the duty of weighing and evaluating the progress achieved in carrying