

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

EIGHTH SESSION
Official Records



**SECOND COMMITTEE, 255th
MEETING**

**Thursday, 8 October 1953,
at 3.15 p.m.**

New York

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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, A/C.2/L.197, A/C.2/L.198, A/C.2/L.199, A/C.2/L.200) (*continued*)

[Item 27]*

Technical assistance in public administration (A/2430, A/2477 and Corr.1) (*continued*)

[Item 61]*

1. Mr. ENCINAS (Peru) thought that the Committee's discussions on the Expanded Programme were taking place at an unusual time since, on the one hand, the assistance services had attained a certain degree of maturity while on the other hand, even the least sanguine observers would agree that the world situation seemed to offer brighter prospects for international co-operation. It was therefore necessary to reshape the programme which, to judge by the increasing numbers of donor and recipient countries, had been universally approved. It was apparent, however, that donors' contributions were insufficient to meet all demands; the position was undoubtedly serious but it should be possible to find a remedy. If Member States had been able, at a time of international tension, to reach a minimum of understanding on the programme, the United Nations should certainly be able to co-ordinate its efforts to expand the programme at a time when mankind seemed more and more determined to achieve its ideals of peace and harmony.

2. His delegation was pleased to note that the number of participating countries, both Members and non-members of the United Nations, had increased and that several under-developed countries were participating in the programme not only as recipients but even as donors. He mentioned the presence of Peruvian experts on technical assistance staffs and emphasized that his Government would always be willing to place its resources at the disposal of the technical assistance.

3. He recalled the projects undertaken under the programme and considered that progress had already

been made towards the rationalization and co-ordination of the various activities. He mentioned in particular the work of the Bogotá conference on iron and steel and the studies carried out on the populations of the Andes plateaux.

4. Unfortunately, the funds available were inadequate. The difference between the standards of living in the various countries was not shrinking as fast as was to be desired and the programme was becoming urgent. The Peruvian delegation therefore considered that effort should be concentrated on the following points.

5. Donor countries should be invited to increase their contributions, while those States which had not yet participated, especially non-member States, should be induced to join. The Peruvian Government hoped to continue its payments in subsequent years in so far as its resources permitted. The suggestion put forward by the representative of Haiti (250th meeting) could be examined, together with the possibility of obtaining funds from private institutions or donors.

6. Programmes must be reviewed in order to eliminate those not directly connected with technical assistance work for the economic development of under-developed countries. It should also be noted that regional projects appeared sounder than national schemes.

7. Lastly, the strictest economy must be practised. Several delegations had pointed out that administrative costs were too high and that experts' salaries appeared excessive. It would seem possible to prepare long-term plans for the better use of available resources.

8. The efficiency of the programme could be increased by granting more fellowships. An expert loaned to a country certainly brought valuable knowledge but he was there only for a limited period, whereas a young man who studied abroad returned to his country with the intention of serving, developing and modernizing it. The possibility of expanding the fellowship programme must therefore be considered. The best method would probably be to grant scholarships enabling young people to study at universities in other countries. Later, it might be possible to set up a United Nations fund for granting university technical assistance scholarships which would be organized somewhat on the lines of the Fulbright programme. Such a scheme would have great advantages for the future, since as they developed, countries needed to perfect their technical methods.

9 Peru had derived benefit from the technical assistance services of the United Nations and the specialised agencies. In 1952 and 1953 particularly, Peru, together with several other Latin-American countries, had participated in two large-scale projects: the conference of iron and steel experts at Bogotá, and the population surveys in the Andes region. Peru had also co-operated in other educational, employment and pub-

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

lic health programmes. He referred to the project undertaken at Cuzco when that town had been destroyed by an earthquake. The town was a centre of Inca culture and had been a large agricultural centre up to the time of the Spanish conquest. At the Peruvian Government's request, the United Nations had sent a study mission which had written a most interesting report containing recommendations for the solution of the most urgent problems and further proposing a long-term development programme for agriculture and industry, public health and schools. In implementation of those recommendations the Peruvian Government had established a special office to supervise development work in the province. Funds had been set aside for the programme and Peru had asked for and received the help of United Nations' experts. The Peruvian Government was seeking the support of a financial organization to carry out the programme.

10. In conclusion, he conveyed his Government's thanks for the services which it had received under the Expanded Programme.

11. Mr. YAFTALI (~~Argentina~~ ^{Afghanistan}) expressed the view that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was one of the most effective methods of fostering understanding, co-operation and goodwill among nations. The contributions of the various countries were not merely a gift; they were a real investment designed to promote the prosperity and well-being of a world which was still progressing.

12. Afghanistan was an under-developed country with little capital and stood in great need of technical assistance; consequently, his country attached great importance to the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and to the work of the specialized agencies.

13. He would not refer to all the projects which had been undertaken in his country but he wished to give some examples of what had been accomplished. Experts were assisting the Afghan Government in various fields, especially in economic development, public finance, fiscal policy, hydro-electric resources, statistics and telecommunications. With the help of FAO, great progress had been made in the production of cotton, beet and silk, as well as in livestock and poultry disease control. WHO had obtained excellent results in public health, particularly in the campaign against malaria and typhus. UNESCO had supplied to Afghanistan the services of advisors and experts on education as well as study and research scholarships and equipment. He paid tribute to the services of the resident representative who had co-ordinated those various activities and whose assistance had been most valuable.

14. The whole population of Afghanistan was aware of what had been done to improve its living conditions. Unfortunately, the country's economic position was far from satisfactory. The Government realized the importance of the assistance given by the Expanded Programme and would do all it could to assure its success.

15. Afghanistan had increased its dollar contribution by more than 40 per cent, thereby proving that the country knew the importance of the programme and wished to participate in it. It should also be noted that Afghanistan had made a very large contribution to the expenses of the projects undertaken in the country itself.

16. The Afghanistan Government regretted that certain projects were to be postponed or even abandoned altogether. During the Committee's discussions, how-

ever, Member States had expressed their intention of continuing to co-operate in the work which had been undertaken. The USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia had decided to contribute. He therefore hoped that governments would give the programme all the financial assistance they could. He was certain that TAB would bear in mind the observations made during the Committee's discussions so as to make the best possible use of available funds and in particular would endeavour to reduce administrative costs.

17. Mr. ALVARADO (Venezuela) expressed his delegation's thanks to the Executive Chairman of TAB and to the Director-General of TAA for their statements (249th meeting) in the Committee on agenda items 27 and 61. Those statements had placed in evidence the work done by TAB and had drawn the Committee's attention to the dangerous situation that would arise if there were insufficient funds to finance the 1954 programme. His delegation realized the seriousness of the position and governments should give it full attention. Nevertheless, as it had already stated in the Economic and Social Council, his delegation did not take the view that the programme should be reduced in scope because of financing difficulties. Such a step might be interpreted as the signal for a retreat and would be likely to cause discouragement, especially in the under-developed countries which were only just beginning to reap tangible benefits from technical assistance. He recalled that his country had been among those which had given their support to United Nations technical assistance. His Government therefore intended to make an effective contribution to the Expanded Programme. He stressed the need, however, to ensure that rational use was made of the funds appropriated for administrative expenses. It should be possible, for example, to improve the work of co-ordinating United Nations programmes and those of the specialized agencies and gradually to eliminate certain excessively costly duplications by making TAB itself responsible for that task. Generally speaking, his Government would welcome any administrative measures likely to strengthen the structure of the technical assistance services and to contribute to the implementation of United Nations technical assistance programmes.

18. Mr. OWEN (Executive Chairman, Technical Assistance Board) thanked the Chairman and delegations for the wealth of encouragement they had given the Technical Assistance Board. Many representatives had raised the question of the administrative costs of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and had drawn the Committee's attention to the need to reduce those costs. He wished to make it clear that the members of TAB fully realized the need to reduce administrative costs below their present level and to secure a better return from the funds available. For that reason ways and means were being considered whereby administrative costs might be reduced by 20 per cent both at Headquarters and in the technical assistance missions. Similarly, in regard to the remuneration of experts, TAB had initiated a study of the comparative cost of the services of experts within the United Nations and in other organizations. Although the investigation was not quite complete, United Nations experts appeared to receive more favourable treatment than, for example, those of the Colombo Plan. It should not be forgotten, however, that it was important that the United Nations should be able to secure the services of first class experts; moreover, since

the Expanded Programme was a programme of mutual co-operation, the financial burdens imposed on the recipient governments by the remuneration of experts should be taken into account. The establishment of a uniform scale of remuneration for experts was therefore an extremely delicate undertaking.

19. The question of resident representatives had evoked lively expressions of praise from some delegations and certain criticism from others. He felt that the part played by the resident representatives was a major contributory factor in the success of the technical assistance programmes. He recognized, however, that their employment placed a rather heavy burden on the modest undertaking that the Expanded Programme still was. The Technical Assistance Board was therefore studying a plan to eliminate certain posts while giving wider competence, at the regional level, to the resident representatives who were retained. He recalled that the administrative costs of the technical assistance services would be studied in detail by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

20. He expressed his satisfaction at hearing the representatives of the beneficiary governments describe the results achieved in their countries through technical assistance.

21. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to comment on the joint draft resolution submitted by Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Iraq, Netherlands, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America (A/C.2/L.197), and on the amendments thereto submitted by the delegations of Israel and Norway (A/C.2/L.198) and Greece (A/C.2/L.199) respectively.

22. Mr. McKEEN (Canada) introducing the joint draft resolution pointed out that it took up in substance the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council which had the two-fold purpose of continuing the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance on at least the same level as in 1953, and of initiating a review of procedures in order to ensure the best use of available resources. He recalled that the need for a scrutiny of administrative methods and costs had already been stressed at the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Council. He was convinced that the deliberations of the Second Committee would enable the General Assembly to inform itself more fully on the way in which the Expanded Programme was functioning and to take the necessary steps to ensure that the largest possible proportion of available resources were devoted to operational work, while reducing administrative expenses to the strict minimum.

23. He regretted that budgetary considerations had made it necessary to slow down the execution of certain programmes as from the year 1953. He was aware of the constitutional difficulties which prevented most governments from assuming obligations for a period of more than one year. The Government of Indonesia, however, had declared its readiness to support a long-term programme and he hoped that other governments would follow that example. Although his Government was compelled to obtain parliamentary approval of an annual budget, the fact that Canada had on three occasions made a substantial contribution to the financing of the Expanded Programme was evidence of its interest in that undertaking.

24. He was pleased that most speakers had recognized the necessity of maintaining the programme at a level at least equal to that of 1953; he particularly wished to pay a tribute to the Netherlands Government which, notwithstanding the financial burdens imposed on it by natural disasters, had decided to increase its contribution by 50 per cent. He hoped that all governments, including the largest contributors would endeavour to maintain and even increase their 1954 contributions in order to keep the programme at a level which would ensure its operation under favourable conditions. He recalled that his country had pledged a sum of \$850,000 in 1953 on condition that the total contributions reached \$25 million. Since that figure had not been reached, Canada's contribution had been only \$800,000. He was happy to announce that his Government would make a substantial increase in its contribution, subject to the approval of Parliament. The exact amount of the contribution would again depend on the total contributions of the other countries.

25. He expressed the hope that the joint draft resolution of which his delegation was a co-sponsor would be adopted by the Committee.

26. Mr. KIDRON (Israel) stated that his delegation would support the draft joint resolution. He informed the Committee that his Government had decided, subject to parliamentary approval, to increase Israel's contribution to the Special Account by 25 per cent. Since his Government had already increased its contribution by 43 per cent in 1952, the contribution of Israel was now being substantially increased for the second time. His Government's attitude was therefore in conformity with the provisions of the first operative paragraph of the draft resolution. Similarly, as recommended in the second operative paragraph of the same draft, Israel would endeavour to pay its contribution as promptly as possible. His delegation regretted, however, that its country's parliamentary procedure prevented the Government from assuming commitments extending beyond one financial year. The Government of Israel was therefore unable to act upon the recommendation contained in the seventh operative paragraph of the draft resolution. He felt he could state, however, that his country's contributions for 1955 and 1956 would not be lower than that pledged for 1954.

27. The fifth operative paragraph of the draft was the most important part of the draft resolution. He wished in that regard to comment on the French representative's particularly interesting suggestions. The first of those proposals was that, instead of automatically making grants to the participating organizations concerned with carrying out the programme under consideration, a co-ordinated programme for one year or, if need be, for a longer period should be taken as the basis for allocations. In Mr. Kidron's opinion the proposal was not lacking in merit. The French representative had also proposed that the annual programmes for each country should be submitted to an inter-governmental body, i.e., a committee on which a certain number of Member States would be represented. That body could be organized on the lines of the Executive Board of UNICEF or the Advisory Committee of UNKRA, or it could be the Technical Assistance Board itself augmented by representatives of governments. Thus, on the face of it, it was an attractive proposal. He wished, however, to point out that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was a vast undertaking embracing a large

number of different programmes in ninety-seven countries. It was proper that specialists particularly familiar with technical assistance problems should direct that extremely complex organization, and it was quite clear that no political body could replace them. He saw in that regard an objection to the French representative's proposal. Another objection arising from certain observations of the Iraqi representative was the possibility that the interests of a State not represented on the body in question might be harmed by considerations alien to that State's economic condition or its technical assistance needs. The strength of the Expanded Programme had resided precisely in the fact that its implementation had not been influenced by any political considerations. Consequently, Mr. Kidron did not see any point in setting up a political organ whose work would duplicate that of the technical assistance staff. That did not mean that it would not be useful to make general revisions in the programme, but he thought that could be done by having TAC meet more frequently. He noted the French representative's statement that he did not intend to press his proposals at the current session, and said that his Government would study them fully.

28. He introduced the amendment (A/C.2/L.198) which his delegation together with that of Norway proposed to make to the joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.197). The objective of the amendment was to secure for the positive achievements of the United Nations the publicity they warranted. He did not think it would entail additional expenditure by the participating agencies. In his view, the publicity to be given to technical assistance was more a matter of method than of money, and the services of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be able to give technical assistance the necessary publicity without occasioning additional expense. He hoped the Committee would accept the amendment.

29. Israel was prepared to give full support to the amendment submitted by Greece (A/C.2/L.199). Mr. Kidron emphasized, however, that the record must be complete in order that TAC and TAB should be fully informed of the debates in the General Assembly in drawing up their recommendations on methods of financing and the system of allocation of funds of the Expanded Programme.

30. He wished therefore to address himself to the statement made by the Iraqi representative during the general debate (253rd meeting). The latter had maintained that TAA should consult with the Arab League before starting to implement regional programmes in the Middle East, and cited two recent examples of such activity. The seminar on public administration in Turkey met with his disapproval, whereas that on community planning in Lebanon was a praiseworthy activity. It was clear that the decisive consideration was that representatives from Israel could go freely to Turkey while they could not enter Lebanon. The Israel delegation repudiated the view that the Middle East was synonymous with the Arab League, or that the States of the Arab League had any inherent right of veto over United Nations regional activity which, for political reasons, did not meet with their approval. Moreover, they had no right to harness the United Nations or its specialized agencies in their boycott of Israel. He pointed out that germs and locust did not respect political boundaries. For the same reason political boundaries could not impede the flow of knowledge, of technique and of social progress. He

claimed that that was a question of fundamental importance which affected the Middle East today but might affect other regions tomorrow. The attitude of the Arab League States had no basis in facts or logic and was contrary to the letter and spirit of the Charter, and it was not part of the duty of the United Nations to encourage it.

31. Mr. ZOLOTAS (Greece) introduced his amendment (A/C.2/L.199) to the joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.197). At the first glance it might appear unnecessary, but in the light of the very interesting remarks made in the course of the discussion, he wished to stress its importance. It was not the first time that such an amendment had been offered; in a number of resolutions, a similar sentence had been inserted to draw the attention of the various organs to debates of special significance.

32. Mr. CAPPELEN (Norway) considered that the draft resolution submitted, together with the two amendments to it, covered all aspects of the problem raised by the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. He observed that the amendment which he had submitted jointly with the Israel delegation (A/C.2/L.198) was based on the experience in his country, where it had been found that the work undertaken under the Expanded Programme was not well enough known. With regard to the fourth operative paragraph of the draft resolution he felt that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in reviewing the administrative procedures and administrative expenditures, should not be too harsh in its proposals for possible restrictions.

33. His Government intended to increase its contribution. It was a modest contribution, but it should be borne in mind that Norway was already financing certain activities in the same field. Therefore it felt that it was participating in the Expanded Programme to the same extent as other countries.

34. Sir Clifford NORTON (United Kingdom) pointed out that the basic purpose of the joint draft resolution was to take up the recommendations approved by the Council at its sixteenth session. Many representatives would recall the general tenor of the Council's debates and the spirit in which they had been held. The effort had been to secure unanimity, and it had been successful despite certain differences of opinion. Many delegations, the United Kingdom included, had found it difficult to make commitments regarding the future financing of the Expanded Programme. Some delegations had felt that the administrative expenses were too high. Yet it had been possible with give and take to reach agreement on a TAC report containing draft resolutions that—despite the criticisms of the representative of FAO—he felt were positive and constructive.

35. In the present discussion, as in the Council debates, there had been a harmony that should be reflected in the resolution adopted. Of course there had been differences of opinion which could not be ignored. Some delegations might like to make certain reservations. France, for example, had clearly indicated that it was opposed to the existing system of automatic allocation. Many governments were not in a position to make the commitment referred to in the seventh operative paragraph. On the whole, however, the draft resolution reflected the main points of agreement and he hoped that the voting would be unani-

mous. He did not think that the amendments need give rise to serious objections.

36. Mr. OQBAEGZY (Ethiopia) said that his delegation considered that the draft resolution and the amendments before the Committee illustrated the unanimous interest of its members in the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

37. Ethiopia was prepared to participate in carrying out the programme within the limits of its financial resources, because it felt that only undertakings of such nature could help the under-developed countries to improve the living standards of their populations.

38. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation was glad to be one of the authors of the joint draft resolution. It considered that the achievements of the United Nations in the field of technical assistance constituted one of the activities most in harmony with the purposes of the Charter. Moreover, nothing bolstered the efforts to resolve political problems more than international co-operation in the economic and social fields. The Dominican Republic therefore hoped that the Committee would adopt the joint draft resolution, for it was designed to facilitate the implementation of the Expanded Programme and, in so doing, to raise the standards of living in the under-developed countries.

39. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), introducing an amendment (A/C.2/L.200) to the joint draft resolution, said that it was intended solely to give greater clarity to the second operative paragraph. The paragraph should refer explicitly to those Member States which had pledged themselves to contribute to the Special Account, but had not done so either because they could not agree with TAA on the manner of making their contributions, or for other reasons.

40. Mr. HALIQ (Saudi Arabia) said that his delegation had joined with the authors of the joint draft resolution because it felt that the draft resolution provided the TAA with a means for overcoming certain financial difficulties with which it had to cope. His delegation was aware, of course, that the draft dealt with only one of the many aspects of the problem and that other more comprehensive solutions might possibly be found. In seeking such solutions, however, there would have to be a more detailed and thorough discussion than the one that had been held, and it might be useful for such a discussion to take place in other, more competent organs of the United Nations.

41. He supported the Greek amendment (A/C.2/L.199) unreservedly.

42. His remarks were next directed to the statement made by the representative of Israel. The United Nations offered help to governments requesting technical assistance; it did not impose it on them. The fact that some countries decided of their own free will not to take part in a given technical assistance activity was therefore not a matter for argument. Moreover, as technical assistance was now being carried out largely on a regional basis, it was logical for existing regional bodies, especially such as the Arab League, the most important inter-governmental organization in the Middle East, to be consulted in the planning of programmes of a regional character. Lastly, since the principal purpose of technical assistance, the very reason for its existence, was to promote the economic, social and political development of peoples, the latter were entitled to refuse such

assistance if they felt that their economic or political interests made it necessary to do so. He was sorry he had been compelled to refer to political matters in a debate which should have been confined solely to economic questions. The members of the Committee were neither experts nor academicians. As representatives of governments, however, they sometimes reluctantly had to touch on political questions when forced to do so.

43. Mr. EL-TANAMLI (Egypt) would be very sorry to see the Assembly adopt the joint draft resolution in its existing form. Nothing could be more dangerous to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance than to condemn it to stagnation; that, however, was what the draft tended to do, even though it was inspired by the best intentions.

44. In their unanimous praise of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance what the members of the Committee actually had in mind was not so much the work already accomplished as the great future achievements promised by the results of the initial efforts. There should be no self-deception regarding the extent to which technical assistance, with a budget smaller than that of the Egyptian public health services, was contributing to the economic and social development of under-developed countries throughout the world. Its contribution would not be effective until the initial efforts had been reinforced, for if the Expanded Programme was to achieve practical results, it must be a dynamic and continuously expanding programme. That was the reason why the Economic and Social Council had felt it necessary to reaffirm in resolution 492 II (XVI) "its conviction that the Programme as a positive force in the economic development of under-developed countries and as a moral force for building the foundations of a peaceful world merits continuation and expansion".

45. It was hardly fitting that the Assembly should not go as far as the Council in that regard, but that would be the case if it adopted the joint draft resolution.

46. Analysing the draft resolution paragraph by paragraph, he pointed out that under the terms of the two paragraphs of the preamble the Assembly would be expressing satisfaction with the results so far achieved and with the role, restricted though it was, which the Expanded Programme was at present playing in the achievement of higher standards of living for the peoples of under-developed areas. While the first operative paragraph might be in complete conformity with the text approved by the Council, its insertion after the preamble prevented it from conforming to the spirit of that text.

47. The second operative paragraph touched on an extremely delicate matter, which it might perhaps be preferable to treat differently.

48. Although in the third operative paragraph the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the decision taken by the Council to strengthen the organization and administration of the programme, i.e., the Council's decision to appoint a working party to review existing procedures, in the fourth paragraph the Assembly requested the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to undertake the same task without, however, specifying the body to which that Committee should report or the date on which it should submit its report. That inconsistency between those two paragraphs should be eliminated. The

Egyptian delegation, for its part, considered that it would be preferable to await the results of the work undertaken by the organs of the Council. If, however, the Assembly was anxious that the Advisory Committee should undertake such a review, it should at least request the Committee to report to the Council.

49. As to the seventh operative paragraph, the Economic and Social Council had not merely considered the feasibility of working out estimates on a basis longer than a one-year period, but had in fact expressed the opinion "that, for the orderly development of programmes, it would be useful to have assured financial support for a period longer than a year, even if the establishment of accurate long-term estimates of the requirements of the programme is not feasible". That opinion of the Council should be clearly stated, and the Committee should not confine itself to a reference, which was moreover incomplete, to the resolution concerned.

50. To sum up, the general arrangement of the joint draft resolution was defective. For example, the relegation of the financial arrangements for 1954 to an annex appeared to serve no useful purpose. In the circumstances, his delegation would prefer the Assembly to adopt a resolution conforming much more closely to the text of Economic and Social Council resolution 492 C (XVI). If, however, the sponsors of the joint draft felt unable to take his observations into account, he would not press the matter but would defer to the wishes of the majority.

51. He could not, however, accept the amendment submitted by the Israel and Norwegian delegations (A/C.2/L.198). Publicity for the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was a matter for the central administration and not for the specialized agencies. Adoption of the amendment would thus have the effect of imposing further burdens on the technical assistance budget at a time when efforts were being made to reduce general expenditure under that budget.

52. His delegation was quite prepared to vote for the Greek amendment (A/C.2/L.199).

53. Referring to the statements made by the representative of Israel, he pointed out that any economic action, whether national or regional, was doomed to failure if it did not take political realities into account. It was therefore natural that, before taking any measure under the technical assistance programme which affected a given area, TAB should consult the competent organizations of that area. In the case of the Middle East, the competent inter-governmental body, which had been recognized as such by the Economic and Social Council at its fifteenth session, was the Arab League.

54. Mr. UMARI (Iraq) said that his delegation had reservations in regard to certain of the amendments to the joint draft resolution, and he therefore requested that they should be voted upon separately. In the case of the Greek amendment (A/C.2/L.199), he considered that the words "to take into consideration the relevant debates during the eighth session of the General Assembly" should be replaced by the words "to take into consideration the views expressed in the debate during the eighth session of the General Assembly".

55. He reserved the right to revert later to the Israel representative's remarks but would confine himself at

present to pointing out that the statement which had evoked that representative's observations had contained no reference whatsoever to the Arab League, as the summary record of the 253rd meeting testified. The Arab League had, moreover, never claimed jurisdiction over the Middle East. It was a free association of the Arab States within the Middle Eastern region. The States belonging to it were entirely free to co-operate with the other countries in the area if they so desired and were in fact doing so, as the recent conference at Beyrouth in which Iran and Pakistan, among others, had participated, had shown. Geographical proximity alone did not, however, justify the imposition of undesirable co-operation. The Zionist movement, as the representative of Israel well knew, effected wide co-operation all over the world with no reference to geographical contiguity. No international organization was entitled, on the pretext of organizing regional economic co-operation, to disregard political considerations. In attempting to go counter to political currents in the Middle East, the Technical Assistance Administration was exceeding its terms of reference and was embarking on a course fraught with danger to the future of the work it was seeking to accomplish. If the States belonging to the Arab League had seen fit not to take part in the establishment of the Public Administration Institute at Ankara or in the seminar on public administration held in that city, they had had good reasons for not doing so. Israel was attempting to intrude into all international activities organized in the Middle East purely and simply because it realized that its presence would have the effect of precluding participation by the Arab States. The United Nations should not lend itself to such manoeuvres; it should be more alive to political realities and not play the game of those seeking to involve it in their own intrigues. To the Israel statement that germs and locusts travelled without passports, he referred to the fact that thousands of people had been travelling into the Middle East without passports during the past thirty-five years.

56. Mr. MIR KHAN (Pakistan) said that his delegation would be prepared to accept the amendment submitted by the USSR (A/C.2/L.200), if that delegation were willing to substitute the words "pledges made" for the words "obligations assumed". In announcing their intention to contribute to the Special Account, the majority of governments did not assume a binding engagement, because their constitutions required them to submit such decisions to their legislatures for ratification. Reference therefore could not be made to assumed obligations in the legal sense of the term.

57. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) readily accepted that proposal.

58. Mr. DE SEYNES (France) agreed with the Pakistan representative. The French text of the second operative paragraph contained the words "*n'ont pas tenu les promesses qu'ils auraient faites*" which implied a more severe criticism than that implied in the English text. The sponsors of the joint draft resolution and the Language Services should therefore seek to find a more accurate translation of the term "pledges made".

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.