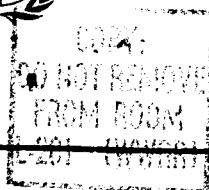


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THIRD COMMITTEE
16th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 20 October 1982
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CALERO RODRIGUES (Brazil)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 77: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE
(continued) (A/37/348 and Add.1 and 2, A/37/237)

AGENDA ITEM 81: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH (continued) (A/37/401)

AGENDA ITEM 82: QUESTION OF THE ELDERLY AND THE AGED (continued) (A/37/408,
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AGENDA ITEM 83: WORLD ASSEMBLY ON AGING (continued) (A/CONF.113/31; A/C.3/37/4)

AGENDA ITEM 89: WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS (continued)
(A/37/160, A/37/351 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2)

1. Mr. KERRIGAN (Secretary-General of the World Assembly on Aging), introducing the report of the World Assembly on Aging (A/CONF.113/31), said that the International Plan of Action on Aging contained in the report was the result of a consensus among the 121 nations represented at the World Assembly on Aging. That broad, nearly inclusive, representation of the membership of the United Nations was indicative of the importance attached by Member States to the problems of aging. The nature and composition of the 121 delegations had an important bearing on the nature of the International Plan. More than 50 of the delegations, including all Permanent Members of the Security Council, had been headed by Ministers. In other cases, the people responsible for decision making on aging in their countries had either headed or been members of their delegations.

2. The International Plan of Action resulted mainly from the work of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly, which had met on three separate occasions for more than 30 working days in a spirit of complete goodwill. As a result, after two weeks of informal debate at the World Assembly, the International Plan of Action had remained essentially the one which the Advisory Committee had forwarded to the Secretary-General for his approval prior to the World Assembly.

3. The work on the problems of aging had barely begun. The States Members of the United Nations were well aware that the entire world was undergoing a massive demographic shift that was resulting in an aging world population with problems, difficulties and opportunities for Governments and peoples everywhere. Societies must translate that awareness into action, and the role of the aging in society must be validated for the benefit both of society and of the aging themselves. He accordingly hoped that the International Plan of Action would escape the bureaucratic tangles and traps that were so often a part of multinational efforts. As an entirely new effort by the United Nations, he was certain that it could be made to transcend those problems and thus really touch the lives of aging individuals and societies. A great opportunity for good was there to be grasped - good for the aging of the world and good for human society and, if properly handled, good for the United Nations.

4. Mrs. TIRONA (Philippines) said that her country was guided by the conviction that youth constituted a crucial and potent force in accelerating development and

(Mrs. Tirona, Philippines)

in strengthening peace under conditions of social justice and equality. As part of the continuing process of democratization of its political system, the Philippines had established a national youth organization, the Kabataang Barangay, which had representation at all levels of Government, including the National Assembly and the Executive Committee, the highest policy-making bodies in the Philippines. That was a concrete expression of the relevant provisions of the Philippine Constitution, which safeguarded the civil, political, economic and social rights of youth.

5. Philippine youth was engaged actively not only in decision making but also in the implementation of development programmes for women and youth. The national youth organization had adopted a plan which reached out to the grass-roots level and promoted the improvement of the capacity of the young. Her delegation believed that in order to mobilize the potential of youth for development and the promotion of peace, youth must be given all possible opportunities to participate in the preparation and implementation of national development plans and international development co-operation, particularly in matters directly related to youth.

6. Turning to the Secretary-General's report (A/37/237), she said her country had allocated funds to the Philippine National Commission on the International Youth Year for the purpose of implementing the Plan of Action recommended by the Advisory Committee. At the national level, the Philippines would continue to pursue measures to increase further the contribution of youth to development and the attainment of equal opportunities in the fields of education, health and employment.

7. Her country believed that national, regional and world attention should be focused on the prevention of youth crime and juvenile delinquency and the enforcement of standards for the administration of justice and that special attention should be given to disabled youth, young migrant workers and young women. It welcomed the joint efforts of the relevant United Nations bodies, including the regional commissions and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in the implementation of programmes and measures.

8. Her country supported the strengthening of ESCAP in its efforts to improve the situation of youth in the region. There was urgent need for an inventory of the potentialities of the youth in the region in terms of their needs and aspirations. As there should be close co-ordination among youth organizations and support for those objectives, her Government would continue to participate actively in bringing the regional plan of action for the International Youth Year to fruition under the direction of ESCAP.

9. Her delegation also noted that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had been given responsibility for co-ordinating activities within the United Nations system with respect to the preparations for the observance of IYY in 1985. The projected issue by the Centre of a world directory of youth organizations and an annotated list of the activities of national and international research and information centres in the youth field should prove very useful. Her country endorsed the recommendation that the Centre should, in

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collaboration with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, identify and develop operational projects at the national and subregional level and, in accordance with its terms of reference, provide professional technical support for the implementation of those projects.

10. The Philippines had been the first country to contribute to the International Youth Year Trust Fund. Her delegation hoped that all States would make a contribution to the Fund to ensure the successful implementation of the International Plan of Action recommended by the Advisory Committee. It shared the view that the success of IYY would depend to a large extent on the publicity given by the media and the support of private organizations. The observance of IYY in 1985 should only initiate what her delegation hoped would be a continuing concern for youth that should from then on become an integral part of the International Development Strategy and the programme for a new international economic order.

11. Mr. PETERSEN (Denmark) said that his delegation was firmly convinced that the effort to achieve the purposes of the Charter would be greatly enhanced if the younger generation was enabled to take an active part in the work of the United Nations. A Danish governmental youth commission had been set up in 1981 to analyse the conditions and possibilities of young people and to make proposals for the safeguarding of their situation. Over the years, Danish delegations had participated in the work to improve communications between the United Nations and both youth and youth organizations.

12. It was encouraging to note in the report of the Secretary-General (A/37/401) that the United Nations agencies and bodies had developed a wide range of activities directed towards young people and that there was increased recognition of young people's contribution to the solution of the world's important issues. However, it was also clear from the conclusions of the report that much remained to be done, especially in terms of making young people aware of the work of the United Nations. His delegation believed that a constructive step in that direction would be to enable representatives of youth organizations to participate in the United Nations General Assembly.

13. His delegation welcomed the co-operation between the Secretariat and the Geneva informal meeting of international non-governmental youth organizations because it regarded those meetings as a main channel of communication between youth and the United Nations. It was of particular importance in that regard to secure the participation of youth representatives from developing countries, for example, through travel grants either from the United Nations or from Member States. His delegation was also in favour of the appointment of a rapporteur to report to the United Nations on the activities of the Geneva informal meetings.

14. The Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year had recommended that activities at the national and local levels should be the primary focus for IYY. The activities at the international and regional levels would primarily be in support of activities undertaken relative to national and local youth issues.

(Mr. Petersen, Denmark)

Although that recommendation had been endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 36/28, his delegation noted with concern that some delegations favoured a different approach. A decentralized approach was the best way of activating and engaging the largest number of young people from different spheres of society in the discussion of the main themes of IYY. Huge conferences with limited and selected youth representation would be of little effect in achieving the aims of IYY. Denmark was, of course, aware of the possibilities inherent in regional co-operation, and the Nordic States were discussing a number of activities which could be carried out in 1985. In the European context too, various kinds of activities were contemplated.

15. Commenting on the proposal to establish a special United Nations research institute on youth questions, he noted that there were already a number of research institutes within the United Nations system. It might therefore be more expedient to request those institutes to give priority to research in the field of youth. There seemed to be a need to strengthen international research and documentation activities on youth questions and to make comparative studies on a country-to-country basis. Other useful approaches would be a more systematic exchange of information and results and mutual co-ordination of research. Concentration of that kind of activity in one or several United Nations research institutes could be an important means of strengthening international efforts in that field.

16. Noting that the Advisory Committee had decided to discuss the draft Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Youth, he said his delegation questioned the advisability of such a declaration. Youth was already dealt with in international human rights instruments, and Denmark saw no particular merit in restating for a specific category of persons the rights laid down in those instruments. As to the observance of a youth decade, the United Nations had already proclaimed so many days, weeks, years and decades that the proliferation of such events could detract from their effectiveness. In addition, his delegation saw no need to create a special secretariat for the preparation of IYY. That task could be most effectively handled within the framework of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

17. Youth unemployment was a major problem in many countries. Since the economic recession had set in almost 10 years previously, unemployment had become an increasingly serious problem in Denmark. Various job-creation schemes had been launched since 1975, and in 1982 several measures putting strong emphasis on educational aspects had been adopted to combat unemployment. Educational systems adapted to and motivating the individual, and not excluding any group, would in the long run be an essential tool to combat unemployment. A point to be borne in mind, however, was the unlikelihood of motivating young people to seek education if that education did not correspond to the demands of working life. Youth organizations in Denmark supported the Government in its efforts to promote a general understanding that unemployment among youth was a major problem for Danish society. The Danish Youth Council was conducting a nation-wide campaign to promote fresh initiatives being taken by the Parliament in the current year. Its main

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emphasis was on general education for all young people, job creation and special offers to the residual group of young people under age 25 who had suffered long-term unemployment as a result of the economic recession and had not had access to or any motivation for general education. His delegation believed that job opportunities and special education offers should be equitably distributed in order to eliminate discriminatory practices based on race, sex, age and social origin.

18. A main theme of the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women in 1980 had been education and employment of women. The results of the World Conference had clearly demonstrated that the unemployment rate was much higher for women than for men and that, especially for young women, long-term unemployment was a serious problem. There was a great danger that, because of the existing crisis, a whole generation of young people would have fewer opportunities and as a result would experience distress during the most important part of their life cycle. There had been signs of increasing despair among young people in recent years, and that despair should not be allowed to develop into crisis proportions.

19. The issue of peace and human rights was also in the forefront of young people's minds. A series of interviews conducted under the auspices of the Danish Governmental Youth Committee showed that young people, apparently regardless of political affiliations, were concerned about the danger of war and the possibilities of securing a peaceful world at present and in the future. Human rights were being violated in many parts of the world, and often it was the most fundamental of all human rights, the integrity of the individual, that was at stake. Such ominous developments were of great concern to young people in all continents. Those issues would be of extreme importance in the programme planning for IYY.

20. Finally, his delegation wished to emphasize that the solution of youth problems should be pursued on a continuous basis and not merely during the International Youth Year, for every year was a youth year.

21. Mrs. ROSER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that her Government was supporting the preparations for the International Youth Year at the international level through its active co-operation in the Advisory Committee, and that was a reflection of the importance it attached to the objectives of IYY. Her delegation believed that IYY should be a year of youth, created and shaped for youth and organized with its active participation. It therefore believed that youth organizations in the countries that were Members of the United Nations should be given the opportunity of joining in the discussions and activities in preparation for and during IYY.

22. It was a prerogative of youth to find new solutions to old problems, and the creativeness of youth should therefore be encouraged not only in order to shape IYY for the benefit of youth, but also to seek new approaches for promoting the other two themes: development and peace. In order to overcome the enormous problems currently facing the world, it was imperative for youth to be made aware of the importance of those goals and the need to pursue them vigorously. The programmes

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of Germany)

of IYY should help youth to understand the significance of development and peace for their own future. It was necessary for the activities of IYY to be focused on improving the situation of youth in all countries. The observance of IYY should therefore consist mainly of programmes and activities at the national level. Experience showed that, in general, events at the international level, however spectacular they might be, did little to solve the problems of youth in a tangible way.

23. In order to foster the aspirations of youth in each country, it was incumbent on governmental bodies and youth organizations co-operate as partners, and IYY should contribute to improving that partnership. It should also help to promote the idea of world-wide co-operation. By encouraging international contacts, the exchange of information, educational programmes and joint activities, her country was helping to increase tolerance and foster mutual understanding. In the past, her Government's activities in that regard had been concentrated on co-operation in Europe and on promoting the idea of solving common European problems jointly. She was happy to state, however, that co-operation with youth organizations outside Europe, particularly those in developing countries, had become increasingly more important, and her delegation expected that trend to be strengthened by the preparatory work for IYY itself. Her delegation welcomed the opportunity to discuss matters arising out of that preparatory work, which would undoubtedly stimulate the work of the Advisory Committee.

24. Mr. FORBANG (United Republic of Cameroon) said that over 60 per cent of the citizens of his country were under 20 years of age, and the country's leaders were well aware that the survival of the nation would to a great extent depend on the manner in which its youth was brought up. Youth was the nucleus around which the entire development effort gravitated. The United Republic of Cameroon spent more lavishly on youth than on any other single sector of the nation's economy, and there were two ministries - Youth and Sports, and National Education - which were exclusively concerned with youth, the education ministry having the largest single share of the whole budget.

25. For over 15 years, his country had observed an annual youth day, which had recently been expanded into a national youth week during which the entire nation gave its attention to ways and means of solving the problems of youth with the active participation of the young people themselves. One result had been the action of the Government in setting up a special body to provide school dropouts and other young people with intensive training for work as small-scale farmers. Over 10,000 youths had benefited from that training, which had been provided at centres in each of the country's seven provinces. Other centres had also been set up to make useful citizens of youths who might otherwise fall prey to delinquency.

26. The United Republic of Cameroon was receptive to all initiatives likely to stimulate the interest of young people in the work of the United Nations and involve them more closely in development efforts not only in their own community or country but also in the world at large. It was well aware of the need for effective channels of communication between the United Nations and both youth and

(Mr. Forbang, United Republic of Cameroon)

youth organizations as a prerequisite for the success of the International Youth Year, and it therefore welcomed the efforts being made by institutions and organizations both inside and outside the United Nations system in accordance with the guidelines laid down in General Assembly resolution 32/135.

27. His country was awaiting with interest the study on improving channels of communication and also the publishing of a collection of model teaching units on the United Nations and world concerns. The initiative taken by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific to organize regional training workshops for youth leaders and develop rural institutions for the participation of youth in national development was worthy of emulation by other regional commissions and particularly by the Economic Commission for Africa, since the rural communities of Africa would stand to benefit greatly by such action.

28. His delegation suggested that the plans being contemplated by the Economic Commission for Africa as outlined in paragraph 18 of document A/37/401 should be expanded, where possible, to include experimental youth activities, which, if found productive, could be extended into a follow-up period beyond the International Youth Year. It was highly desirable that there should be an effective follow-up to the Year.

29. His delegation was generally satisfied with the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging. In particular, it agreed with the emphasis given in the Plan of Action to the need to help the elderly lead independent lives in their own family and community for as long as possible. His delegation strongly believed that it was possible to find practical and durable solutions to the problems of the elderly and the aged only by seeking a comprehensive revitalization of the family unit in its broader sense. That might perhaps be done through some means such as government assistance to families with two or more elderly persons to cater to.

30. The United Republic of Cameroon had long ago taken steps to ensure that disabled persons received their fair share of government attention, and specialized centres had been set up for each category of disabled persons. As part of its activities for the International Year of Disabled Persons, his Government had undertaken to re-examine current laws and recommend new legislation to discourage discrimination against the disabled. Official measures were also being taken to encourage the effective participation of disabled persons in leisure, cultural, spiritual and sports activities throughout the country. The national committee originally set up to organize Cameroon's activities during the International Year of Disabled Persons had been transformed into a technical committee - the National Liaison Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

31. The United Republic of Cameroon had contributed to the Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons and had formulated projects to submit to donor countries. It was encouraging that a number of developed countries and organizations had undertaken fund-raising activities to finance projects for disabled persons in developing countries, and was to be hoped that other countries and organizations would follow suit.

32. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said his delegation believed that the recommendations of the World Assembly on Aging deserved the full attention and endorsement of the General Assembly, since they were the result of extensive discussion by representatives of countries from all regions and from all economic and social systems of the world. He commended the representatives of many of the non-governmental organizations who had also made significant contributions to the World Assembly.

33. If the conclusions of the World Assembly on Aging were to benefit both the aging and their countries, Member States would have to be urged to ensure their follow-up. Individual States or, in some cases, regional organizations would need to decide which recommendations were most relevant to their own demographic, social and economic circumstances and would have to determine the best way to implement them. However, before those recommendations could be effectively implemented, public opinion would have to be made aware of their importance for the economic and social development of all countries.

34. The World Assembly recommendations were self-explanatory; however, his delegation believed that some points were of particular importance and should be stressed.

35. First, the elderly should not be isolated in retirement homes or hospitals, but should rather be integrated into the life of their communities and families.

36. Secondly, criteria should be established to permit flexible retirement policies, so that the elderly who wished to continue to work, on either a full-time or part-time basis, could do so, while those who wished to retire early could make that choice without penalty. Such a move would prevent the alienation of the elderly and would provide them with a means of self-support, thereby reducing their dependency on younger people. Any fear on the part of the young that their employment possibilities would be reduced by an increase in the number of older people in the work force might be allayed by the fact that, in most cases, the young and the old worked in different sectors of productive activities. Besides actually participating in the productive process, the elderly might be of great help to society by sharing their experience in the fields in which they had long been active. Such active life would help the elderly feel that they were still useful and would consequently improve their mental and physical health.

37. Thirdly, the mass media should publicize the important role that the elderly could play and the fact that premature aging could be prevented through increased attention to health.

38. His delegation also attached great importance to a number of other conclusions of the World Assembly. For example, particular care must be given to the needs of elderly migrant workers, under the conditions specified in recommendation 42 of the report of the World Assembly on Aging. Also adult education should be encouraged at all levels so that persons who had had to postpone their education because of pressing job commitments might be able to satisfy their personal cultural needs upon retirement. The concept of "inter-age universities" was essential to the fostering of inter-generational relationships. Teaching institutions and the

(Mr. Majoli, Italy)

public information media should educate people on all the age-phases of life. Ways should also be explored to protect the savings of the elderly from inflation and currency fluctuations. The elderly should likewise be educated to realize that their rights entailed some responsibilities.

39. In a different vein, society should facilitate the access of the elderly to public transport and cultural events. Noting that some airlines had special reduced fares for young people, he expressed the hope that such discrimination would be corrected.

40. A regular monitoring of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging by the United Nations Social Development Commission or other appropriate bodies would afford a context for any evaluation or modification of the Plan.

41. Turning his attention to the International Youth Year, he stated that no nation could ignore matters pertaining to the youth of other countries, just as no social, age, sex or economic group within one country could ignore the concerns of the youth of that same country. The youth of his own country had in recent decades shown an increasing awareness of its needs, a greater sensitivity to the problems of the underprivileged and a strong yearning for truth and honesty. Like the youth of other countries it was impatient with delays and wanted to eliminate bureaucratic formalities, and it was anxious to ensure that public money was earmarked for causes in which it believed.

42. He endorsed the statement by the representative of the Netherlands that financial contributions would be better spent on activities relating directly to youth than on new institutional structures. The concept of new bureaucratic structures ran counter to the spirit of youth. Moreover, in view of the current world economic crisis, and for the sake of the credibility of the United Nations, economy was an indispensable necessity. Therefore current staff should be redeployed to meet any new needs. For example, youth-oriented activities within the United Nations system might be co-ordinated by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs rather than by a new body established for that purpose.

43. Ms. GAUCH (Brazil) said that the World Assembly on Aging had been highly significant with regard to both its timing and the matters discussed. The World Assembly marked the first time that individuals, international organizations and both the developed and the developing countries had gathered together to discuss issues pertaining exclusively to the aging. The Vienna International Plan of Action, which had been produced by the World Assembly, constituted a sound basis for a long-term, action-oriented programme at the national, regional and international levels.

44. Changes in the elderly sector of the population affected all areas of social interaction and raised problems that were not easy to solve. Consequently, all countries should promote and implement policies and programmes that would be conducive to solving those problems in a way that would reconcile tradition with innovation.

(Ms. Gauch, Brazil)

45. The question of aging had evolved from a demographic and social issue into a development issue. Aging and development should thus be considered together, and their interaction should determine the humanitarian aspects of possible solutions. The aging population would have to be involved in development as defined by the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Decade and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The International Plan of Action acknowledged that, like the young, the elderly were both agents and beneficiaries of development.

46. However, the elderly could only enhance their role in society if countries, particularly developing countries, viewed aging and its related problems as a challenge rather than as a burden or threat. Prejudice against the elderly must be eliminated so that institutional policies and programmes could be promoted for the integration of the elderly into development. Moreover, all action on behalf of the aging required the establishment of an equitable international economic order. Committee members should therefore bear in mind the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, which stressed that international co-operation for development was the shared goal and common duty of all countries. Her delegation had approved the Vienna International Plan of Action because the Plan had embodied many of the principles just enumerated relating to development.

47. Her country had found that it had not been easy to devise solutions for problems relating to the elderly in a spirit of awareness and confidence, since the needs of that group were at times interwoven with those of the population as a whole. National guidelines were directed at the promotion of better social integration of the aging, emphasizing the participation of the family, the community and public assistance institutions. Brazil had designated 27 September as a Day for the Aging and had declared 1982 as the National Year for the Aging. Among the activities of that Year was the holding of a National Assembly on Aging in May at Brasilia, in which many national and foreign experts had participated.

48. She lauded the work of the World Assembly on Aging but reminded Committee members that individual Governments and the international community as a whole had much to do in coming years to guarantee the rights of the aging, improve the quality of their life and enable them to contribute to development.

49. Mr. VELLA (Malta) said his delegation felt that the International Plan of Action on Aging provided a realistic framework for action at the international, regional and national levels. The Advisory Committee for the World Assembly had worked hard to embody in the Plan the concerns and needs of both the developed and the developing countries, and it was hoped that the Plan would be endorsed by consensus by the General Assembly.

50. The Plan was an integral component of the major international, regional and national strategies and programmes formulated in response to important world problems and needs. Its primary aims were to strengthen the capacities of countries to deal effectively with the aging of their populations and with the

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(Mr. Vella, Malta)

special concerns and needs of their elderly and to promote an appropriate international response to the issues of aging through action for the establishment of the new international economic order and increased international technical co-operation, particularly among the developing countries themselves.

51. The plan reaffirmed the principles and objectives of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a number of other international instruments in the economic, social and humanitarian fields. The basic principle of the Plan was that the formulation and implementation of policies on aging were the sovereign right and responsibility of each State, to be carried out on the basis of its specific needs and objectives. Recommendations for action followed, and in that connexion it should be noted that recommendation 57 on the promotion of practical training centres to provide trained personnel in the field of aging was a matter of technical assistance. Thus, the appropriate United Nations agencies should be responsive to the need for the training of personnel in the field of aging.

52. The Plan concluded with a number of recommendations for its own implementation, and there was a role both for government action and for international and regional co-operation. Malta, for its part, would review and assess the recommendations of the Plan for Action at the national level and do its utmost to implement them within the context of national priorities and planning.

53. At the regional and international levels, there was much that needed to be done, particularly in the areas of technical co-operation, exchange of information and experience, research, and data collection and analysis. The Plan clearly outlined the role of the United Nations system in those areas, and in particular the leading role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. Malta believed it essential that the Centre should be strengthened in order to ensure the success of the follow-up programme for the World Assembly on Aging. His delegation strongly supported the recommendation that the Trust Fund for the World Assembly should be continued in order to meet the rapidly increasing needs of the developing countries. The General Assembly must lay down the requirements for the implementation of the Plan and specify the activities to be undertaken by the Secretary-General and by regional commissions and other bodies.

54. His Government, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/20, had designated 26 August, the day on which the World Assembly on Aging had convened, as its national Day for the Aging.

55. Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America) said that his Government and the people of the United States fully supported the International Youth Year and its themes of participation, development and peace. The United States had established a federal interagency committee to prepare for the International Youth Year and was encouraging the establishment of a broadly-based organization of non-governmental youth groups to participate in planning national activities. It was hoped that employment, health, education, juvenile justice and other programmes would be developed that would affect the lives of as many Americans as possible. His

(Mr. Phillips, United States)

Government would follow International Youth Year developments in other countries and regions in order to ensure that it benefited from their experience. It would encourage American youth groups to participate in international, regional and national meetings and thus intended to make its observance of the International Youth Year a tribute to the serious purpose, creative approach and adventuresome spirit of youth not only in the United States but throughout the world.

56. The representative of Romania had indicated his Government's interest in establishing a United Nations body to co-ordinate activities in the field of youth, but his own delegation believed that there was already just such a body in the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and that no further institutional structure was needed within the United Nations to prepare for the International Youth Year.

57. His delegation was surprised at the figures given in document A/37/348/Add.1, on the administrative and financial implications of the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, since at the Advisory Committee's second session there had been near unanimity that the International Youth Year should be largely a national observance by each Member State and that international activities and expenditure related to the Year should be kept to a bare minimum.

58. The Advisory Committee had agreed to consider a regional meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe on condition that it be paid for from the \$861,000 allocated for four regional meetings in 1983, and it had been stated quite explicitly that no new funds should be allocated for the ECE meeting. The supplementary figure of \$99,700 for the ECE meeting was therefore contrary to the consensus agreement reached in the Advisory Committee.

59. The Advisory Committee had also agreed that the youth unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should be made the Secretariat for the International Youth Year. The Advisory Committee had recognized that the youth unit might need some additional staff in 1984/85, but there had been broad agreement that such staff additions should be small and certainly not in the order of the \$400,000 indicated in document A/37/348/Add.1. That document also showed an expenditure of \$96,300 for regional meetings of experts to be paid for out of unspecified voluntary contributions; that meant that the International Youth Year would cost Governments some \$1.5 million in 1983 alone. The costs for 1984-1985 were estimated at \$1.6 million, or a grand total of \$2.6 million without any funds yet designated for public information activities. Unfortunately, those funds seemed to be destined to augment Secretariat studies and activities, and not one penny of the requested funds was intended to be used for youth-related technical assistance projects in the third-world countries where his delegation believed the need was greatest. The costs were totally out of hand and would have to be cut back drastically before any agreement could be reached.

60. His delegation believed that it would be possible to observe the International Youth Year successfully without creating additional institutions or incurring

(Mr. Phillips, United States)

additional costs in the United Nations system if every Member State put the accent on the needs and hopes of young people in its own country. The combined total of such activity would undoubtedly work to the benefit of youth throughout the world.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

61. The CHAIRMAN said that he had received a letter from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, with a covering letter from the President of the General Assembly, concerning the proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989 (A/37/6 and Corr.1 and 2). The plan had to be adopted by the General Assembly and had been referred to the Fifth Committee under agenda item 104; however, the plenary session of the General Assembly had decided that the committees should review those parts of the plan which related to their work and send observations to the General Assembly. Chapters 6 to 8 and chapter 21 related to the work of the Third Committee. It would not be possible to have a full scale debate on those chapters, but his suggestion, which had been approved by the officers of the Committee, was that the two Vice-Chairmen should be entrusted with the task of co-ordinating discussions on the subject and that delegations with any observations on the plan should get in touch with them. If it was felt that further consultations were needed, informal meetings could be held.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.