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ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FORTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Friday, 4 March 1949, at 3 p.m.

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- Reports of the FAO on increase of food production (discussion continued) (Council resolutions 103 (VI) and 140 (VII), E/817, E/980/Rev.1, E/1084, E/1200, E/AC.6/W.35)
 - The problem of wasting food in certain countries (General Assembly Resolution 202 (III), E/AC.6/W.33/Rev.1)
 - Availability of DDT insecticides for combating malaria in agricultural areas (E/1089, E/1089/Corr.1, E/1089/Add.1, E/AC.6/W.34)

Chairman: Mr. SKOROBOGATY

<u>Members:</u>	Mr. MUNRO	Australia
	Mr. WOULBROUN	Belgium
	Mr. ALMEIDA	Brazil
	Mr. SMOLIAR	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
	Mr. VALENZUELA	Chile
	Mr. CHA	China
	Mr. IVERSEN	Denmark
	Mr. AMANRICH	France
	Mr. SHIV SHASTRI	India

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Members (continued):

Mr. HAKIM	Lebanon
Miss HAMPTON	New Zealand
Mr. AREVALO	Peru
Mr. BORATYNSKI	Poland
Mr. OZGUREL	Turkey
Mr. CHERNYSHEV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. DUCKHAM	United Kingdom
Mr. KOTSCHNIG	} United States of America
Mr. COPPOCK	
Mr. NASS	Venezuela

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. EVANS	International Labour Organization
Mr. McDOUGALL	Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. LOPEZ-HERRARTE	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Dr. CALDERONE	} World Health Organization
Mr. HILL	

Secretariat:

Mr. CAUSTIN	Division of Economic Stability and Development
Mr. MESSING-MIERZEJEWSKI	Secretary of the Committee

REPORTS OF THE FAO ON INCREASE OF FOOD PRODUCTION (Discussion continued)
(Council resolutions 103 (VI) and 140 (VII), E/817, E/980/Rev.1, E/1084,
E/1200, E/AC.6/W.35).

The CHAIRMAN declared the meeting open and said the Economic Committee would continue the discussion of the reports of the Food and Agriculture Organization on increase of food production.

Mr. SHASTRI (India), after expressing his delegation's appreciation of the work carried out by FAO, pointed out that the largest proportion of world population affected by the food shortage was to be found in Asia. It was well-known that the population growth in that part of the world was high and it was therefore difficult to increase the production of food to satisfy the needs of the increasing population.

He wished to emphasize the fact that Far Eastern countries could increase their food supplies if technical and financial assistance were supplied. Fertilizers, agricultural implements and other capital equipment were needed, and he felt that the appropriate specialized agencies should be instructed to study the problem of irrigation, flood control, soil erosion the mechanization of agricultural processes and the distribution of food in Asia.

Mr. McDUGALL (Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization), referring to the statement made at the previous meeting by the United States representative regarding the desirability of having more data in the FAO Report (E/1084), said that the Report was not intended to be a factual one on the world food situation. It was a report on the facts of the situation in regard to co-operation between various international agencies and organizations in relation to the food situation.

He pointed out that within the last three months the Food and Agriculture Organization had submitted five separate reports to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs.

Referring to the USSR representative's statement that the FAO was concentrating its attention on collecting data and was not sufficiently concerned with the interests of the small farmer and peasant, Mr. McDougall said if the information supplied the Economic and Social Council by FAO were carefully studied, it would be noted that FAO's interest in the small

/farmer

farmer and peasant was extremely real and practical. FAO devoted a considerable portion of its funds to general services to all Members States, including the collection and publication of agricultural, forestry and fishery statistics. FAO was doing all it could within the limits of its budget to afford technical aid and assistance to under-developed countries and took special interest in the small farmer and peasant. Missions had been sent to under-developed countries and it was hoped that the volume and efficiency of technical assistance would be greatly increased.

In connexion with the suggestions made by the United States and United Kingdom representatives that FAO should concentrate its efforts on the food and agricultural programmes of the world rather than on problems which fell within the terms of reference of other organizations, he pointed out that FAO was simply trying to carry out tasks assigned to it by resolutions of the fourth session of the annual conference of FAO, FAO was working with other international organizations to fulfill those instructions to the Director-General.

Referring to the suggestion on page 21 of the FAO Report (E/1084) that in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development the Food and Agriculture Organization should prepare a report on international financing of developments as requested by the fourth session of the FAO Conference, he stated that at the 261st plenary meeting of the Economic and Social Council the Chilean representative had proposed that the Secretary-General of the United Nations should prepare a similar report. Mr. McDougall felt that only one report should be prepared for both the FAO Conference and the ninth session of the Council. He thought that perhaps the Director-General of FAO would consult with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the matter.

He agreed, as had been suggested by certain representatives, that the word "crisis" no longer adequately described the world food situation, but stressed the fact that malnutrition was still widespread and the present world food situation with its long-term aspects needed just as much thought and attention as it did when there was a crisis.

He supported the Polish representative's statement that new policies and measures should be undertaken to increase food production, and

/that the greatest

that the greatest possible priority should be given to improving production in those countries which were faced with a food deficit. He was firmly convinced that it was upon the basis of more satisfactory nutritional conditions in the world that the proper structure of economic development would be built.

Mr. WOULBROUN (Belgium) agreed with those representatives who had praised the work of FAO. Since the word "crisis" described a temporary and abnormal situation one which characterized the problem as the scarcity of food might be preferable.

His delegation was glad to note that FAO co-operated with other specialized agencies in connexion with problems which were not wholly agricultural ones. It was obvious that the question of under-production of basic foodstuffs was closely linked with the more general problem of economic development and technical assistance, and technicians from under-developed countries should be instructed in soil conservation, irrigation, the various methods of agricultural production, etc.

The statement of the representative of FAO that only a small part of the world's production of food entered international trade should be referred to the ITO, which should try to improve that condition.

His delegation would support a simple resolution which would encourage the FAO in its fight against the world shortage of foodstuffs.

Mr. IVERSEN (Denmark), referring to the original draft resolution submitted by his delegation (E/AC.6/W.33), said that in conformity with opinions expressed at the previous meeting, two draft resolutions (E/AC.6/W.33/Rev.1 and E/AC.6/W.35) had been prepared to separate action on the agenda item on the report of the FAO on increase of food production from that on the problem of wasting food in certain countries.

Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the new draft resolution on the report of the FAO submitted by the Danish delegation did not agree with the text discussed in the preceding meeting. That had simply taken note of the report and he was ready to vote on it, but he suggested that, in accordance with the rules of procedure, a decision on the resolution should be postponed for twenty-four hours, if the new text was to be considered.

/Mr. CHA

Mr. CHA (China) suggested informally that the second draft resolution should be reworded to read that The Economic and Social Council having considered the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization on co-ordinated action to meet the continuing World Food Crisis expresses its appreciation of the work already accomplished.

Mr. BORATYNSKI (Poland) said he would have to consult the head of his delegation before voting on the new Danish proposal.

Mr. WOULBROUN (Belgium) although agreeing with the thought expressed in the new Danish proposal, pointed out that a question might be raised in the plenary meeting regarding the difference in drafting between the resolutions concerning the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization. He suggested that the wording of the original draft resolution should be retained.

Mr. IVERSEN (Denmark) explained that a different wording had been used in the second draft resolution submitted by his delegation as that proposal concerned a task which the Economic and Social Council had specifically assigned to FAO. If, however, members of the Committee found difficulty in accepting the wording of the second draft resolution he was ready to revert to the original wording.

Mr. DUCKHAM (United Kingdom) said his delegation would support the Danish draft resolution if the original wording was used.

Mr. MUNRO (Australia) agreed with the remarks of the Belgium and Danish representatives, and suggested that the resolution should contain a request to the Secretary-General asking him to transmit the summary records of the discussions to the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Mr. MESSING (Secretary of the Committee) read the amended draft resolution as follows:

"THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

"TAKES NOTE of the Report submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on progress in the co-ordination of studies to bring about an increase in food production and

"REQUESTS

"REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit to the Food and Agriculture Organization on the records of the discussions which took place on the Report at the eighth session of the Economic and Social Council."

The CHAIRMAN, replying to Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the resolution referred only to Item 19 of the agenda of the Economic and Social Council.

The CHAIRMAN then put the amended draft resolution to the vote.

The draft resolution submitted by the Danish delegation as amended was adopted by 13 votes to none with 2 abstentions.

THE PROBLEM OF WASTING FOOD IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES (General Assembly Resolution 202 (III), E/AC.6/W.33/Rev.1).

Mr. DUCKHAM (United Kingdom) said his delegation attached the greatest importance to the problem of food wastage, and as it was largely a technical and biological problem suggested that it should be referred by the Council to FAO for appropriate action. His delegation supported paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Danish draft resolution (E/AC.6/W.33/Rev.1).

Mr. WOULEROUN (Belgium) supported the suggestion of the United Kingdom representative.

Mr. MUNRO (Australia) agreed with the remarks of the United Kingdom and Belgian representatives, but wished to know whether FAO could undertake such a task.

Mr. McDUGAL (Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization) felt that as far as the technical aspects of food wastage were concerned the problem came within the general terms of reference of FAO. The only aspect of General Assembly resolution 202 (III) which might be outside the terms of reference of FAO were problems connected with storage, marketing and distribution of certain basic foodstuffs.

Mr. HAKIM (Lebanon) considered that under General Assembly resolution 202 (III) the Economic and Social Council had not been asked to take any action in connexion with the problem of food wastage.

Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled his proposal at the previous meeting that the discussion on the present item should be left open until the next meeting of the Economic Committee. His delegation was not in a position to speak on the item at the present meeting but it would like to be given the opportunity to do so after the week-end.

Mr. DUCKHAM (United Kingdom) drew attention to the fact that the Council had decided that interrupted debates should be avoided. He could not therefore agree to the suggestion made by the USSR representative.

Mr. SMOLIAR (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. BORATYNSKI (Poland) supported the proposal made by the USSR representative and considered that all representatives should be given the opportunity to speak on the item.

Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), replying to a suggestion by Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) that the motion for the adjournment of the debate should be put to the vote immediately, stated that he had not made such a proposal. He was prepared to hear any other representatives who might wish to speak during the present meeting and he simply wished the decision to be left over until the following meeting in order to enable those representatives who were not yet in a position to speak to do so later.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said that, since the USSR representative did not wish to propose the adjournment of the debate, he would do so himself in order to settle the question quickly, although he would be obliged to vote against his own proposal.

After some discussion, Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) withdrew his original proposal and proposed the closure of the debate instead.

/Mr. BORATYNSKI

Mr. BORATYNSKI (Poland) and Mr. SMOLIAR (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) spoke against the closure of the debate and Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the Danish draft resolution (E/AC.6/W.33/Rev.1) had not been submitted twenty-four hours before the beginning of the meeting so that it could not be put to the vote immediately without contravening rule 60 of the rules of procedure.

The CHAIRMAN called for a vote on the proposal submitted by the United States representative for the closure of the debate on item 20 of the Council agenda.

Mr. BORATYNSKI (Poland) thought that the USSR proposal for the postponement of the discussion should be put to the vote first.

The motion for closure of the debate was rejected by 6 votes to 5, with 7 abstentions.

Mr. BORATYNSKI (Poland) wished it placed on record that a procedural discussion, which he considered to have been initiated by the United States representative, had taken up nearly an hour of the Committee's time.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) replied that no time would have been wasted if certain representatives had not prevented the taking of a vote on the original procedural proposal.

The discussion on the substance of item 20 was resumed and Mr. WOULEROON (Belgium) pointed out there were a great many problems referred to in General Assembly resolution 202 (III). He therefore asked the Secretariat whether the adoption of the Danish draft resolution (E/AC.6/W.33/Rev.1) would involve any financial implications since it included a recommendation to the effect that the problems referred to in the General Assembly resolution should be studied.

Mr. CAUSTIN (Secretariat) replied that studies on some of the problems mentioned in the General Assembly resolution were already being undertaken by the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

Some information about those studies should be available for the Council's ninth session. Consequently, unless an accelerated programme of studies covering a wider field were requested, it would be possible to meet the request made in the Danish draft resolution without additional expenditure.

Mr. McDOUGALL (Food and Agriculture Organization), replying to a question by the United Kingdom representative, said that FAO was in the same position as the United Nations with regard to carrying out the provisions of the Danish draft resolution. The organization was working all the time on those of the problems which came within its competence and, provided that no acceleration of the present programmes was demanded, no additional expenditure was likely to be needed.

Mr. CHA (China) considered that some reference to food wastage should be made in the Danish draft resolution.

Mr. McDOUGALL (Food and Agriculture Organization) endorsed the opinion expressed earlier in the meeting by the United Kingdom representative that the problem of food wastage and the technical methods of controlling it came entirely within the competence of FAO. The problem had been under consideration by FAO for some time and the organization was intensifying its activities in that direction.

Mr. WOULBROUN (Belgium) said that General Assembly resolution 202 (I) covered so many points that it would be impossible for the Council to consider them all in detail. Since many of the problems came within the competence of FAO, he suggested that the Danish draft resolution might be replaced by a new one drawing the attention of FAO to the General Assembly resolution and asking it to prepare a succinct report on the points which came within its competence.

Mr. IVERSEN (Denmark) accepted an amendment submitted by Mr. DUCKHAM (United Kingdom) to the effect that the words "and to decrease food wastage" should be inserted after the words "food production" in the last paragraph of the Danish draft resolution.

Mr. CHA (China) supported the United Kingdom amendment.

Mr. HAKIM (Lebanon) also supported the United Kingdom amendment and hoped that the representative of Belgium would not insist on his alternative proposal.

Mr. WOUJEROUN (Belgium) said that he had made no formal proposal. He had simply wished to emphasize the fact that a competent specialized agency existed to deal with the chief problems and he considered that the subject should be referred to that agency to avoid placing an extra burden on the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr. McDOUGALL (Food and Agriculture Organization) said that FAO could undertake to prepare a short report, as requested by the representative of Belgium, covering the measures taken and planned to deal with the technical aspects of food wastage. Such a report could be submitted to the Council at its ninth session.

As there were no further speakers, the debate on item 20 was adjourned until the following meeting.

AVAILABILITY OF DDT INSECTICIDE FOR COMBATTING MALARIA IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS
E/1089, E/1089/Corr.1, E/1089/Add.1, E/AC.6/W.34)

Mr. DUCKHAM (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had no objections to the memorandum submitted by the World Health Organization (E/1089) or the draft resolution submitted by the Chinese delegation (E/AC.6/W.34). He thought however that the technical terminology might be improved since DDT could be taken to mean either the specific chemical itself or a whole range of new insecticides. In some places difficulties had been experienced in obtaining supplies of the chemical itself but there were other equally effective drugs for the control of anopheles. He thought, therefore, that it would be better to avoid any specific reference to DDT and to mention simply malarial insecticides.

Dr. CALDERONE (World Health Organization) agreed that the term DDT applied also to related substances and he suggested that the words "DDT and related compounds" might be used.

He expressed appreciation on behalf of WHO for the report submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization at the previous meeting on progress in the coordination of studies to bring about an increase in food production (E/1084). He was pleased that WHO had been able to collaborate with FAO in producing a joint action programme to increase world food production and raise standards of health (E/1200).

With reference to the question of DDT insecticides, he said that they were the most effective in combating malaria and that it was vital that they should be made available at a moderate cost to the countries where the need for them was greatest. They were required in the fight for better health and increased agricultural production. The free availability of DDT insecticides was an urgent social problem.

Mr. MUNRO (Australia) proposed the deletion of the second paragraph of the Chinese draft resolution (E/AC.6/W.34) since he considered its recommendation to Member Governments to take action to be inconsistent with the request for a report from the Secretary-General made in the final paragraph of the draft resolution.

Mr. ALMEIDA (Brazil) said that the memorandum submitted by WHO was self-explanatory. It gave some very impressive information not only from the medical viewpoint but also on the economic repercussions of the spread of malaria in agricultural regions. In the financial statement submitted by the Secretary-General the costs of making the necessary studies were estimated at \$3,000. In his opinion, that was not a large sum in view of the advantages of undertaking those studies. He therefore supported the Chinese draft resolution in its entirety and did not agree to the deletion of the second paragraph since it would be useful for Governments to take immediate action.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said that his delegation was fully aware of the importance of making adequate supplies of DDT available where they were needed and he welcomed the suggestion that the Secretary-General should be asked to prepare a report on the subject.

He agreed, however, with the representative of Australia that the second paragraph of the Chinese draft resolution should be deleted, as a recommendation to Member Governments would be more appropriate at a later stage when the Secretary-General's report had given a clearer picture of the situation.

Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) also supported the proposal made by the Australian representative for the deletion of the second paragraph of the Chinese draft resolution.

Mr. CHA (China) did not agree to the amendment proposed by the representative of Australia. He had had considerable personal experience regarding the effectiveness of DDT as an insecticide and felt that Member Governments should immediately be recommended to take steps to facilitate the free flow of DDT insecticides in international commerce.

Mr. DUCKHAM (United Kingdom) said that the second paragraph of the Chinese draft resolution gave no guidance to Member Governments and they would need to have the Secretary-General's report before they would be able to decide what steps to take in the matter. He therefore supported the proposal for the deletion of the second paragraph.

With regard to the terminology, he wondered whether the wording "DDT and its related compounds" would really cover all available malarial insecticides. Research was constantly progressing and new insecticides might be discovered. Some countries experienced difficulties in obtaining sufficient supplies of DDT because of the necessity of paying royalties in a hard currency. It might therefore be advisable to leave the Secretary-General free to consider other insecticides as well as DDT. He proposed that the last words of the third paragraph of the Chinese draft resolution should be amended to read as follows: "... distribution and availability of those insecticides, e.g. DDT, BHC, etc., which are available in the control of malaria".

Mr. ALMEIDA (Brazil) drew attention to the statement in the memorandum submitted by WHO to the effect that malaria annually affected 300,000,000 persons and brought death to 3,000,000.

The memorandum also stated that some countries had imposed local customs duties, which placed serious limitations on the use of DDT. In view of those facts he considered that Member Governments were in a position to take some action without further delay and he supported the retention of the second paragraph of the Chinese draft resolution.

Dr. CALDERONE (World Health Organization) agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the term DDT was used generically and it should be made clear that it covered all related items.

The point raised by the representative of Brazil was very important and it was probably due to the mention of the local customs duties in the memorandum that the Chinese delegation had included the second paragraph in its draft resolution.

At the suggestion of Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), it was agreed to postpone the voting until the following meeting.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.