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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. Circulated herewith for the information of the Commission is a Note by the Secretary-General (E/3855) entitled "Economic Conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories".
2. The Secretary-General has communicated the Report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories mentioned in his Note, to all members of the United Nations and, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 1971 (XVIII) operative paragraph 2, he has instructed the Secretariat to bring this Report to the attention of the Commission.
3. Sufficient copies of the Report have been obtained to permit the distribution of one copy to each member and associate member delegation during the sixth session.

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its 1281st meeting on 16 December 1963 the General Assembly adopted resolution 1971 (XVIII) by which it approved the new report on economic advancement in Non-Self-Governing Territories¹ and considered that it should

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No.14 (A/5514) part II.

be studied in connexion with the reports which it had approved or noted in 1951, 1954, 1957 and 1960.^{1/}

2. In accordance with operative paragraph 2 of that resolution the Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to members of the Economic and Social Council the report on economic conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. This report was prepared by a sub-committee and approved by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Sub-Committee was composed of representatives of Ecuador, Liberia, the Philippines, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Rapporteur of the Committee also assisted in the work of the Sub-Committee. Economic experts attached to the delegations of Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America as well as the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization took an active part in the discussions.

4. In addition to studies prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations, including a number of papers prepared for the Economic Commission for Africa, the Committee and the Sub-Committee had before them a report prepared by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on "International bank loans and IDA credits for projects in Non-Self-Governing Territories" and additional information provided by the United Kingdom on land tenure reform in the African lands of Kenya. These studies and reports are considered as part of the Sub-Committee's report and are listed in the Annex thereto.

5. The particular aspects which are treated in some detail in the report include a review of general economic policy in the various Territories, development planning, agriculture, manufacturing industries, mining, labour problems and external trade.

^{1/} Ibid., Sixth Session, Supplement No.14 (A/1836); ibid., Ninth Session, Supplement No.18 (A/2729); ibid., Twelfth Session, Supplement No.15 (A/3647); and ibid., Fifteenth Session, Supplement No.15 (A/4371)

6. The Committee's discussion centred mainly on the rate of progress in the Territories and the extent to which the economic position of the indigenous inhabitants had improved. The Committee was concerned that the available information showed that since 1959 economic activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories had in general continued to rise at a slower rate than in the earlier 1950's; that most of the Territories were particularly affected by fluctuation in world market prices because they were still dependent to a considerable degree on exports of a narrow range of primary products, and that in a few Territories the approach of independence had been accompanied by an economic setback due to the slowing down of new investments, and in some cases by an outward transfer of capital.

7. Among other problems, the Committee was also concerned that the majority of the indigenous inhabitants had not yet been drawn into the more advanced sectors of the economic life of many of the Territories. Moreover, in Territories where the population included a substantial number of non-indigenous inhabitants, a considerable disparity existed between the per capita income of the indigenous and non-indigenous groups, in spite of a generally rising trend in indigenous wages.

8. This is the last report on economic conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories which will be prepared by the Committee. By resolution 1970 (XVIII) adopted on 16 December 1963, the General Assembly, considering that all United Nations activities concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories should henceforth be co-ordinated and consolidated with a view to the immediate ending of colonialism, decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. At the same time, it invited Administering Members to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as prescribed under Article 73 (e) of the Charter and requested the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study this information and take it fully into account in connexion with its activities under General Assembly resolutions 1654 (XVI) and 1810 (XVII) or any special study which it may consider necessary.