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CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 44: United Nations Institute for Training and Research: report of the Executive Director (<i>concluded</i>) Adoption of the Committee's draft report	267
Agenda item 42: One day of war for peace	267
Agenda item 12: Reports of the Economic and Social Council (A/7603, chapters I to VII, X, XI (sections C, D, F, G, H and J) and XIII; A/7203, paragraphs 764 to 770) (<i>continued</i>) Proposed amendment to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly	268
Agenda item 43: The role of the United Nations in training national technical personnel for the accelerated industrialization of the developing countries: report of the Secretary- General (<i>continued</i>)	270
Centenary of the opening of the Suez Canal	271

Chairman: Mr. Costa P. CARANICAS (Greece).

AGENDA ITEM 44

**United Nations Institute for Training and Research:
report of the Executive Director (*concluded*)**

**ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE'S
DRAFT REPORT (A/C.2/L.1070)**

1. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt its draft report on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/C.2/L.1070).

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 42

One day of war for peace (A/7183 and Add.1, A/7669)

2. Mr. RABEARIVELO (Madagascar) said that, at the suggestion of the Governments of Cambodia, Gabon and Madagascar (see A/7183 and Add.1), the item "One day of war for peace" had been included in the agenda of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly. On 17 December 1968, the Assembly had adopted resolution 2418 (XXIII) deferring consideration of the item to the twenty-fourth session. The aim of the proposers of the item remained unchanged: to seek all possible means of promoting economic and social development by emphasizing

the fight against disease, hunger, poverty and illiteracy. The idea of devoting part of the savings made possible by disarmament to development was not new; a statement on the subject had been included in General Assembly resolution 724 A (VIII) and, at its twenty-third session, the Assembly had adopted resolution 2387 (XXIII) on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament. Without development there could be no real and lasting peace and without peace there could be no real development. Disarmament and the reduction of military expenditures were the essential conditions of peace; there seemed sufficient reason, therefore, for proposing "one day of war for peace". For real development, economic growth must be accompanied by social progress; that was why the proposers of the item had advocated that part of the resources released by disarmament should be devoted to improving the social situation in the developing world. The validity of the proposal had been confirmed by the fact that, during the general debate on the Second United Nations Development Decade, speakers had said that social matters had been somewhat neglected during the First Development Decade.

3. Several delegations had emphasized the difficulty of putting the proposal into effect. It had been said that there was no direct link between the measures proposed and disarmament proper. His delegation was prepared, in co-operation with the Committee, to seek the best and most acceptable way of linking disarmament to the item under discussion. One delegation had drawn attention to the fact that, since their military expenditures differed, not all countries would be making an equal contribution to the project. After reflecting on that point, the Governments concerned had decided that States themselves must be allowed to decide the amount and the form of their contribution. Some countries might find it difficult to secure parliamentary approval for the contribution, it was considered, however, that a flexible formula under which States would not be obliged to make the contribution could be devised. A group of delegations was preparing a draft resolution which would be submitted at a later date.

4. Mr. TADJO (Ivory Coast) said that, if one tenth of the resources allocated annually to military expenditure were allocated instead to development, the target transfer of 1 per cent of the developed countries' gross national product to developing countries would be exceeded. For lack of mutual confidence, the international community was finding it difficult to reach agreement on complete and general disarmament accompanied by controls. Yet, through the very large resources it would release for development, general disarmament would provide the conditions for true and lasting peace. The aims of the proposal under discussion were that States should give evidence of their peaceful intentions by disarming for one day a year,

and that one day's military expenditure should be allocated to a United Nations peace fund, aims which were much more realistic than the General Assembly resolutions on the conversion to peaceful uses of the resources released by disarmament. It would, of course, be difficult to determine how much each country should contribute, but in the initial stages it was the gesture, not the amount of the contribution, that counted. The international community was already doing much to relieve the misery of the underprivileged peoples of the world, and by promoting development it was promoting peace. The existence of a United Nations peace fund would, however, ensure that greater emphasis was placed on the interdependence of peace and development.

5. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) proposed that the debate should be closed but that the item should be left open for discussion of the draft resolution.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Reports of the Economic and Social Council (A/7603, chapters I to VII, X, XI (sections C, D, F, G, H and J) and XIII; A/7203, paragraphs 764 to 770) (continued)* (A/C.2/L.1003, A/C.2/L.1057)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6. Mr. AHMED (Pakistan) said that it was appropriate that the Council, which was the organ responsible for co-ordinating activities within the United Nations system, should have amended rule 80 of its rules of procedure along the lines indicated in the note submitted by the Chairman of the Second Committee (A/C.2/L.1003) during the twenty-third session of the General Assembly. The Assembly, however, was the supreme organ in the United Nations system and his delegation was averse to tying its hands in the manner suggested in Economic and Social Council resolution 1374 (XLV). The General Assembly should be free to act as its Members felt necessary. His delegation recognized the need to co-ordinate activities, but that need was met, so far as the Assembly was concerned, by the existing arrangement whereby the Second Committee benefited from the presence at its discussions of representatives of the specialized agencies and IAEA. If it adopted the Council's recommendation, the Assembly would be hampered in its activities and would encounter delays in dealing with important economic, social and humanitarian subjects. It was probable, for instance, that, if the rule recommended had been in existence from the beginning, UNCTAD and UNIDO would not have been established. There were often occasions when Assembly action was needed to stimulate progress in matters for which a given specialized agency was responsible. The Assembly had, for instance, decided to act on the protein problem, despite the fact that several specialized agencies were concerned with it. For those reasons, Pakistan could not support the Council's recommendation.

7. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) endorsed the comments of the Pakistan representative. The Council and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination were quite rightly concerned that steps should be taken to ensure the effective co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system. It was necessary, however, to take account of the realities of the international situation. *Apartheid*, for instance, was being dealt with by various specialized agencies such as the ILO and UNESCO, but their approach was quite different from that of the General Assembly. Indeed, discussions in the Council, at its forty-seventh session, of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations had shown that, whereas most specialized agencies had taken steps to implement the relevant General Assembly resolutions, some of them, including IBRD, had not extended their full co-operation in implementing the resolutions. If the Council's recommendation was adopted, the General Assembly would be deprived of its freedom to deal with such matters as *apartheid* as it saw fit. As the Pakistan representative had pointed out, existence of the proposed rule would have precluded the General Assembly from establishing UNCTAD and UNIDO despite the fact that the manner in which the General Assembly would want to address itself to the problems of industrialization and trade and development was different from that of the specialized agencies dealing with certain aspects of those problems. The recommendation was a dangerous one and the Committee should reject it.

8. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) said that Ghana's reactions to the Council recommendation, contained in operative paragraph 2 of its resolution 1374 (XLV), were similar to those of Pakistan and the United Republic of Tanzania. The recommendation should be set aside. The Council's motives were laudable, but there was no reason why they should be formulated into a rule of procedure. Member States could be requested to ensure that any proposals they might make were not already covered by existing projects or documentation. The Pakistan and Tanzanian representatives had already drawn attention to the fact that the proposed rule would have precluded the establishment of UNCTAD and UNIDO which, despite their shortcomings, were doing useful work. In practice, the specialized agencies did not completely fulfil their terms of reference and it therefore became necessary to establish new organizations to do the work left undone. It was true that, judging by the various agencies' terms of reference, there was duplication within the United Nations system, but terms of reference were not the only criteria for determining whether or not work was in fact duplicated. Adoption of the proposal in paragraph 2 of the proposed new rule (see A/L.2/L.1003) would detract from the Assembly's sovereign rights and place the Secretary-General in an invidious position. Often the implications of a proposal would be political in character and the General Assembly should be free to reach its own decision on a proposal. Paragraph 3 of the proposed rule was vague and by adopting it the General Assembly would add to its problems.

9. His delegation formally proposed that the Committee should decide to defer indefinitely consideration of the proposed amendment and request Member States to consult

* Resumed from the 1269th meeting.

the specialized agencies and IAEA before proposing an item of direct or indirect concern to those agencies.

10. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said that he had been interested to hear the reconsidered views of three delegations with whom he had been associated in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, two of which had representation in the Council, when both those bodies had discussed the proposal before the Committee.

11. In no sense would the proposed rule restrict the complete freedom of the General Assembly to act, to place any item on its agenda or to consider any proposal. A similar rule in the rules of procedure of the Council had not had that effect, and had not, either in the Council or in the governing bodies of those agencies with a similar rule, resulted in the inordinate delays it was feared would arise in the Assembly. The proposal would enable the General Assembly to inform itself systematically of activities carried out by specialized agencies which might be affected by any proposal before it. In a sense, what was involved was merely a codification of existing practice; for example, when problems had arisen in connexion with the establishment of UNIDO, the matter had been discussed with the ILO and the *modus vivendi* which had then emerged had since been converted, through the efforts of both organizations, into a *modus operandi*. If the Committee decided to defer the matter, that would bind neither the Committee nor the General Assembly at future sessions. He therefore had spoken because he believed that both sides of the question should be presented.

12. Mr. DUBEY (India) said that the proposed rule had crucial implications for the role of the General Assembly in the organizational structure of the United Nations and for the successful pursuit of economic and social activities. The motivation behind the proposal was good, a position on the issue had already been taken in other forums in the context of their rules of procedure, and from the technical point of view the proposal was all right. However, it had more fundamental implications and might constitute a barrier to the economic and social development of the developing countries carried on through the activities of the United Nations.

13. The General Assembly occupied a different position in the United Nations structure from other organs, constituting, in a sense, the court of final appeal. It should therefore have broader discretion if it was to play its primary role, and no attempt should be made to restrict it in the name of co-ordination or efficient utilization of resources. Moreover, the prevailing general mood with regard to the co-ordination and budgetary questions was not such as to provide an absolute assurance that the rule would not be abused. In discussing how the General Assembly should conduct its business, the current mood should not lead to a decision which might in future be regarded as an inhibiting factor. Furthermore, because of the special position of the General Assembly, even proposals which might be termed "new" often came to it after discussion by other bodies. Even if such a proposal came directly to it, a decision was not taken hastily; the tradition was to consult with the specialized agencies on such proposals and to revert to them at a later stage. He believed that past practice rather than theoretical considerations

should serve as the guide and pointed out that, in any case, resolutions almost always provided for such consultations. It was indeed possible that, because of the broad scope of the statutes of some of the specialized agencies, the possibility of rapid action by the General Assembly would be precluded. That had been the case, for example, with the efforts to take action in connexion with the protein and food problems during the twenty-third session of the General Assembly. Besides, there were development problems of sufficient urgency for them to be brought directly to the General Assembly and acted upon without the delay which consultations would involve.

14. Furthermore, with regard to revising the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, it should be recognized that the Board's activities were deliberative rather than operational and resulted in changes of policy. The proposed rule in the rules of procedure would, therefore, have only marginal significance for the functions of the Board. In the last resort co-ordination was a matter of will and not of regulation and could be achieved only by singleness of purpose on the part of all involved.

15. Mr. KHALIL (United Arab Republic) said that the Council had been somewhat hasty in adopting resolution 1374 (XLV). Too much attention to co-ordination as an end in itself might have the opposite result from that intended, through neglect of the activities which were to be co-ordinated. As the representative of India had said, the General Assembly was, in a sense, a court of final appeal, and should not be subject to any restrictions. There had been occasions when that freedom of the General Assembly had been instrumental in leading to action. For example, in 1965 the discussions of international liquidity in UNCTAD's Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade had given rise to serious difficulties; through the authority of the General Assembly, a position had been reached whereby the matter could be dealt with successfully, and a draft resolution dealing with the international monetary system seemed to be a likely development. He noted, in annex II to document A/C.2/L.1003, an excerpt from the thirty-fourth report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination¹ dealing with the implementation of Council resolution 1281 (XLII) on co-ordination at the national level. If co-ordination at that level was still too difficult to achieve, he did not believe that the problem should be still further confused by referring to co-ordination at the international level. The Committee should take no action on the Council recommendation submitted to it and should return it to the Council for further discussion.

16. Mr. HILL (Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs) said that the proposal had originated in the views expressed by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination at the request of the Council. The proposal that the General Assembly should adopt a rule of procedure similar to that of the Council providing for consultation with the specialized agencies, before decisions that might affect them were taken, had a long history. Several years before, the Sixth Committee had rejected such a proposal on the grounds that it might interfere with the freedom of action of the Assembly. The proposal had then been revised

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 23, document E/4486.

and, in both ACC and the Council, great importance was attached to the point that in its existing form, the proposal contained nothing prejudicial to the Assembly's freedom to act as it saw fit, but merely ensured that it was fully informed before taking any decision. It should be borne in mind that the process of consultation was not a one-way affair. While some of the specialized agencies had rules providing for consultation with other organizations before decisions that might affect them were taken, some either did not, or had adopted such rules on a provisional basis only pending their adoption by the General Assembly. It was widely believed among the agencies that, as the body with central responsibility for inter-agency co-ordination, the General Assembly should take the lead in the effort to avoid conflicting or overlapping decisions. It should be borne in mind that, while co-ordination was a matter of will, it was also a matter of possessing the necessary information concerning what other organizations were doing.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had before it a proposal by the representative of Ghana to adopt the following decision:

"1. The Second Committee decides to defer *sine die* consideration of the proposed amendment to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1374 (XLV) of 2 August 1968;

"2. Requests Member States to consult the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency before proposing an item of direct or indirect concern to them."

18. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said that paragraph 1 was acceptable in form, in that it was an appropriate decision for the Committee to take, but paragraph 2 was a recommendation to Member States and would therefore have to be made in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly and not in the Second Committee.

19. Mr. DUBEY (India), supported by Mr. KHALIL (United Arab Republic), Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) and Mr. AHMED (Pakistan), suggested that the Committee should vote on paragraph 1 only.

20. Mr. WODAJO (Ethiopia) suggested that the representative of Ghana might agree to consideration of paragraph 2 being deferred until further consultations had taken place.

21. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) said he was prepared to withdraw paragraph 2. With regard to paragraph 1, the intention was to defer consideration to a later stage, possibly the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly; it was not intended to suggest that the matter should never be discussed again.

22. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly

"Defers sine die consideration of the proposed amendment to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

recommended by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1374 (XLV) of 2 August 1968."

It was so decided.

23. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) and Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that, if a vote had been taken on the draft resolution, they would have abstained.

AGENDA ITEM 43

The role of the United Nations in training national technical personnel for the accelerated industrialization of the developing countries: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)* (A/7595, A/7719, A/C.2/L.1066/Rev.2)

24. The CHAIRMAN said that, before taking up agenda item 43, the Committee should consider authorizing its Rapporteur to report separately on one aspect of its consideration of agenda item 38 (UNIDO), namely, its recommendation (see 1275th meeting, para. 25) to the General Assembly to include Barbados among the States eligible for election to the Industrial Development Board. That report might also include the Committee's action (*idem*, para. 54) with regard to the draft resolution it adopted on the regular programme of technical assistance for industrial development. In regard to item 43, the Committee might wish to begin consideration of the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1066/Rev.2), although the paper on the financial implications would not be ready until the following day, and conclude the discussion at the next meeting when the financial implications were known.

25. Mr. GETMANETS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said he wished to introduce the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1066/Rev.2) on behalf of the sponsors. The aim of the draft resolution was to ensure that the appropriate organs of the United Nations were provided with the necessary data on the availability of personnel in the developing countries. It was essential to the aims of the Second Development Decade that the training of national cadres in the developing countries should be improved in every way, and that the provision of effective assistance to those countries in that task must be based on reliable information about existing numbers of trained personnel in the countries concerned and on their real needs and capacities. The developing countries could not do the work without outside aid and their efforts must be supplemented by those of regional, sub-regional and international organs of the United Nations system.

26. Accordingly, operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution requested the Secretary-General, acting in close co-operation with the various bodies concerned, to prepare a report that would outline the possibilities and the most rational ways of using joint efforts at the international, regional and sub-regional levels to deal with the problem of training technical personnel in young States. Any United Nations programme for the training of cadres must be based on reliable and up-to-date information.

* Resumed from the 1276th meeting.

27. Consultations had revealed that some delegations had had doubts about the original proposal to submit the report to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session, as they had feared that that would not allow sufficient time for the preparation of a comprehensive report on the subject. The revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1066/Rev.2) therefore proposed that the report should be submitted to the Council at its fifty-first session.

28. Mr. CONSTANTIN (Romania) said that in recent years there had been considerable discussion, and a certain amount of action, relating to the training of national technical personnel for the accelerated industrialization of the developing countries. The success of any technical development programme depended on the extent to which the requisite personnel could be provided. The fact that Romania was a sponsor of the draft resolution reflected its belief that the training of national personnel was important for accelerating industrial development. Urgent action must be taken on those lines to ensure that the objectives of the Second Development Decade could be achieved. The specialized agencies had an important part to play in the training of national technical personnel and were accordingly called on in the draft resolution to co-operate in the preparation of the report. He believed that there was general agreement on the need for technical training and therefore hoped that the revised draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

29. Mr. BORSHCHEVSKY (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation would support the revised draft resolution. The developing countries had made great efforts, at considerable expense, to train technical personnel. The United Nations should co-ordinate its efforts in that area closely with national plans and make wider use of the technical training experience of, in particular, the socialist and many developing countries.

30. The training of national technical personnel was closely related to the activities of UNIDO, which was the co-ordinating body for all such activities within the United Nations system. However, it would be wrong to analyse the problem on the basis solely of the experience and achievements of one organization.

31. The draft resolution accurately evaluated the scope of the subject and its great importance to the developing countries in the 1970s. A study taking into account the results achieved during the First Development Decade and the aims established for the Second would be useful from both the practical and the theoretical points of view. The Secretary-General's report (A/7595), although containing a number of interesting points, had left many delegations unsatisfied. Its main defect was that it contained no analysis or general conclusions, not to mention recommendations. That was perhaps because it was to a considerable extent based on the activity of only one organization, UNIDO, and did not go deeply into the activities of the ILO, UNESCO or UNDP. The study provided for in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution would fill that gap by dealing with such closely related subjects as the ILO's World Employment Programme.

32. Paragraph 57 of document A/7595 stated that the general policy should be to hold the role of a possible

industrial training organization in establishing training institutions of its own within reasonable limits, in order to encourage a more decentralized approach. His delegation did not agree with that view; in 1960, there had been 740 million illiterates in the world, while in 1970, according to UNESCO data, the total would reach 810 million. The training of technical personnel for development was closely related to the state of the whole education system, and it was precisely a centralized approach which was required in order to prevent private interests from prevailing over national goals. An example of the successful use of the centralized approach was the achievement of the Byelorussian SSR in completely eliminating illiteracy within twenty years after its socialist revolution, before which 80 per cent of the population had been unable to read or write. By 1970, the Byelorussian SSR would have completed the transition to compulsory intermediate education. There were 127 intermediate specialized and 29 higher educational institutions, and the student body in the Byelorussian SSR per head of population was larger than in the most developed capitalist countries. The growth of the Byelorussian economy, in both the industrial and the agricultural sectors, had given rise to a heavy demand for skilled personnel and there were 145 professional and technical training colleges with a total of more than 80,000 students.

33. While solving its own problems, the Byelorussian SSR continued to assist the developing countries, *inter alia*, in training personnel in them. It accepted students from those countries for training in its institutions, held seminars for specialists from them, and sent its own specialists to them. It was anxious to continue such assistance and his delegation stressed that United Nations organs, in particular UNIDO, should strictly observe the principle of equitable geographical distribution in recruiting experts for service in the regions where they were needed.

34. Paragraph 56 of the Secretary-General's report (A/7595) gave an acceptable definition of the main functions of existing organizations in technical training, but mention should also be made of the right of trade union branches to ensure the fulfilment by such individual organizations of their obligations to the national body. Trade unions could play a leading role in the whole field of vocational training. An ILO document² contained a proposal of the World Federation of Trade Unions for an international convention on the right of all workers to vocational training and education. His delegation believed that, in the report to be submitted in accordance with draft resolution A/C.2/L.1066/Rev.2, due attention should be given to that area of ILO's activities. The steps proposed in the draft resolution should be regarded as an important contribution to the achievement of the goals of the developing countries and the world community during the Second Development Decade.

Centenary of the opening of the Suez Canal

35. Mr. KHALIL (United Arab Republic) reminded the Committee that it was meeting on the centenary of a great event in the world's economic and political history, the opening of the Suez Canal. That event had been a landmark

² See document G.B.171/5/32.

in the expansion of world trade, which was a focal point in the discussions on the development process. He paid a tribute to all those who had helped to build the Canal, especially the hundreds of thousands who had lost their lives in laying the foundations for a better future for world trade. That was in harmony with Egypt's mission since the dawn of history: to build up a civilization based on respect for mankind.

36. After 1956, when Egypt's rights had been restored, the Canal had begun to operate better than ever and its annual traffic had doubled until 1967, when it had been put out of action as the result of aggression. The United Arab Republic and its sister countries would spare no effort to liberate the occupied territories and reopen the Canal so that it could once more contribute to the expansion of world trade and the improvement of human welfare.

37. Mr. DUBEY (India), Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia), Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom), Mr. ASANTE (Ghana), Mr. PIACITELLI (Italy), Mr. IHAMA (Nigeria), Mr. MAMADOU (Mauritania) and Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) paid a tribute to the people of the United Arab Republic for the skill and devotion they had shown in building and operating the Suez Canal, and to the French engineer de Lesseps. They expressed their disappointment that the Canal was closed and hoped that it would be possible to reopen it in the near future on the basis of Security Council resolution 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967.

38. Mr. AHMED (Pakistan), Mr. OSMAN (Sudan), Mr. IMAM (Kuwait), Mr. AL-ATTAR (Yemen), Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. ALI (Iraq), Mr. BENNANI (Morocco), Mr. KHASSAWNEH (Jordan), and Mr. EL-ATTRASH (Syria) also extended their congratulations to the Government and people of the United Arab Republic on the occasion of the centenary, and called for the restoration of the Arab territories occupied by enemy forces.

39. Mr. RIOS (Panama) said that Panama was also traversed by a great international waterway and consequently wished to pay a special tribute to the United Arab Republic and to the genius of the French engineer de Lesseps. He earnestly hoped that wisdom would prevail and make possible the reopening of the Canal in the near future.

40. Mr. SKATARETIKO (Yugoslavia) joined in paying a tribute to the Government and people of the United Arab

Republic on the centenary of the opening of the Canal. In 1950, total cargo carried on the Suez Canal had amounted to 52.6 million metric tons, while in 1966 the figure had risen to 241.9 million. Those statistics published by OECD clearly indicated the vital importance of the Canal for the world economy.

41. Mr. MUZIK (Czechoslovakia) congratulated the people and Government of the United Arab Republic on the centenary of the opening of the Suez Canal. It was ironic that the United Nations was trying to provide the developing countries with funds for their economic development while many of them were losing hundreds of millions of dollars through the closing of the Canal and the consequent increase in freight costs. Czechoslovakia itself had one vessel locked in the Canal. He was convinced that only through implementation of Security Council resolution 242 (1967) could the Canal begin to function normally again.

42. Mr. VIAUD (France) thanked the speakers who had referred to the part played in building the Suez Canal by the great visionary engineer de Lesseps. The opening of the Canal was a landmark in history that deserved special mention.

43. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) congratulated the nations and peoples, above all, those of the United Arab Republic, responsible for the opening of the Suez Canal. The great waterway was a symbol of international economic co-operation and he earnestly hoped that it would be possible to reopen it soon.

44. Since many members of the Committee had spoken on the subject, which was not on the Committee's agenda, he proposed that the discussion should be closed.

45. The CHAIRMAN said that, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure, he would close the debate after he had called on the last speaker on his list, the representative of Israel.

46. Mr. HILLEL (Israel) said that the question of the Suez Canal, and other questions raised in that connexion, had little to do with the items under discussion by the Committee. However, as it had been raised, he wished to assure the Committee that, so far as Israel was concerned, the Suez Canal could open the following day if it were opened for the free passage of vessels of all nations.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.