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INDEX UNIT
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CONTENTS

	Page
Economic development of under-developed countries : report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter III) (A/1884 and A/1924) (continued)	
(c) Technical assistance for the economic development of under-developed countries (A/C.2/L.85 and Rev.1, A/C.2/L.87, A/C.2/L.88 and Add.1, A/C.2/L.90, A/C.2/L.91/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.92, A/C.2/L.93 and A/C.2/L.97) (continued)	79

Chairman : Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand).

Economic development of under-developed countries : report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter III) (A/1884¹ and A/1924) (continued)

(c) Technical assistance for the economic development of under-developed countries (A/C.2/L.85, and Rev.1, A/C.2/L.87, A/C.2/L.88 and Add.1, A/C.2/L.90, A/C.2/L.91/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.92, A/C.2/L.93 and A/C.2/L.97) (continued)

[Item 26]*

DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (A/C.2/L.85 and Rev.1) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the representative of Haiti had withdrawn his amendment (A/C.2/L.89) and had become co-sponsor of the Israeli draft resolution (A/C.2/L.88/Add.1).

2. Mr. AMARA MURTINHO (Brazil) stated that the United Nations technical assistance programme had developed at a regular and encouraging pace. The figures given in paragraphs 540 and 543 of the Economic and Social Council's Report were very satisfactory, particularly since they only represented a beginning. The variety in the nationalities of the experts was heartening and should be maintained. It would be desirable for the greatest possible number of them to be nationals of the under-developed countries, as they would thus have an opportunity of gaining greater practical experience and of contributing to the solu-

tion of problems characteristic of economically backward areas.

3. The question of co-ordination between the organizations providing technical assistance and recipient governments was more difficult. One solution might be to establish, in all recipient countries, a national organ to co-ordinate the various aspects of technical assistance. Such a measure should be supplemented, at the international level, by the sending of technical assistance resident representatives to co-ordinate the programmes of one or several countries. The Brazilian Government had already established a National Technical Assistance Commission, the Chairman of which was the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Vice-Chairman being a member of the Executive Office of the President of the Republic. The Commission therefore enjoyed the administrative autonomy indispensable to speedy action. It collaborated directly with the United Nations and the specialized agencies and dealt with the selection of fellows, travel arrangements for fellows and experts, the preparation of technical assistance plans, the negotiation and signature of agreements with international bodies, technical assistance provided by Brazil and the Brazilian contribution to the Special Fund set up to finance the Expanded Programme.

4. Brazil supported the conclusions of TAB regarding the need to decrease the local expenses incurred by recipient governments. The problem was twofold. Under-developed countries suffered from a serious lack of resources, but foreign currency was not the only resource which was lacking. The importance of the payment of local costs by recipient governments should not be over-stressed; it should be remembered that the under-developed countries were already assigning considerable sums from their budgets to education, scientific research, sanitation and the establishment of

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 3.*

* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly's agenda.

basic industries. Thus, in some cases, an under-developed country did not actually lack the resources but was unable to deduct the funds necessary to pay for a service or a fellowship from any particular budget heading, so that it had not been possible to take advantage of some fellowships offered by the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

5. Some of the suggestions of TAB ought to be reconsidered by the Technical Assistance Committee; he hoped that the problem of the recipient governments' financial contribution would soon be reviewed and that the expenses of fellows and of experts would eventually be covered mainly by the organizations providing technical assistance.

6. TAC had adopted a resolution which recognized the need, in certain cases, to provide a greater quantity of equipment and supplies to expedite the development of under-developed countries, and which recommended that in future, greater emphasis should be placed on the organizations of training demonstration and pilot projects. In that connexion, he welcomed the Philippine amendment (A/C.2/L.90) to the United States draft resolution (A/C.2/L.85). Those directives were to be commended and he hoped that the policy of TAB would become increasingly liberal in those respects.

7. As stated in paragraph 542 of the Council's report, the Secretary-General had indicated that the primary operational problem was the serious delay in meeting the needs of requesting governments. One of the reasons for such delays was the length of the negotiations preceding the signing of technical assistance agreements, due largely to the fact that the instructions given to representatives of the United Nations and the specialized agencies were too rigid and that their methods of handling such negotiations were insufficiently flexible. It was wrong to apply uniform principles to all the recipient countries. Furthermore, the methods used to carry out the programmes required simplification.

8. At the Technical Assistance Conference held in 1950, the Brazilian Government had offered services and fellowships to the value of \$ 460,000, but bureaucratic arrangements had been so involved that no use had yet been made of the Brazilian offer. Although the Brazilian contribution to the Special Account ranked fifth in size, it had not been mentioned in the list reproduced on page 78 of the Council's report. The Secretary-General had explained that one of the reasons for delay in using contributions in kind was the expense involved in using them. The Economic and Social Council had recommended that part of such offers should be made in money; at the proposed conference to determine the amount of contributions for the second financial year, the Brazilian representative would study the suggestion in detail. At the moment he felt that contributions in inconvertible currency towards defraying local expenses would involve the same organizational problems as the preparation of projects designed to make use of offers of services.

9. With regard to such offers, it was sometimes better, for example, for nationals of certain Latin-American countries to study in Brazil rather than in Europe or the United States.

10. His Government was in complete agreement with paragraph 1 of the draft resolution submitted to the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council

in its resolution 399 (XIII). Although certain countries including Brazil did have higher courses of training in public administration, it would be useful to establish contact among students of various nationalities and to take up administrative questions at the international level.

11. His delegation was in general agreement with the United States draft resolution (A/C.2/L.85) but had tabled certain amendments (A/C.2/L.93). He felt that the first amendment, namely, the insertion of the words "the continuation and extension of" after "Believing that", would be generally acceptable.

12. With regard to the second and third amendments, he stressed that negotiations for contributions to the Special Account could not be linked to those for other funds, since the problem of the expanded programme was a separate issue which required special approach. He had accordingly proposed the deletion of paragraph 6. The results of the Technical Assistance Conference of 1950 had been excellent and there was every reason to suppose that another such meeting would produce similar results. To link the Special Account with other funds might result in alienating the goodwill of a number of governments towards the expanded programme. His third amendment consisted in the deletion from paragraph 7 (a) of the words "Subject to the provisions of any other resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth session concerning the pledging of extra-budgetary funds".

13. The final Brazilian amendment was submitted for purposes of clarification; the language used was that of Council resolution 400 (XIII). It proposed the substitution in paragraph 11 of the United States draft resolution of the word "promised" for the word "made".

14. Lastly, it should be noted that if, in 1952, it was intended to undertake a technical assistance programme similar to that contemplated for 1951, \$26 million rather than \$20 million would be required, in view of the greatly increased cost of implementing the programme.

15. Mr. KEENLEYSIDE (Director-General, Technical Assistance Administration) speaking on behalf of the Technical Assistance Administration only and not on behalf of the specialized agencies which were also concerned with the Brazilian offer of services, said that when such an offer was made, TAA had been faced with the difficulty of working out the best method of using it. For example, despite the excellent co-operation afforded by the Brazilian Government, a senior TAA officer in Brazil had required five months to evolve a plan of technical assistance based on the utilization of services.

16. One Brazilian contribution was now being effectively used to provide various forms of technical assistance, but the process had been a lengthy one. He therefore welcomed the Brazilian representative's indication that his Government was considering the question of making a further contribution in funds. That would free the TAA's hands and enable it to plan a more flexible programme.

17. The CHAIRMAN asked the United States representative whether he accepted any of the amendments submitted to his draft resolution.

18. Mr. MANSFIELD (United States of America) replied that he had no objection to the Haitian (A/C.2/L.91/Rev.1) or Danish (A/C.2/L.87) amendments.

19. He could accept the first four Brazilian amendments (A/C.2/L.93) but wondered whether, in the case of the last amendment, the word "pledged" might not be used in the English text instead of "promised"; however he could not accept the amendments to paragraphs 6 and 7 of his draft as he considered the setting up of a negotiating committee to be the best method of ensuring that extra budgetary funds would be forthcoming. The matter might be referred to an informal working party.

20. The Mexican amendment (A/C.2/L.92) would be acceptable if the words "rendering technical assistance" were inserted after the word "agencies"; the word "may" included after the words "projects which"; and the words "likelihood that the necessary financial resources will be forthcoming" replaced by the words "probable availability of financial resources". The Philippine amendment (A/C.2/L.90) would be acceptable if the words "requesting the Technical Assistance Board to study the practicability of providing" were substituted for the words "in respect of the provision of" in the new paragraph 5 proposed in the second Philippine amendment.

21. Mr. AMARAL MURTINHO (Brazil) accepted the United States representatives' suggestion in connexion with the fourth amendment.

22. Mr. KEENLEYSIDE (Director-General, Technical Assistance Administration) replying to the representative of the United States, said that the co-ordination referred to in the second Haitian amendment (A/C.2/L.91/Rev.1) was already being carried out. The amendment therefore did not appear to be necessary.

23. Mr. CHAUVET (Haiti) wished to retain his amendment.

24. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) with reference to his second amendment (A/C.2/L.90) explained that he had originally intended to describe the action of TAC at the thirteenth session of the Economic and Social Council in greater detail, but had finally decided to summarize it in the text of the proposed new paragraph 5. He was prepared to offer a new suggestion that the General Assembly, in its resolution, should welcome the action taken by TAC in requesting that the Secretary-General and the participating organizations should interpret the rules regarding the provision of supplies and equipment more generously than had been done in the past within the framework of Council resolution 222 (IX), and in requesting TAB to study the practicability of meeting the needs for supplies and equipment designed to increase the effect of certain social services, giving official consideration to the need for, and practicability of the establishment of training and research centres and training and administration projects in the under-developed countries and the provision of pilot projects and similar facilities for the under-developed countries.

25. Mr. MANSFIELD (United States of America) agreed with the Philippine representative's suggestion.

26. Mr. BETETA (Mexico) said that he had no objection to the United States amendments to his own delegation's amendment.

27. The CHAIRMAN announced that the United States draft resolution would be circulated to the Committee in its revised form, incorporating all the amendments accepted by the United States delegation.

28. He then opened the discussion on the United States

revised draft resolution and the remaining amendment thereto.

29. He called upon the representative of FAO who had asked for the floor.

30. Mr. McDUGALL (Food and Agriculture Organization), commenting on paragraph 9 of the United States draft resolution, said that it would be difficult for the participating organizations to provide exact estimates as required under that paragraph since the provision of technical assistance under the Expanded Programme was based on requests by governments.

31. In the case of FAO, the next general conference would not be held until 1953, in accordance with the organization's decision to hold biennial conferences. He therefore suggested that the words "or meetings of the governing bodies of their agencies" should be added at the end of paragraph 9.

32. Mr. JULES-JULIEN (France) said the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance could now be said to have won its spurs. Most delegations had recognized that the United Nations could be justly proud of it. His delegation shared that view, despite the allegations of certain Powers which persisted in attributing ulterior motives to the programme.

33. As an instance of France's ever increasing interest in the implementation of the programme, he cited the fact that the *Centre des hautes études administratives* was holding a four-month session in order to enable the French officials present to study the part played by international technical assistance. Those attending this session would complete their training with the specialized agencies and thus gain first-hand experience of their work and working methods.

34. The French delegation regarded that technical assistance programme as one of the fundamentals of any international action for economic development. Without in any way belittling its achievements by way of expert advice, fellowships, pilot projects, seminars, and so forth, during the past year, he thought that the programme tended to suffer from dispersal of effort over a wide field. The technical Assistance Board could not be held responsible for that state of affairs since it was called upon to supply assistance only in cases where requests were forthcoming, and it deserved credit for having succeeded, under those circumstances, in negotiating with the interested governments. It was for the recipient countries themselves to frame their requests in such a way as to enable them to derive maximum benefit from allocations made to them. If they were to be used to full advantage, and with continuing effect, assistance programmes must be integrated into an overall programme established on a national plan, in which technical assistance requirements would be assessed, co-ordinated and given priority. Such a technical assistance programme should be related as a whole to overall plans for economic development. The significance of what he was saying became evident in the light of assertions such as that made in the general debate, that the capacity for capital absorption was strictly limited, for one of the factors which limited a country's absorption capacity, was precisely the lack of adequate planning.

35. He therefore welcomed the reference to the need for national co-ordination of measures taken to integrate technical assistance programmes into overall development plans.

36. The United Nations and the specialized agencies might soon be required to establish criteria for priorities in selecting the requests which could be made from available funds. Finally, it was desirable to ensure increasingly co-ordinated action between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and he felt that some measures of reform might prove necessary in that connexion. He particularly welcomed the appointment of resident representatives who would advise recipient governments on behalf of all the participating agencies, as also the decision taken by TAC, at its last session, to set up a working party to study organizational problems.

37. It was recognized that the technical assistance programme was a long term, indeed a permanent activity of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Contributions for the second financial period from participating governments must therefore be equivalent to the contributions for the first financial period. Otherwise, there would be an implied lack of confidence in the programme which in the eyes of public opinion would compromise one of the most important and profitable works that the United Nations could count to its credit.

38. He would vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted by the representative of the United States, in its revised form.

39. ABDEL RAZEK Bey (Egypt) said that his delegation wished to submit certain amendments, (A/C.2/L.97) to the revised text of the United States draft resolution (A/C.2/L.85/Rev.1).

40. In connexion with paragraph 7 (a), he considered it necessary to include reference to the fact that funds would be available from participating governments subject to parliamentary approval.

41. He did not object to paragraph 9, but wished to know whether the Second Committee had consulted the Fifth Committee on the point, as responsibility for approval of the audit reports would rest with that Committee.

42. In connexion with the Danish amendment (A/C.2/L.87) now incorporated in the United States revised draft resolution, he suggested that the word "fullest" be deleted. It seemed to be incompatible with the reference to currencies of limited convertibility.

43. With regard to the Haitian amendment (A/C.2/L.91/Rev.1) now incorporated in the United States revised draft, he believed that it would be better if the consideration therein referred to became the subject of a separate draft resolution. The amendment proposed thereto by his delegation would meet cases where certain private organizations, although non-profit in nature, were used with political aims in view.

44. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that he would have preferred to speak later in the debate when he had had an opportunity of hearing the opinions of countries not represented on the Economic and Social Council, but since no other speaker was at the moment prepared to take the floor he would comment on the United States draft resolution and the amendments to it.

45. In his opinion, the United States draft resolution met very satisfactorily the wishes of the Economic and Social Council as regards General Assembly action in the matter. One of the most important points in the

draft resolution was the approval of the financial arrangements agreed upon by the Economic and Social Council. The chief novelty in those arrangements was that the entire fund would not be distributed, but that part would be kept in reserve to be distributed later by the Technical Assistance Board in the light of specific needs. That was the first step towards the establishment of a joint fund for technical assistance to be administered by all participating agencies.

46. He welcomed the Philippine amendment (A/C.2/L.90) and the oral amendments made thereto by the United States representative. In that connexion, he pointed out that at the thirteenth session of the Council, his delegation had taken an active part in the formulation of the idea expressed in paragraph 2 of the Philippine amendment.

47. His delegation also welcomed paragraph 9 of the United States draft resolution, since it considered that in the case of a technical assistance programme established by the United Nations, it was essential that the budgetary control of such a programme should be vested in the General Assembly.

48. From the experience of his own Country, he could fully support the idea that greater national co-ordination was necessary with regard to technical assistance. He was glad to note the suggestions of the Brazilian and French representatives on that point, and hoped that they would give the Committee the benefit of their countries' experience.

49. The Haitian amendment (A/C.2/L.91/Rev.1) dealing with the possibility of co-ordinating the activities of private non-profit organizations engaged in rendering technical assistance with those of the United Nations and the specialized agencies appeared very useful, and he would be glad to see the study requested in the amendment. He did not believe that there was any danger of such action leading to interference with a country's national sovereignty and instanced his country's experience with the Inter-American Co-operative Institute (*Instituto Cooperativo Interamericano*). Over a period of ten years the Institute had been carrying out programmes for the improvement of public hygiene in Chilean towns without there being the slightest trace of intervention so far as Chile's national sovereignty was concerned.

50. He warmly supported the suggestions in paragraph 11 of the United States draft resolution that for the year 1952 countries should make contributions at least equal to those they had pledged in the past, and the suggestion that a technical assistance conference, similar to that held in 1950, should be convened to ascertain the amount of contributions available. He did not consider necessary the Egyptian representative's proposal for the insertion in paragraph 7 of the revised draft resolution of a provision relating to the approval of national legislatures, but he would not object to that amendment if the Egyptian representative wished to maintain it.

51. With regard to that part of the Brazilian amendment (A/C.2/L.93) which the United States representative had rejected, he fully agreed with the Brazilian representative's views as to the undesirability of discussing contributions to the technical assistance fund in conjunction with contributions for other purposes. He would therefore vote in favour of the Brazilian amendment and, if that amendment were rejected, he would be

unable to support the paragraphs of the United States draft resolution to which the amendment referred

52. Mr. BOURGET (Canada) said that, as his delegation had indicated in the general debate, his Government was very pleased with the first year of operation of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The United States draft resolution was a recognition of the programme's achievements and a guarantee of its continued progress.

53. He wished to emphasize the necessity for exercising extreme care in the selection both of technical experts and of trainees under the programme. He also drew attention to the public relations aspect of the programme, and the need to stimulate it through the establishment of mutual trust and confidence.

54. He approved of paragraph 11 of the United States draft resolution and hoped that all contributing countries would support it. Paragraphs 6 and 7 (a) formed a useful and necessary part of the draft resolution. Since a negotiating committee for extra-budgetary funds had already been established by the Fifth Committee, it would be undesirable to attempt to duplicate that Committee's work.

55. Mr. WOULBROUN (Belgium) said his delegation had already expressed its full collaboration with the United Nations programme of technical assistance. His country's position as an industrial and commercial nation, and its friendly relations with other countries, made it anxious to collaborate in raising the standard of living in under-developed countries. It approved Council resolution 400 (XIII) and, therefore, supported the United States draft resolution which was designed to implement that decision.

56. Universality was of particular importance to the technical assistance programme. As his country's representative had emphasized in the general debate (150th meeting) the Belgium contribution should be utilized to make maximum use of Belgian experts and facilities.

57. It was at that stage impossible to foresee what parliamentary decisions would be taken with regard to contributions, a fact which had been emphasized by the Egyptian representative in his proposed amendment (A/C.2/L.97). His Government would maintain its attitude of sympathetic collaboration. However, many governments were currently being called upon to make additional efforts and he wondered whether the method of raising funds suggested in paragraph 6 of the United States draft resolution was really the most effective. He agreed with the views expressed on the subject by the representatives of Brazil and Chile. The technical assistance programme had certain special features, and it might be desirable to continue to consider the question of contributions to it as a separate subject. The unofficial meetings which had been held before the first Technical Assistance Conference had proved very useful and a similar method might be followed in future.

58. He fully supported the Danish amendment (A/C.2/L.87) to the United States draft resolution. While he understood the difficulties mentioned by the Egyptian representative with regard to the use of currencies of limited convertibility, he felt that it was the Secretariat's duty to devise means of meeting those difficulties.

59. In connexion with paragraph 5 of the draft resolution

as amended by the Philippines (A/C.2/L.90), his delegation thought the services of experts and training facilities were the most important aspects of technical assistance and urged the Secretariat not to devote too large a proportion of available resources to the provision of supplies and equipment.

60. Mr. ZOLOTAS (Greece) said his delegation was in favour of the United States revised draft resolution. He wished, however, to raise one point with regard to co-ordination. Although, as indicated in various reports by the Secretary-General, many steps had been taken to secure co-ordination between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the technical assistance arrangements made by governments, much remained to be done in that field. In that connexion, he quoted a recent statement by the President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to the effect that there was bewilderment in some under-developed countries at the multiplicity of advisers without well-defined functions, and that this bewilderment tended to breed antagonism towards technical assistance. It might therefore be desirable to add paragraphs to the United States draft resolution noting with satisfaction, and looking forward to an intensification of, such efforts for co-ordination in the field of technical assistance.

61. Mr. HALIQ (Saudi Arabia) referring to the fact that the Chilean representative had solicited the views of members not represented on the Economic and Social Council, pointed out that the elections for new members of the Council would soon be held. He therefore urged members to give due consideration to the question of geographical distribution, and suggested that some States from areas which were well-represented should yield their seats to countries such as Burma or Egypt, situated in areas that had so far had little representation.

62. Mr. AMARAL MURTINHO (Brazil) explained, in connexion with the Belgian representative's statement on paragraph 6 of the United States draft resolution, that it was for the Second Committee to decide whether or not contributions for technical assistance should be negotiated in conjunction with contributions to other United Nations programmes. He therefore asked that documents A/C.5/L.109 and A/C.5/L.109/Rev.1 should be distributed to the Committee before its next meeting so as to give members the background to the discussion in the Fifth Committee of the question of the establishment of a negotiating committee for extra budgetary funds.

63. Mr. MANSFIELD (United States of America) pointed out that the Fifth Committee had recommended that the Secretary-General should appoint a special negotiating committee; it should therefore not be assumed that the Second Committee would be called upon to undertake the task of negotiating contributions to the Special Account.

64. The CHAIRMAN suggested that further discussion of the point should be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee. He added that, once the sub-item on technical assistance was disposed of, he would call on the authors of draft resolutions and amendments on the financing of economic development to present their proposals.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.