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COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS

Ninth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTH-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 1 December 1950, at 10:30 a.m.

Contents: Adoption of the Agenda.

Contributions of Indonesia for 1950 and 1951.

Examination of a request from the International Meteorological  
Organization under General Assembly resolution 311 (IV) B.

Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Other business: Communication from the Organization of American States.

Chairman: Miss WITTEVEEN

Vice-Chairman: Mr. SAENZ

Members: Mr. ASHA  
Mr. CHERNYSHEV  
Mr. LEE  
Mr. SHARP

Substitute  
Members: Sir Sydney CAINE  
Mr. de COMMINES  
Mr. ROSEN  
Mr. FOURIE

Representative of the Secretary-General:

Mr. BUSFIELD .

Secretary of the Committee:

Miss PETERSEN

3. The Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee. She proposed that they should first consider documents A/CN.2/R.17, 18, 21 and 22 concerning communications received from Mr. Charron, Mr. Jacklin, Mr. Pace and Mr. Campion who were unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting and had requested the Committee to accept as substitute members Mr. Guy de Commines, Mr. B. G. Fourie, Mr. S. McKee Rosen and Sir Sydney Caine, respectively. These designations were approved by the Committee.

2. The Chairman informed the Committee that after considerable discussion the Fifth Committee had approved the scale of assessments submitted by the Committee on Contributions and the other recommendations contained in its Report (A/1330). The draft resolution based on the Committee's recommendations had been adopted by 37 votes in favour, 7 against and 1 abstention. A report on the discussions together with the summary records of the meetings and all other relevant documents on the subject would be sent to the Members.

3. Mr. CHERNYSHEV stated that since he had not participated in the meetings in August he could not accept responsibility for the report of the Committee. He considered that the increases in certain contributions and reductions in others as recommended by the Committee were not justified, but he did not wish to bring this question up for discussion now. He wished to explain however, that the reason why he had not attended the meetings was the presence of the member recommended by the Kuomintang Group who did not rightly represent China and the Chinese people.

4. The CHAIRMAN replied that the statement made by Mr. Chernyshev regarding the Report would be inserted in the records. She had some hesitation regarding the correctness of having the other question referred to by Mr. Chernyshev in the records. The members of the Committee did not represent any Government but had been appointed by the General Assembly in their personal capacity as experts. It was in that capacity that they attended the meetings, not on the recommendation of any Government but by virtue of a decision by the General Assembly.

Mr. LEE stated that if the remarks by Mr. Chernyshev were included in the records he would consider them not as an affront to him personally but an affront to the General Assembly. If the statement by Mr. Chernyshev would not appear in the records he would also withdraw his statement otherwise he would ask that his statement be included.

Mr. S. McKee ROSEN felt it should be stressed that all members were here as independent experts who were responsible to the United Nations as a whole. They were appointed by the United Nations to carry out their function as experts and were not representing any particular Government.

Mr. CHERNYSHEV drew attention to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly for the appointment of members of the Committee. It was true that the members were appointed as experts, but as experts recommended by Governments and on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. He felt that each member had the right to have his views included in the records and he would therefore ask that his statement be included.

The CHAIRMAN agreed that if Mr. Chernyshev wished to have his statement in the records it would be included and in that case Mr. Lee's and Mr. Rosen's statements would also be inserted.

#### Adoption of the Agenda (A/CN.2/R.20)

Mr. CHERNYSHEV expressed doubts as to the advisability of including Item 4 in the agenda. He felt that at the present time the Committee did not have sufficient information on the subject to reach satisfactory conclusions. He therefore proposed that the Committee should postpone the consideration of this item until its next session when it could have more information at its disposal.

Mr. McKee ROSEN proposed that the item should remain on the agenda. It was possible that the Committee would reach the conclusions mentioned by Mr. Chernyshev but he felt that the request from the International Meteorological Organization should be discussed by the Committee at its present session.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the World Meteorological Organization had its conference in March. She had therefore decided to submit the matter to the present meeting of the Committee in order that the Committee might decide what could be done.

Mr. CHERNYSHIEV said that he did not insist on the item being deleted. He only felt that he was not yet ready to discuss the matter.

The Agenda was adopted.

#### ASSESSMENT OF INDONESIA (A/CN.2/R.16 and 19)

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Fifth Committee had decided to refer the question of the assessment of Indonesia to the Committee for urgent consideration. It had been agreed in the Fifth Committee that the assessment for Indonesia would not be included in the scale for 1951 but would be in addition to the scale of 100 per cent as submitted by the Committee. She would ask Mr. Derksen to make a statement on the statistical data available for Indonesia.

Mr. DERKSEN made a review of the statistical data available for Indonesia as presented in Document A/CN.2/R.16. He stated that no recent official national income figures for Indonesia were available. Reservations must therefore be made in respect of the results of the study made by the Statistical Office. It was difficult to appraise the actual economic conditions, but for the capacity of Indonesia to pay, account should be taken of its considerable exports of tin, rubber, oil, sugar, etc

In reply to a question by Mr. Saenz, Mr. Derksen stated that strictly on the basis of the data prepared, the assessment for Indonesia would be 0.50 per cent; this compared with 0.74 per cent for Pakistan, 3.41 per cent for India, 0.29 per cent for Philippines and 0.24 per cent for Thailand.

Mr. ASHA noted that in the document before them the per capita income for Indonesia was 30 dollars. He doubted that this was accurate when comparing it to the per capita income of the other countries listed.

In reply to a question by Mr. McKee Rosen, Mr. Derksen agreed that it would be fair to assume that in some respects the figures given for Indonesia were under-estimated as much as 25 - 30 per cent.

Mr. SHARP pointed out that in view of the trend of developments in Indonesia it would seem that the assessment could be considerably higher than the percentage given on the basis of the statistical data. He would like to know what would be the maximum percentage taking into account all the available information.

Mr. DERKSEN explained that when at the request of UNESCO a tentative estimate had been established the percentage assessment of 0.70 per cent had been given. He felt that a percentage in the neighbourhood of that figure should not be surprising to the Indonesian delegation.

The CHAIRMAN referred to A/CN.2/R.11 from which it would be seen that UNESCO had been advised that on the basis of most recent statistical information available, a tentative estimate of 0.70 per cent could be used as a basis for establishing finally the contribution by Indonesia to UNESCO.

Mr. CHERNYSHEV pointed out that Indonesia had suffered considerable war damage and that this should be given due weight in establishing the assessment. He proposed that whatever assessment was established would be only tentative and that a more detailed study should be made next year.

At the request of Mr. Asha a comparison was made with the percentage contributions to the Specialized Agencies of Indonesia and the other countries mentioned (A/CN.2/R.4)

Mr. Guy de COMMINES pointed out that the national income figures for Indonesia as compared to those for Pakistan were in the proportion of 3-5. When comparing exports however, it was found that the exports of Indonesia were about twice as much as those of Pakistan. Since capacity to pay depended to a large extent on availability of foreign exchange, it would seem that the assessment for Indonesia should be close to that of Pakistan of 0.74 per cent or may be even higher.

Sir Sydney CAINE suggested that Indonesia should be compared to Burma rather than to Pakistan, which had not suffered war damage. This would give an assessment for Indonesia of about four times that of Burma.

Mr. SAENZ said that arguments had been made for increasing as well as for decreasing the assessment. If there were good reasons for either, he suggested that it might be better to take the assessment arrived at on the basis of the statistical data, namely, 0.50 per cent.

Mr. S. McKee ROSEN recalled that an assessment of 0.70 per cent had previously been communicated to UNESCO. There would not seem to be any reasons for giving a lower assessment now than at the time when this figure was established.

Mr. SAENZ recalled that Indonesia was a new nation and it would not seem fair to welcome a new Member State by assessing it relatively high.

Mr. LEE agreed that it would not be fair to new Member States to assess them relatively high although it was easier to decrease contributions than to increase them as had been mentioned in the Committee. The Committee should base itself on the statistical data but should also take into account the trends and possibilities of development in the country.

Mr. ASHA thought that in comparison to the other countries in the region, an assessment of 0.55 per cent would seem fair.

Mr. FOURIE referring to the countries with which comparisons were made pointed out that Pakistan and Burma were also new countries. India had had the problem of partition. In fact in all the countries of comparison, special difficulties were experienced and several had suffered war damage. Too much weight should therefore not be given to this factor, but the Committee should look at the picture as a whole. It should also remember the advice given to UNESCO. A minimum of 0.50 per cent had been mentioned based on the national income estimates which were obviously wrong. An assessment in the neighborhood of that for Pakistan might be too high. An assessment of about four times that of Burma, which would give 0.70 per cent had also been suggested. If this assessment were decided upon, it

would in any case be advisable to stress that it was a tentative estimate.

Mr. SHARP felt that too much importance should not be attached to the statistical data alone and the corresponding assessment of 0.50 per cent. The Committee should base itself on all the information available. Taking all factors into account he felt the Committee could go further than 0.60 per cent.

Mr. McKee ROSEN supported the view expressed by Mr. Sharp. Referring to a statement by Mr. Derksen, he felt that an assessment of 0.70 per cent, as given to UNESCO, should not be unacceptable to the Indonesian Delegation.

Sir Sidney CAINE drew attention to the fact that the Membership of UNESCO was smaller and that therefore it would be reasonable to have a higher percentage contribution for Indonesia in the scale of UNESCO.

The CHAIRMAN explained that the figure of 0.70 per cent given to UNESCO was suggested as a tentative estimate of the assessment as it would have been in the United Nations scale and was not the final assessment in the UNESCO scale of contributions.

After further discussion, it was formally proposed by Mr. Fourie and unanimously agreed by the Committee that the assessment for Indonesia for the year 1951 should be 0.60 per cent, it being understood that this should be considered a tentative estimate to be carefully reconsidered before Indonesia was incorporated in the scale of assessments for 1952.

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the rule that the contribution of a new Member State for the year of its admission should be at least one-third of its contribution for a whole year.

Miss PETERSEN (Secretary of the Committee) recalled certain precedents which showed that in cases of Members admitted earlier in the year the number of months remaining had been taken into account.

Mr. SHARP suggested that the minimum rule should be applied to Indonesia, which had been admitted to membership at the end of September,



It was so decided.

Mr. de COMMIINES asked how Indonesia's contribution for 1950 would be used. Would it be placed in miscellaneous receipts or should it be used to reduce the contributions of other countries?

The CHAIRMAN thought that it had been understood in the Fifth Committee that it would be applied to the budget thus reducing the contributions of all other Members. She asked the representative of the Secretary-General to make a statement on this matter.

Mr. BUSFIELD (Representative of the Secretary-General) stated that under the financial regulations the contribution could not be placed in miscellaneous receipts. It could be deducted from the contributions for 1951 or kept as a surplus to be deducted from the 1952 contributions. He felt that this Committee would not necessarily have to decide the question, as the decision would be taken by the Fifth Committee.

Mr. CHERNYSHEV agreed with the representative of the Secretary-General. The question was within the Fifth Committee's competence.

Mr. FOURIE explained that several proposals had been made in the Fifth Committee. The first was that the contribution by Indonesia should be dealt with so as to provide a deduction for all Member States. The second solution would be to use the assessment to reduce the contributions of countries in whose cases such a measure was justified. He himself had suggested a compromise solution under which the Committee at its next session before incorporating the assessment of Indonesia into the scale for 1952 would re-examine the assessment of Member States whose contributions had been increased.

Mr. SHARP asked if it was not possible to disregard the financial regulations and pay the sum into miscellaneous receipts. The General Assembly was competent to take such a decision.

Mr. FOURIE thought the Fifth Committee would find a solution which would be mentioned in the Rapporteur's report.

EXAMINATION OF A REQUEST FROM THE INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION  
UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 311 (IV) B.

Mr. ROSEN suggested that the Committee should reply to the International Meteorological Organization explaining that, in view of the fundamental difference between the respective scales of contributions of that organization and the United Nations, the Committee could not give any advice.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the International Meteorological Organization's request was not covered by resolution 311 (IV) B, as the principles underlying the organization's scale of contributions differed from those underlying the contributions of Members of the United Nations. The Committee therefore could not go into the matter.

She drew the Committee's attention to the Report (A/1330) outlining the material that could be supplied to specialized agencies upon their request and suggested that she should send an official reply to the International Meteorological Organization informing it of the availability of this matter.

It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. CHERNYSHEV proposed that the Committee should entrust the Chairman with the task of drawing up a report, without calling another meeting. Her competence was well-known.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Chernyshev, but expressed a desire for the assistance of at least one member of the Committee. She suggested that Mr. Sharp would perhaps be willing to help in the preparation of the report as he had so ably done at the last session. Perhaps the Vice-Chairman who had been absent when the report was drafted last summer would also be willing to assist her.

Mr. CHERNYSHEV proposed that the Vice-Chairman should assist the Chairman in the drafting of the report.

It was agreed that the Vice-Chairman and Mr. Sharp would assist the Chairman in the drafting of the report.

OTHER BUSINESS: COMMUNICATION FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The CHAIRMAN expressed some doubt as to whether the request for information received from the Organization of American States could be dealt with under resolution 311 B(IV), as it did not come from a specialized agency.

Mr. SARNZ thought that the Organization of American States was a regional organization of the kind envisaged in the Charter. He proposed that the Committee should provide the information requested.

Mr. CHERNYSHIEV did not think that the Committee was competent to decide the question. It should be settled by the Secretary-General.

Mr. ASHA pointed out that a similar organization, the League of Arab States, might wish to submit a similar request; the Committee's decision on the matter before it would constitute a precedent.

Mr. FOURLE wondered whether the Secretary-General would be able to provide all the information requested without the consent of the Committee. He probably would not be able to give the information requested under item 5 of the Pan-American Union's communication.

Mr. DERKSEN (Statistical Office) confirmed Mr. Fourle's view.

Mr. SARNZ felt the Committee should interpret the idea of a specialized agency liberally. The Organization of American States could be considered as an agency specializing in Latin American affairs. It should therefore be given the information it had requested.

Sir Sydney CAINE did not think that the Committee was entitled to provide information to any organizations other than specialized agencies. He proposed that the Secretary-General should be informed that the Committee had no objection to the information being provided, but that it left the responsibility for a decision in the matter to him.

Mr. CHERNYSHIEV agreed with Sir Sydney Caine, since the question did not involve a specialized agency. The reply to the Secretary-General should indicate

that the Committee would have no objection if the Secretary-General considered it desirable to provide the information.

It was so decided.

Mr. FOURIE wished to clarify that this would mean that <sup>the information requested</sup> under item 5 of the communication from the Organization of American States could also be provided, which was agreed by the Committee.

The meeting rose at 1:20 p.m.