

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

in a position to support the Egyptian proposed amendment.

In view of what I have said of the acceptability to my Delegation of the Report of the Committee on Information, we would have to vote against the amendment submitted by Poland.

The following are the texts of statements on October 21, 1953 and on October 23, 1953, by Mr. Stetterson.
In conclusion, I would like to reiterate once again the deep belief of the Canadian Government in the need to promote, with all the legitimate means at the disposal of the United Nations, the welfare, the well-being and the general progress of the populations of non-self-governing territories. We have found by close examination of the documentation submitted this year on the subject that great strides forward have been accomplished towards that objective and that the administering powers have played a very important role in this evolution. For these accomplishments, we wish to express to them our appreciation and we wish to congratulate members of the Secretariat and the Members of the Committee on Information for their efforts in providing us with an accurate and comprehensive account of these developments in non-self-governing territories.

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 E. 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 E. 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 doubts, however, as to whether it is the duty of this Committee to suggest that we place 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

(Statement made on October 23 follows on page 3)

Statement made on October 23

I should like to explain briefly the position of my delegation on the six power proposal regarding the employment of international staff from non-self-governing and trust territories. My delegation generally concurs with what the distinguished delegate of New Zealand said yesterday on this matter. As he suggested, most delegations here including my own, will no doubt agree with the principle which calls for the recruiting of international staff at the United Nations as well as in its agencies to be on as wide a geographical basis as possible. This is a sound principle and one which has been constantly applied, as the present composition of the Secretariat clearly shows. To that extent, we fully appreciate the purpose of a six power resolution contained in Document L.283 Rev. 1.

My delegation on the other hand has always stressed in previous discussions on the question of personnel recruitment of international staff, the need of giving priority to the qualifications of the applicants. My delegation has also always attached importance to the necessity of leaving to the Secretary-General all possible discretion in the selection of his staff, as a guarantee that we shall have a qualified and suitable personnel. These are principles which, I am sure, no one here will question since they are dictated by the most elementary principles of economy and efficiency. The acceptance of the six power resolution might have the effect in practice of actually impairing the discretion of the Secretary-General in this field. This possibility should be avoided particularly at this time, when, as we all know, the Secretary-General is engaged in an overall review of the entire personnel establishment of his organization, and has furthermore been invited to keep the size of his staff reduced to the minimum required for efficient operation.

There is also the additional possibility that the acceptance of this proposal might establish a precedent by provoking other groups to advocate similar increased recruitment from their own representatives.

In any circumstances, therefore, my delegation wonders whether the same objective envisaged in the six power resolution might not be attained by merely informing the Secretary-General of the opinion of this Committee that it would be desirable, whenever circumstances permit, to include on the Secretariat suitably qualified inhabitants of non-self-governing and trust territories. My delegation has no doubt that the Secretary-General would do everything possible, within the authorized personnel establishment of the Secretariat, to meet a wish of this Committee so expressed.

LIBRARY E A / BIBLIOTHÈQUE A E



3 5036 01046071 8

I should like to explain briefly the position of delegation on the six power proposal regarding the employment of international staff from non-self-governing and trust territories. My delegation generally concurs with what the distinguished delegate of New Zealand said yesterday on this point. As he suggested, most delegations here including my own will no doubt agree with the principle which calls for the recruiting of international staff at the United Nations as well as in its agencies to be on as wide a geographical basis as possible. This is a sound principle and one which has been constantly applied, as the present composition of the Secretariat clearly shows. To that extent, we fully appreciate the purpose of a six power resolution contained in Document S/288 Rev. I.

My delegation on the other hand has always stressed previous discussions on the question of personnel recruitment of international staff, the need of giving priority to the qualifications of the applicants. My delegation has also always attached importance to the necessity of leaving to the Secretary-General all possible discretion in the selection of his staff, as a guarantee that we shall have a qualified and suitable personnel. These are principles which, I am sure, no one here will question since they are dictated by the elementary principles of economy and efficiency. The importance of the six power resolution might have the effect of actually impairing the discretion of the Secretary-General in this field. This possibility should be noted particularly at this time, when, as we all know, the Secretary-General is engaged in an overall review of the personnel establishment of his organization, and has furthermore been invited to keep the size of his staff reduced to the minimum required for efficient operation.

There is also the additional possibility that the importance of this proposal might establish a precedent by involving other groups to advocate similar increased recruitment from their own representatives.

In any circumstances, therefore, my delegation considers whether the same objective envisaged in the six power resolution might not be attained by merely informing the Secretary-General of the opinion of this Committee that it would be desirable, whenever circumstances permit, to include the Secretary-General's qualified inhabitants of non-self-governing and trust territories. My delegation has no doubt that the Secretary-General would do everything possible within the authorized personnel establishment of the Secretariat to meet a wish of this Committee so expressed.