

It will be recognized that this is a principle which can hardly be accepted by representatives of a country - I mean my own country - which at one stage in its constitutional evolution did, in fact, enjoy complete autonomy in its economic, social and educational affairs while it had not yet, by its own account, attained a full measure of self-government. By the same token, we find it difficult to share the views of those delegations which have attempted to justify this principle on the basis of an interpretation of Chapter XI of the Charter.

With regard to the problem raised by the wording of paragraphs three and seven of the proposal, the position of the Canadian delegation has already been explained a number of times. The Canadian delegation cannot agree that the United Nations alone have a right to determine whether a territory has ceased to be non-self-governing, nor that every Administering Power should continue to transmit information until such time as the provisions of Chapter XI of the Charter are fulfilled. In the view of my delegation, it is indeed to be expected that non-self-governing territories will normally be found to be advancing towards self-government by stages and that at a given moment they will reach a stage at which the Administering Power no longer exercises effective and practical control over the social, economic and educational matters on which information is to be submitted. In such cases the Administering Power's obligation to transmit such information will logically be at an end, although such a situation would not imply that the Administering Power has no longer the obligation, under Chapter XI, to promote a full measure of self-government in the territory concerned.

Like a number of representatives who spoke this morning, we too would commend the efforts of our Brazilian colleagues towards formulating a proposal which was likely to command the widest possible support. For this, we are grateful to the Brazilian delegation. We are also grateful that the Brazilian proposal does not call for a continuing study by a special committee on this question of factors since we seriously doubt whether any further study of this problem can be expected to bring forth a solution any more satisfactory than the present one.

But the objections, Mr. Chairman, which I have outlined bear on issues too fundamental to make it possible for us to support the Brazilian resolution in its present form. Subject to these observations, my delegation is prepared to approve the list of factors contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the understanding that the list is to be used exclusively as a guide and that it is not meant to be a rigid pattern to be automatically applied to the General Assembly to all non-self-governing territories.

I might add in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that my delegation will be obliged to oppose any subsequent amendment to the Brazilian proposal which would appear to run contrary to the basic principles that guide my delegation on this question.

