

qualifications in the functional fields studied by the Committee,

Considering that this is a practice which might be extended with advantage to the work of the Committee, in that the pooling and exchange of knowledge and experience thus achieved will enable it more efficaciously to assess the economic, social and educational problems of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the light of the solutions being found to those problems elsewhere in the world,

1. *Commends* the action of those Members which have included specialist advisers in their delegations to the Committee;

2. *Expresses the hope* that those Members which have not hitherto found it possible to do so, will find it appropriate to associate with their delegations persons specially qualified in the functional fields within the Committee's purview.

*459th plenary meeting,
27 November 1953.*

746 (VIII). Employment of international staff from Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories

The General Assembly,

Considering that the paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, regarding the employment of the staff of the United Nations, states that, in addition to the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity in employment of Secretariat staff, due regard should be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible,

Having regard to the objectives set forth in Chapters XI and XII of the Charter in respect of the advancement of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories,

Considering that the services of individuals from Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories in the Secretariat of the United Nations will contribute to a wider geographical coverage in the recruitment of staff,

Considering the statement⁴ made by the Secretary-General that he has already taken note of the wishes expressed in the Fourth Committee on this matter,

1. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General consider the desirability of continuing and increasing the recruitment of suitably qualified inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories for the Secretariat of the United Nations;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to draw the attention of the specialized agencies to the present resolution with a view to a similar policy being followed as far as possible in the secretariats of those agencies.

*459th plenary meeting,
27 November 1953.*

747 (VIII). Cessation of the transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter in respect of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 650 (VII) of 20 December 1952 it invited the Committee set up to study

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighth Session, Fourth Committee, 342nd meeting.*

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 the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam in the light of resolution 648 (VII) of 10 December 1952,

Having received and considered the report⁵ of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Factors (Non-Self-Governing Territories) established by resolution 648 (VII),

Having taken note of the statement⁶ of the representative of the Netherlands that the negotiations between representatives of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam, which were adjourned in the year 1952, will shortly be resumed,

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

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

3. *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 as well as the provisions mentioned in paragraph 2 above;

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.

*459th plenary meeting,
27 November 1953.*

748 (VIII). Cessation of the transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter in respect of Puerto Rico

The General Assembly,

Considering that, in resolution 222 (III) of 3 November 1948, the General Assembly, while welcoming any development of self-government in Non-Self-Governing Territories, considers it essential that the United Nations be informed of any change in the constitutional status of any such Territory as a result of which the government responsible for the transmission, under Article 73 e of the Charter, of information in respect of that Territory thinks it unnecessary or inappropriate to continue such a practice,

Having received the communications⁷ dated 19 January and 20 March 1953 informing the United Nations

⁵ See document A/2428.

⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighth Session, Fourth Committee, 343rd meeting, para. 70.*

⁷ See document A/AC.35/L.121.

of the establishment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as a result of the entry into force on 25 July 1952 of the Constitution of Puerto Rico, and stating that, in consequence of these constitutional changes, the Government of the United States of America would cease to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter,

Having studied the report⁸ prepared by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, during its session of 1953, on the question of the cessation of the transmission of information on Puerto Rico, and presented to the General Assembly in conformity with paragraph 2 of resolution 448 (V) of 12 December 1950,

Having examined the communications of the Government of the United States of America in the light of the basic principles embodied in Chapter XI of the Charter and of all the other elements of judgment pertinent to the issue,

Considering that the agreement reached by the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, in forming a political association which respects the individuality and the cultural characteristics of Puerto Rico, maintains the spiritual bonds between Puerto Rico and Latin America and constitutes a link in continental solidarity,

Bearing in mind the competence of the General Assembly to decide whether a Non-Self-Governing Territory has or has not attained a full measure of self-government as referred to in Chapter XI of the Charter,

1. *Takes note favourably* of the conclusions set forth by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories in its resolution;⁹

2. *Recognizes* that the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, by expressing their will in a free and democratic way, have achieved a new constitutional status;

3. *Expresses the opinion* that it stems from the documentation provided that the association of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico with the United States of America has been established as a mutually agreed association;

4. *Recognizes* that, when choosing their constitutional and international status, the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have effectively exercised their right to self-determination;

5. *Recognizes* that, in the framework of their Constitution and of the compact agreed upon with the United States of America, the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have been invested with attributes of political sovereignty which clearly identify the status of self-government attained by the Puerto Rican people as that of an autonomous political entity;

6. *Considers* that, due to these circumstances, the Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories and the provisions established under it in Chapter XI of the Charter can no longer be applied to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

7. *Takes note* of the opinion of the Government of the United States of America as to the cessation of the transmission under Article 73 e of the Charter of information on Puerto Rico;

8. *Considers it appropriate* that the transmission of this information should cease;

9. *Expresses its assurance* that, in accordance with the spirit of the present resolution, the ideals embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the traditions of the people of the United States of America and the political advancement attained by the people of Puerto Rico, due regard will be paid to the will of both the Puerto Rican and American peoples in the conduct of their relations under their present legal statute, and also in the eventuality that either of the parties to the mutually agreed association may desire any change in the terms of this association.

459th plenary meeting,
27 November 1953.

749. (VIII). Question of South West Africa

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The General Assembly,

Having accepted, by resolution 449 A (V) of 13 December 1950 and by resolution 570 (VI) of 19 January 1952, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice with respect to South West Africa,

Recalling that the advisory opinion¹⁰ of the International Court of Justice with respect to the Territory of South West Africa sets forth, *inter alia*, that:

(a) The Territory of South West Africa is a Territory under the international Mandate assumed by the Union of South Africa on 17 December 1920,

(b) The Union of South Africa acting alone has not the competence to modify the international status of the Territory of South West Africa, and that the competence to determine and modify the international status of the Territory rests with the Union of South Africa acting with the consent of the United Nations,

(c) The Union of South Africa continues to have the international obligations stated in Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations and in the Mandate for South West Africa as well as the obligation to transmit petitions from the inhabitants of that Territory, the supervisory functions to be exercised by the United Nations to which the annual reports and the petitions are to be submitted,

Considering that, in accordance with the opinion of the International Court of Justice, the Union of South Africa is under an obligation to accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court as provided by Article 37 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, by Article 80, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations and by article 7 of the Mandate for South West Africa,

Having reconstituted the *Ad Hoc* Committee on South West Africa, consisting of the representatives of Norway, Syria, Thailand, the United States of America and Uruguay, by General Assembly resolution 570 A (VI) of 19 January 1952 and, by General Assembly resolution 651 (VII) of 20 December 1952, having continued it on the same basis as before,

Having considered the reports of the aforesaid *Ad Hoc* Committee, i.e., document A/2261 submitted on 21 November 1952 and documents A/2475 and Add.1 and 2 submitted on 16 September, 8 October and 9 November 1953,

⁸ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighth Session, Supplement No. 15*, part I, section VII.

⁹ *Ibid.*, page 6.

¹⁰ See *International Status of South West Africa, Advisory Opinion*: I.C.J. Reports 1950, page 128.