

# UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Distr. GENERAL

A/35/3/Add.8\* 4 September 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fifth session

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

CHAPTER VIII

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

<sup>\*</sup> The present document is a mimeographed version of chapter VIII of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1980. The full report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/35/3/Rev.1). For the contents, see A/35/3 and Corr. 1.

- 1. The Economic and Social Council considered the question of transnational corporations at its second regular session of 1980 under agenda item 12.
- 2. For its consideration of the item, the Council had before it an extract from the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its sixth session (E/1980/L.46), 1/ which contained two draft resolutions and three draft decisions recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Council.
- 3. At its 23rd meeting, on 2 May 1980, the Council allocated the item to the First (Economic) Committee, which considered it at the 19th to 21st meetings, on 17, 18 and 22 July 1980. For the report of the Committee on this item, see document E/1980/96.

#### ACTION BY THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

## Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority regimes in that area

4. At the 20th meeting, the Committee adopted, by a roll-call vote of 32 to 5, with 7 abstentions, a draft resolution entitled "Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régimes in that area". The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Dominican Republic,
Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Hungary, India,
Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico,
Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Thailand,
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates,
United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania,
Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Turkey.

The draft resolution was submitted to the Council as draft resolution I. For action by the Council, see paragraph 15 (a) below.

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<sup>1/</sup> To be issued in Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 10 (E/1980/40).

<sup>2/</sup> The representative of Japan informed the Committee that his delegation had intended to abstain on the draft resolution. The representatives of Barbados, Ecuador and Trinidad and Tobago stated that, had they been present at the time of the vote, their delegations would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

## Progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order and obstacles that impede it; the role of transnational corporations

5. Also at the 20th meeting, the Committee adopted a draft resolution entitled "Progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order and obstacles that impede it; the role of transnational corporations" and submitted it to the Council as draft resolution II. For action by the Council, see paragraph 15 (b) below.

## Draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations" and submitted it to the Council as draft decision I. For action by the Council, see paragraph 15 (c) below.

### Sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct" and submitted it to the Council as draft decision II. For action by the Council, see paragraph 15 (c) below.

#### Sessions of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Sessions of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting" and submitted it to the Council as draft decision III. For action by the Council, see paragraph 15 (c) below.

## Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its sixth session

9. Also at that meeting, the Committee adopted a decision whereby the Council would take note of the final report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations and would transmit it to the General Assembly for consideration at its eleventh special session. The recommendation was submitted to the Council as draft decision IV. For action by the Council, see paragraph 15 (c) below.

# United Nations conferences to conclude a code of conduct on transnational corporations and an international agreement on illicit payments

10. At the 21st meeting, the Committee considered draft decision E/1980/C.1/L.22,

which was sponsored by States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77. 3/ The draft decision was orally corrected by the sponsors at that meeting.

- 11: The Committee then considered a draft resolution entitled "International agreement on illicit payments", which was sponsored by the United States of America.
- 12. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to recommend that the Council should transmit both draft decision E/1980/C.1/L.22 and the draft resolution entitled "International agreement on illicit payments" to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-fifth session. The recommendation was submitted to the Council as draft decision V. For action by the Council, see paragraph 15 (c) below.

#### ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

- 13. At the 44th meeting, on 24 July 1980, the Council considered the draft resolutions and draft decisions recommended by the Committee in its report (E/1980/96, para. 19).
- 14. In connexion with draft decisions II and III contained in the report, the Council had before it a statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the draft decisions (E/1980/L.55 and Corr. 1).
- 15. After a statement by the representative of India, who pointed out corrections that should be made in connexion with draft decision V, the Council took the following action:
- (a) Draft resolution I was adopted by 28 votes to 5, with 6 abstentions; for the final text, see the annex below, Council resolution 1980/59; 4/
- (b) Draft resolution II was adopted; for the final text, see the annex below, Council resolution 1980/60;
- (c) Draft decisions I to IV, and draft decision V, as orally corrected, were adopted; for the final texts, see the annex below, Council decisions 1980/170, 1980/171, 1980/172, 1980/173 and 1980/174, respectively.
- 16. Statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, Finland, Turkey, Belgium (on behalf of States members of the Council which are members of the European Economic Community) and Trinidad and Tobago (see E/1980/SR.44).

<sup>3</sup>/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>4/</sup> After the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Spain stated that had the members of his delegation been present during the vote, they would have abstained (see E/1980/SR.44). At the 45th meeting. 25 July, the representative of Argentina stated that had the members of his delegation been present during the vote, they would have voted in favour of the resolution (see E/1980/SR.45).

#### ANNEX

## Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council under agenda item 12 a/

Resolution 1980/59. Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régimes in that area

#### The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling also the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its third, fourth and fifth sessions on the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régimes in that area,  $\underline{b}/$ 

Recalling further the Maputo Declaration in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia and Programme of Action for the Liberation of Zimbabwe and Namibia, c/the Lagos Declaration for Action against Apartheid d/and General Assembly resolution S-9/2 of 3 May 1978,

Having considered the report of the Secretariat entitled "In-depth analysis of the role of transnational corporations in the industrial, military and nuclear sectors of South Africa", e/

a/ A compilation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 1980 will be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement Nos. 1, 1A and 1B (E/1980/80 and Add.1 and 2).

b/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/5986), para. 14, and ibid., 1978, Supplement No. 12 (E/1978/52 and Corr. 1-3), para. 1.

c/ A/32/109/Rev.1-S/12344/Rev.1, annex V; for the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1977, document S/12344/Rev.1.

d/ Report of the World Conference for Action against Apartheid, Lagos, 22 to 26 August 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.XIV.2 and Corrigendum), sect. X.

e/ E/C.10/66.

Gravely concerned at the continued collaboration by transnational corporations with the racist minority régime of South Africa in contravention of United Nations resolutions,

Also gravely concerned about the adverse trends in the policies of some home Governments of transnational corporations which encourage such corporations to continue to collaborate with the racist minority régime of South Africa in violation of United Nations resolutions and in defiance of the legitimate aspirations of the oppressed peoples,

Considering that the cessation of the activities of transnational corporations in the area would constitute an important step in the struggle against the racist minority régime,

Conscious of the heroic resistance currently mounted by various sections of the oppressed people of southern Africa against the racist minority régime of South Africa,

Gravely concerned at the recent intensification of repressive measures by the racist minority régime to entrench the inhuman apartheid system and to thwart the legitimate aspirations of the oppressed peoples of southern Africa,

Conscious of the continued need to enlist the active support of the home Governments of transnational corporations which operate in South Africa and Namibia,

Welcoming as a positive step measures taken by some home Governments to curtail the activities of their transmational and other corporations in southern Africa,

Mindful of the imperative need to maintain and strengthen international solidarity in support of the legitimate struggle of the oppressed peoples in southern Africa for self-determination and independence,

Gravely concerned further at the defiant refusal of the racist minority régime of South Africa to co-operate with the Security Council and the international community generally in the solution of the Namibian problem,

Recognizing the importance of mobilizing world public opinion against the involvement and collaboration of transnational corporations with the racist minority régime of South Africa,

- 1. Notes with appreciation the report entitled "In-depth analysis of the role of translational corporations in the industrial, military and nuclear sectors of South Africa":
- 2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the oppressed peoples of southern Africa to self-determination and permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and all economic activities;
- 3. Strongly condemns the exploitation of the natural resources of Namibia by transnational corporations without the authority or sanction of the United Nations Council for Namibia, in contravention of its Decree No. 1, enacted on 27 September 1974, f/ and General Assembly resolution 32/9 of 4 November 1977.

f/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session,
Supplement No. 24A (A/9624 Add.1), para. 84. The Decree was issued in final form in Namibia Gazette No. 1.

- 4. Reiterates that the activities of transnational corporations in the area and their collaboration with the racist minority régime are detrimental to the interests of the oppressed peoples in South Africa and Namibia;
- 5. Recognizes the urgent need to take further and effective measures, including sanctions, in order to terminate the continuing collaboration by transnational and other corporations with the racist minority régime of South Africa;
- 6. <u>Calls upon</u> all Governments to adhere strictly to and ensure the effective implementation of sanctions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council relating to South Africa;
- 7. Strongly condemns the continued investments and operations of transnational corporations in southern Africa, their exploitation of black labour and their continued collaboration with the racist minority régime of South Africa in contravention of United Nations resolutions, thereby contributing to the perpetuation of oppression and other inhuman practices perpetrated against the majority of the population of southern Africa by the racist minority régime;
- 8. <u>Deplores</u> the manoeuvres of the racist minority régime of South Africa and companies and transnational corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia to weaken the existing African trade union movement through the establishment of so-called parallel trade unions and the harassment and persecution of officials of independent African trade unions;
- 9. <u>Urges</u> all transnational corporations to comply fully with the relevant United Nations resolutions by terminating all further investments in the area and by ending their collaboration with the racist minority régime;
- 10. Calls upon all Governments which have not yet done so to take legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures in respect of their nationals and transnational corporations of their nationality owning or operating enterprises in the area, in order to put an end to such activities;
- 11. Calls further upon all States to terminate all forms of collaboration by their nationals and by transnational and other corporations of their nationality with the racist minority régime of South Africa and, in particular:
- $(\underline{a})$  To refrain from supplying petroleum, petroleum products or other strategic materials to the racist minority régime;
- (b) To refrain from extending loans, investments and technical assistance to the racist minority régime of South Africa and to corporations registered in South Africa and Namibia;
- (c) To prohibit economic and financial interests under their national jurisdiction from co-operating with the racist minority régime and enterprises registered in South Africa and Namibia;
- $(\underline{d})$  To refrain from exploiting the natural resources of Namibia in contravention of the decrees of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

- (e) To refrain from all activities which may directly or indirectly contribute to the strengthening of the military capability of the racist minority régime;
- $(\underline{f})$  To deny tariff and other preferences to exports from South Africa and Namibia, as well as any inducements or guarantees for investment and trade in the area;
- (g) To prohibit all persons and enterprises of their nationality from making any royalty or tax payments or from knowingly transferring any assets or other financial resources, in contravention of United Nations resolutions, to South Africa and Namibia, to facilitate trade with or investments in those countries;

#### 12. Requests the Secretary-General:

- (a) To instruct the Secretariat to continue its useful research on the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régime of South Africa;
- $(\underline{b})$  To submit to the Commission on Transnational Corporations, at its seventh session, an addendum to its reports on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia, bringing up to date the information and analysis contained therein;
- (c) To continue to collect and publicize information on the activities of transnational corporations which collaborate directly or indirectly with the racist minority régime of South Africa in contravention of United Nations resolutions;
- (d) To organize symposia, workshops, seminars and other programmes of enlightenment, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies concerned, with a view to educating the general public in the home countries of transnational corporations on the activities of those corporations in southern Africa and the extent of their collaboration with the racist minority régime of South Africa.

44th plenary meeting 24 July 1980

Resolution 1980/60. Progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order and obstacles that impede it: the role of transnational corporations

#### The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 33/198 of 29 January 1979 on preparations for its special session in 1980, the Assembly invited "the governing bodies of the organs and organizations concerned within the United Nations system to assess, within their respective areas of competence, the progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order, as well as to indicate the obstacles that impede its establishment ... with a view to submitting comprehensive reports to the Assembly at its special session in 1980",

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of

12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling further its resolutions 1908 (LVII) of 2 August 1974 and 1913 (LVII) of 5 December 1974 establishing the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations,

Recalling also its resolutions 1978/73 of 12 October 1978 and 1979/75 of 3 August 1979 on the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régimes in that area,

Recognizing that the fundamental purpose of the new international economic order is based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and co-operation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which will correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, making it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations,

Recognizing further the importance of the fundamental principles of the new international development strategy,

Having considered the report of the Secretariat entitled "Progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order: the role of transnational corporations", g/

Noting the value of providing a framework in the countries in which transnational corporations operate by which generally beneficial relations among all parties concerned can be enhanced,

Noting also that although the interests of transnational corporations and of the countries in which they operate can be divergent, transnational corporations play a significant role in the areas of industrialization, financial resources, commodities, trade, science and technology, and food and agriculture,

Noting that the pattern of the activities of transnational corporations has not yet changed so as to realize their full potential to contribute to progress towards redressing the economic imbalance between developed and developing countries and towards enhancing the capacity of developing countries for self-reliant development, and recognizing therefore that substantial adaptation is called for to achieve the necessary change,

Convinced that the capacity of countries in which transnational corporations operate, particularly developing countries, to deal with those corporations has to be strengthened,

Aware of the right of each Government to have a regulatory system in order to ensure that the activities of transnational corporations are carried out in accordance with national objectives,

Recognizing that national action in this regard should be supplemented by effective intergovernmental co-operation and appropriate international arrangements,

g/ E/C.10/74.

Convinced that a universally accepted, comprehensive and effective code of conduct is an important element in such national and international efforts and that it will make an essential contribution to the new international economic order,

Considering that the progress made in the formulation of a code of conduct, has not met the expectations of all, and stressing the need for its early conclusion,

- 1. Takes note of the report entitled "Progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order: the role of transnational corporations", prepared by the United Nations Secretariat, and decides to submit it to the General Assembly for consideration at its eleventh special session;
- 2. Recommends that efforts should be intensified by all parties concerned, with the aim of enhancing the contribution of transnational corporations towards the establishment of the new international economic order, thereby also contributing towards the achievement of the individual and collective self-reliance of developing countries;
- 3. Also recommends that the individual and collective self-reliance of developing countries should be enhanced, inter alia, by strengthening their negotiating capacity in their dealings with transnational corporations, particularly in financing and investment, science and technology, management, production and marketing, and by improving their capacity to regulate and accordingly to monitor the activities of transnational corporations;
- 4. <u>Invites</u> the General Assembly at its eleventh special session to bear in mind the importance of the work on the code of conduct and the results achieved so far in this regard, as reflected in the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its sixth session; h/
- 5. Considers in particular that the code of conduct, which is of the highest priority in the work of the Commission, will be an essential contribution to the accomplishment of the goals of the new international development strategy and the new international economic order;
  - 6. Affirms that the code of conduct should, inter alia:
  - (a) Be effective, comprehensive, generally accepted and universally adopted;
- $(\underline{b})$  Associate effectively the activities of transnational corporations with the efforts to establish the new international economic order and their capabilities with the developmental objectives of the developing countries;
- (c) Reflect the principle of respect by transnational corporations for the national sovereignty, laws and regulations of the countries in which they operate, and for the established policies of those countries and the right of States to regulate and accordingly to monitor the activities of transnational corporations;

h/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 10 (E/1980/40).

- (<u>d</u>) Encourage the contribution that transnational corporations can make towards the achievement of developmental goals and the established objectives of the countries in which they operate, particularly the developing countries;
- (e) Proscribe subversion, interference in the internal affairs of countries and other inadmissible activities by transnational corporations which aim to undermine the political and social systems of the countries in which they operate;
- (f) Deal in the most effective and appropriate manner with the issue of the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia, recognizing that concern was widely expressed in the Commission on Transnational Corporations, in the context of the struggle against apartheid, at the collaboration of transnational corporations with the racist minority régime;
- (g) Include provisions relating to the treatment of transnational corporations, jurisdiction and other related matters;
- $(\underline{h})$  Provide appropriate arrangements for the effective implementation of the code;
- $(\underline{i})$  Be considered as an integrated whole in which all the parts are related to each other;
- 7. Affirms also that the draft code should be completed before the seventh session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations in 1981 and that the code should be expeditiously adopted by all members of the international community;
- 8. Reaffirms that the Commission on Transnational Corporations is the forum within the United Nations system for the comprehensive and in-depth consideration of issues relating to transnational corporations, and for the promotion of the exchange of views among all parties concerned, as mentioned in paragraph 3 (b) of Council resolution 1913 (LVII) of 5 December 1974;
- 9. Further reaffirms that, under the guidance of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations is the central unit in the United Nations system at the Secretariat level for work on matters related to transnational corporations having due regard to the need for co-ordination, that it should pursue its important activities in accordance with its programme of work and that its resources should be commensurate with its work programme.

44th plenary meeting 24 July 1980

Decision 1980/170. Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 24 July 1980, the Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, as set out below:

#### Provisional agenda

- 1. Report on the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations.
- 2. Work related to the formulation of a code of conduct.
- 3. Comprehensive information system:
  - (a) Establishment of a comprehensive information system;
  - (b) International standards of accounting and reporting.
- 4. Technical co-operation.
- 5. Studies on the effects of the operations and practices of transnational corporations:
  - (a) Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with racist minority régimes in that area;
  - (b) Other studies;
  - (c) Review of ongoing and future research.
- 6. Work related to the definition of transnational corporations.
- 7. Question of experts/advisers.

#### Documentation

Item 1: Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

Report on the activities of the joint units

Proposed programme budget on transnational corporations for the biennium 1982-1983

- Item 2: Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct
- Item 3(a): Progress report on the establishment of a comprehensive information system
  - (b): Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting
- Item 4: Report on the programme of technical co-operation on matters related to transnational corporations
- Item 5(a): Addendum to previous reports on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia

(c): Aspects of balance-of-payments effects of the operations of transnational corporations

Transnational corporations in the pharmaceutical industry in developing countries

Aspects of the socio-political effects of the activities of transnational corporations

Review of ongoing and future research

Item 7: Note by the Secretariat

Decision 1980/171. Sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 24 July 1980, the Council decided to authorize the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct to hold three sessions before the seventh session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the first of which will be held before the end of 1980.

Decision 1980/172. Sessions of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental
Group of Experts on International
Standards of Accounting and Reporting

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 24 July 1980, the Council decided to authorize the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting to hold three sessions before the seventh session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the first of which will be held in the last quarter of 1980.

Decision 1980/173. Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its sixth session

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 24 July 1980, the Council took note of the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its sixth session, i/ and decided to transmit it to the General Assembly for consideration at its eleventh special session.

Decision 1980/174. United Nations conferences to conclude a code of conduct on transnational corporations and an international agreement on illicit payments

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 24 July 1980, the Council decided to transmit

i/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 10 (E/1980/40).

the texts of a draft decision  $\underline{j}$  and a draft resolution,  $\underline{k}$  annexed to the present decision, to the General Assembly for further consideration at its thirty-fifth session.

#### ANNEX

#### Draft decision

The Economic and Social Council decides:

- (a) To convene a United Nations conference to adopt a code of conduct on transnational corporations in the last quarter of 1981;
- $(\underline{b})$  To convene a United Nations conference to adopt an international agreement on illicit payments in the last quarter of 1981;
- $(\underline{c})$  That the United Nations conference to adopt an international agreement on illicit payments will be convened only after the completion of the work of the United Nations conference on the adoption of a code of conduct on transnational corporations.

#### Draft resolution

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1978/71 of 4 August 1978, in which, inter alia, it decided in principle to convene if possible in 1980 and subject to a definitive decision by the Council at its second regular session of 1979, a conference of plenipotentiaries to conclude an international agreement on illicit payments,

Recalling also its decision 1979/73 of 3 August 1979, by which the Council decided to transmit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session two draft resolutions regarding the convening of a negotiating conference and a conference of plenipotentiaries,

Noting the substantial preparatory work for a conference of plenipotentiaries which was completed by the Committee on an International Agreement on Illicit Payments and recorded in the Committee's report on its first and second sessions, 1/

Emphasizing the importance to all countries of early action on a treaty to combat bribery and extortion in international commercial transactions, which distort commerce and trade, weaken the political and social fabric of countries where such acts occur and adversely affect consumer and other interests,

- 1. Decides to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries to conclude an international agreement on illicit payments, to meet not later than 30 June 1981;
  - 2. Invites all States to participate in that conference.

j/ E/1980/C.1/L.22.

k/ E/1980/C.1/L.23.

<sup>1/</sup> E/1979/104.