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Chairman: Mr. Ernest G. CHAUVET (Haiti).

AGENDA ITEM 24 (C)

Economic development of under-developed countries (A/2955) (continued):

(c) Programmes of technical assistance: report of the Economic and Social Council (A/2943, chapter III B, A/2994, A/C.2/L.263 and Add.1) (continued)

1. Mr. BHIM SINGHJI BAHADUR (India) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the frank and enlightening statements by Mr. Owen, the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board (354th meeting), and Mr. Keenleyside, the Director-General of the Technical Assistance Administration (355th meeting).

2. The technical assistance programmes were fulfilling one of the fundamental purposes of the United Nations Charter, the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian character, and were, in his delegation's opinion, one of the most effective and fruitful activities of the United Nations.

3. After cautious early steps in late 1950 and 1951, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance had gained tremendous momentum in 1952. Although that momentum had not been maintained in 1953, the administration had been improved and early mistakes had been rectified. However, 1954 had been a year of paradox, in which more contributions had been pledged by more Governments than ever before, yet the total assistance provided had been much less. India had received less than half the assistance it had received in 1952 and 1953. The main reason for that slowing down had been uncertainty about some contributions and late payment of others. The Indian delegation appealed to Governments to bear in mind the experience of 1954 and the need for early payment of contributions pledged.

4. The revised procedure of allocations by countries, adopted by Economic and Social Council resolution 542 B (XVIII) and adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 831 B (IX) appeared to be working well, but the new system was only in its first year and it would be inappropriate to attempt to assess it for sev-

eral years. Much depended on how the scheme was operated by the Technical Assistance Board (TAB) and on the co-operation TAB received from recipient Governments and the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) in planning and co-ordinating the system.

5. The evaluation of the Programme was a difficult question. It would obviously be unfair to assess the contribution of technical assistance in quantitative or money terms. Economic development problems were essentially long-term, and technical assistance supplied only a small, though essential, part of the resources required. It would be wiser to think of the Programme purely as a method of supplying technical know-how through the provision of training facilities. The main task of TAC and its Working Group was to formulate practical criteria for the evaluation of the Programme.

6. The review of experience gained under the Expanded Programme and plans for its future development asked for by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) would be useful in improving the concentration of resources and recruitment methods.

7. It was gratifying that the Programme's financial resources were steadily increasing, although still far below the amounts originally envisaged. The fact that both some of the wealthier countries and those with limited resources were increasing their contributions, was an indication of faith in the usefulness of the Programme.

8. India's technical assistance requirements were great and could not be met by the Programme alone. India was therefore ready to avail itself of technical assistance from all sources. It would be able to obtain practically all the technical aid it required under the Colombo Plan, and had also received technical assistance under the Indo-United States aid programme for technical assistance, and from Norway.

9. The Indian delegation hoped that the total pledges for 1956 would exceed those of 1955. Many countries, including the United States, had already announced increased contributions. India's own contribution would be announced at the Technical Assistance Conference.

10. The Indian delegation believed that the joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.263 and Add. 1), of which it was a co-sponsor, was non-controversial and hoped that it would be unanimously approved by the Committee and the General Assembly.

11. Mrs. WRIGHT (Denmark) thanked Mr. Owen and Mr. Keenleyside for their statements.

12. The Danish delegation was glad to support the joint draft resolution. As Denmark was not a member of the Economic and Social Council it had not previously had the opportunity of commenting on the work of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

13. The Danish delegation fully agreed with Economic and Social Council resolution 584 B (XX), adopted on the basis of the report of TAC (E/2779), and with the Council's decision to note with appreciation the Secretary-General's report on the regular programme of technical assistance (E/2736).

14. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and TAC had been right in recommending that all participating organizations should make the fullest possible use of the TAB Resident Representatives and that Governments should be assisted to plan their requests for technical assistance to ensure co-ordination.

15. It was important, too, that direct and indirect costs should be held at the level recommended by the Advisory Committee and that experts should be carefully chosen and elaborately briefed. Direct negotiations with recipient countries would undoubtedly encourage quicker and better utilization of contributions from a number of contributing countries. More publicity for the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, as suggested in paragraph 81, part I of the seventh report of TAB to TAC (E/2714 and Add. 1), was undoubtedly important; but, the Danish delegation was not sure that the task, as suggested in paragraph 13 of the report by TAC (E/2779), should be given exclusively to the Department of Public Information, which seemed less qualified to perform it than TAB and might be less ready to devote the necessary resources to it. With regard to section II of the report of TAC, her delegation agreed that sufficient means should be provided for technical assistance in public administration. It also agreed that the number of TAB sessions could now be reduced to three per year.

16. It was especially important that the report of TAC's annual summer session should appear in good time and that the field work of the specialized agencies should be co-ordinated so as to make the widest possible use of the Resident Representatives and to reduce administrative costs.

17. With regard to section VI of the report of TAC, her delegation agreed that funds should be advanced to the specialized agencies out of the relatively large reserve available so that they would always have enough capital to carry out their obligations under the Programme.

18. She announced with pleasure that Denmark would pledge at the Technical Assistance Conference a contribution almost ten times as large as that pledged for the first year's programme. The United States pledge of \$15,500,000, subject only to the contribution of the same amount by all the remaining participating Governments, was a challenge to which it was hoped other Governments would rise. The Scandinavian countries ranked as first, second and fifth contributors to the Programme on a *per capita* basis. The TAB had rightly pointed out that the necessary long-term planning could not be carried out unless Governments could give some indication of what their contributions would be. Last year, Denmark had undertaken that its contributions for 1956 and 1957 would not be less than that of 1955.

19. Although the Danish contribution for the first year of the Expanded Programme had been small, TAB had had difficulty in utilizing it because it could not be converted into hard currency. The difficulty had been increased by the fact that Denmark had added a contribution earmarked for education in Denmark,

but in 1955 TAB had received applications amounting to 75 per cent more than the earmarked contribution. The requests which could not be met from present funds would be placed on a priority list for fulfilment when additional funds became available. The courses planned under that scheme included seminars on co-operatives, health insurance and co-operative housing, assistance in establishing a technological institute in Egypt, a technological seminar, the training of Indonesian merchant marine officers and a fishery training centre.

20. Such activities helped to bring home to the Danish people the idea of give and take underlying the technical assistance programmes. The presence of foreign students widened the horizon of the people of the contributing country, so that contributing countries could often also be regarded as recipients.

21. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) paid a tribute to the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA), TAB and the participating specialized agencies. Technical assistance was highly appreciated in countries like Greece where economic development was hampered by low productivity and insufficient technical knowledge, as well as by lack of capital. The seventh report of TAB to TAC, the report of TAC, the report of the TAC Working Group (E/TAC/46) on evaluation, and the statements by Mr. Owen and Mr. Keenleyside had given a clear picture of the results achieved and of the magnitude of the problems ahead.

22. Previous speakers had stressed the need for further efforts to reduce administrative costs and for further co-ordination between the activities of the specialized agencies and of the Expanded Programme. The system of Resident Representatives and the improved work of the national committees offered hope of increasing efficiency and better use of funds. By co-ordinating the activities of the specialized agencies, various experts and the appropriate national authorities in the recipient country, the Resident Representatives could do much valuable work. It was now recognized that the presence of a Resident Representative would have avoided misunderstandings and delays or accelerated the solution of administrative difficulties and certain economic and technical problems. The recent visit in Greece of a Resident Representative of a neighbouring country tended to prove that point.

23. Although TAC appeared to think that the present co-ordination and administrative arrangements were satisfactory, the procedures were puzzling and seemed to need simplification. The TAB might usefully clarify the rules governing the allocation of funds among countries. It would be helpful if the Executive Chairman would explain them to the Committee with a view to possible simplification.

24. The Greek delegation supported the recommendations of the ACC on the administration of the Expanded Programme and requested TAB and the ACC to review the experience of the Expanded Programme and to draw conclusions in the form of recommendations.

25. The Greek delegation would support the joint draft resolution, which stressed the need for increased administrative efficiency in operating the Programme and asked for continued support for it.

26. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that despite some shortcomings the United Nations had achieved some positive results in

the field of technical assistance. The USSR delegation had noted with satisfaction the statement by Mr. Owen, Executive Chairman of TAB, that support for the programmes was increasing and the USSR would continue its support in 1956.

27. He would not dwell on the Soviet Union's contribution to the Expanded Programme or on the delays that, according to the information given during the general debate, had occurred in utilizing it, but some interesting comments had recently been made by officials and experts of Asian and Far Eastern countries, who had found that the Soviet Union had much to offer in the way of useful technical experience and knowledge. He quoted some of those observations. The Soviet Union was prepared to continue to provide all the technical assistance possible for interested countries.

28. At the twentieth session of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. Owen had informed TAC (E/TAC/SR.81) that despite an increase in cash contributions the volume of technical assistance had fallen because many countries had made payment of their pledges too late. The USSR delegation felt that the explanation was incomplete and did not apply to all countries by any means. One reason for the delays had been that the procedure was too complicated and needed streamlining. The USSR delegation to the Economic and Social Council had pointed out to TAC (E/TAC/SR.83) that one method of avoiding delay might be to arrange direct contacts between recipient and contributing countries so that specifications and other technical questions could be agreed within the framework of the plans and allocations approved under the established procedure.

29. It had been said in the General Assembly and in the Economic and Social Council that technical assistance gave inadequate attention to the development of national industry. The TAB had stated, at the twentieth session of the Economic and Social Council, that only about 6 per cent of total funds had been used for the development of the power, mining and manufacturing industries in 1954 and the report (E/2714 and Add. 1) showed that the 1956 Programme was no better in that respect. The USSR delegation felt that considerably larger funds should be allocated to the development of national industries.

30. The United Kingdom representative had suggested that the Soviet Union delegation regarded industrialization as an end in itself, but that was, of course, untrue. Industrialization was the only way in which the entire national economy could be raised, national independence strengthened and the standard of living of the population improved.

31. It had frequently been pointed out in the Assembly and in the Economic and Social Council that administrative costs were unduly high. Although some reductions had been made, his delegation considered that administrative costs were still too high and could be further reduced.

32. In 1954, 132 experts had been sent to various countries under the regular programme, about half of them from four countries. Similarly, of 275 scholarship holders from forty-one countries sent for training in 1954, 144 had been sent to the same four countries. The practice should be changed so that those forms of technical assistance would be distributed among con-

tributing countries in better proportion and on a broader basis.

33. His delegation hoped that the shortcomings it had mentioned would be eliminated in order to improve the efficiency of the United Nations technical assistance activities.

*Mr. MIR KHAN (Pakistan), Vice Chairman,
took the Chair.*

34. Mr. GILBERT (Canada) said that his delegation had been struck by the many tributes paid to technical assistance. He thanked Mr. Owen and Mr. Keenleyside for their lucid statements to the Committee and congratulated them on the productive work done under their direction.

35. Living standards had undoubtedly improved as a result of the programmes of technical assistance and such projects as the Colombo Plan. Canada's large contribution was a measure of its interest in and support of that work. The direct benefits of such programmes were obvious, but the indirect ones might be equally important since they led towards permanent world security and to normal and friendly relationships between different parts of the world.

36. Canada's contribution to the Expanded Programme would, subject to parliamentary approval, be equivalent to \$1,800,000, or \$300,000 more than its contributions for the previous two years. The Canadian Government also intended to ask Parliament for similar amounts in 1957 and 1958.

37. It was pleasing to note that the administrative costs of the regular programme were falling, since more funds would be available for expansion.

38. The Canadian Government considered that the Expanded Programme was working satisfactorily, as was shown by the report of TAB to TAC, and was pleased that the Executive Chairman of TAB hoped that the goal recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would be achieved.

39. It was too early to assess the results of country planning, but there could be no doubt that the co-ordination of programmes would increase efficiency. The Resident Representatives were doing valuable work in that way. Regional projects were desirable if they did not reduce the resources available to country programmes and were properly related to them.

40. The Council's report (resolution 584 (XX), annex) on questions raised by the Advisory Committee was a useful one; the Canadian delegation agreed that duplication and even competition should be reduced to a minimum and that all sources of assistance should be co-ordinated. It also agreed with TAC that three meetings of TAB a year should be normal.

41. The Expanded Programme had been in operation long enough for a review of its work and future plans to be desirable, provided it led to concrete recommendations for future operations.

42. The Canadian delegation supported the joint draft resolution and hoped that the Committee would adopt it unanimously.

43. Mr. ISMAIL (Pakistan) stated that the results achieved in Pakistan through the technical assistance programmes fully justified their continuation and expansion. Although technical assistance to Pakistan in

1954 had decreased in terms of money, the decrease had been offset by better organization and planning.

44. The Railway Training Centre in Pakistan was only one of the many projects in operation. The 1956 programme included technical assistance for development projects connected with water resources, sub-soil water, the manufacture of penicillin and DDT and power production. His Government would therefore give all possible support to the proposed technical assistance schemes.

45. Since 1953 Pakistan had suffered from flood devastation which had caused heavy loss of life and the wide-spread destruction of property and crops, which had in turn led to increased domestic expenditure on relief and rehabilitation. It had been decided to re-value the cross rate of the rupee, with the concurrence of the International Monetary Fund, but his Government did not intend to reduce the previous level of its contribution in dollars.

46. He was glad to note that not only had Governments pledged support to the Expanded Programme on a larger scale than before, but certain countries had pledged their contributions for a period of more than one year. Unfortunately, certain difficulties still remained, such as the continued uncertainty about the availability and timing of contributions. He therefore welcomed the Director-General's statement that, as from 1956, TAA would probably be able to plan for the full year at the beginning of each year. It was also heartening to know that there had been a considerable reduction in overhead expenses.

47. He fully endorsed the suggestions and views on administrative procedure in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 584 (XX). Undoubtedly, the Expanded Programme would be sounder administratively and financially if the report was adopted and acted upon.

48. He had been somewhat confused by the interpretation placed by the Advisory Committee on the function of the ACC. The ACC was primarily intended to co-ordinate and integrate the activities of the organizations participating in the Expanded Programme. It was therefore surprising to read, in paragraph 24 (b) of the sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly (A/2994), that that committee maintained that major questions of policy should be the subject of collective decisions of the ACC. The TAC was and should remain the policy-making body for technical assistance matters, subject, of course, to the authority of the General Assembly and of the Council. It was desirable that the relationship between TAC and the ACC be defined in order to avoid jurisdictional conflicts.

49. His delegation was satisfied with the results so far achieved in country programming. The new procedure had placed greater responsibilities upon the TAA Resident Representatives in recipient countries, to whom a well-deserved tribute must be paid. On the other hand, the new procedure would enhance the responsibilities of the recipient countries which would in future have to utilize to the full the technical knowledge, resources and experience of the participating organizations in planning and carrying out programmes at the country level. Accordingly, effective co-ordination must be ensured within the country concerned. In Pakistan, programming was being under-

taken by two committees: the Foreign Assistance Co-ordinating Committee, consisting of representatives of countries extending assistance, the specialized agencies, the TAA Resident Representative, a representative of the Bank and other interested parties, and the Screening Committee, consisting of government officials. At the Foreign Assistance Co-ordinating Committee's meetings, the Government submitted a list of its economic and technical requirements and the individual representatives informed the Government about the items in which their particular agencies or countries were interested. The Screening Committee decided on the fields in which training fellowships and scholarships were required. A department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, acting in co-operation with agency representatives, placed various fellowship and scholarship-holders. Technical assistance received through the Colombo Plan and other bilateral arrangements was also channelled through those bodies. Overlapping and duplication were thus being eliminated.

50. He suggested that the regular and Expanded Programmes should, as far as possible, be co-ordinated in country programming, a matter which could be examined both by TAB and the specialized agencies concerned.

51. As technical assistance was primarily intended to bring technical knowledge to countries which needed it, the expenditure of only 25 per cent of the total funds was allowed for supplies and equipment. Requests in the past had not generally exceeded that limit, which showed that there was a greater demand for technical experts than for equipment, but it was possible that requests for equipment might exceed the present limit at a later stage. The limit, therefore, should not be looked upon as inflexible, but should be raised when greater demands were made to ensure that development projects were not unduly retarded or obstructed.

52. He trusted that the joint draft resolution, of which he was a co-sponsor, would be adopted unanimously.

53. Mr. STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia) stressed that the value of country programming resided in the fact that it co-ordinated United Nations technical assistance with national economic and social efforts. The relatively scant resources of the technical assistance programmes could produce impressive results only if they activated far larger forces. Hence, he had not been surprised at the recent statement of the Executive Chairman of TAB that the experiment had gone extremely well, but he believed that the full impact of the new system would be felt only in the future.

54. It was now evident that the implementation of country programming had not led to extensive changes in the distribution of funds; on the contrary, the percentage share of various agencies had remained on the whole unchanged. The success of the new system had been possible only because it had been wholeheartedly endorsed and energetically carried out by the participating agencies.

55. Significant progress had also been achieved in co-ordinating the activities of TAA with those of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

56. The new system of planning programmes and allocating funds had placed further responsibilities on TAC, but the report of TAC (E/2779) showed that it was fully capable of carrying them out. The TAC should, as political leader of the Programme,

make a general appraisal of the Programme and mark out the paths for its future development. It would be desirable to consider, in the near future, the constitutional matter of extending the membership of TAC.

57. He agreed with the United States representative that evaluation of projects should not become an end in itself; evaluation must inevitably be based on the critical observations of the recipient countries and of the participating agencies. Evaluation should be concerned not so much with the justification of past actions as with the formulation of conclusions for the future.

58. The success of country programming depended on good co-ordination in the field. The closest attention should be paid to proper co-ordination between activities under the Expanded Programme and those undertaken by various agencies under their regular programmes of technical assistance. In that connexion, he drew attention to the resolution in paragraph 27 of the report of TAC (E/2779) and General Assembly resolution 418 (V).

59. In view of the fact that country programming provided for greater integration of United Nations technical assistance with national economic efforts, he believed that the number of requests for fellowships would increase in the future as it had in the course of 1954.

60. On the other hand, concentration on country programming would be much less satisfactory if regional projects were neglected. He expected that TAC would pay due attention to the need to overcome the economic weaknesses caused by narrow political borders by promoting closer international co-operation.

61. He particularly welcomed the observation by the Executive Chairman of TAB that the ratio of headquarters costs to operational costs had been reduced and was well below the limits suggested by the Advisory Committee in the case of most agencies. The drop in administrative expenditure clearly showed that the system of country programming had not led to an increase of red tape.

62. As technical assistance stimulated and mobilized national resources, the sudden discontinuation of such assistance for financial reasons would paralyse national efforts. The discrepancy between the long-term character of the Expanded Programme and the short-term character of annual contributions would obviously raise a problem in the future. He had listened with great pleasure to Lord Selkirk's announcement at the twentieth session of the Economic and Social Council (879th meeting) of the United Kingdom contribution for three years, part of which would be paid as early as January each year. The fact that the Soviet Union had also pledged its contribution in several successive years was also gratifying. It was a particularly favourable sign that the USSR contribution had been allocated *in toto*.

63. He did not share the USSR representative's view that direct contact between donor and recipient countries might simplify administrative procedures; indeed, such a system might not be entirely consistent with the principles on which the Expanded Programme was based.

64. The decision of the United States Congress authorizing announcement of the United States contribution for the coming eighteen months added considerably to the stability of the financial programme,

particularly as the United States bore 50 per cent of the financial burden. As had been clarified in the general debate, the United States contribution had never had any political strings attached to it.

65. It was interesting to note that the volume of requests was constantly exceeding financial resources, which proved to what extent Governments were aware of the benefits accruing to them from the Programme and to what extent they were ready to mobilize their own resources in order to promote their economic development. It was also interesting that requests for further expansion of technical assistance were frequently received. The extraordinary successes attained in economic and social development and in public administration had fostered the belief that technical assistance might solve problems which might otherwise appear to be almost insoluble.

66. The secret of the Programme's success did not reside in the fact that technical assistance was granted free of charge, but in the fact that a new type of international co-operation was developing, based on strict respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter. Accordingly, the efforts of the large majority of Member States to set up the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED), on the same principles and in close relationship with the technical assistance bodies were altogether logical.

67. He was in general agreement with the joint draft resolution, but suggested that the word "countries" should be substituted for the word "areas" in paragraph 1 of the operative part. He sympathized with the intention of the Iranian representative in tabling his amendment (A/C.2/L.264), but doubted the advisability of including such specific aspects in a very general resolution.

68. Mr. DESMARAS LUZURTAGA (Argentina) fully agreed with the view expressed by the Advisory Committee in its first report to the ninth session of the General Assembly that the negotiations undertaken with individual Governments should be well within the scope of the duties of Resident Representatives (A/2661, paragraph 15). Co-ordination of field activities had improved and closer co-ordination was to be expected particularly as all the staff concerned worked for a common objective.

69. There had been a reduction in administrative costs, but it was important to ensure that cuts in headquarters costs did not impair the effectiveness of projects in the field.

70. With regard to the expansion of technical assistance activities, he stressed the importance of long-term contributions and suggested that the amounts pledged in advance might be increased by supplementary contributions.

71. The regional commissions could prove very helpful in offering advice to TAB. If they were given such advisory functions it would be possible to plan assistance on a long-term rather than on a relatively emergency basis. The Director-General of TAA had given some encouraging information on that subject.

72. It was also important to ensure closer co-ordination between the United Nations and regional technical assistance schemes such as the programme of the Organization of American States. There had been successful co-operation between the United Nations and the United States Point Four programme.

73. He welcomed the attention given by TAA to public administration. In many cases it was essential to concentrate on administration before embarking on economic, industrial and social development.

74. With regard to the recruitment of experts, his delegation believed that the Fifth Committee should consider the possibility of modifying the current salary scales to prevent any lowering of standards.

75. A larger number of fellowships and scholarships should perhaps be allocated to countries which had achieved a certain level of development. Consideration might usefully be given to fellowships for longer periods and for other levels of study.

76. Argentina would co-operate to the fullest with the United Nations not only through its contribution but also by providing experts and facilities for fellowship-holders.

77. He particularly welcomed the United States representative's announcement of his country's forthcoming contribution for the 1956 programme.

78. Mr. SAENZ HINOJOSA (Mexico) said that the progress made in the field of technical assistance during the past year had been substantial and encouraging. It was gratifying, too, that in the fifth year of its existence, the Expanded Programme had entered upon a period of genuine stability.

79. As the United States representative had pointed out, technical assistance lay at the very heart of economic development. It was just as important to train technicians for economic development as to provide capital for it.

80. The benefits to be derived from technical assistance were unlimited. Now that financial stability had been achieved, it was important to make the programme more flexible, since, in a world economy which was progressing with gigantic strides, static programmes tended to lose importance.

81. The Netherlands representative (355th meeting) had mentioned the possibility of fixing targets for technical assistance projects and had expressed the hope that the 1956 budget of \$30 million would soon be increased to \$40 million or \$50 million. His delegation supported that suggestion and proposed that targets might be increased each year by 10 per cent.

82. In studying the seventh report of TAB to TAC his delegation noted that regional projects had been analysed separately and had not been included in purely national programmes. He approved of that procedure since such projects served a group of countries and not simply the country in which they were established. Mexico was in favour of regional projects and would continue to give the maximum possible support to the regional projects with headquarters in Mexico.

83. Mr. WALKER (Australia) said that his country continued to regard technical assistance as one of the most important tasks that the United Nations had undertaken and intended to make an early announcement regarding a further contribution to the Expanded Programme.

84. It was most encouraging to hear of the progress made in the many fields of technical assistance and particularly of the inauguration of the new system of country programming, a system which his delegation had recommended from the outset. The contribution which the Expanded Programme could make to the development of under-developed countries depended

not only on the total amount of money spent and upon the general quality of the assistance given, but also upon the skill with which the programme for each country was devised. Real progress was being made in that direction.

85. His country welcomed the trend towards closer co-ordination between the regular technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and specialized agencies and the Expanded Programme. The fact that the financial arrangements were independent need not prevent the closest co-ordination at both the planning and operating levels. It might also be possible to achieve closer co-ordination between the separate parts of the United Nations' own technical assistance programme which was divided among the various divisions of the Secretariat.

86. The Director-General of TAA had said that it would be necessary to provide almost 500 experts in 1956 and had requested assistance in finding suitable people. His remarks about the importance of the quality of the experts must be borne in mind by all the agencies concerned and by Member States in assisting recruitments.

87. His delegation welcomed the emphasis of the Director-General of TAA on training in public administration, a field in which Australia had already been able to assist many countries through United Nations technical assistance programmes and the Colombo Plan. A special training centre had been established in Canberra under the Public Service Board and several hundred officials from Asia and other parts of the world had already attended the courses provided. Australia hoped to welcome many more in the future.

88. As stated last year in the Second Committee (316th meeting), Australia was not convinced that the present geographical distribution of the available funds under the Expanded Programme was achieving the best possible results. The development and technical assistance needs of Asia were particularly great, but, although the approved over-all expenditure for the Asian area was much the same in 1954 as in 1953, there had been both an absolute and relative decline in the amounts which the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Labour Organisation were devoting to the area, a trend which he hoped would be reversed.

89. Finally, he commended the joint draft resolution to the Committee, but had some doubts whether the Iranian amendment, dealing as it did with a specific aspect rather than generalities, was apposite.

90. Mr. LIRA MERINO (Chile) said that technical assistance was one of the most positive achievements of the United Nations and was supported by all. Technical assistance programmes for Latin America had included such important projects as the FAO development programme for the Amazon valley in Brazil, the joint ILO, UNESCO and World Health Organization scheme for assisting the Andean Indians and the programme for the economic integration of Central America. In Chile itself, technical assistance had been mainly concerned with agriculture. In 1953, the Chillán Plan had been launched to assist agriculture and to raise the living standards of the rural population of three provinces. That programme had enabled a full-scale agricultural development plan to be drawn up with the help of experts from FAO, the International Bank

and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), which, provided the necessary international assistance was forthcoming, would revolutionize the country's food position.

91. One of the major difficulties in administering technical assistance programmes was that of co-ordination. It was very difficult to draw up efficient and well-integrated plans if the amounts of contributions were not known or known only a short time before payment. In that connexion, it might be useful to investigate the Netherlands suggestion that two types of contributions might be made, one fixed and the other voluntary. Such a policy might make for greater financial stability. Other financial difficulties would be overcome once the system laid down in General Assembly resolution 831, annex III had been fully implemented. The TAB Resident Representatives would assume greater importance and Governments would feel greater responsibility. Chile had carefully complied with the instructions of TAB and had submitted a total of 120 projects, requested fifty-five experts, fifty-one scholarships and fourteen assistance teams.

92. His delegation had been very pleased to hear that the United States intended to raise its contribution to the Expanded Programme, under certain conditions, and his country, too, intended, subject to its resources and its constitutional machinery, to increase its contribution by 10 per cent.

93. His delegation also approved of the joint draft resolution and again pledged that it would do everything in its power to further the cause of technical assistance.

94. Mr. DAVIS (Bolivia) stressed the importance of the technical assistance already rendered by the United Nations through its competent organs, reiterated the decision of his Government and people to co-operate completely in the programmes under way and expressed his country's sincere thanks for the assistance given by the United States to Bolivia under the Point Four programme.

95. On the basis of the general study made in 1950 by the United Nations Mission of Technical Assistance to Bolivia, and of the recommendations made in its final report (ST/TAA/K/Bolivia/1), the United Nations programme of technical assistance in that country was being carried out by means of practical projects in harmony with the Government's basic objectives, namely, the raising of the population's living standards, the improvement of production methods and the diversification of the economy through a more intensified and more efficient use of material and human resources. The relations between the international experts and government officials had been excellent and had led to really effective co-operation. United Nations programmes were developing side by side with national programmes drawn up by the Corporación Boliviana de Fomento and the Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos.

96. The Bolivian Government, in consultation with United Nations representatives, had drawn up the

programme of technical assistance for 1956, which generally consisted in continuing previous programmes, with adjustments prompted by past experience. It was hoped that it would be adopted.

97. The United Nations technical assistance programmes would be supplemented by the establishment of SUNFED which, it was to be hoped, would shortly begin operations for the benefit of all those countries interested in the vast programme of the economic development of the under-developed countries.

98. Mr. GINEBRA HENRIQUES (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation had followed with great satisfaction the progress made by the Expanded Programme since its inception in 1950. In view of the close relationship between technical assistance and economic development, a common effort was necessary to provide TAB and TAA with enough money to fulfil the essential requests of the under-developed countries. The technical education of the people was one of the fundamental problems of such countries, especially those in Latin America, since man-power was their major resource.

99. In drawing up its programmes, TAA should remember the great importance of regional co-operation since it could make its own task much easier. In that connexion, reference should be made in Latin America to such schemes as the ECLA/TAA economic development training programme and the Central American economic integration programme.

100. In comparison with the efforts required from Governments, the help given under the Expanded Programme was relatively small. Since they were so few, the experts sent to help Governments with their economic and organizational problems should be very carefully selected. The Director-General of TAA had already spoken (355th meeting) of the fears of some Governments that experts were young and lacking in experience. The TAA must show that such fears were groundless.

101. Although the Dominican Republic had received little help from the United Nations technical assistance programmes, it had followed them with great interest and hoped to receive assistance from TAB in the near future.

102. Technical assistance was one of the most useful of the United Nations activities, but it had to be realistically administered and properly co-ordinated. His Government had set up an agency known as the Inter-Departmental Committee whose task it was to co-ordinate technical assistance programmes. With the help of TAA, Governments should train specialists in the problems of economic development, for that was the only way in which the under-developed countries could raise their living standards and further their economic and social progress.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.