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at 10.30 a.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MURGESCU (Romania)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 70: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

1. Mrs. CESTAC (Director, Translation Division) said she regretted that the report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (A/CONF.81/16) could not be distributed until the next day. The delay was due not only to the Division's priorities when the General Assembly was in session, which made it difficult to observe the deadlines for the production of documents, but also to the shortage of Arabic translators. The second problem had been brought to the attention of the Fifth Committee; if it could be solved, it would be possible to translate all documents into Arabic promptly.

AGENDA ITEM 56: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

2. Mr. RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar) said that his delegation attached great importance to the activities of UNCTAD. He would consider various points related to several major themes of the Conference and then mention some of the priority tasks to which UNCTAD should address itself now that its fifth session was over.

3. In view of the key role of international trade in the economic development of the developing countries, it was particularly regrettable that the evaluation of the multilateral trade negotiations had compelled the Conference to note that the results achieved to date fell short of the objectives set and were characterized by non-observance of the principle of preferential treatment for the developing countries and of the promise of non-reciprocity made by the developed countries. That state of affairs was all the more regrettable because the developed countries were still imposing a number of protectionist measures against third world exports. His delegation appealed to the developed countries to keep in mind the objectives of the Tokyo Declaration in future negotiations. Renewed efforts should be made to revise GATT and to liberalize international trade in deeds as well as in words.

4. Inasmuch as commodity agreements were another key factor in economic development, the speedy implementation of Conference resolution 124 (V) was important, especially with regard to the continuation of negotiations to complete the drafting of the articles of agreement of the Common Fund and the establishment of a framework of international co-operation for the processing of primary commodities in the developing countries and the export of processed goods. Those were, however, only some of the demands of the third world countries, as reflected in the Arusha Programme.

5. As to monetary and financial issues, which particularly affected the developing countries, his delegation was concerned at the attitude taken by Group B at the Conference and felt that the adjustments made by IMF were inadequate. It urged UNCTAD to give more in-depth consideration to those questions and welcomed the fact that it had already appointed an intergovernmental group of experts to examine the proposed reform.

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(Mr. Rakotonaivo, Madagascar)

6. Turning to what he considered to be UNCTAD's priority tasks following its fifth session, he recalled the frustration and concern at Manila resulting from the inability of the participants to reach agreement on structural changes. His Government supported the proposal of the Group of 77 to establish a system of global ongoing consultations within UNCTAD and hoped that the developed countries would be able to respond positively to that proposal at future negotiations, since it was crucial to the establishment of the new international economic order.

7. With respect to institutional issues, he would welcome any measure designed to strengthen UNCTAD's permanent machinery. It would, however, be useful for the various organs of the Trade and Development Board to retain some flexibility, so that the activities of UNCTAD and other United Nations bodies could be co-ordinated. It would also be useful to strengthen the UNCTAD office in New York, particularly when major meetings were being held. In view of the important role of UNCTAD in the preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, it should ensure that its secretariat participated actively in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Decade.

8. With reference to the UNCTAD programme for island developing countries, he drew the attention of the international community to the pressing need to attain the objectives set in the Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and to provide world-wide controls on freight rates with which the developing countries concerned would be associated.

9. Because of its particular geographical position, Madagascar hoped to enjoy increased support from UNCTAD in the future. He reaffirmed the importance of UNCTAD in the establishment of the new international economic order and appealed to the political will of all Governments.

10. Mr. TUMBA (Zaire) expressed regret that, despite the impressive number of international meetings and conferences in the past few years on the establishment of the new international economic order, so little progress had been made to date. He stressed the need for increased co-operation between the developed and the developing countries and among the developing countries themselves. Because of the world economic crisis, such co-operation was imperative in a number of sectors.

11. While the developing countries had clearly stated their needs and demands in the Arusha Programme, with special emphasis on the importance of collective self-reliance, now that the fifth session of UNCTAD was over they were obliged to note that negotiations on various issues of direct concern to them apparently had a long way to go. With respect to commodities, he urged Member States to promote the speedy conclusion of the work of the Interim Committee of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund so as to allow full implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities, thus stabilizing export earnings, which were indispensable to the development of the third world. He noted with satisfaction, however, that a rubber agreement had been concluded and hoped that a cocoa agreement would soon be concluded.

12. Referring to the protectionist measures hampering the exports of manufactures

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(Mr. Tumba, Zaire)

and semi-manufactures from the developing countries, he urged the developed countries to seek to bring to a successful conclusion future negotiations concerning protectionism as well as those concerning a code of conduct on the transfer of technology that would include the appropriate legal provisions, with a view to promoting the economic development of the developing countries and particularly their industrial development.

13. It was regrettable that the negotiations on trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems had not been concluded. In another connexion, he requested the international community to give increased attention to tropical products at the multilateral trade negotiations and to ensure that all the objectives of the Tokyo Round were realized.

14. UNCTAD would be called upon to play a major role in the preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and it was regrettable that some developed countries continued to act selfishly with regard to official development assistance. He stressed the need to give the developing countries increased support through bilateral and multilateral channels. Such support should stem from the collective will of nations determined to work towards the establishment of a new international economic order based on just and equitable relations.

15. Mr. GREEN (New Zealand) said that the mixed results of the Manila Conference should not be allowed to overshadow the solid achievements in other areas of UNCTAD's work, such as the agreement reached in March on the establishment of the Common Fund. It would not be possible to judge the significance of the Conference in the context of the North-South dialogue until more time had elapsed and the processes set in motion at Manila had further developed. Nevertheless, his delegation could not avoid the conclusion that the Conference might have achieved more if it had attempted less. Although there were linkages between all development issues, that did not mean that they must all be negotiated at the same time. It would surely be more productive to narrow the focus of the agenda and to recognize that agreements reached in certain very specific areas would have repercussions in other areas. In that context, New Zealand fully supported the efforts to rationalize the work of UNCTAD, including the improved procedures of consultation among Member States and with the secretariat for determining programme priorities.

16. His country attached particular importance to the proposal to review patterns of production and trade annually in an effort to resist protectionist pressures and to promote an orderly adjustment process. It also welcomed the measures taken on behalf of the least developed countries and of those which were geographically disadvantaged. For historical and geographical reasons, his country took an especially close interest in the problems of island developing countries in view of the fact that all its closest neighbours, with the exception of Australia, fell into that category. For some years, his country had been devoting the greater part of its bilateral assistance to the island developing countries of the South Pacific, which, because of their paucity of natural resources, their small size and low population and their geographical remoteness, deserved special consideration from the international community to promote and sustain their economic development.

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(Mr. Green, New Zealand)

17. In that connexion, his delegation noted that several speakers had suggested that the criteria for defining the least developed countries should be reviewed. His delegation had always considered that the existing categories had been established for the duration of the Second Development Decade and that there should therefore be a review of the present criteria and lists in the context of the discussions on the new International Development Strategy for the 1980s.

18. Mr. BALASUBRAMANIAM (Sri Lanka) said that at the fifth session of UNCTAD the international community had tried for the first time to discuss the problem of structural change in an organized manner. By its very nature and by virtue of the multiplicity and complexity of the subjects discussed, the Manila meeting could not have been an instant success. It should be seen as part of a process which had begun in 1976 at Nairobi and which was intended to bring about a new international economic order. His country particularly welcomed the substantial progress made with respect to commodities, particularly in connexion with the Common Fund. As a major rubber producer, it was pleased to note that an international agreement had been concluded on that commodity and hoped that it would be followed by many similar agreements, and particularly by a new international agreement on cocoa, in view of the crucial importance for the majority of the developing countries of the restructuring of the world commodities market. His delegation also welcomed the decision to establish a framework of international co-operation for the marketing, distribution and processing of commodities. That would make it possible to study the problem of the protectionism practised by the developed countries, which was a major obstacle to the growth of world trade, particularly because of its adverse effects on the process of industrialization in the developing countries. His delegation also welcomed the decisions taken at the fifth session of UNCTAD with regard to monetary and financial matters, the transfer of real resources, the problem of the least-developed countries and other countries in special categories, and economic co-operation among developing countries. His country considered that economic co-operation among developing countries on the basis of the principle of collective self-reliance included a number of interesting features, such as the development of co-operation between State trading organizations of the developing countries, the establishment of multinational marketing enterprises and, more generally, the expansion of trade between developing countries.

19. Mr. GREET (Australia) said that, while the fifth session of UNCTAD had yielded some significant results, particularly in connexion with the Integrated Programme for Commodities, the least developed countries and economic co-operation among developing countries, it had also shown a tendency to discuss certain questions from a political or an unduly theoretical point of view instead of seeking practical solutions. That did not provide the most promising or fruitful means of achieving progress in the North-South dialogue. The Conference had also shown that there was an urgent need to review the current negotiating procedures. The agreement on the fundamental elements of a Common Fund was a significant success, although it was unlikely that the Fund would play a useful role unless a number of commodity agreements were concluded.

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(Mr. Greet, Australia)

20. From his country's standpoint, the multilateral trade negotiations had been a limited success in the sense that, although they had managed to slow down the tendency towards protectionism, they had basically been concerned with industrial products and had only marginally improved his country's conditions of access to world markets for those products which were its major concern. Virtually nothing had been done in relation to the crucial problem of export subsidies, which were such a significant impediment to the export opportunities of commodity-exporting countries.

21. His country was seeking to double its aid to the least developed countries as soon as possible, but its capacity to assist in a comprehensive manner was limited because his Government gave high priority to assisting the small developing countries in its own region, i.e. the Pacific. His country therefore strongly supported the principle of multilateral action through the United Nations system to assist the island developing countries and believed that UNCTAD and other multilateral organizations must adhere to the concepts of "smallness" and "remoteness" as the key criteria for determining the developing island States most in need of development assistance. It also considered that assistance to those countries should be made available in the form of grant aid. In view of the economic interdependence of the various countries, his Government firmly believed that the adoption of policies to facilitate the adjustment and flow of resources into more productive activities on a global basis would contribute to world economic growth and would thus ease individual adjustment problems. In order for that to happen, the unnecessarily political debates within UNCTAD must give way to a practical approach to the real problems, an approach which would offer a greater possibility of successful negotiation than proposals envisaging radical interference with the existing mechanisms.

22. The chief current economic problem was inflation, since it was obvious that inflation in the developed world was having severe repercussions for the developing countries. No country could ignore the need to follow an anti-inflationary policy, without which stable economic growth and vigorous expansion of international trade seemed scarcely possible, but he believed that the major industrialized countries had a clear and overriding responsibility in that regard. He considered that there was a link between inflation and protectionism. A progressive international reduction in protectionism would be a major step in assisting the growth of the developing countries. His country was prepared to play a part in that process, but its own initiatives in that area would be necessarily restricted if they were unaccompanied by complementary action on the part of the major developed countries.

23. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) said that his country belonged to the category of the least developed and that its efforts to improve its situation had been hindered by the continuing world economic crisis, by fluctuating commodity prices and by instability in convertible currencies. His country therefore believed that the Committee for Development Planning must take account of current economic realities in reviewing the criteria used in drawing up the list of least developed countries. It also urged the implementation, as a matter of urgency, of the provision in Conference resolution 122 (V) on the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, particularly with respect to the immediate action

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(Mr. Koroma, Sierra Leone)

programme for 1979-1981 and the doubling of official development assistance by 1981. While it acknowledged the positive aspects of the fifth session of UNCTAD, his country noted that the Conference had not been able to solve the problem of an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology because it had not been decided whether the code would take the form of guidelines or would constitute a binding legal instrument.

24. Reform of the international monetary system was one of the important matters on the agenda of the fifth session of the Conference. His country was concerned at the restricted nature of the practical measures for strengthening the currency reserve role of the special drawing rights, at a time when rampant inflation in the reserve currency countries and the instability in exchange rates placed a heavy burden on the developing countries. In particular there had been no consensus on the replacement of dollar assets by special drawing rights or on the linking of the allocation of special drawing rights to development financing. His country therefore urged a review of the stabilization programmes of the IMF, in keeping with previous requests made at various international fora, and an early examination of the quota system in order to determine their appropriate scale in relation to the current levels of international trade. His delegation also called for an improvement and liberalization of the existing compensatory financing facilities in the event of shortfalls in export revenues from raw materials: in particular the limits of outstanding drawing under the facilities should be increased from 75 per cent to 100 per cent and the repayment period lengthened from three to five years. In general, his country thought that the IMF should study ways of improving the utilization of the extended fund facility by its members. Referring to the question of the reverse transfer of technology, which was of particular concern to countries such as his own, he emphasized that the outflow of skilled personnel was a drain both on manpower and on the productive resources invested in human capital. His delegation considered that the best way to solve the problem would be for the United Nations and the international community to combine their efforts in order to draw up a comprehensive action-oriented programme to bring about fundamental changes in the existing structures of international economic relations.

25. Mr. SEBURYAMO (Burundi) said that the failure of the Conference to take decisions on certain matters arose from the fact that its agenda had been much too extensive. However, one extremely positive step had been the adoption by consensus of resolution 122 (V) on the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, a programme which was certainly new in comparison to resolutions 62 (III) and 98 (IV) of the Conference and comprehensive in that it covered all the key economic sectors of countries in that category. The programme envisaged two phases: an immediate programme of action for the period 1979-1981 and a substantial new programme of action for the 1980s within the framework of the new international development strategy. Phase II would be an extension of phase I, on which its success would depend; it was therefore indispensable that the international community played its full part from the outset by providing the financial support needed to carry out assistance projects in key sectors of the economy.

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(Mr. Seburyamo, Burundi)

26. Phase II would involve a much wider range of activities in four major and particularly carefully chosen areas, the first being the transformation of the main structural characteristics of the least developed countries which were the source of their extreme economic difficulties, and mitigation of the effects of their geographical or climatic handicaps. The second area was that of the social needs, whose definition had been disputed by certain delegations as being too restrictive. His delegation considered that certain other elements mentioned in paragraph 21⁴ of document TD/268/Add.1 should be included in the list of social needs. The other two major areas were concerned with long-term investments and emergency aid.

27. The substantial new programme of action for the 1980s would need global planning work which would also require the total support of the international community, particularly with regard to manpower training, since the majority of the least-developed countries had absolutely no skilled national personnel. Other noteworthy aspects of the resolution were the Conference's request to the developing countries to pay particular attention to the special difficulties of the least developed countries when formulating their economic and technical co-operation programmes and also its appeal to the donors to make full use of the more flexible arrangements for granting ODA approved at the UNCTAD meeting of donors and recipients held in November 1977.

28. A donors' round-table specifically devoted to the rural sector had just taken place in his country and his Government intended to continue organizing sectoral round-tables of that kind in order to attract multilateral and bilateral sources of financing and, with the help of UNCTAD and UNDP, to draw up pilot projects within the framework of the immediate programme of action and of the substantial new programme of action for the 1980s in order to prepare for the United Nations Conference on the least developed countries.

29. Mr. BRILLIANTES (Philippines) thanked all the delegations which had expressed their complete satisfaction at the welcome they had received at Manila and said that he did not feel obliged to give a detailed evaluation of the work of the fifth session of the Conference since Mr. Corea had already given a comprehensive account.

30. His country attached great importance to the work of the fifth session, which was a decisive moment in the struggle for development and which should be seen as an aspect of UNCTAD's role in the United Nations system. That body, set up by the General Assembly in its resolution 1995 (XIX), which had been adopted without reference to a Committee in 1964, had been granted an enormous mandate in that it had been entrusted both with promoting the expansion of international trade and of the interests of the developing countries and also with the task of generating new ideas in the field of trade and development, as was stated in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. That was why the international community must try to provide the resources and support needed to

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(Mr. Brillantes, Philippines)

ensure the implementation of the resolutions of the fifth session, particularly the resolution on economic co-operation between developing countries. The resolution envisaged three regional preparatory meetings of government experts from the developing countries for the special session of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries which was to take place early in 1980. It was very important that with the help of the United Nations the developing countries should be able to hold such meetings.

31. If the work on the Code of Conduct for the Transfer of Technology had been unsuccessful at Manila for lack of consensus, the discussions had none the less been fruitful and the atmosphere had improved. It could be said that at the nineteenth session of the Trade and Development Board, held at Geneva, the work had clearly made progress, at least with regard to the legal status of the code.

32. UNCTAD was now the principal body for discussion, negotiation, examination and implementation in the field of international trade and was therefore in the forefront of the struggle against underdevelopment. The effectiveness of that forum must therefore be increased to the greatest extent possible in order to enable it to fulfil its role more satisfactorily. The rationalization of UNCTAD's permanent machinery must be carried out within the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. The Special Intergovernmental Committee set up for that purpose would continue to study the question and would submit its report at the forthcoming session of the Trade and Development Board.

33. Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) said that in spite of its short-comings UNCTAD was one of the most important bodies of the United Nations. Since it had been established in 1964 it had launched the North-South dialogue, and for that reason it was essential to strengthen its role. According to the statement made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the fifth session of the Conference had nevertheless yielded a number of limited results, since it had made it possible to tackle the issue of structural change in the international economy in a more satisfactory manner and to emphasize the need for global negotiations between the North and the South. It was encouraging to note that, in accordance with the decisions and resolutions adopted during the fifth session of UNCTAD and the sixth summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries held at Havana, the Group of 77 had taken up consideration of a wide range of problems relating to international trade, commodities, monetary and financial issues, industrialization of developing countries and economic co-operation among developing countries.

34. At Manila and during other sessions and conferences, his country had supported resolutions relating to industrialization of developing countries, normalization of world commodity markets, the drawing up of a code of conduct on the transfer of technology, and control over the activities of transnational corporations. His delegation believed that the gap between the developing countries and the industrialized countries was not due to reasons inherent in their resources or their capabilities but that it constituted the legacy of colonialism, which had imposed an unbalanced economic structure on them and still obliged them

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(Mr. Tabibi, Afghanistan)

to serve the interests of a minority of countries, whose manoeuvres were an obstacle to efforts to establish a new international economic order.

35. His delegation wished to draw the Committee's attention to the plight of the land-locked least developed countries, on whose export earnings the extremely high cost of transporation and transit weighed heavily. They should be permitted to have free access to the sea and to benefit from transit facilities, and it was to be hoped that the new international development strategy would take their requirements into account. For that reason Afghanistan, which was a land-locked country, had warmly supported the Conference's resolutions on the least-developed countries and land-locked developing countries (122 (V) and 123 (V)) and appreciated the efforts already made in that field by UNCTAD, such as the establishment of a United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries and the adoption for their benefit of a number of principles and a convention on transit trade of land-locked States, which was now in force.

36. Much remained to be done, and it was absolutely essential that the donor countries should increase their aid to the least developed countries, particularly by contributing generously to the second window of the Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, and that all protectionist barriers should be removed.

37. Mr. CHANDLER (Barbados) said that, in spite of a number of positive results, the fifth session of UNCTAD had not made it possible to achieve a break-through on problems that it was essential to solve in order to establish a new international economic order. An examination of the reasons for that failure might make it possible to adopt a more constructive and positive approach to those problems. For some time the developing countries had been emphasizing the need to restructure the international economy in order to ensure their economic development. However, since the sixth special session of the General Assembly in 1974, the developed countries had shown little willingness to accede to the demands of the developing countries. Those demands evidently threatened their privileged position, and that apparent conflict of interests constituted the chief obstacle to the establishment of a truly equitable and stable international economic order. Although it was easy to understand the underlying reasons for the mistrust and lack of understanding that had been apparent during the fifth session of the Conference, in view of the importance of the issues involved, it was essential to undertake concerted and effective action in order to overcome the current crisis in the global economy.

38. The question of structural change was of great importance for the establishment of the new international economic order. The developing countries believed that the development process must not be a mere by-product of growth and prosperity in the developed countries and that it must not be restricted to the mere transfer of resources in the form of development aid. For their part, the developed countries were becoming increasingly aware of the need to make such changes because they had realized that the problems of recession, employment, inflation and slow growth that they had been experiencing for a number of years were not only of a cyclical nature. Furthermore, a number of them were beginning

(Mr. Chandler, Barbados)

to understand that the economic growth and prosperity of the developing countries could contribute to their own economic recovery.

39. In one of the reports that he had submitted during the fifth session of the Conference (TD/221), the Secretary-General of the Conference had noted that the question of structural change had two basic aspects. The first aspect concerned the methods that would make it possible, in formulating policies at the national and global level, to take into account the interdependence between problems relating to trade, development and monetary questions. The other aspect related to the need for an evolution in the rules and principles that had hitherto governed international economic relations. With regard to the first point, the Secretary-General had suggested that the Conference should take a decision to establish appropriate machinery. With regard to the second point, he had suggested that the Conference should initiate longer-term action that might eventually lead to a recasting of those rules and principles so that they should be more relevant to current needs. Although UNCTAD had not acted on those suggestions, his delegation believed that it was not too late to do so. However, if progress was to be made regarding structural change and the interdependence of problems relating to trade, development and monetary questions, the developed countries, having become aware of those problems, must adopt specific remedial measures, and the developing countries must enhance their bargaining and negotiating power in order to be in a position to promote the necessary changes.

40. Moreover, the preparations for the new international development strategy and the new round of global negotiations that was to take place at the request of the developing countries would offer a splendid opportunity to resolve the basic issues that had remained unsettled during the fifth session of the Conference.

41. His delegation also wished to draw the Committee's attention to the two reports respectively entitled Action programme in favour of developing island countries (A/34/544) and Assistance to Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent (A/34/563), submitted under the item under consideration. With regard to the first report, it was encouraging to note the interest aroused by the special problems confronting island developing countries. However, although that report did indicate that most of the organizations within the United Nations system had implemented General Assembly resolution 32/185, it also emphasized the need to establish greater and more coherent programmes of assistance to island developing countries. In that regard, his delegation wished to stress the importance of UNCTAD resolution 111 (V) on specific action to meet the particular needs and problems of island developing countries and called upon the international community, particularly the various bodies within the United Nations system, to give it their fullest support.

42. With regard to the second report, which concerned action taken pursuant to General Assembly resolution 33/152, his delegation was not satisfied with the manner in which that document was drawn up. Moreover, in a number of instances the report failed to state whether operative paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned resolution had been implemented by the bodies to which it referred. However, a number of the countries that were the subject of that resolution had fortunately attained independence during the period under review and could speak for themselves at the United Nations.

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43. Mr. LOPEZ PAZ (Cuba) said the developing countries had always believed that UNCTAD had a role of primary importance to play in the consideration of international economic problems. However, the efforts of those countries to improve their economic situation through international negotiations had yielded virtually no results.

44. It was undeniable that problems relating to trade, commodities, science and technology, and monetary and financial issues had grown worse. Moreover, the gap that separated the developed countries from the developing countries continued to widen. Whereas the prices of manufactures produced in the developed capitalist countries rose at a rapid pace, the prices of the primary products exported by the developing countries were constantly fluctuating, which worsened their terms of trade. The international monetary situation, instability in exchange rates, inflation, customs barriers, protectionist practices and the external debt had disastrous consequences for the countries of the third world; the only remedy for that state of affairs was to restructure the world economy.

45. In the interest of the international community, the developed countries had called on UNCTAD to establish a system of global consultations with a view to regulating the economic policies pursued by the major industrialized countries. It had not been possible to fulfil that legitimate aspiration, owing to opposition from a large group of developed countries, whose intransigent attitude had, in particular, been denounced at the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana.

45a. Moreover, his delegation believed that the question of relations among countries having different economic and social systems was worth developing within UNCTAD and that it would be useful to hold consultations with a view to ensuring better understanding and an increase in exchanges between the developing countries and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe, on the basis of the provisions of resolution 95 (IV) adopted at Nairobi and the conclusions of the Arusha meeting.

46. His delegation felt that it would be desirable for UNCTAD to continue to consider problems relating to maritime transport and multimodal transport, in view of the importance of those questions to the developing countries, and in particular, it invited the secretariat of the Conference to update the studies on the role of multinational shipping enterprises in the economy of developing countries and on the outcome of initiatives to establish multinational shipping enterprises in order to promote the economic development and the sovereignty of those countries.

47. With regard to the code of conduct on the transfer of technology, it was essential to continue and develop the work done so far.

48. His delegation considered it essential to continue to give special treatment to the least developed countries and the most seriously affected, land-locked or island developing countries and wished to point out in that connexion that the sixth summit conference of the non-aligned countries had stressed the need to adopt without delay special measures to remedy the serious problems experienced

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(Mr. Lopez Paz, Cuba)

by those countries. Consequently, no effort should be spared in implementing the programme of action contained in UNCTAD resolution 122 (V) and the provisions of UNCTAD resolutions 111 (V) and 123 (V).

49. Mr. RAMOS (Cape Verde) said that, the inadequacy of the results achieved at the fifth session of the Conference, particularly with regard to problems relating to trade, commodities, transfer of technology, and monetary and financial issues, indicated the extent of the developing countries' disappointment. Since the preceding speakers had stated in detail the reasons for that failure, he would merely add that the problems in question could only grow worse if a majority of the developed countries did not see fit to display a greater political will in response to the legitimate demands of the developing countries.

50. However, it should be recognized that UNCTAD's record had not been entirely negative. For example, the problems of the least developed countries and the land-locked or island developing countries had been given in-depth consideration, and in that connexion the adoption of the comprehensive new programme of action for the least developed countries was to be welcomed. It was now essential to take the necessary steps to implement that programme in accordance with the wishes and priorities of those countries. Among measures that should be taken in behalf of the least developed countries, it would be necessary to double the amount of official development assistance they received, to grant them non-reciprocal preferential treatment and to transfer appropriate technology to them.

51. His delegation also welcomed the Plan of Action for island developing countries. The fact that a number of those countries were also among the least developed was not a coincidence but was due to the special problems they experienced (remoteness from markets, inter-island transport, lack of infrastructure and natural resources, etc.), which rendered their development all the more difficult.

52. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's gratitude to the UNCTAD secretariat for the efforts it was making in the fields within its competence, particularly for its action on behalf of the least developed countries and the island developing countries.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

53. The CHAIRMAN after an exchange of views with Mr. RAY (India) and Miss BARRINGTON (Ireland), suggested that the Committee should postpone informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.2 on marine pollution.

54. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.