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Chairman: Mr. Leo MATES (Yugoslavia).

Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for the economic development of under-developed countries: report of the Economic and Social Council (A/2430, A/2447 and Corr.1) (*continued*)

[Item 27]*

Technical assistance in public administration (A/2430, A/2447 and Corr.1) (*continued*)

[Item 61]*

1. Mr. YANCY (Liberia) said that his country had taken part in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance both as donor and as recipient. The existence of the programme afforded practical proof that the nations of the world, whatever their political differences might be, could join together for the common good, the better endowed countries lending their assistance to the weaker and the latter placing their resources at the disposal of the community.

2. Before the Second World War, Liberia had had to devote its main efforts to solving problems connected with its political independence and its right of self-determination. Not until after the Second World War had it been able to turn its attention, under the able direction of President Tubman, to the development of its resources. It was a fortunate coincidence for Liberia that the programme had come into operation at the same time.

3. Liberia had received valuable help from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, which had placed two fisheries development experts at its disposal. Not only had there been an appreciable rise in the profits from that activity, but, in addition, the food supplies available to the population had increased. FAO had also given assistance in the form of technical advice on the setting up of an experimental agricultural station. Similarly, FAO experts had collaborated with those of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the launching of a basic education programme for agricultural workers. The International Labour Organisation also had played an important part

in providing the Government of Liberia with technical advice on public administration in its relationship with labour and by granting fellowships for Liberians. The World Health Organization had made a great contribution to the solution of Liberia's special health problems, and was working in co-operation with the Liberian Government's public health services on a campaign against yaws and malaria. For that purpose WHO and the Liberian Government had set up a centre in Liberia and fellowships and training scholarships had been offered to Liberians abroad. UNESCO too had done its part in Liberia by supplying technical assistance in connexion with the institution of a course in science and mathematics at the University of Liberia, the training of social science teachers, basic education, vocational training and the improvement of secondary education programmes. For all those programmes, from 1 January to 31 December 1952, UNESCO had spent, in Liberia, a sum of \$198,820 while it, for its part, had contributed \$80,000 and had appropriated a sum of \$30,000 for the building of the basic education centre. In 1951 UNESCO had also awarded seven fellowships and training scholarships to Liberians. Seven more fellowships had been granted in 1952. Those fellowships were of great importance, and contributed to the growth of international understanding.

4. He wished to pay tribute to all the specialized agencies of the United Nations which had sent missions to Liberia, thus making a practical contribution to the development of the country's economic and human resources. As a reciprocal gesture, and also because understanding was a necessary condition of every undertaking and every project, the Liberian Government had decided in 1951 to appoint a woman lecturer to give public lectures in Liberian schools on the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The lectures had been a success, and had led to the publication of a work on the United Nations, of which 10,000 free copies had been distributed to school children in Liberia. Similarly, the Liberian Government had awarded a fellowship for the study of the United Nations to a women student, who would be able on her return to give a course on the United Nations and the specialized agencies as part of the social studies programme.

5. The Committee could rest assured that the Liberian Government would continue to contribute to the expanded programme; it was to be hoped that all the other Member States would do the same. Experience had shown that the programme was realistic and objective and it had proved exceedingly valuable to Liberia's economic development. It should be noted that the recipient States generally derived greater benefit from missions of experts for a long period than from missions sent on short visits; and similarly long-term fellowships produced better results than fellowships of less than one year. Lastly, experts going to Liberia should be informed of the facilities which the Liberian Government could provide and of the general conditions of life there.

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

6. The Liberian delegation would vote for any draft resolution in favour of maintaining and developing the technical assistance programme.

7. Mr. FORD (United States of America) said he was convinced that suitable means must be found of working together to enable the people of the world to live and prosper in mutual respect and dignity. The relief of poverty, ignorance and misery was essential for a lasting peace. The American people were fully aware of the dangers involved in the existence of very low standards of living over vast areas of the world; no country could do it alone, in economics any more than in politics. Accordingly, the exchange of skills, goods and ideas between peoples should be encouraged. The extent of the problems involved in economic development called for action on a multilateral as well as bilateral basis. The world needed the best skills it could get. The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance also was a means of strengthening the United Nations itself. To many people, the technical assistance programmes and the activities of the specialized agencies were the most tangible evidence of the United Nations.

8. The United States Government was therefore proud to have helped to inaugurate the United Nations expanded programme and to have borne a major share of the burden. Accusations of imperialism, in that connexion, would be wide of the mark; nor was there any altruism involved; it was simply a matter of enlightened self-interest. The United States would fulfil its commitment for the financing of the current year's programme, it being understood that its contribution would be made at the same rate as other countries' contributions, up to 60 per cent of the total contributed, within the total amount pledged by the United States.

9. The results achieved warranted the continued support of all Members of the United Nations. Nevertheless, there was still room for the improvement of the programme; for example, the funds available should be concentrated on a certain number of projects, in order to give better results. Accordingly, a realistic order of priorities between the requests of the under-developed countries should be established and adhered to. It was important that the results already obtained should be evaluated and presented in balance-sheet form. A beginning had been made by the Technical Assistance Board in its fifth report (E/2433).¹ For that purpose, the recipient countries should report regularly on the direct or indirect results of the assistance received in the form of equipment, expert advice or fellowships. Such balance-sheets would help both recipient and donor States. The fourth annual Technical Assistance Conference would meet soon. He hoped it would be successful.

10. It was a matter for particular encouragement that the number of countries contributing to the financing of technical assistance was steadily increasing. He noted that the USSR and Poland had decided to contribute to technical assistance funds and hoped that all governments financing the programme would continue to increase their participation.

11. With regard to the specific business before the Committee, his delegation would support the recommendations adopted by the Economic and Social Council, designed to continue technical assistance activities in 1954 and to obtain the best results from the programme.

12. In conclusion, he hoped that the world would achieve the peace it needed through co-operation and not through armaments. Technical assistance was not an insignificant element in such co-operation.

13. Mr. ZAIN (Indonesia) said that although the problems connected with the economic development of the under-developed countries might vary from country to country, there were fundamental principles common to all development programmes. Technical knowledge was one of them. It was to the credit of the United Nations that it had given the under-developed countries access to technical knowledge by extending to them the benefits of the expanded programme.

14. The importance of the work done in Indonesia under technical assistance could be noted in three examples: transport and communications, the fostering of certain small Indonesian industries and the establishment of the Indonesian Planning Bureau.

15. Economic development, generally speaking, was bound up with the development of transport and communications. That was particularly true in the case of Indonesia owing to the country's geographical configuration. His Government had been given the services of twenty-one experts from the International Civil Aviation Organization who had, besides advising the Government on all matters pertaining to civil aviation in Indonesia assisted it in setting up and operating a National Aviation School. In addition, other experts had undertaken a study of maritime traffic between the islands of the Indonesian archipelago.

16. He described the steps his Government had taken, again with the help of the technical assistance programme, to promote the small-scale village industries. They represented the population's answer to the various types of unemployment; they helped to augment income from agriculture and to increase the prosperity of rural areas. The promotion of the small-scale industries would mitigate to a considerable extent the existing discrepancies between the purchasing powers of the urban and the rural population, strengthen the bargaining power of the rural areas and thus would tend to give a more equal distribution to income and prosperity. It was for those reasons that the Indonesian Government had attempted to develop them. The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance had given the Government very valuable help in that connexion by placing at its disposal experts assigned the task of modernizing production methods in home industries, giving practical demonstrations, developing suitable equipment and training technicians. In textiles, the United Nations technical assistance expert had assisted the Indonesian Government to set up cotton-spinning mills, for the most part under the co-operative system to replace very small spinning and weaving enterprises. That had led to a standardization of spinning equipment which had yielded very satisfactory results. Great progress had also been made in the leather and hides industry, which had been modernized and reorganized with the advice of a Yugoslav Government expert, in the chemical and in glass-making industries and in the manufacture of low-priced building materials. That was the type of industrial development which would gradually provide the country with the valuable basic element of production and, what was equally important, a healthy basis for effective demand. It fell within the framework of the task of preventing the economic discrepancies between city and village from fomenting social instability and generating forces disruptive to the productive output of the country as a whole.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 10.*

17. The National Planning Bureau had been set up to formulate precise plans for Indonesia's development and to watch closely the development of the economic process. The experts who had organized the Bureau had endeavoured to make it an advisory body whose work would cover monetary and fiscal questions, public accounting, national income, migration, population, public administration and productivity. The nature of the Bureau's duties necessitated considerable co-ordination if duplication was to be avoided. His Government intended to improve co-ordination by using the services of the Planning Bureau's experts. In connexion with the co-ordination of programmes it should be possible, as the Indian representative had suggested, to review the definition of the scope of resident representatives' functions; the representatives of specialized agencies frequently carried out their work without getting in touch with the United Nations resident representative, and that impaired the effective execution of the programmes.

18. He also wished to draw the Committee's attention to the fellowships programmes. It would be useful if TAA, the participating agencies and the governments of the recipient countries took a more liberal attitude towards the carrying out of fellowships programmes. In many cases candidates had been rejected on the ground that they did not possess the necessary academic qualifications. It seemed anomalous that educational opportunities should be denied to the very persons who were most in need of training. It would be well therefore to trust governments when they nominated their candidates for fellowships.

19. He was gratified that the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia had decided to contribute to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. He appealed to all governments to contribute as generously as possible to the programme and thereby ensure the success of a great work of co-operation which had already produced particularly fruitful results with a relatively small investment. He declared the readiness of the Indonesian Government to help in assuring the Expanded Programme's long-term support and announced that, at the forthcoming Technical Assistance Conference, his Government would pledge a contribution for three years, payable in three annual instalments.

20. Mr. EL-TANAMLI (Egypt) thought that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance inaugurated a new era in the history of mankind and in international co-operation. Technical knowledge was the basis of all economic development. Over the centuries, civilization had spread from its original centres to the less developed countries through the slow transmission of human knowledge. First individuals and later States had undertaken the task, although not always for unselfish reasons. Today the United Nations, through technical assistance, had taken up the great task of making the fruits of man's labour in technical fields available to all. Unfortunately, the application of those principles had met with many difficulties. At the outset, technical assistance problems had been affected by political conflicts, and there had been some mistrust on the part of the contributing as well as the recipient countries. Those difficulties had now disappeared. The number of participating countries had grown; and the recipient countries were not only submitting requests in increasing numbers, but were placing all their available resources at the disposal of the programme.

21. The technical assistance projects had been carried out by capable men, and on the eve of the programme's fourth year of operation there seemed to be

every reason for gratification at the results achieved. At the last session of the Economic and Social Council the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board had described in moving terms the progress made in the face of great difficulties.² The subsequent general debate had been somewhat pessimistic in tone. The Egyptian delegation felt that the discussion in the Second Committee should make it possible to view the future with confidence. True, the programme's financial situation and its future still gave cause for concern, but the achievements of the technical assistance programmes as described by the various speakers and the faith of the peoples of the United Nations in the principle of economic co-operation gave grounds for hope. All nations were certainly aware of the importance of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance as a means of promoting economic development and achieving social stability.

22. He drew the Committee's attention to the relatively low standard of living in certain regions. That disequilibrium manifested itself in the inadequacy of the resources exploited in relation to the needs of a growing population. Not only was that situation contrary to the principles of the Charter, but it did not accord with the present course of social evolution, and constituted a serious danger.

23. Citing resolution 492 C.II (XVI) adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, he expressed the hope that the General Assembly would endorse the Council's recommendations. In particular, the Council had requested participating countries to take all possible steps within their constitutional limitations to ensure the financial support of the programme on a long-term basis. His Government had welcomed that recommendation and would continue to lend its financial support to the programme. Nor would his Government omit to study the French delegation's proposal (249th meeting) for the establishment of an organ composed of representatives of governments. He would refrain from discussing the practical achievements of the technical assistance programme during the general debate but did not wish to conclude his remarks without paying tribute to the spirit of understanding and co-operation constantly demonstrated by the technical assistance resident representative in Egypt.

24. Mr. BETETA (Mexico) said that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was one of the most effective means of encouraging the economic development of under-developed countries since it had the double advantage of achieving practical results while basing its objectives on highly praiseworthy ideological foundations. It was a task in which all countries of the world were co-operating, the East as well as the West, poor nations and rich ones, great Powers as well as small. The great evils of disease, famine, poverty and ignorance were being combated by joint efforts, the object of which was to assist countries, not to exploit them. The Mexican Government's interest in technical assistance had been demonstrated in various instances of Mexican participation in the expanded programme; the part played by Mexico in the programme was greater than might be assumed from the size of its annual contribution. In order to co-ordinate all technical assistance activities and to derive the greatest possible benefit from assistance, the Mexican Government had set up an advisory

² See document E/TAC/SR.38.

technical assistance council responsible for deciding what assistance the country needed and what assistance it was in a position to offer.

25. Reference had already been made to the remarkable achievements of UNESCO and to the tangible results it had obtained in 1952. Governments had welcomed the idea that the development of the sciences and of education formed part of economic development, and great progress had been made in setting up demonstration and training centres. Mexico had played an active part in that work. The regional centre for fundamental education at Patzcuaro had enrolled forty-six pupils from nine different countries. Courses of study at the centre covered subjects of special interest to rural communities: hygiene, housing, husbandry, recreation and fundamental education. Most of the students who had obtained their diplomas in 1952 were at present engaged on fundamental education projects in their respective countries. In 1952 as in 1951 Mexico had given financial support to the centre.

26. Mention should also be made of the Centre for Scientific and Technical Documentation which had been set up in Mexico in February 1952. That centre was similar to those which had been established in Yugoslavia and India and was responsible for the dissemination of information. It covered 1,600 publications a month and distributed 40,000 books and leaflets. Its services were available to Latin-American countries and to certain other countries such as Egypt and New Zealand. The centre continued to increase in importance. UNESCO had sent four experts to organize and direct it during its first three years; their duties would shortly be taken over by Mexicans. The centre was financed partly by UNESCO and partly by the Mexican Government.

27. A third project, connected with the development of civil aviation, was worthy of note. Air transport was vital for the development of natural resources in a country where ground communications were difficult. ICAO had furnished the services of experts and instructors to assist in the operation of a civil aviation centre attended by both Mexican and foreign students. In 1953 the requisite funds had been supplied by ICAO and the Mexican Government.

28. Mexico had taken part in the meeting of specialists on budgetary techniques held in Mexico under the auspices of TAA, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Fiscal Division of the Department of Economic Affairs of the United Nations, which had been attended by experts from various countries.

29. Mexico's direct and indirect contributions to the technical assistance programme amounted to a total of \$260,312.

30. He drew attention to certain features of the programme. In 1952, many projects had been carried out jointly by several specialized agencies; that showed a tendency towards the integration of programmes which promised very well for 1953. In 1952 requests for assistance had been more numerous, which demonstrated the confidence placed by governments in technical assistance. The regional economic commissions had played a very active part in the execution of the programme. Better results were obtained when students were sent to countries having a social and cultural structure not markedly different from their own. It would be useful, too, to send experts from less advanced countries to other under-developed countries;

that would imply technical co-operation rather than assistance.

31. With the help of ILO Mexico was endeavouring to stimulate the development of small industries, so as to reduce unemployment. By that means it was hoped to solve certain immediate problems, pending the building up of an industrial economy. In 1952 the programme had been limited to instruction in certain handicrafts such as pottery, sisal-work and carpet-weaving.

32. Like the representatives of France and the United Kingdom, he believed that the financial crisis through which technical assistance was passing was proof of the confidence placed by countries in the programme. Mistakes had been made in the preceding three years; administrative expenses, in particular, had been too high. But such mistakes could be rectified, given the outstanding abilities of those responsible for directing the execution of the programme. Lastly, it was highly important that programmes should be co-ordinated with the efforts and plans of the recipient countries if overlapping was to be prevented and better results achieved.

33. Mr. O'NAGHTEN (Cuba) considered that there was every reason for satisfaction with the achievements of technical assistance during the three years of its existence. TAB, the participating organizations and all who had played a part were to be congratulated.

34. He would not speak of the results achieved; earlier speakers had analysed in detail the programmes carried out in their respective countries. He wished to stress two important points: the increase in the number of participants, which had risen from fifty-five to seventy, and the increase in the number of experts sent to other countries by the under-developed countries. The latter fact, particularly, was surprising and praiseworthy, because one of the major difficulties of the under-developed countries was precisely the limited number of national experts at their disposal. There was no doubt that such experts were in a better position to assist countries encountering the same problems as their own.

35. The results obtained indicated that while the programme was not developing as fast as might be desired, considerable progress had nevertheless been made. The number of experts had risen from 800 in 1950 to 2,500 in 1953, and the total amount of contributions from \$6,500,000 in 1950 to \$25,500,000 in 1953. In those circumstances it could hardly be said that there was a crisis; the most that could be said was that a more rapid rate of expansion would be desirable.

36. With regard to the programme of assistance in public administration, it was gratifying to note that governments were aware of its importance, as was demonstrated by the number of training centres already operating or shortly to be put into operation in various countries. Governments were interested in the programme because they knew that a country in full process of development needed a well-organized public administration. At the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Council the Cuban delegation, jointly with the delegations of Argentina, Egypt, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Sweden had submitted a draft resolution clearly defining the programme's objectives. The resolution had been approved by the Council as resolution 492 B (XVI) and transmitted to the General Assembly, and

was now before the Second Committee in document A/2447. It raised two important points: first, the plan of work, on which subject the sponsors of the resolution would be glad to receive suggestions, and second, the authorization granted to the Secretary-General to use the Expanded Programme's funds, when necessary, to finance projects under the United Nations regular programmes of assistance in public administration directly affecting economic development. Such an authorization was fully in the spirit of the Expanded Programme, since the object of the latter was to solve all problems involved in the economic development of under-developed countries. The Cuban delegation hoped that all members of the Committee would support the resolution so that it might be forwarded to the General Assembly with the Committee's unanimous approval.

37. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wished to thank the many delegations which had paid tribute to the USSR for its contribution to United Nations technical assistance.

38. The Government of the USSR had always taken a friendly interest in the work of the United Nations in that field. At the ninth session of the Economic and Social Council, the Soviet delegation had taken an active part in the formulation of the guiding principles, and since that date it had always tried to ensure that the assistance provided should be in conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The USSR had long been providing assistance to many under-developed countries, while exercising the strictest respect for their national sovereignty and independence, both economic and political.

39. Considering, therefore, that United Nations technical assistance activities were both useful and salutary and that they should be extended as far as possible, the Soviet Government had seen fit to take a decision expressing its readiness to participate at the present time in carrying out the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, for which purpose a contribution of four million roubles was being made to that programme of assistance to under-developed countries in 1953. Practical steps were currently being taken to give effect to the Soviet Government's decision.

40. The USSR delegation felt obliged to note, however, that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was not entirely above criticism: in particular administrative costs were too high. Furthermore, the system of resident representatives entailed the risk of encouraging interference in the domestic affairs of the recipient countries: it would be better if the governments concerned themselves assumed the responsibility for the preparation and co-ordination of programmes. As had been quite rightly pointed out, the programmes should take into account the special conditions prevailing in each country. The Committee should give some thought to the Argentine and Belgian representatives' suggestion that individual programmes should be integrated into wider national programmes and that the specialized agencies should be induced to give up part of their independence in order to promote the flexible and regular operation of the Expanded Programme.

41. The task before TAA was quite clear. On more than one occasion, the Economic and Social Council had stated that the primary objective of technical assistance was to help under-developed countries to strengthen their economies and to promote their economic and political independence in the spirit of the

Charter, and to raise the standard of living of their populations. That consideration acquired particular importance in view of the fact that technical assistance might easily be used as a cloak for infiltration by foreign capital in search of surplus profits. It was not fortuitous that the representatives of the under-developed countries had voiced their fears in various United Nations bodies; a perusal of United Nations documents sufficed to show that those representatives were engaged in a constant struggle to abolish the privileges enjoyed by foreign capital and to defend the economic independence of their countries. The USSR accordingly wished to stress once more that assistance furnished by the United Nations to under-developed countries should not be accompanied by conditions or demands of any nature whatsoever. Such assistance should be directed towards one single purpose: to ensure the welfare of the peoples concerned and to improve their material, cultural and social conditions by raising their standard of living through the development of their agricultural and industrial resources and the expansion of their productivity.

42. The CHAIRMAN called upon the representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

43. Mr. McDOUGALL (Food and Agricultural Organization) did not propose to stress any further the importance of the technical assistance furnished to under-developed countries by FAO in agriculture, nutrition, fisheries and forestry, several speakers having already dealt with that point. He wished, however, to bring out certain aspects of the United Nations technical assistance programme from the point of view of the specialized agencies which were participating in its execution.

44. He was sure that he was interpreting the feelings of those agencies, and those of the experts in the field, when he thanked the members of the Committee for the numerous expressions of confidence which had been voiced in the discussion. It was a source of great satisfaction to them and also doubtless to the secretariat of TAB to note that governments considered the work they were doing, often under difficult conditions, as entirely in keeping with the purpose laid down in resolution 222 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council. The work was only beginning. Many successes had already been achieved, owing particularly to the fact that, in conformity with the policy laid down by the Council in its resolution 222 (IX), the participating organizations and the recipient governments had included in their programmes a large number of projects capable of yielding early results. That was also, to some extent, the reason for the diversity of the work hitherto performed and for the occasional recourse to certain *ad hoc* methods which had aroused criticism.

45. The participating organizations were fully aware that better integrated programmes would be helpful to a large number of countries. Like the recipient governments, they were eager to extend the scope of their assistance and particularly to collaborate in the execution of longer-term projects of a more complex nature and calling for the services of a larger number of experts over a longer period of time. In that connexion it might be noted that generally speaking the share paid by recipient countries towards the cost of a technical assistance project was several times greater than that borne by the technical assistance budget. In the case of FAO, for example, the ratio between the costs

borne by the government and those borne by the specialized agency was about nine to one. Furthermore, as the representative of Greece had pointed out (250th meeting) financial assistance accorded to a country undergoing development might be ineffectual unless the country was helped at the same time to improve its technical knowledge. That was why the recipient countries wished to have the assurance that they would receive the technical assistance they needed before they undertook the costly task of implementing long-term programmes.

46. He had had the opportunity of questioning very many experts on their return from missions. All of them had been unanimous in stating that the authorities of the countries receiving United Nations technical assistance were enthusiastic over the possibilities offered by the Expanded Programme. Most of the governments had taken practical steps to carry out the recommendations transmitted to them and to take advantage of the assistance offered. Better still, many of them had included in their regular budgets credits for the establishment or extension of the services recommended by technical assistance experts. It had therefore been extremely disappointing, both for the experts in the field and for representatives of recipient governments collaborating with them, to learn that many of the proposed projects could not be implemented owing to lack of funds. The inevitable delays, arising from the same cause, in the selection and despatch of fellowship holders abroad had also been a source of discouragement.

47. For some time the participating organizations had been accused of launching programmes too ambitious for the funds available. In that connexion he wished to remind the members of the Committee that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had quite recently expressed the view that the programme should be speeded up, and in addition had given the specialized agencies the impression that the necessary funds would not be lacking. Moreover, the idea of technical assistance had not been entirely without attraction for other Assembly Committees, which were requesting assistance for various projects more closely connected with their fields.

48. It was natural that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, like the schemes of governments, should pass through various stages. The present stage was that of exploration and planning. It would therefore doubtless be possible to postpone the execution of some of the proposed projects. But there was a real danger of the plans being forgotten if they were not put into practice within a reasonable period of time; in which case, the conclusions and recommendations of the experts would go only to swell the dusty files which already contained so many other carefully-planned programmes which for one reason or another had never been put into execution.

49. There was another aspect of technical assistance that should be taken into account. Most development programmes, to be effective, required the participation of the population, for it was frequently at the local level that the obstacles to economic development had to be overcome. It would undoubtedly take governments several years to train staff in sufficient numbers to teach their nationals how to improve the methods of work they used every day in the fields, the factories or their homes. In the meantime the operation of the programmes would require the services of an increasing number of experts and supplies in growing quantities.

50. The situation, therefore, was that on the one hand the governments, very favourably impressed with the sound advice offered by the experts placed at their disposal, were appropriating increasing funds for their economic development and assigning counterpart personnel in increasing numbers for the programmes worked out jointly with the experts; while on the other hand, the specialized agencies were threatened with the possibility of being prevented by financial reasons from co-operating further in the programmes at the very time when they were entering into the phase of application. It would be most regrettable if that were to be the case, especially since the amounts in question were not very large. As the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board had pointed out, an annual increase of only 20 per cent in the technical assistance funds, involving an additional annual expenditure of approximately \$5 million, would suffice to ensure the continuance of the Expanded Programme as a living and active undertaking. Governments must, however, understand that to obtain concrete results the administrators of the programme must be able to rely on moderate but constantly growing financial support. In that connexion the terms of the latest resolution on technical assistance adopted by the Economic and Social Council were disturbing. Resolution 492 (XVI) provided that the funds available in 1954 should not be less than the amount earmarked for the preceding year; if that static conception were to prevail many projects requested by governments and worked out by experts of the specialized agencies would have to be dropped. But the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had repeatedly stated that the economic development of the under-developed areas should be given first priority among all the tasks of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

51. On behalf of all the specialized agencies participating in the preparation and implementation of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, and of the experts scattered over practically all the under-developed countries of the world, he expressed the hope that the governments attending the forthcoming technical assistance conference would be conscious of the fact that the programme had reached a critical point in its history, and that they would spare no effort to make it a truly effective instrument of economic development.

52 Mr. GUTIERREZ GUTIERREZ (Costa Rica) noted that the members of the Committee unanimously recognized the value of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and considered it the best means available to the United Nations in its effort to reduce the ever growing discrepancy between the standards of living in the industrialized countries and in the under-developed countries. For Costa Rica, the programme, the benefits of which went to supplement the similar programmes instituted by the Organization of American States and friendly governments, was an effective instrument of economic development and social progress; the Costa Rican delegation therefore wished to associate itself whole-heartedly with the many expressions of gratitude addressed to the Executive Chairman of TAB and his collaborators.

53. Mr. Owen had recently pointed out that since the amount of contributions had not increased in the same proportion as the number of requests for assistance received, the programme would have to be revised during the coming year and an order of priority established among the various projects to

be executed. That being the case, TAB had decided in the same context to study a series of measures designed to ensure better utilization of its resources, thereby once again showing that it never failed to profit by the experience acquired during the past three years. The Costa Rican delegation felt that the measures of reorganization should include the application of an effective system of co-ordination designed to avoid overlapping and duplication; the time was particularly opportune for such a study.

54. While the present crisis would certainly have salutary effects in some respects, its seriousness should not therefore be under-estimated. It would be regrettable if the programme were to lose its initial vigour at the very moment when its first effects were beginning to make themselves felt. In order to ensure that certain projects were not dropped, the Government of Costa Rica, for its part, had decided to increase its contribution to the technical assistance fund. However, it realized that its own contribution was insignificant in comparison with the requirements of the programme, and it hoped that the great Powers, which played a major part in international relations, would consider it their duty to assist the weak countries to develop their economy.

55. Although Member States had been able in the past few years to form a clear picture of the possibilities of technical assistance and the ways of giving the work done in that field the maximum possible effectiveness, it was not yet possible, solely on the basis of the results obtained so far, to evaluate the work in progress. The most important programmes were precisely those whose results were least apparent over

a short period. In Costa Rica, for example, the assistance given by WHO in the training of nurses, UNICEF's school meals programme, UNESCO's pilot projects in rural education, FAO's studies on the dairy industry and the fellowships awarded by the United Nations were all activities whose value could not be gauged at once, but which would without any doubt prove highly beneficial to the population as a whole in the future.

56. That was *a fortiori* true of the regional programmes. One of the most ambitious of those was perhaps the economic unification plan that the five countries of Central America were trying to get under way with the help of the Technical Assistance Administration, the Economic Commission for Latin America, FAO, ILO and UNESCO. In two weeks' time the Ministers of National Economy of the five countries would hold their second meeting at San José and would then examine the results of the work done during the first year. The results achieved so far merely evidenced the desire of the countries concerned for progress, and the effectiveness of the assistance given them by United Nations organs; but their real importance would not be seen until the day when the present plans, which were still at the preparatory stage, produced a sound economic system which would make it possible for the peoples of Central America to raise their standard of living and consolidate their economic position.

57. The CHAIRMAN announced that the list of speakers was closed.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.