

of information does not remove the obligations which the Netherlands Government has assumed under the Charter to promote the achievement of a full measure of self-government.

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

(NOTE) - The following is the text of the resolution on agenda item 34(a) of the General Assembly on October 29, 1953.

No. 53/44 NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND SURINAM

Text of a statement made on October 29, 1953 by Mr. A.R. Crepault of the Canadian Delegation in the Fourth Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly on agenda item 34(a) - Decision of the Netherlands to cease transmitting information under Article 73(e) of the Charter of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam.

Note - The text of the resolution adopted on this subject by the Fourth Committee on October 29, 1953, and the results of the voting are included at the end of this Supplementary Paper.

My Delegation regrets to have found it necessary to vote against the Swedish proposal as a whole and as amended in the course of today's voting.

My Delegation had welcomed the initiative of the Swedish Delegation in tabling a proposal which in effect would have postponed final decision on the question of the Dutch Antilles and Surinam until next year. As the original Swedish proposal clearly stated, there are negotiations about to be resumed between the Netherlands authorities and the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam. As the Pakistan and New Zealand delegates very correctly pointed out, in the course of their main interventions, there was, therefore, little to be gained in these circumstances by the Committee's becoming involved in complex and controversial considerations which had no direct bearing at this stage on the specific point at issue.

However, some delegations have nonetheless thought it desirable to insist that the question of the competence of the Assembly should be incorporated in the Swedish proposal and that the members of this Committee be called upon now to take a stand on this matter. As my delegation has often explained on previous occasions, we believe that an administering power is completely within its rights in ceasing to transmit information on territories which have assumed control of the internal matters on which information is required. The documentation submitted by the Netherlands Government has made it clear, in the view of my delegation, that the Government of the Netherlands Antilles and of Surinam have assumed control over the economic, social and cultural matters within their territories. Accordingly, we are of the opinion that the Netherlands Government is no longer required.

Of course, and I am sure that the Netherlands Government concurs in this, cessation of the transmission

of information does not remove the obligations which the Netherlands Government has assumed under the Charter to promote the achievement of a full measure of self-government.

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(NOTE - The following is the text of the resolution on agenda item 34(a) adopted by the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on October 29, 1953. The voting was 30 in favour, 13 against (including Canada) and 9 abstentions (Soviet bloc, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru and Thailand). Canada objected principally to paragraph 6 which implies that the General Assembly rather than the administering power has the right to decide when an administering power should cease transmitting information under Article 73(e) of the United Nations Charter.)

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 650 (VII) it invited the Committee set up to study the factors which should be taken into account in deciding whether a territory is or is not a territory whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government to examine carefully the documents submitted by the Netherlands Government relating to Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles in the light of resolution 648 (VII),

Having received and considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Factors established by resolution 648 (VII),

Having taken note of the statement of the representatives of the Netherlands that the negotiations between representatives of the Netherlands, Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles which were adjourned in the year 1952, will shortly be resumed,

Notes with satisfaction the progress made by Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles towards self-government;

Considers that the new status of Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles can only be rightly appraised after the said negotiations have led to a final result and this has been embodied in constitutional provisions;

Expresses to the Netherlands Government its confidence that as a result of the negotiations a new status will be attained by the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam representing a full measure of self-government in fulfilment of the objectives set forth in Chapter XI of the Charter;

4. Invites the Government of the Netherlands to communicate to the Secretary-General the result of these negotiations and the provisions mentioned in paragraph 2;

5. Invites the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories to examine these communications in connexion with the information already transmitted and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

6. Requests the Government of the Netherlands to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General the information specified in Article 73(e) of the Charter in regard to the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam until such time as the General Assembly takes a decision that the transmission of information in regard to those Territories should be discontinued.

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5. Invites the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories to examine these communications in connexion with the information already transmitted and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

6. Requests the Government of the Netherlands to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General the information specified in Article 73(e) of the Charter in regard to the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam until such time as the General Assembly takes a decision that the transmission of information in regard to these Territories should be discontinued.