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SECOND COMMITTEE
40th meeting
held on
Thursday, 18 November 1982
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 40th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FAFOWORA (Nigeria)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/37/520, 571, 600)

1. Mr. ABU-KWASH (Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization) said that the consideration, under agenda item 12, of assistance to the Palestinian people had been delayed because the report requested from the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinians in Lebanon had not been distributed in time. In view of the delay, the extent of the tragedy caused by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the humanitarian issues involved, and the almost unanimous support for providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian victims of the Israeli invasion, the report (A/37/571) might have been expected to respond to the will of the international community as expressed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/48. Unfortunately, the document consisted only of a recapitulation of the resolution, a few references to documents concerning - save for the UNRWA report (A/37/479) - only the Lebanese people but not the Palestinian people, and a propaganda statement by the Israeli authorities in which abusive language was used about the PLO. The report as it stood was incoherent, inadequate and an insult to the international community which had unanimously condemned the Israeli war of aggression against the Palestinian people. It would have been more honest for the Secretariat to admit that it had failed to act in response to the Economic and Social Council resolution instead of distributing, after considerable delay, a wholly inadequate document. The Palestine Liberation Organization rejected the so-called report and insisted that the Secretariat should submit a comprehensive report in response to the resolution to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983.

2. It was, furthermore, surprising that the aggressor should have been consulted and had its views reflected, while the representative of the victims of the Israeli invasion, the PLO, had not been approached. He formally requested the Secretariat, therefore, to distribute the following statement as part of the report, and called upon it to consult the PLO on the preparation of the new comprehensive report.

"The Israeli criminal war against the Palestinians in Lebanon is part of a larger pattern that includes the Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories. The Geneva Convention of 1949 defines genocide as the systematic destruction of a society or a national or ethnic group not only by mass killing but also by destruction of homes, confiscation of property, expulsion of people and destruction of social, political and cultural institutions. By this definition, the abhorrent Israeli practices and crimes against the Palestinian people should properly be described as genocide.

"The Israeli contempt for the humanitarian principles of the Geneva Conventions is reflected in the continued Israeli attempts to exterminate the Palestinian people. The Israeli destruction of cities, villages and civilian camps, the deliberate shelling of Palestinian civilian targets, including hospitals and orphanages, and the massacre of Palestinian civilians constitute a flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions.

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(Mr. Abu-Kwash, Observer, PLO)

"The Israeli occupation authorities admit that there are at present 7,000 Palestinian civilians detained without charge or trial in a specially-built concentration camp at Al-Ansar. In compliance with the Geneva Conventions, those innocent civilians should be immediately released.

"Palestinian prisoners of war have been systematically tortured and many of them beaten to death by the Israeli authorities, as was confirmed in July 1982 by Canadian and Norwegian medical personnel. In contrast, the Palestine Liberation Organization applied the Geneva Conventions fully to the Israeli prisoners of war and treated them well. (Le Monde 4 November 1982)"

3. The Secretariat had failed not only to submit a report on assistance to the Palestinians in Lebanon but also to submit the report on permanent sovereignty over national resources in occupied Palestine and other Arab territories called for by the General Assembly in resolution 36/173. Such acts of omission undermined the credibility of the United Nations and he trusted that the Secretary-General would put an end to these unacceptable practices.

4. He expressed the PLO's gratitude to the many countries, international bodies and humanitarian organizations which had assisted the surviving Palestinian victims of the war. Those victims would be spending several months homeless, and he hoped that the international community would help by providing emergency shelter for them during the winter. He also hoped that they would help to put an end to the barbarism of the Israeli authorities whose crimes against Palestinians in Palestine and elsewhere matched those of the worst tyrants of history.

5. The full extent of the tragedy caused by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was yet to be told. The invading army had destroyed four cities in Lebanon, 130 villages and 14 Palestinian camps. It had also killed or wounded more than 78,000 Lebanese and Palestinians, the majority of them civilians, and destroyed the homes of more than 600,000 people. In cowardly fashion, the Israeli army had waited until the Palestinian fighters had left Beirut before entering it to massacre defenceless civilians at Sabra and Shatila. The United States shared the responsibility for that massacre since it had failed to honour its written undertaking to protect the Palestinian civilians following the fighters' departure.

6. The acts of the Israeli invading army in Lebanon mirrored the course of events in Israeli-occupied Palestinian territory since 1967. The Palestinian capital, Jerusalem, had been annexed by Israel and more than 50 per cent of Palestinian land had been confiscated for Israeli colonialist purposes. Even the United States had criticized the build-up of Zionist colonies on Palestinian land. The New York Times of 6 November 1982 had stated that the Israeli Government intended to have 100,000 Zionist colonialists, or so-called settlers, in the occupied Palestinian territories by 1985. The Herald Tribune of 2 November 1982 had referred to a study by the Israeli Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem showing that the Government of Israel had proceeded methodically towards de facto annexation of the West Bank, and the Washington Post of 17 November 1982 had reported United States criticism of Israel's deportation of professors and lecturers from the West Bank universities.

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(Mr. Abu-Kwash, Observer, PLO)

7. The Israeli occupation had made the economy of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip entirely dependent on the Israeli economy, as reflected by the fact that the occupied territories had become the second largest market, after the United States, for Israeli exports. Other Israeli practices included appropriation of land and water resources, deliberate underdevelopment of the agricultural and industrial sectors, the banning of Arab financial assistance to Palestinian municipalities and institutions, dismissal of elected mayors, deportation of public figures, collective punishment, the killing of students demonstrating against the occupation, destruction of more than 20,000 homes, refusal of building permits to Palestinians and the hampering of United Nations efforts to render assistance to the Palestinian people. The Israeli occupation authorities had not even allowed Bethlehem University to obtain a computer.

8. The same policies were being implemented in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, which had also been annexed by Israel in violation of the Charter and United Nations resolutions. The Syrian population was being subjected to arbitrary measures, including appropriation of their land and water resources, the imposition of Israeli identity, closure of schools, mass arrests and collective punishment, demolition of houses, and burning of Syrian crops. Nevertheless, the Golan Heights were Syrian and would remain so; similarly, the West Bank and Gaza Strip were Palestinian and would remain so.

9. Mr. SALLOUM (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation regretted that, during the general debate on agenda item 12, the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Arab territories had not been available. It would nevertheless address itself briefly to that subject. National resources, as interpreted by the two consultants who had prepared the corresponding report for the previous session (A/36/648), comprised resources in the natural, human, economic, infrastructural and cultural fields.

10. Since the occupation in 1967, the Zionist occupation authorities had violated the right to permanent sovereignty over natural resources by closing large areas of land for security reasons and thus preventing its use for production. By the end of 1980 they had expropriated more than 300,000 dunams for the establishment of new colonialist settlements and, through a series of obstacles and difficulties, had made it impossible for farmers to continue to cultivate their land. About 50 per cent of all land in the territories occupied in 1967 had been removed from the jurisdiction of the Arab inhabitants and municipalities.

11. Manpower resources, too, had suffered as a result of the creation of conditions incompatible with basic standards of living. The number of refugees registered with UNRWA residing in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan at the end of 1979 had been 1,136,140, in addition to more than 100,000 others who had been expelled by the occupation authorities from the occupied Syrian Golan. There had been other losses in skilled and technical manpower as a result of large numbers being forced to migrate because of difficult living conditions created by the occupation authorities with the aim of clearing the occupied territories of their original inhabitants. That migration was estimated at 20,000 persons a year, and many of those forced to leave were prevented from returning.

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(Mr. Salloum, Syrian Arab Republic)

12. In the economic sphere, the occupation had damaged the agricultural and industrial development of the occupied territories, patterns and terms of trade, foreign exchange resources and investment. Details were given in the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories (A/37/238). The Zionist authorities had tried to eliminate Arab agricultural produce which were in competition with similar Israeli produce and had introduced new crops in order to provide raw materials for the Israeli processing and manufacturing industries. There was evidence that many small industrial establishments in the occupied territories were able to operate only on the basis of jobbing orders received from Israeli companies, particularly in the clothing, textiles, building materials, metal and plastics industries. Further damage to industry had been caused by the establishment of industrial complexes in the Zionist settlements. Arab enterprises had suffered financially as a result of the closing of Arab banks. A large proportion of the wages earned by workers from the occupied territories employed inside Israel was returned to the Israeli economy through the purchase of goods and services of Israeli origin. Israel's policy ensured that the equivalent of billions of Israeli pounds in foreign exchange would accrue to the Israeli economy which would otherwise have gone to producers in the occupied territories. Israel deprived the inhabitants of the occupied territories of the freedom to use foreign exchange earnings and remittances from abroad so that they could not acquire a wider range of technologies and services for improving their agriculture, industry and living conditions. The Arabs under occupation had no choice but to use what was supplied to them from Israeli sources.

13. The effect of the occupation on cultural resources and values had been oppressive. The educational system had become an Israeli system and Israeli syllabuses and textbooks had come into use. Social, cultural and sporting activities among the Arab population were discouraged. A large number of books had been banned, entry had been refused to books and publications dealing with Arab culture and history, and a large number of place names, in particular those of streets in occupied Jerusalem, which were of great religious and historical importance to the Arab and Islamic peoples, had been replaced by Jewish names. There had been many clashes over the ownership of and rights to Al-Haram al-Sharif, which enclosed the Islamic sanctuaries, over excavations in and around those sanctuaries and over the application of Israeli law to Islamic religious affairs in Jerusalem. Books published recently in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Syria had been banned in the West Bank by the military administration and public libraries and bookshops had been warned not to stock them. The occupation authorities had deleted passages from textbooks inculcating national feeling with the aim of cutting the younger Arab generation off from its cultural values and its heritage.

14. In his own country, the effect of the occupation on the development process had been severe and the national economy had suffered great losses because of the Zionist occupation of the Golan Heights. Estimated losses in revenue and investment amounted to 3,525 million Syrian pounds up to the end of 1981. The cost of reconstructing and renovating mosques and religious endowment property in Quneitra amounted to 10 million Syrian pounds and damage to such property in 150 villages in the area was estimated at 75 million Syrian pounds. Cultural

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(Mr. Salloum, Syrian Arab Republic)

losses were represented by the destruction of the Cultural Centre in Quneitra and of structures of archaeological and historical interest going back to ancient times in other parts of the Golan; museums had been destroyed by Israel and priceless antiquities lost. In 1974, before withdrawing from the city of Quneitra in accordance with the disengagement agreement, the Zionist forces had destroyed that city and all the nearby villages thereby violating international law, all international covenants and the relevant provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention.

15. With reference to the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (A/37/485), his delegation drew attention to the oral evidence on annexation and settlement summarized in paragraphs 41, 42 and 43. According to paragraph 89, a secondary school in the Golan Heights had been closed by order of the Military Government following the students' refusal to participate in Hebrew classes. Paragraph 58 mentioned the amendment to Order No. 517 which forbade any kind of identification with a hostile organization. There was evidence that the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture was preparing a new settlement strategy in the occupied territories (para. 152). Sharon was quoted as saying that Israel's reply to the eight points of the Saudi Arabian peace plan was eight Israeli settlements (para. 155). Shamir had declared that Israel had not signed the Camp David Accords with the intention of abandoning the occupied territories (para. 156). Paragraph 160 of that report gave detailed information on the plans of the Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency. The number of settlements established in the Golan alone, according to the latest statistics was 35, but the existing plans would lead to the settlement of 100,000 Jews by 1985 at a cost of approximately \$1.25 million. The Golan Settlements Committee had presented a plan to settle 20,000 new settlers in the following four years, raising the Israeli population there to approximately 27,000 and involving the establishment of seven new settlements (para. 168). Moreover, the Israeli occupation authorities in the Golan had begun preparatory work on an area of 400 dunams for the establishment of a new settlement under the temporary name of Ein Shimshon. A special plan had been submitted to the Cabinet for the establishment of 16 settlements in the West Bank in implementation of the proposal to settle 100,000 Jews in that area over the following four years.

16. The Zionist occupation authorities were doing all in their power to gain control of water resources in the occupied territories. In 1980 the Israeli Cabinet had agreed in principle to the construction of a canal linking the Dead Sea with the Mediterranean and traversing the Gaza Strip. The use by the Zionist entity of the water resources of the occupied Arab territories was a flagrant violation of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Jewish settlements in the occupied territories made use of the limited water resources at the expense of Arab farmers, and Israeli control over the water resources had been expanded in order to meet the needs of the agricultural projects established by the colonialist settlements. The occupation authorities had restricted water consumption by Arabs in order to increase the amount available for the Israeli settlements, thereby threatening the livelihood of citrus producers and vegetable growers whose crops depended on irrigation; no Arab under occupation could dig a well without permission

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(Mr. Salloum, Syrian Arab Republic)

from the Military Government. As a result of deep drilling and the use of powerful pumps by the Israelis, the wells and springs in the occupied territories were being depleted. In the village of Al-Auja north of Jericho 2,000 Arabs had protested to the occupation authorities at the destruction of their agricultural economy after the water resources of the village had been depleted in that way. The villagers had in fact lost more than 1,300 dunams of banana crops and 150 dunams of citrus. What was happening in Al-Auja exemplified what was happening throughout the occupied Arab territories.

17. A study prepared for the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People had stated that it was logically impossible for the Israeli Government to claim that the settlements would not drive out the Palestinian inhabitants and would have no grievous consequences for them. The land and resources necessary for human settlements had to come from somewhere and the West Bank was not devoid of inhabitants. The alleged right of one people to return to its homeland was being exercised at the expense of the right of another people to live in its homeland. According to recent information, the military authorities were preparing to take control of ground-water sources in the occupied territories through the Israeli Water Company, Mekorot.

18. Without United States financial assistance Israel could not pursue its settlement and annexation policy. That part of its assistance which was publicly announced amounted to about \$2.5 billion a year and, in addition, Israel begged from certain Western States and imposed taxes on those who belonged to the Jewish community. His country therefore considered the United States of America responsible for what was happening in the occupied Arab territories.

19. Occupation did not in any circumstances affect sovereignty. Israel, through its expansionist policies and aspirations was frustrating all opportunities for peace in the region. If Israel wanted peace it should withdraw from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, should recognize the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and should implement all of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

20. Mr. HILLEL (Israel) said that the statements by the Syrian representative on the Palestinian issue were motivated by the intention to vilify Israel at every opportunity, regardless of the merits of the issue. Syria and other countries had demonstrated, through their repeated failure to take practical measures to alleviate the Palestinian problem, that they were concerned only with dubious political objectives, not with the unnecessary plight of the Palestinians. The invasion of Lebanon by Syria, the Palestinian people's self-professed protector, with the express purpose of destroying the PLO power base in Lebanon, had been totally ignored, and no mention had been made of the thousands of Palestinians killed by the Syrian invaders, or the entire neighbourhoods destroyed by Syria's massive bombardments. The PLO's cynical use of the civilian population as a human shield had been documented by many international observers and, indeed, proven by PLO documents found during the fighting in Lebanon. The accusations should have been directed at those truly responsible for the tragedy in Lebanon, those already

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(Mr. Hillel, Israel)

involved in the death of 100,000 Lebanese before June 1982, those whose brutal invasion had brought about the virtual devastation of Lebanon several years earlier, and those who had sought shelter behind their own civilian population during recent fighting, as they had formerly done after terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians.

21. His country's position regarding previous General Assembly resolutions on permanent sovereignty over national resources in the territories it administered was that it could not associate itself with the action called for. The resolutions were inherently biased against Israel and ignored many productive activities and achievements involving national resources in the administered territories.

22. Israel was entrusted, under international law, with the responsibility for the administration and security of the administered territories and the safety of their population. Its policy had been to maintain the laws in force, conduct its administration in accordance with binding international conventions and relevant rules of international law, promote social and economic development, foster good-neighbourly relations, and keep options for future peace arrangements open. The residents of the areas involved were well aware that their standard of living had risen considerably under Israeli administration. Since movement in those areas was not restricted - unlike the situation in most Arab countries - the improvement would be readily apparent to any objective observer. The gross national product of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district had increased at an annual average rate of close to 13 per cent in real terms between 1968 and 1981, while real per capita income had increased at an annual average rate of 11 per cent, and real per capita private consumption by 7 per cent annually. The improvement was neither coincidental nor temporary, but the intended result of a progressive policy seeking maximum socio-economic welfare for the residents of those areas. No Arab State, and few others apart from the major oil producers, could claim to have achieved such rapid improvements in living standards.

23. His country was continuing to co-operate with appropriate United Nations agencies, especially UNDP, to provide all possible aid to the civilian population. Its efforts had met with considerable success. Israel intended to prevent resolutions devoid of practical benefit from hampering future assistance to the Palestinians in Lebanon and elsewhere. It rejected any PLO involvement in the provision of aid to Lebanese civilians, since the PLO's deep contempt for human life precluded that organization from any humanitarian role.

24. For over 30 years, the Arab States had concentrated on hypocritical speeches and senseless resolutions rather than alleviating the plight of the Palestinians which, given the immense resources at their disposal, they could easily have resolved long since. His delegation regretted that they had once again succeeded in diverting the Committee from the important issues facing it. It was high time for the Committee to concentrate on issues truly within its jurisdiction and competence.

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25. Mr. SCHUMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Arab territories (A/37/600) showed that many obligations arising from the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council had not been implemented by certain Powers, in particular by the occupying Power. Documents before the Committee showed clearly that the situation in the Arab territories which Israel had been occupying illegally since 1967, had worsened in many respects. In that connection, he referred in particular to paragraphs 17, 27 and 28 of the Secretary-General's report on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/37/214). Accordingly, his delegation was pleased to see from paragraph 8 of document A/37/600 that every effort would be made to prepare a report for submission to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the implications, under international law, of United Nations resolutions on permanent sovereignty over natural resources, on the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories and on the obligations of Israel concerning its conduct in those territories, as called for in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 36/173. He was sure that the Secretary-General would again be given the necessary authority to prepare such a report.

26. Some clarification was needed in connection with the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people in Lebanon (A/37/571), particularly in view of the misleading assertions made earlier in the meeting by the representative of Israel. Paragraph 2 of the document provided information concerning the activities of many States and international institutions in response to the needs of the Palestinian people after Israel's aggression in June 1982. At the same time, paragraph 3 included an abusive propaganda statement made by Israel. The inclusion of that statement was definitely not consistent with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/48. Moreover, some minimum standard should certainly be applied with regard to the language of statements to be reproduced in reports of the Secretary-General. His delegation supported the request of the Observer for the PLO that the Secretary-General should prepare a report, as requested in Council resolution 1982/48, for submission to the Council at its second regular session of 1983.

27. Mr. ABU-KUASH (Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he did not wish to make a big issue of the matter, but that the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people in Lebanon (A/37/571) clearly could not be considered a report. He would have had no quarrel with it if the Israeli statement had been distributed separately. However, he noted that, at a recent Conference in Nairobi, the representative of Israel had quoted material from a similar report, likewise incorporating an Israeli statement, in such a way as to appear to be quoting the words of the Secretary-General rather than those of his own Government. In the light of that incident, he urged that a balanced, comprehensive new report on the subject should be prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/48.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that the request had been noted and would be discussed the following day.

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AGENDA ITEM 72: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)
(A/37/3 (Part II), 333, 445 and Add.1; E/1982/16/Rev.1, 17; DP/1982/9 and Add.1, 37, 40)

29. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that his delegation was profoundly concerned about the dismal outcome of the 1982 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. Many of the projects and programmes undertaken by UNDP and 22 other bodies would be adversely affected and some might have to be shelved as a result of the inadequate pledges received, and it would be the developing countries which were primarily affected by that situation. Governments would have to revise their planning estimates downwards to 55 per cent of the agreed indicative planning figures, despite the target of a 14 per cent annual increase in voluntary contributions. Total pledges to UNDP and UNICEF for 1983 were well below those made for 1982.

30. Contributions had declined consistently since 1979; the cumulative effect of that decline was even worse if losses owing to inflation and currency fluctuations were taken into account. Although the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies had recognized the need to place organizations engaged in operational activities for development on a more secure financial basis, the objectives set out in resolution 36/199 remained elusive.

31. His delegation believed that the steady decline of multilateral institutions and programmes was indicative of an erosion of the authority of the United Nations system. In the interest of promoting international co-operation for development, that trend must be reversed.

32. In that context, the pace of implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade was disturbing: the growth rate in 1981 had been a meagre 0.6 per cent, as against the target of 7 per cent per annum; and per capita income had fallen for the first time in nearly 30 years. The ratio of the official development assistance provided by the States members of the Development Assistance Committee to the gross national product had fallen from 0.38 per cent to 0.35 per cent. Implementation of the Strategy would have to accelerate significantly if the target growth rate was to be achieved and progress recorded before the mid-term review.

33. No country or group of countries could find a separate solution to the current international economic crisis. In an increasingly interdependent world, collective solutions must be sought in a spirit of accommodation and reciprocity of interest. His delegation hoped that the developed countries would heed that logic.

34. Mr. SEKULIC (Yugoslavia) said that the results of the recent Pledging Conference for Development Activities had been far from satisfactory, and the prospects for the future were not good. The funding crisis was likely to become worse, with Governments being advised to reduce their planning estimates of programme resources to 55 per cent of the illustrative indicative planning figures. The crisis, however, was only one manifestation of the general weakening of multilateral economic co-operation in all major spheres. A steady decline in voluntary contributions to United Nations funds and programmes had coincided with

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(Mr. Sekulic, Yugoslavia)

lack of progress in solving all the vital problems of international economic co-operation. The developing countries were confronting difficulties on all sides: they were exposed to the manifold impact of the world economic crisis and were even losing the support they had received through United Nations funds and programmes. When, on the basis of South-South co-operation, they reached the stage of programme implementation, efforts were made to deny them the support of the United Nations system.

35. The crisis in operational activities could not be solved in isolation, because it had developed in conjunction with the adverse developments in international economic relations in general. The General Assembly should make every effort at the current session to overcome the crisis, but equal efforts should be made in other spheres of vital importance, since the adverse trends seemed to spread from one sector to another. Operational activities for development were often cited as an example of successful international co-operation. His delegation therefore hoped that the principles and policies on which they were based could be reaffirmed so that they could regain their prominence in the efforts of the developing countries to promote their economic and social development.

36. In seeking a solution, a number of issues would have to be clarified, and the Director-General's report (A/37/445 and Add.1) provided a sound basis for the consideration of those issues. In dealing with the mobilization of resources, it analysed different forms of contributions for various operational activities, but it was difficult to conclude whether a change in certain programmes would produce better results. Medium- to long-term commitments by donors or the establishment of targets or similar mechanisms would certainly be useful. In order to see more clearly the advantages of the various options, however, it was necessary to ascertain how they would enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities. Targets might be discussed not only as a mechanism for assessing the implementation of commitments, but also as a vehicle for promoting efficiency and effectiveness. The scope of the process of review and appraisal should be extended and the results made available to Governments when they were deciding on the contributions to be pledged by them. It would also be useful if subsequent reports would continue to review the resource situation of the International Development Association, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme.

37. His delegation supported the use of national expertise and greater reliance on technical co-operation among developing countries, which would reduce the costs of experts and greatly contribute to capacity-building. In many fields of technical co-operation, developing countries had undertaken joint projects in order to achieve greater efficiency in institution- and capacity-building and at the same time reduce costs. That issue should figure more prominently in future reports.

38. His delegation supported all measures conducive to the reduction of administrative and other expenses, while endorsing the view, expressed in the Director-General's report, that a certain critical mass of technical and management

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(Mr. Sekulic, Yugoslavia)

support functions should be retained, irrespective of the levels of field programmes. Ideally, those programmes should not be scaled down, and the sole purpose of such action as was being taken was to overcome the existing critical situation.

39. Mr. SHAH NAWAZ (Pakistan) said that the combination of the international economic crisis and the erosion of the spirit of multilateralism was severely affecting the growth prospects of the developing countries. The Director-General's report (A/37/445 and Add.1) indicated that multilateral development co-operation was headed in an alarming direction. At least \$5.4 billion would be required to finance project activities for the period 1982-1984 but, on the basis of the recent pledging conference, there would be an estimated shortfall of \$1.4 billion. UNDP's technical assistance to developing countries would consequently have to be reduced by 45 per cent during the third programming cycle. His delegation was alarmed at the ease with which some developed countries had gone back on their commitments, their rejection of the common responsibility of nations and their disregard for even their own self-interest.

40. Although the report dealt with the issue of resource mobilization very thoroughly, it did not elaborate on the impact which stagnation or decline in the flow of voluntary resources to the United Nations system for operational activities would have on the economies of the developing countries and on the international economy itself. Such information would go a long way toward convincing some of the major donors of the need to fulfil their responsibilities and commitments to multilateralism. That aspect of the problem should be highlighted in the report for 1983, when a comprehensive policy review would be undertaken.

41. The effects of exchange-rate fluctuations on the mobilization of resources should likewise be analysed, as should the possibility of establishing a system for evaluating the performance of individual donors. Other topics should include alternative means of securing pledges and ways in which the existing system could be strengthened. It would also be useful to have an analytical table showing the proportion of the major donor countries' contributions that was used for engaging experts from developed countries or purchasing equipment from them; such information would give the governments of major donor countries more convincing arguments in favour of increased contributions. The Intersessional Committee of the Whole of the Governing Council, which was currently considering proposals regarding funding, should consider such questions as the timely payment of contributions and multiyear pledging, and the results of its deliberations should be analysed by the Director-General in his report for 1983.

42. The operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be effectively integrated into national development policies and programmes. Furthermore, his delegation welcomed the steps taken by United Nations organs and organizations to reduce costs and increase efficiency and the establishment of a joint consultative group to improve co-ordination between UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF. The provisions of General Assembly resolution 36/199, paragraph 7, urging all countries that were able to do so to indicate, while making their pledges, their probable contributions for a multiyear period should be reiterated, and Governments

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(Mr. Shah Nawaz, Pakistan)

should be requested to provide the information in question at an early date. His country was fully committed to multilateral development co-operation and adhered to targets, where they existed, and to its commitments regarding contributions to United Nations funds and programmes.

43. Mr. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that full account would be taken of the comments of members of the Committee on the future direction of operational activities and action to be taken. He would proceed, in consultation with the organizations of the United Nations system through ACC, to put into effect such of the recommendations in his report as were endorsed by the General Assembly. Member States had commented on the inadequacy of resources in relation to needs and the reasons for that situation on the need for Member States to strengthen their political commitment to supporting development efforts, particularly through multilateral action, on the reasons for the decline in the attraction of multilateral co-operation and on the question of donors' and recipients' confidence in operational activities. Delegations had recommended that further action should be taken to improve efficiency and effectiveness; that additional resources should be sought, but an endeavour should also be made to make do with less; that new ways of obtaining contributions from bilateral sources should be explored without prejudice to the principle of universality or to continued support by Governments for operational activities in general, and that coherent action should be promoted at the country level to enable the Resident Co-ordinators to function effectively and to improve the interchange of information at the country level among the organizations of the United Nations system and between multilateral and bilateral programmes. The debate had also been helpful in identifying a number of issues that should be given particular attention in the comprehensive review of operational activities to be conducted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly the following year.

AGENDA ITEM 71: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)
(A/37/3 (Part II), 15, 25, 37, 47, 395, 397, 424, 574)

- (b) CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES
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- (i) ENVIRONMENT
- (n) NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

44. Mr. SCHUMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that his delegation had no objection to taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (A/37/37 (Parts I and II)) and the report of the Secretary-General on new and renewable sources of energy (A/37/574). Its firm position on those issues had been fully stated on a number of occasions, most recently at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Committee and at the meeting in Rome of the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

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(Mr. Schumann, German
Democratic Republic)

His delegation believed that the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development and the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action must be funded from voluntary contributions. Follow-up activities to the Vienna and Nairobi Conferences must preserve the inter-State character of those Conferences and not become an arena for the profit-making policies at private capital and transnational corporations.

45. Mr. DMITRIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had no objection to taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (A/37/37). The activities of the Intergovernmental Committee were an important part of the efforts being made by the United Nations to restructure international economic relations on a just and democratic basis and revolutionize development in all countries, including the developing countries, through the use of modern science and technology. The Committee should concentrate on co-ordinating scientific and technical co-operation in the United Nations system in the context of general socio-economic change, the strengthening of the public sector and the training of national staff. World peace, support for détente and the containment of the arms race were essential to such international co-operation.

46. A number of United Nations bodies and agencies were involved in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action. Greater co-ordination and more effective action were needed in the United Nations system, especially in such bodies as the ACC Task Force and the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development. The operational plan of the Vienna Programme of Action needed to be analysed, clarified and defined more fully. His delegation was willing to participate actively in discussions on the plan at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Committee.

47. Action taken on the recommendations arising out of the study of the efficiency of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development must be co-ordinated by the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development and must be carried out within existing resources or by resorting to methods of funding that would not cause an increase in the regular budget. The Centre should continue its work on identifying the levels of scientific and technological development of individual countries, on an early warning system on the effects of technological developments and on the international system of scientific and technological information exchange. His delegation had no objection to the content of the Centre's programme of work for 1982-1983 on the understanding that it would not involve additional spending under the regular budget.

48. On the whole, the work of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development deserved praise. His delegation could not, however, agree with some of the Advisory Committee's proposals, such as the possible use of private capital and transnational corporations as a means of exploiting the scientific and technological potential of developing countries.

49. His delegation's views on the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development remained unchanged.

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(Mr. Dmitriev, USSR)

50. Turning to the report submitted by the Secretary-General under item 71 (n) of the agenda (A/37/574), he said that his delegation had no objection to taking note of that report. It supported the idea of using existing United Nations resources to the maximum extent possible in carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action, which it took to mean that secretariat support would be provided by existing staff. That position was dictated not only by his delegation's desire to rationalize and increase the efficiency of United Nations operations, as General Assembly resolution 32/197 required, but also by its conviction that the emergence of new bodies merely made the gigantic United Nations machinery more complicated, and made it more difficult to deal with such matters as the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis. The Economic and Social Council's existing Committee on Natural Resources, with a new mandate, and the existing secretariat unit within the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development could cope quite adequately with the implementation of the Nairobi Conference's decisions. All organizational details must be settled within existing budgetary limits.

51. Despite the importance of efforts by the United Nations to carry out the Nairobi Programme of Action, the major effort in that regard must be made by individual countries on the basis of progressive socio-economic change. The United Nations should supplement governmental efforts at the national level, using available resources or voluntary contributions. Experience showed that only Governments were in a position to mobilize and make effective use of resources in exploiting new and renewable sources of energy under their national plans for socio-economic development.

52. The Soviet Union would continue to help developing countries to establish and enhance their energy potential, provided that the countries concerned were willing to engage in mutual co-operation on the basis of genuine equality, respect for sovereignty and mutual benefit. The specific forms that its co-operation would take would be determined in accordance with the position set forth by the socialist countries in their joint statement to the General Assembly at its eleventh special session.

53. Mr. KUMLIN (Sweden) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.49, submitted under agenda item 71 (i), on behalf of its sponsors. He drew attention to paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 8 and said that the sponsors were prepared to discuss them in informal consultations in order to secure the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

54. He introduced draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.46, also submitted under agenda item 71 (i), and drew attention to paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 13.

55. Mr. WIRATUNGA (Sri Lanka) said that his delegation supported the conclusions formulated by the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in its report (A/37/47). It also supported the case for additionality of financial resources for developing such energy set forth in paragraph 93 of the report. Consideration might be given to channelling specific additional resources through UNDP, the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development and

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(Mr. Wiratunga, Sri Lanka)

the UNDP Energy Account. Other possible avenues, including an energy affiliate of the World Bank - an alternative which his delegation supported - should also be considered.

56. His delegation generally agreed with the views expressed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/37/574) and supported its main conclusions in respect of organizational matters. In particular, it supported the recommendation of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the establishment of an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system for such sources of energy. However, it viewed with considerable concern the fact that so little had been done to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action. Decisions must be taken, especially with regard to organizational matters, in order to ensure its rapid implementation.

57. Mr. BEN HAMED (Tunisia) said that the world economic crisis was causing the gap between rich and poor to widen still further. Current trends in the world economy were threatening to paralyze trade and block the development process. As was pointed out in the report of the Trade and Development Board (A/37/15), serious problems had arisen in the field of trade that compounded an already difficult situation. The new wave of protectionism was not conducive to the expansion of trade. Moreover, the contraction in production and consumption in developed countries had affected economic activity in the developing countries and led to increased unemployment and political and social unrest.

58. Tunisia had for some years been adversely affected by the protectionist policies applied by certain developed countries. It was extremely difficult to secure access for Tunisian textiles, olive oil and citrus fruits to the markets of those countries and, as a result, large numbers of enterprises were being forced to close, with a consequent rise in unemployment. His delegation condemned protectionist practices, which were contrary to the principles of free trade. The recently concluded Multi-Fibre Arrangement was a perfect example of such protectionism.

59. The developed countries must engage in real negotiations and refrain from taking unilateral decisions that were detrimental to the world economy in general and particularly the economies of the developing countries. If the aims of the International Development Strategy were to be achieved, it was essential to provide additional balance-of-payments financing urgently for developing countries, which had limited access to international financial markets. The International Monetary Fund should therefore increase its loan facilities. Secondly, official development assistance should be increased and the burden of debt service alleviated: high interest rates constituted a major obstacle to world economic recovery.

60. The forthcoming sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development would provide a good opportunity for the international community to offer a practical response to the developing countries' legitimate demands for the restructuring of international economic relations and for greater justice and equity in relations between developed and developing countries. His delegation was deeply concerned at the negative attitude of the Group B countries towards matters

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(Mr. Ben Hamed, Tunisia)

that were of fundamental importance to the developing countries. It hoped that those countries would approach the sixth session of UNCTAD in a constructive spirit and enable the Conference to achieve tangible results.

61. His delegation called for a concerted effort to get the global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development under way. It was high time for the North-South dialogue to be resumed.

62. Finally, his delegation welcomed the adoption by the Group of 77 of the Ministerial Declaration on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (A/37/544, annex II).

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.22

63. Mr. OMVUANE (Zaire), introducing, under agenda item 71 (c), draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.22, on particular problems facing Zaire with regard to transport, transit and access to foreign markets, on behalf of the sponsors, said that the basic problems facing Zaire with regard to transport, transit and access to foreign markets had been considered in a report prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa in 1978, which was referred to in the report of the Secretary-General in document A/35/512. The in-depth studies that the Economic Commission for Africa was required to carry out in accordance with the resolutions mentioned in the preamble of the draft resolution had yet to be implemented, despite the fact that the necessary resources, approximately \$200,000, had become available since the adoption of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

64. His delegation welcomed the recent agreement reached between the Economic Commission for Africa and Zaire concerning: feasibility studies on the Ilebo-Kinshasa and Matadi-Banana railways; the establishment of a commission for the development of the Zaire River Basin, which had been agreed upon by the Central African Republic, the Congo and Zaire; a number of river, rail, airport and road projects; and a time-table for the mobilization of financing, culminating in a round-table meeting of representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, interested funding agencies and Zaire. Provision would be made for his country's contributions to those projects in its investment budget from 1983 onwards. It was estimated that it would cost no more than \$63,000 to hold a round-table meeting, which was considerably less than the sum that the Secretary-General was requested to put at the disposal of the Economic Commission for Africa, in accordance with the relevant resolutions. The funds set aside for Zaire should be made available for the holding of the round-table meeting referred to in the draft resolution before the Committee. In that connection, he drew attention to paragraph 3 of the statement of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.2/37/L.32). Since no additional funds would have to be appropriated, he urged members of the Committee to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

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Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.26

65. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), introducing the draft resolution, under agenda item 71 (b), on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group attached great importance to the principles contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and to its close relationship to the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of the New International Economic Order. The tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Charter would occur in 1984. The draft resolution made proposals for the anniversary to be commemorated by a review of the implementation of the Charter by the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 74: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)
(A/37/3 (Parts I and II), A/37/122-133, 135-140, 583)

66. Mr. SANGHO (Mali) said that the rainy season which had just ended in his country had been extremely disappointing and a major drought, similar to that which had stricken the peoples of the Sahel 10 years earlier, had set in over the eastern part of the Malian Sahel notably in the regions of Timbuktu and Goa, putting almost 800,000 people and over 3 million animals at risk. Members of the Committee were aware how dependent livestock production and agriculture were on the amount and distribution of rainfall, and how important those two sectors were in his country's economy. Because of inadequate rainfall, crops and pastures were failing, herds were dying off and wells were running dry in many different parts of the country.

67. His Government was planning emergency measures to deal with the situation. It had decided, as a first step, to provide support for non-migratory herds in the affected regions (immediate requirements for that purpose were estimated at 30 million tonnes of feed concentrates and large quantities of mineral and vitamin supplements; to prevent any increase in the number of animals supported by the central Niger delta; and to provide migratory herds with grazing in areas where vegetation growth was still adequate. With the best will in the world, however, its efforts were falling tragically short of the requirements of the drought-stricken zones and was therefore appealing, once again, for international support. The international community had always responded favourably to its appeals, and he was convinced that international aid would not be lacking to deal with and limit the tragic consequence of the current situation.

68. The Government was proposing, with UNDP assistance, to hold an international donors' conference from 11 to 16 December 1982 at Bamako, at which it would propose an open and constructive dialogue on a comprehensive approach to assistance for the economic recovery and development of Mali. Friendly countries, governmental and non-governmental organizations were all invited.

69. His delegation accordingly urged the Committee to adopt by consensus the draft resolutions to be submitted on the subjects of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region and the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.43

70. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that the economic situation of Democratic Yemen, one of the least developed countries, had worsened owing to the extensive devastation caused by heavy floods. The Government of that country was unable to bear the mounting burden of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected areas. The Economic Commission for Western Asia had called for the urgent establishment of a programme for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-stricken area of Democratic Yemen, the Economic and Social Council had stressed the need for concerted action to that end and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator had prepared a report on the extent and nature of the damage caused by the floods.

71. The draft resolution accordingly urged, the Secretary-General, Member States, appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and regional and interregional organizations to give their support to an effective and comprehensive programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Democratic Yemen. In view of the humanitarian nature of the draft resolution, the sponsors hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/37/L.33, L.35-L.38, L.51-L.55 and L.57-L.61

72. Mr. DON NANJIRA (Kenya), introducing draft resolutions A/C.2/37/L.33, L.35-38, L.51-L.55 and L.57-L.61 on behalf of the Group of African States, said that they were drafted on traditional lines. The draft resolutions endorsed the assessments and recommendations of the inter-agency missions, reproduced in the reports of the Secretary-General, and requested him to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for effective special programmes of financial, material and technical assistance to the affected countries. They further requested him to keep the situation in those countries under constant review, to maintain close contact with Member States and international organizations within and outside the United Nations system, and to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the resolutions.

73. Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.36, on assistance to drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda was subregional in character. In it the Assembly appealed to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with the resources necessary to meet the requirements of those six East African countries and to assist them in their efforts to combat the effects of drought, on the basis of multi-agency missions, pending the establishment of the intergovernmental body recommended by the Assembly in resolution 35/90.

74. A number of countries had asked to be included in the list of sponsors of the individual draft resolutions. The additional sponsors were: for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.35, Rwanda and the Central African Republic; for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.37, Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Sweden and Thailand; for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.38, the Central African Republic, Guinea, France,

(Mr. Don Nanjira, Kenya)

Indonesia, Madagascar, Singapore, Thailand and Yugoslavia; for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.51, Rwanda; for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.53, Argentina, France and Rwanda; for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.54, China and Thailand; for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.55, Central African Republic, France and Zaire; for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.57, Cuba and Jamaica; for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.58, Central African Republic, France and Indonesia; for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.59, Afghanistan, Algeria, France and Uganda; for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.60, Afghanistan, Sweden and Rwanda; and for draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.61, Algeria, Central African Republic and Rwanda. The Philippines had become a sponsor of the draft resolution on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda (A/C.2/37/L.36).

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.56

75. Mrs. DEL CUETO (Mexico), speaking on behalf of co-sponsors, introduced the draft resolution on assistance for Nicaragua (A/C.2/37/L.56). The draft resolution already had 60 sponsors, and the delegations of Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mali, Thailand and Trinidad and Tobago had asked to be added to the list. Her delegation hoped that, as on previous occasions, the resolution could be adopted by consensus.

76. The aim of the draft resolution was to continue the assistance accorded to Nicaragua since its revolution, and, if possible, to augment it in accordance with the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America on the May 1982 floods. Nicaragua's efforts at reconstruction had been severely set back by the recent natural disasters. As a result of the floods, 80 persons had died, some 70,000 had suffered losses, and damage was estimated at \$357 million. The floods had affected the most economically active areas of the country which produced most of the tax revenue and foreign currency earnings. The losses equalled about one fifth of Nicaragua's entire gross domestic product and 40 per cent of its 1981 exports.

77. The effect on the Nicaraguan economy had been reflected in reduced production of goods, increased shortages of foreign currency, increased demand for capital investment and a larger deficit on the public account. Immediately after the floods, moreover, Nicaragua had suffered an intense drought, lasting until mid-September 1982, and damage had again been concentrated in the most economically productive areas. Additional losses totalled \$100 million and the reduction in exports was expected to be over \$150 million.

78. Her delegation believed that it was essential to continue the assistance programme, and the draft resolution appealed both to Member States and to the bodies of the United Nations system to continue and to increase their assistance to Nicaragua.

79. Mr. JENSEN (Director, Office for Special Political Questions) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Tonga (A/37/583). In response to resolutions of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General had sent a multiagency mission to Tonga from 12 to 21 October 1982, after the finalizing of the country's fourth Five Year Plan. The mission had engaged in extensive discussions with

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(Mr. Jensen)

senior government officials on the economic constraints affecting Tonga, the impact of hurricane "Isaac", and the current needs for international assistance. The mission's report was annexed to document A/37/583.

80. With a small population scattered over 36 islands, Tonga was isolated both internally and internationally, with resulting high costs for trade and administration. It was also vulnerable to natural disasters, including tornados, volcanic eruptions, and in 1982 hurricane "Isaac". Internal migration was another major problem, and there was a need to extend social services to the outer islands. Economically, it was heavily dependent on a single crop, coconuts, and prices of that commodity seriously affected the balance of payments and the national budget. Further instability was caused by the importance of remittances to the national income. Such payments not only fluctuated widely but also escaped national economic management. The Government was unable to generate the resources needed for capital development programmes and was consequently dependent on external assistance.

81. The Government of Tonga was seeking some \$58 million for assistance under 48 projects, summarized in the report. They covered various fields: the revitalization of the coconut and banana industries, assistance to fisheries, assistance with small-scale manufacturing, aid in the health field and in regional development and assistance in improving the transport and telecommunications infrastructure. The report gave in detail the rationale for each project and the cost basis.

82. The Secretary-General hoped that Member States and international organizations would give sympathetic consideration to Tonga's needs and would contribute generously to an assistance programme designed to enhance the economic and social well-being of the Tongan people.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

83. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee was falling behind in its work. A great many items had been allocated to the Committee, and there was a draft proposal on each one, often repeating the language used in previous resolutions and decisions and requesting reports which had become a recurrent feature. That situation had continued despite the General Assembly's repeated complaints about the volume of documentation.

84. The Committee had established a useful procedure of informal consultations in the hope of facilitating its work. It had been found difficult, however, to hold the consultations regularly because no budgetary provision had been made for servicing them. Services had been provided on an "as available" basis, which made the holding of consultations dependent on the cancellation of other meetings. At the same time, the Committee organized a number of group meetings which were also serviced on an "as available" basis. Unless the General Assembly considered ways of providing the necessary facilities for informal meetings, the situation was likely to become worse.

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(The Chairman)

85. The Committee already had before it well over 50 draft proposals. Unless immediate action was taken to speed up its work, the overall programme of work of the General Assembly would be jeopardized. The deadline for the submission of draft proposals having financial implications to the Fifth Committee was rapidly approaching, but the Second Committee had so far adopted only one draft resolution and one draft decision. He understood that a number of draft resolutions would require time-consuming negotiations and that some of them had financial implications. Accordingly, he suggested that the Committee should set as an immutable deadline for the submission of draft proposals under all outstanding items Thursday, 25 November, at noon. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee endorsed that suggestion.

86. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 7.20 p.m.