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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Economic development of under-developed countries (A/2172, chapter III, A/2192, A/C.2/L.155/Rev.1 and A/C.2/L.192) (<i>continued</i>)	297
Economic development of under-developed countries: (b) Methods to increase world productivity: report of the Economic and Social Council (A/2172) (<i>concluded</i>)	299
Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter II (A/2172 and A/C.2/L.194)	299

Chairman: Mr. Jiří NOSEK (Czechoslovakia).**Economic development of under-developed countries (A/2172, chapter III, A/2192, A/C.2/L.155/Rev.1 and A/C.2/L.192) (*continued*)**

[Item 25]*

1. The CHAIRMAN called upon the Committee to continue its discussion on the activities of regional economic commissions. The documents on that subject remaining before the Committee were a revised Chilean draft resolution (A/C.2/L.155/Rev.1) incorporating the French, United Kingdom and United States amendments, and the first Ecuadorean amendment (A/C.2/L.192), the second having been withdrawn.

2. Mr. JUNG (India) considered that adoption of the first Ecuadorean amendment would make the revised Chilean draft resolution unbalanced unless some mention were made of the work of the other two regional economic commissions. He therefore asked the Ecuadorean representative whether he would consent to withdraw his remaining amendment; if not, he suggested that it should be amplified in the sense he had indicated.

3. Mr. TOUS (Ecuador) agreed that it would be only fair to mention the activities of the other two regional economic commissions. He did not wish to withdraw his amendment; in particular, he felt that a reference to activities in the matter of basic industries was very important. Industrialization was part of the basic programme of economic development of a number of Latin-American countries—Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile, for example—and in some cases it was as important as agriculture. The six countries he had mentioned were

especially interested in developing their metallurgical industries.

4. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) noted that there appeared to be a maximum of agreement on the activities of the regional economic commissions.

5. There had been some doubt at the outset as to whether ECAFE, of which his country was a member, would be able to fulfil the common economic aspirations of the Far Eastern countries. At that time, most of those countries had still been in their political infancy and many were suffering from conditions bordering on famine. Moreover, there was a popular conception that the East as a whole was an unhealthy region, where no great progress could be expected. ECAFE, however, had been able to overcome all such difficulties, awaken a new consciousness among the nations and make co-operation on economic problems possible.

6. ECAFE had decided to open its future sessions with a debate on the regional situation, based on its half-yearly report. That debate would be a useful complement to the Economic and Social Council's discussions on the world economic situation. ECAFE had also proved its usefulness as a central body for the consideration of such matters as flood control, transport and technical assistance. His Government was therefore most disturbed at the proposal at present before the Fifth Committee to stabilize the United Nations budget at a certain level; it hoped that that would not involve any curtailment of the work of the regional economic commissions.

7. His delegation supported the revised Chilean draft resolution and associated itself with the Indian representative's view of the Ecuadorean amendment. With

*Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

regard to the third United States amendment, which had been incorporated in the revised version of the Chilean draft resolution, he hoped the understanding was that the co-operation referred to was to take place in accordance with the terms of reference of the regional economic commissions.

8. Mr. ENCINAS (Peru) fully supported the revised Chilean draft resolution. In his statement in the general debate (209th meeting) he had referred to the work of ECLA. The Chilean draft resolution of necessity failed to cover all the activities for which ECLA was to be congratulated. A point of particular interest in its work was the training of Latin-American economists by the establishment of training centres. He agreed, however, that it would be inadvisable to attempt to enumerate the activities of ECLA in a resolution, and he was unable to approve of any amendment in that sense.

9. Mr. ELAHI (Pakistan), supporting the revised Chilean draft resolution, said that he had already expressed his delegation's views on the work of the regional economic commissions.

10. As there appeared to be general support for the Chilean revised draft resolution, and only minor differences of opinion on the Ecuadorean amendment, further discussion might be saved if the Chilean representative would agree to the insertion of the word "integrated" before the words "economic development" in the sub-paragraph (c) of the second operative paragraph. That might fulfil the main purpose of sub-paragraph (ii) in the Ecuadorean amendment.

11. Replying to a question from Mr. DIAS CARNEIRO (Brazil), Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) explained that representatives of Latin-American governments would be welcomed at the ECAFE Conference on Trade Promotion in 1953.

12. Mr. NURADI (Indonesia) fully supported the revised Chilean draft resolution. He shared the misgivings of the Indian, Philippine and Pakistani representatives as to the advisability of including the Ecuadorean amendment in the Chilean revised draft. The resolution was adequate in its present revised form.

13. Mr. LUBIN (United States of America) suggested the addition of the words "in carrying out joint studies" at the end of the second paragraph of the Chilean revised draft resolution. That would bring the draft into conformity with a decision taken at the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council to the effect that all the three regional economic commissions should be authorities to collaborate in carrying out certain joint studies.

14. Mr. DE SEYNES (France) agreed with the United States representative's suggestion. His delegation's amendment (A/C.2/L.193) had already been accepted by the Chilean delegation but he wished to make it clear that, in mentioning certain activities of the Economic Commission for Europe, he had not tried to enumerate all the merits of that organization whose mandate extended mainly to one of the most developed areas of the world. But, within the context of the current discussion of item 25, it was hardly possible to go beyond those activities of the Commission which referred to the under-developed areas. The

proposed amendment was not meant to advocate any change in the general programme of ECE. In particular, it could not be interpreted as suggesting any change in the arrangement between the Commission and the various technical assistance services. In the opinion of the French Government the participation of the regional commissions in the technical assistance programme was of the greatest importance. But their participation raised certain administrative problems; the existing arrangements seemed to have solved the problems satisfactorily and the French amendment was not intended to introduce any new element.

15. In answer to a question from the CHAIRMAN, Mr. BURR (Chile) said he accepted the oral amendment proposed by the United States representative to the end of the second paragraph of his revised draft resolution.

16. Mr. BUNGE (Argentina) said his delegation would support the revised draft resolution, since it felt that recognition of all the work of the regional economic commissions was due. Their work would greatly facilitate the work of the United Nations.

17. It would be desirable to find a wording acceptable to the whole Committee. The Ecuadorean representative's amendment only gave examples of the efficient work carried out by ECLA. It should be possible to obtain a more balanced resolution by including, perhaps in the second operative paragraph, some general reference to the work of all the regional economic commissions.

18. Mr. HALIQ (Saudi Arabia) suggested that the wishes of the representatives of India and Pakistan might be met, and the Ecuadorean amendment retained, if the words "through its integrated studies, meetings of experts and specialized conferences on various aspects of economic development" were added after the words "Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East," in sub-paragraph (b) of the second operative paragraph of the draft.

19. Mr. TOUS (Ecuador) said he had not fully understood the Indian representative's proposal earlier, but now realized that he had suggested either that the specific references to ECLA's work should be deleted or that the mention of integrated studies and meetings of experts should form a separate paragraph which would refer to all the regional economic commissions. He strongly supported the second alternative which he felt would be better than amending sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) of the second operative paragraph.

20. Mr. JUNG (India) said either of the alternatives he had suggested would cover his point but it might be better not to attempt to draft a new paragraph if the Committee was to be in a position to vote on the revised draft resolution that day. He would support the Saudi Arabian representative's amendment, with the addition to it of the words "and training centres."

21. Mr. HALIQ (Saudi Arabia) accepted the Indian representative's proposed addition to his own amendment.

22. Mr. BURR (Chile) accepted the amendment proposed by the representatives of Saudi Arabia and India.

23. In answer to Mr. LUBIN (United States of America), Mr. JUNG (India) said that the word

"seminar" might be more correctly used, since the "centres" to which his oral amendment referred were not intended to be permanent. He had, however, followed the wording used in ECAFE's report.¹

24. In answer to Mr. TOUS (Ecuador), Mr. JUNG (India) said his delegation would not have any strong objection if the representative of Ecuador wished to maintain the wording of his amendment, but would prefer that the specific reference to the Expert Working Group on the Iron and Steel Industry should be omitted.

25. Mr. DE SEYNES (France) proposed that subparagraph (iii) in the Ecuadorean amendment should be amended to read: "(iii) the meetings of experts on basic industries".

26. Mr. TOUS (Ecuador) accepted the French amendment.

27. Mr. BURR (Chile) accepted the Ecuadorean amendment (A/C.2/L.192) in its revised form.

28. Mr. ELAHI (Pakistan), in view of the acceptance of the Ecuadorean amendment, withdrew his suggestion that the word "integrated" might be inserted in subparagraph (c) of the second operative paragraph.

29. Mr. PERRY (New Zealand) said the revised text of the draft resolution admirably expressed the Committee's support for the work of the regional economic commissions. In the process of amending the text, however, members were moving more and more from a general to a particular statement, and he, at least, did not feel in a position to evaluate the relative importance of the specific activities of the regional economic commissions. His delegation therefore could support the original revised text, but not the amendments which had been proposed to it.

30. The CHAIRMAN put the Chilean revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.155/Rev.1), as amended, to the vote.

The revised draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 37 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

Economic development of under-developed countries: (b) Methods to increase world productivity: report of the Economic and Social Council (A/2172) (concluded)

[Item 25 (b)]*

31. The CHAIRMAN announced that the United States representative, the only member of the Com-

mittee to have placed his name on the list of speakers on item 25 (b), had withdrawn his request to make a statement.

Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter II (A/2172 and A/C.2/L.194)

[Item 11]*

32. Mr. TOUS (Ecuador), presenting his draft resolution on food production (A/C.2/L.194), stated that the Ecuadorean Government had been considering the possibility of increasing world food production for some time and had closely studied Economic and Social Council resolution 424 (XIV) on the report of FAO. Food production should be given the highest priority. The difference between the nutritional standards of the under-developed countries and those of the industrially advanced countries was great and peace could not be permanently established while some peoples were underfed.

33. The second paragraph of the draft resolution referred to certain statements by the Director-General of FAO, who was to be congratulated on his initiative in drawing the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the urgent need for effective action to increase food production. The Director-General's statement should be endorsed by the Committee. The FAO Conference had stressed the need for more coordinated food production, in spite of the fact that several agencies were already co-operating in the matter. He had emphasized the urgency of the matter in his text because it was necessary to arouse public opinion. FAO was accomplishing praiseworthy work and Ecuador had benefited from its assistance, for example, in connexion with its fish and livestock production.

34. Ecuador wished to encourage, and was prepared to facilitate, the immigration of ten million workers to develop its potentially fertile coastal area. ILO could be of great assistance in that connexion. According to the studies undertaken by the International Basic Economic Corporation of the Rockefeller Foundation, Ecuador could receive and support some 50 million immigrants. The development of the coastal region, with its two great rivers, would contribute considerably to the world's food resources.

35. The principal objective of his draft resolution was to summarize the problem of food shortage, which must be solved quickly and effectively before the situation became worse.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 5.*