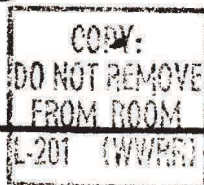


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*Official Records**



SECOND COMMITTEE
✓ 9th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 12 October 1982
at 3 p.m.
NEW YORK

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 9th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FAFOWORA (Nigeria)

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AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/37/3) (Parts I and II), A/37/214, 232, A/37/333; E/1982/15 and Corr.1 and 2, E/1982/70 and Corr.1; A/C.2/37/L.2 and L.3)

1. Mr. SAMPER PIZANO (Colombia) pointed out that the statements heard in the Committee in recent weeks had been marked by a sense of impotence in the face of the crisis that the world was experiencing. That feeling reflected the fact that for the first time since the Second World War the course of development had changed. There was a world-wide recession: for the first time, per capita income had fallen in absolute terms owing to the slow growth of gross national product; interest and debt-servicing payments had exceeded current returns on capital; and allocations for official development assistance and technical co-operation had fallen behind the rise in world inflation. Current economic developments were putting an even greater distance between the developing and the industrialized countries, and the former were headed for impoverishment, the only thing worse than poverty itself.
2. Just as the 1960s had been a decade of growth and industrialization and the 1970s the energy decade (owing to the readjustment of oil prices), the 1980s should be regarded as the decade of sharing: the sharing of current resources - present wealth - and the sharing of prospects for growth for future wealth.
3. If such sharing was to become a reality, it was imperative that the developed countries should understand that they had to make concessions, that world economic recovery had a price and that they had to pay part of that price just as the least developed countries were paying their price: the price of dependency, represented by high debt-service, protectionist barriers, imported inflation and the high cost of fuel. The recession had been offset by transferring its costs to the most backward economies. Between the two international evils of inflation and stagnation, the developing countries were better off with inflation, under which prices, but also income, rose; under a recession, the prices of the developing countries' exports fell and incomes declined. The subject of protectionism should be studied not by the Second Committee but by the Fourth, which dealt with decolonization, because protectionism was colonialism and economic imperialism.
4. In order to achieve the goal of sharing, the old patterns of social growth should be set aside in favour of those of social development. Health and education, for example, were no longer major problems; food, public services and criminality, the products of the new urban dimension of world society, had become preponderant. In order to change the approach to the problem of poverty, new indicators were needed, since traditional ones such as per capita income were no longer useful: they told what the poverty mean was but nothing about the extremes.
5. In addition, care must be taken not to fall into the "multilateral" trap, which was a subtle strategy of the developed countries, whether capitalist or socialist, for prolonging talks and decision-making on basic issues indefinitely.

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(Mr. Samper Pizano, Colombia)

The strategy took the form of proposing a multilateral discussion of all questions which those countries were interested in keeping on ice indefinitely. It would be much simpler and quicker to reach global consensus if the de facto blocs operating within the United Nations system - the Group of 77, the non-aligned countries, the Arab countries and the Islamic nations - were recognized and institutionalized. In that way, elemental consensus would replace the system of having everyone talking at the same time about the same questions, and postponing decisions and action.

6. Furthermore, in addition to the economic crisis, there was a crisis of sincerity within the United Nations. The United Nations reacted when countries had already been invaded, when the massacres had already been committed, and after the protectionist barriers had been erected. It was a crisis that could be overcome only with sincerity: the sincerity to recognize that a group of countries was not interested in having the subject of energy discussed; to say that developed countries were not interested in global negotiations if they implied a loss of power in international agencies; to conclude that there was no North-South dialogue but a South-West dialogue; to hold that the industrialized nations were more interested in destroying the lives of the inhabitants of enemy nations than in preserving the lives of the populations of friendly countries; to acknowledge, in short, that at the moment interests came before principles.

7. His delegation supported the request made by other speakers that a short-term emergency plan should be devised immediately that would include specific recommendations to improve international liquidity, lower protectionist barriers against commodities, increase funds for official assistance and economic co-operation, mitigate the conditions imposed by international lending institutions, and facilitate an adequate and assured food supply throughout the world.

8. His delegation suggested, further, that the emergency plan should be seen as the first step towards holding new global negotiations; those in progress at the moment were doing harm because they were blocking the work in other negotiating forums from which, in earlier times, some progress might have been expected. An emergency plan would also offer an opportunity to try out and adopt new negotiating procedures, such as the use of working groups which would be responsible for specific projects in existing forums and could, as the delegation of Pakistan had suggested, make headway on such questions as food in FAO, foreign trade in GATT and financing in the World Bank.

9. Mr. LIPATOV (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the times were difficult and troubled; the world situation had deteriorated in large part because the imperialist forces of the United States and its NATO allies were determined to carry on an arms race that was bringing the world to the brink of nuclear catastrophe. At the same time, heightened tension was blocking the efforts being made to solve the problems of the world economy.

10. Despite Western statements to the contrary, the capitalist countries were undergoing their most widespread and serious crisis since the Second World War, and

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(Mr. Lipatov, Ukrainian SSR)

there was no sign that the crisis was approaching its end. The problems had been created by imperialism and neo-colonialism, and had then become general. As the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1982, had concluded, "the current crisis in the developing countries ... not only stemmed from the structural problems of development but was also a consequence of recession and economic policies in developed market-economy countries ... acting, in effect, as though they were exporting their difficulties" (A/37/3, Part II, chap. II, para. 35).

11. In the report on economic relations between the Soviet Union and the developing countries (E/1982/86) reference was made to the favourable results of the assistance provided by the Soviet Union to newly independent countries to help them to overcome their economic backwardness and achieve genuine economic independence. That document refuted with facts the current imperialist campaign of slander against the Soviet Union. It should be pointed out that the Ukrainian SSR had also been active in such co-operation: between 1980 and 1982 Ukrainian organizations and enterprises had taken part in more than 400 agricultural, industrial, educational, cultural and health projects in the developing countries.

12. His delegation closely followed the work of the Council, which had the difficult function of co-ordinating international economic and social co-operation. With regard to the rationalization of the work of the Council, he pointed out that practice showed that undue zeal in reorganizing did not necessarily bring about a real increase in the effectiveness of a body. What was needed in order to increase the effectiveness of the Council was not to amend the Charter or change the internal structure of the United Nations but to make maximum use of the possibilities provided for in the Charter; the powers granted to the Council under Chapter IX of the Charter, which were far from being exhausted, provided the opportunity to make a comprehensive review of all the important economic and social problems before the Council and to take decisions on them. Furthermore, it was important to bear in mind the importance of resolution 1982/50, on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, which had been adopted at its most recent session.

13. His delegation viewed favourably, with a number of general reservations, the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 proposed by the Council for adoption by the General Assembly, but it was firmly opposed to the attempts by the Western countries to exclude from the plan a number of programmes, such as the implementation of the well-known decisions of UNCTAD concerning the promotion of East-West trade relations. Such efforts to change decisions adopted by intergovernmental organizations ran counter to the aspirations of most of the States Members of the United Nations, which wanted discrimination and inequality to be eliminated from international economic relations.

14. With regard to the implementation of the proposed medium-term plan, expenditures should be kept within the bounds of current resources and any duplication in the work of departments of the Secretariat should be avoided. In that connection, his delegation reiterated the position which it had expressed,

(Mr. Lipatov, Ukrainian SSR)

together with other socialist countries, at the most recent session of the Council, to the effect that the measures provided for would have to be implemented without any increase in the regular budget of the United Nations and with maximum reliance on extrabudgetary resources. The sixtieth anniversary of the constitution of the Soviet Union as a federal State, which had been the result of a movement based on the unity of all Soviet peoples, including the Ukrainian people, occurred in 1982. That movement had been founded on the conviction that without unity of action and mutual assistance there could be no free development, nor could independence be maintained or backwardness overcome. The Council could and should make use of existing opportunities in the pursuit of economic and social progress.

15. Mr. SEKULIC (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation attached special importance to the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council; the Council would have to make the necessary adaptation to the contemporary needs of international economic co-operation. That was essential, particularly in view of the general deterioration prevailing in multilateral economic co-operation. Negotiations within the United Nations on various topics of world and sectoral importance were deadlocked, and support for certain programmes and activities of vital importance for developing countries had been drastically reduced. In those circumstances it was unacceptable that the Council, which was the principal organ of the United Nations in the field of economic co-operation, should be failing to carry out the functions entrusted to it by the Charter.

16. His delegation had supported proposals which it considered appropriate in order to promote change in United Nations systems by transferring authority to other competent organs of a system or setting up new organs and institutions. Nevertheless, those measures should not result in lessening the role of the Council but in strengthening it by adapting it to new conditions and requirements. Expanding the range of United Nations economic activities should have consolidated the Council's guidance and co-ordination functions, and the evolution of sectoral activities should have enabled the Council to pay the necessary attention to solving the most pressing and crucial world problems.

17. Resolution 1982/50, adopted by the Council at its second session of 1982, provided a suitable basis for future efforts in that sphere. He drew attention, in particular, to the recommendation on identifying issues which would require priority consideration and the recommendation that the Council should organize its work in such a manner as to enable it to focus its attention on a limited number of carefully selected major policy issues, to be studied in depth with a view to elaborating concrete action-oriented recommendations. It hardly needed saying that the systematic implementation of those and other recommendations in the resolution would also lead to savings in the United Nations budget.

18. The revitalization of the Economic and Social Council could not be achieved without the participation of all Member States. His delegation believed that through consultations and discussions at the current session and in future, agreement could be reached on the short- and long-term measures to be taken in order to accomplish that task. His delegation hoped that at the current session

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(Mr. Sekulic, Yugoslavia)

the General Assembly would reaffirm the recommendations in resolution 1982/50 and that the President's continuing consultations on all aspects of section II of the Annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 would yield positive results.

19. Mr. KHOR (Malaysia) said that the statements made by some of the world leaders in the general debate of the General Assembly and those in the Committee by the executive heads of the bodies and agencies of the United Nations system indicated that their primary concern was deepening world economic problems. In statistical terms, those adverse trends were reflected in the declining economic growth rate of all countries in the world, a phenomenon without precedent in the previous four decades; in human terms, those trends led to widespread poverty and misery. No country had been immune, although it was the least developed countries that were most seriously affected by the situation.

20. The report of the Council which was before the Committee mentioned the deteriorating trends in the world economy, and it was interesting to note that there was no disagreement among the members of the Council on that point. With regard to the resolution on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council in the report, his delegation felt that it was an important measure because the demands made on the Council to fulfil its mandate had increased over the years.

21. The Committee would have to be guided by the Council in carrying out its work. The Council would, *inter alia*, have to provide an overall view of world economic problems, indicate how the United Nations system had co-ordinated and carried out the development and co-operation programmes, determine the additional measures which would have to be taken in the short and long term in view of existing world economic conditions, and outline the priorities.

22. The report of the Council dealt with the whole range of economic problems confronting the United Nations. The foreword to the report, by the President of the Council, deserved the special attention of the Committee. His delegation agreed with the President of the Council that, in view of the deterioration of the world economy, the international community should take a firmer stand and should strengthen the international agencies in order to overcome the economic difficulties and the dilemma of underdevelopment confronting the least developed countries. The countries with the greatest resources and capabilities bore the major responsibility in that task. Furthermore, an atmosphere favourable to all efforts, individual or collective, undertaken to that end, would have to be created. The Group of 77's call for global negotiations was more urgent and relevant than ever. Current economic problems confirmed the rationale for the establishment of the new international economic order.

23. The World Economic Survey presented to the Economic and Social Council highlighted specific areas where the world economy had been badly hit. In the areas of food and agriculture, for example, it was reported that while certain gains had been made in Asia within the last decade those gains had been nullified by the population growth rate. The Green Revolution had taken place in only a few countries and it must now be extended to many countries in all regions. Millions

(Mr. Khor, Malaysia)

of people were reported to be still living below the poverty line and the indications were that the situation would worsen due to the world recession. Immediate steps must be taken by the international community in order to stem the tide of rising poverty.

24. It had been stressed over and over again in the General Assembly and in the Second Committee that large amounts of resources which could have gone into development continued to be spent on armaments creating a paradoxical situation in which the world was no more secure despite the millions of dollars spent on armaments yearly. On the contrary, the weapons at hand were already sufficient to reduce the world to smithereens in a matter of minutes. Many speakers had observed that the root causes of the present economic recession could, to a large extent, be blamed on man. The misfortunes the world was seeing were not acts of fate but results of the policies which had been adopted.

25. One of the many consequences of the economic crisis was the drop in commodity prices which were now at the lowest levels of the last 30 years. Many developing countries depended on one or two commodities for their exports with which to obtain the necessary foreign exchange for the purchase of capital and other important consumer goods which, by nature of the existing economic system, came from the industrial developed countries. Many speakers had pointed out the inequity of the present conditions, stressing that the developing countries now had to produce more of the same commodities in order to pay for the same quantity of goods from the developed countries. The problems of commodities also related to the need to ensure that their supply would meet the demand over the long term. There was also the question of sharing the cost of research and development which, in many cases, was borne mainly by the developing countries. The financing of the programmes for science and technology was pertinent in that regard. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP had pointed out, in his statement to the Committee, that when, after years of protracted negotiations, agreement had eventually been reached within the International Natural Rubber Organization to arrest the fall of rubber prices, the effort had come too late and had been too little.

26. The plight of the Palestinians continued to weigh on the conscience of the world community. As in the past, the Committee would have to address itself to the needs for assistance for that people; because of the brutalities inflicted on them during the recent Israeli aggression those needs had become more pressing.

27. His delegation underlined the continuing difficulties of the peoples of the Sudano-Sahelian region where 5 million people were reported to be facing starvation because of the unprecedented drought. He appealed to the international community and, in particular, to the agencies, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, to provide extra help for the implementation of the projects already approved by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

28. Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria) said that analysis of the report of the Economic and Social Council enabled the Committee once again to consider those factors which adversely affected the development of international economic relations. The

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(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

economic recession afflicting the economies of the capitalist countries and the policy of protectionism, boycott and discriminatory trade and economic practices pursued globally by the majority of those countries had a negative impact on the economic development of the developing countries which invariably found themselves in a state of deep crisis, as was evident from the studies carried out by the relevant bodies of the United Nations.

29. It could not be denied that the arms race and the exacerbation of international tensions brought about by the militaristic policies of certain Western States were detrimental to international co-operation and jeopardized peace and understanding among nations. The race to stockpile and modernize armaments would inevitably have consequences which would be fatal to mankind. The People's Republic of Bulgaria was in favour of employing fairly the principles of competition among countries. However, it would rather see such competition in the field of economics and trade, in efforts to promote better social and living conditions for peoples or to solve the world's economic and social problems than in measures which would put an end to human civilization. The solution to the various problems currently facing the world must be sought solely through negotiations, on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.

30. Expanding economic and commercial relations was an important factor in the links among States. Unfortunately, attempts had been made recently to change those relations from an instrument for promoting peace and co-operation into an added source of tensions and mistrust. The efforts which were being made to impose sanctions and restrictions on the socialist countries were poisoning the political climate and, in the final analysis, would boomerang on their initiators. At the same time, however, those actions were detrimental to the interests of all countries in the world, since they violated the established norms and rules of economic relations among nations. The policy of discrimination and restrictions directed against such countries as Cuba, Angola, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mozambique and Nicaragua, the sanctions invoked and imposed during the conflict in the South Atlantic by States which were not even directly involved and the sanctions applied against firms providing turbines for the gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe indicated that the scope of discriminatory measures had been constantly expanding although their effect, in reality, was insignificant. At the present time, no country could be certain that one day it would not be subjected to economic blackmail. The danger was greatest with respect to the developing countries since they were economically the most vulnerable. The escalation of international tensions created an international climate which was not propitious for the realization of the tasks and objectives of the organs of the United Nations system, including the Economic and Social Council. Promotion of international co-operation in the social, technical and economic fields, including co-operation among countries having different socio-economic systems, depended entirely on the progress made in strengthening international peace and security and in adopting practical measures for real disarmament.

31. During the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council, held earlier that year, a joint declaration had been made on behalf of the socialist

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(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

countries, members and observers in the Council, concerning the resolution on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. He reaffirmed the position of Bulgaria on the issue and reiterated its view that the intensification of the activities of the Council and the enhancement of its role within the United Nations system should not be achieved through a revision of the Charter but through maximum utilization of the potential of the Charter.

32. The events in the Middle East required in-depth consideration of the question of assistance to the Palestinian people. The latest Israeli actions in Lebanon against the Palestinians had demonstrated the policy of genocide practised by the Israeli Government in regard to the Palestinians. He reasserted the position of principle and solidarity of the People's Republic of Bulgaria with the struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination and the establishment of a State of their own. For the past 10 years the Bulgarian Government had been providing material assistance to the Palestinian people. Through various organizations such as the Bulgarian Red Cross, the Bulgarian trade unions and others, aid and assistance had been sent every year in the form of foodstuffs, medicine, medical appliances, clothing and other elements. During the darkest days of the massacres of the Palestinians and the Israeli assaults against West Beirut, the Bulgarian Government had sent a number of teams of physicians and nurses to give emergency aid to the Palestinian population. His delegation was confident that the specialized organs and agencies within the United Nations system would accord the highest priority of providing aid to the Palestinian people.

33. In view of the paramount importance of social and economic conditions as a factor in the development of individual countries, the People's Republic of Bulgaria maintained relations of close co-operation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. In connection with the preparations for the World Conference on Population scheduled for 1984, his Government had consented to host the European regional conference on problems of population. In its social policy the Bulgarian Government devoted considerable attention to human resources and to care for the life, health and harmonious development of all individuals. He was confident that the European regional conference would contribute to the strengthening of co-operation in that field.

34. Mr. KITI-KITI (Zimbabwe) said that the fact that 52 per cent of the least developed countries in the world were in Africa demonstrated that the system of international economic co-operation had failed to fulfil its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations and the various resolutions and programmes of action which had been adopted by consensus. It also showed that imperialist development strategies were a means to a slow death.

35. The annual average growth rate in the per capita GNP for Africa between 1970 and 1979 had been 2.8 per cent as against 2.7 per cent for all developing countries. The most critical sector had been that of food production which had declined by 0.9 per cent during the same period while food imports had increased by 9 per cent annually since 1960. That, combined with increases in the prices of oil, the manipulation of commodity prices and restrictions of imports by developed

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(Mr. Kiti-Kiti, Zimbabwe)

countries had created a permanent foreign exchange crisis. Consequently, many development programmes had had to be abandoned and the overall infrastructure had been weakened.

36. In a series of resolutions, in particular resolutions 32/197, 33/202 and 34/206, the General Assembly had charged the Economic Commission for Africa with the important task of being the main general economic and social development centre for Africa. Accordingly, he expressed concern at the fact that the professional staff of ECA had declined from 226 in the biennium 1974-1975 to 214 in the biennium 1982-1983.

37. While the restructuring of the organs of the Economic and Social Council had led to a decentralization of many functions to ECA, that development had not been accompanied by a delegation of financial and managerial control. As a result, ECA had spent much time negotiating its way through red tape instead of discharging its mandate.

38. His delegation endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/37/119), in particular with regard to the institutionalization of high-level inter-agency meetings with a view to developing co-ordinated action aimed at the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action. The JIU had also made recommendations for strengthening the management capacity of ECA. That was very critical as it seemed ridiculous that an organization as large as ECA should be administered by one Under-Secretary-General and one staff member at the D-2 level.

39. It went without saying that the Assembly had an obligation to ensure the full implementation of the resolutions on restructuring. ECA, in conjunction with the Secretary-General, should work out flexible regulations which would expedite its work in financial management and staff recruitment. It was obvious that the resources allocated to ECA under the regular budget must be increased substantially so as to enhance the prestige of ECA among other executing agencies.

40. In order to co-ordinate multinational programming activities, ECA had established a system of Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs). Those centres had given a strong impetus to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action through the strengthening of the subregional infrastructures; it should be recalled that the constraints imposed on development could be overcome only through subregional co-operation. The MULPOCs introduced new forms for regional and national planning. The Lusaka MULPOC had made tremendous strides towards the goal set forth in the Lagos Plan of Action of establishing an African common market by the year 2000.

41. Despite that note of optimism, the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the MULPOCs (E/1982/70) stated that those Centres were now on the verge of collapse. It had been recommended that each MULPOC should have a small core of programme and administrative professionals financed by the United Nations regular budget. He appealed strongly to the Soviet Union and the United States of America to support the endeavour which was so important to the peoples of Africa.

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(Mr. Kiti-Kiti, Zimbabwe)

42. Drawing attention to the importance of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa for the socio-economic development of the continent he reminded those Member States which had suggested that the number of technical consultative meetings held in Africa was excessive that the process of consultation among independent African States was less than 20 years old and that the African countries had contributed the most to financing the activities of the Decade. Since the problems of Africa were structural it followed that the present structures had contributed to the declining share of exports of all categories from Africa. Intensifying the production of raw materials and foodstuffs for export was only a partial, short-term solution to the problem. He reiterated Zimbabwe's unswerving support for the Lagos Plan of Action which offered a means of achieving self-reliance and autonomous development.

43. Zimbabwe had a well-developed infrastructure for agricultural production and its commitment to the goal of collective self-reliance had induced it to adopt a regional and global perspective in food production.

44. Africa was confronted with two natural problems - drought and desertification. Although they should not be considered problems now that there was an abundance of technology to solve them, the fact was that the technological aristocrats did not have the slightest intention of democratizing technological relations.

45. Noting that the Economic and Social Council had recommended that the General Assembly should adopt a decision establishing an institutional machinery to combat drought and desertification in the East and southern Africa subregion he recommended that the Committee should take up the matter as soon as possible.

46. Recalling that, in resolution 36/176, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to undertake a study of the adequacy of the conference facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa to meet the demands thereon as a result of the enlarged membership and increased activities of the Commission, he said that his delegation would like to see an expansion of all the facets of ECA - staff, scope of operations, meetings and others - and urged all delegations to show compassion and flexibility and to seize that unique opportunity to co-operate in transforming the landscape of despair of Africa into one of hope and progress.

47. Mr. SAAD (Egypt) reiterated his country's support for the strengthening of the role of the Economic and Social Council, as one of the main organs in the United Nations system.

48. Egypt had acknowledged the great importance of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and had therefore entirely supported the efforts undertaken by ECA in collaboration with other organizations to implement the projects of the Decade. In that context, Egypt welcomed and supported the efforts of ECA to organize the four consultative technical meetings in Lomé, Ouagadougou, Yaoundé and Abidjan in order to find funds to finance the first phase (1980-1983) of the Decade. In view of the success of those meetings, it was to be hoped that

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(Mr. Saad, Egypt)

the General Assembly would lend its support to ECA to organize a fifth consultative meeting in 1983.

49. Egypt was concerned about the present situation faced by the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, whose existence was threatened by the lack of human and financial resources. In his report (E/1982/70 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General recommended that financial resources for the Centres be provided from the regular budget of the United Nations. The General Assembly should ensure by all possible means the continuing performance of the Centres' basic functions.

50. As an over-populated country, Egypt recognized the complexity of the population problems and their adverse effects on the process of socio-economic development, and had therefore favoured the convening of an International Conference on Population in 1984. After studying the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/37/3, parts I and II), together with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1982/7 and 1982/42, it was of the opinion that the General Assembly should approve the necessary funds, both from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary sources, for the Conference.

51. Although the Secretary-General's second report on assistance to the Palestinian people had not yet appeared, the Egyptian delegation wished to express its opinion on the basis of the Secretary-General's first report on the question (A/31/214). It was impossible to ignore the disastrous events which had occurred recently in that area. Assistance to the Palestinian people had always been one of the most important items on the agenda. The Egyptian delegation appreciated the performance and efficiency of the United Nations organs and organizations in discharging their responsibilities, particularly in view of the obstacles which they were facing in their mission. It was regrettable that, in addition to those difficulties, the organs and organizations were confronted with the problem of insufficiency of resources. He asked those countries which had expressed sympathy with the Palestinian people to demonstrate in a practical manner their comprehension of the serious problems which existed, so that the international mechanisms could continue to function until a just and lasting peace for the Palestinian people and for all the peoples of the region could be achieved.

52. Mr. SCHWEISGUT (Austria) said that Austria had supported the initiative of establishing an international centre for public accounting and auditing ever since it had been proposed at the Fifth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance. The Austrian delegation welcomed the conclusion reached in the Secretary-General's report on that question (E/1982/69), as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/43 of 27 July 1982 favouring the establishment of the centre.

53. As indicated in the report, a number of delegations had suggested that the centre should be located in Vienna, where INTOSAI (the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions) was already operating and where various seminars and training courses had been held for officials from the administrations of developing countries, so that it would be possible to take advantage of the experience

(Mr. Schweisgut, Austria)

acquired. For those reasons, Austria supported the establishment of the centre in Vienna and, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the agreement between the United Nations and the Republic of Austria, the Vienna International Centre would make the appropriate facilities available to the new international centre for public accounting and auditing - an arrangement which would have clear advantages, including financial ones.

54. Mr. OLZVOY (Mongolia) noted from the World Economic Survey, 1981-1982 that the economic situation had continued to deteriorate in the developing countries, which had suffered a decline in growth rates and in GNP, accompanied by an increase in their external debt. At the same time, the developed countries were mired in a lengthy recession which belied the illusions of those who had hoped that the capitalist economy would recover.

55. The world economic crisis was a product of the very nature of the capitalist economy and, as indicated in paragraph 12 of the report of the Committee for Development Planning (E/1982/15), military expenditure was helping to aggravate that crisis, in addition to endangering international peace and security.

56. On the other hand, thanks to planning and social ownership of the means of production, the economic situation of the socialist countries was constantly improving. Some figures for Mongolia would illustrate that fact: compared with 1980, Mongolia's GNP had increased by 7.6 per cent in 1981, its gross national income had increased by 7.2 per cent, industrial output had increased by 10.5 per cent, per capita income had increased by 4.3 per cent and the inhabitants' monetary income had increased by 6 per cent.

57. Mongolia participated in the activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific designed to promote the economic development of that region. Those activities were extremely beneficial to the developing countries, and should be encouraged by the Economic and Social Council. Mongolia supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/50 concerning the Council's revitalization, since it was important for that organ to be given all the necessary means to carry out that task and the other important tasks entrusted to it.

58. With regard to the economic sanctions which imperialist countries were using as an instrument of pressure and aggression against the developing and socialist countries, the Mongolian delegation supported the draft resolution submitted by the group of Latin American countries concerning economic measures as a means of exerting pressure on the developing countries. That draft resolution was highly relevant and extremely timely; it should be adopted by the Economic and Social Council, since it would help to enhance the Council's authority and prestige.

59. The Mongolian delegation considered that the transnational corporations were among the principal culprits in the process of decapitalization of the developing countries, as was stated in paragraph 72 of the economic part of the documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries (A/37/333). In addition, the financial and technical assistance received by

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(Mr. Olzvoy, Mongolia)

developing countries had decreased. As was noted in the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/37/3, part II), official development aid provided by the OECD member countries had declined from 0.38 per cent of GNP in 1980 to 0.35 per cent in 1981. In contrast, as was indicated in the letter dated 12 July 1982 from the head of the USSR delegation addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/1982/86), the aid given to the developing countries by the USSR was constantly increasing; moreover, the USSR imposed no conditions on those countries for the granting of assistance.

60. The deadlock in the global negotiations on co-operation was deplorable. It was vital to overcome the difficulties which monopolist circles were placing in the way of those negotiations, which were fundamental for the establishment of the new international economic order.

61. Lastly, Mongolia supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/48 concerning assistance to the Palestinian people.

62. Mr. GOODMAN (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply to the statement made by the Soviet representative at the preceding meeting, said that he wished to make two points. Firstly, there was an obvious contradiction in the Soviet statement which, on the one hand, attacked the United States, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for failing to impose economic sanctions on South Africa and, on the other, branded as "unlawful" the so-called attempts by the United States and its NATO allies "to make use of all kinds of sanctions and to impose economic blockades". The United States could hardly be accused of opposing decolonization and the abolition of racism, when it had fought its own revolution over 200 years previously, and it needed no lessons on such issues from countries which had never held a free election. Secondly, the United States also needed no lessons on economic development or economic assistance from countries which, despite their rich agricultural potential, had for 60 years been blaming on unseasonal weather their inability to feed their people properly. Countries which had not participated in the Cancún Conference, because they had had nothing to offer, and which had played no role in the question of global negotiations were scarcely in a position to point accusing fingers regarding such issues.

63. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation reserved the right to reply at a later stage to the United States representative.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.