

The tenth session of the General Assembly again considered the Netherlands' proposal for Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles; the Netherlands Government had, in the meantime, informed the Committee that the new status of Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles corresponded to the wishes of the population and that the transmission of information on these territories was no longer deemed necessary. After a protracted debate which centred on the competence of the General Assembly to decide when an administering power should cease transmitting information, the Assembly finally approved a composite resolution acknowledging that it was appropriate for the Netherlands to cease transmitting information; but the resolution also affirmed the General Assembly's competence "to decide whether or not a non-self-governing territory has attained the full measure of self-government referred to in Chapter XI of the Charter". Canada voted against the inclusion of this paragraph in the preamble of the resolution, and against reference to it in the operative paragraphs; in plenary session Canada voted for the resolution as a whole, which was adopted by a vote of 21 in favour, 10 against, with 33 abstentions¹. The Canadian Representative referred with approval to the statement which the Netherlands Government had made in 1951 that both territories were in possession of full self-government so far as their internal affairs were concerned; in the light of that fact, the Canadian Delegation was gratified with the developments which had taken place during the intervening period, which had resulted in Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles emerging, of their own free will, as equal partners with the Netherlands in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Canadian view has always been that, since non-self-governing territories will normally advance towards self-government by stages, they will at a given time reach a stage at which the administering powers will no longer exercise effective practical control over the social, economic and educational matters on which information has hitherto been submitted. Therefore the administering powers are within their rights in making the decision themselves as to when they should cease to transmit information about territories under their control.

Community Development in Non-self-governing Territories

A request from the Committee on Information for specific information from the administering states on methods and projects of community development which would contribute to balanced social and economic progress in their dependent territories was generally agreeable to most members of the General Assembly. However, the request provoked a lengthy debate in the Assembly because the Indian proposal incorporating the request implied an obligation on the part of the administering states to submit information to the Committee and could be regarded as holding the administering states accountable to the United Nations for the administration of their territories. A modified version of the Indian draft resolution was passed by the Assembly by a vote of 53 in favour (including Canada), 0 against, with 5 abstentions.

Educational Advancement

The Secretary-General's report to the tenth session on the availability and use made of offers of study and training facilities for all levels of education in the administered areas was unanimously approved by the Assembly. This information had been requested at the previous session and is to be submitted regularly in future.

¹See *United Nations Review*, Vol. 2, No. 7, January 1956, pp. 25-26.