

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records



Tuesday, 2 December 1952, at 3 p.m.

Headquarters, New York

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Chairman: Mr. Jiří NOSEK (Czechoslovakia).

**Economic development of under-developed countries: (c) Land reform: report of the Secretary-General (A/2194 and Add.1, A/C.2/L.158/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.160/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.186 and A/C.2/L.187) (continued)**

[Item 25 (c)]\*

1. Mr. ELAHI (Pakistan), introducing his delegation's draft resolution (A/C.2/L.158/Rev.1), pointed out that the problem of land reform vitally concerned the well-being of a very large percentage of the world's population, especially in the under-developed countries.

2. Of the total of about 1,300 million people dependent upon agriculture for their living, over a thousand million lived in Asia, Africa and Central and South America. Whereas in Europe one person out of three, and in North America one out of five, was dependent upon agriculture, in Asia, Africa and other under-developed regions, the proportion was three out of four. The yield per acre in the under-developed countries was deplorably low, whilst the density of population was very high. The average output per person in North America was two and a half tons whilst it was only about one quarter of a ton in Asia and one eighth of a ton in Africa. The existing agrarian structure was the chief reason for the low productivity and consequent low standards of living.

3. The United Nations had taken various steps to try to remedy the situation. The Economic and Social Council in its resolution 370 (XIII) had recognized that measures to improve agrarian conditions should be related to general programmes of economic development and the Secretary-General had been requested to obtain information from governments and suggestions for international action. Discussion of the subject at the sixth session of the General Assembly had resulted in the adoption of resolution 524 (VI), in which

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

Members of the United Nations were asked to consider the possibility of making funds available for agrarian reform and international loan institutions were invited to consider granting loans.

4. More recently, the Secretary-General, in collaboration with FAO and other specialized agencies, had circulated a questionnaire on land reform (A/2194/Add.1). Further, part A of the resolution recently adopted by the Committee (A/C.2/L.170) (215th meeting) requested the Economic and Social Council to submit a detailed plan for the establishment of a special fund for grants and loans for economic development. The Pakistani delegation's draft resolution made further suggestions as to the information which the governments of Member States might submit in the questionnaire on land reform and requested the Committee of experts entrusted with the task of drafting a detailed plan for the establishment of a fund to consider the financing of land reform as an important function.

5. Pakistan had constantly given close attention to the question, because, like other under-developed countries, it had a predominantly agrarian economy, about 80 per cent of its inhabitants being dependent on the land. Recent legislation in Eastern Bengal had abolished the feudal system and transformed ownership of the land to the cultivators. In Western Pakistan proprietary rights had been conferred on many tenants, security of tenure granted to others and rents reduced. In the Punjab and North-West Frontier Provinces, the land was mostly owned by the peasants; in the newly developed areas it was being divided up into economic holdings. Further reforms had been recommended by the Agricultural Inquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Lord Boyd-Orr, such as the introduction of multi-purpose co-operatives to provide credit and supplies and to market crops.

6. Land reform, however, was not merely a matter of willingness to make changes; it required large outlays of capital. His country did not believe in the ex-

propriation of land without compensation. Moreover, vast areas required development or reclamation and the necessary irrigation or drainage would be very costly. The under-developed countries, in addition, had to spend large sums on industrialization and other forms of economic development and needed effective and speedy assistance from the United Nations. His delegation's draft resolution was a small step towards the solution of the many problems involved and he hoped it would not give rise to any controversy in the Committee.

7. With regard to economic progress in North Africa, it was true, as the French representative had pointed out, at the previous meeting, that the measures taken had helped to some extent to improve the living conditions of the people, but the world at large felt that they were based on self-interest. It would be in keeping with the best traditions of France if the French authorities won the willing co-operation of the Tunisians and Moroccans by conceding them the right of self-determination to which they were entitled under the Charter. The world would then view French economic assistance to them with a full measure of admiration.

*Mr. Chauvet (Haiti), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

8. Mr. ABDELRAZEK (Egypt) recalled certain principles that had been recognized by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly during the past two years. It had been fully realized that the existing agrarian systems in many countries were an obstacle to economic development and one of the main causes of low agricultural productivity and consequently of low standards of living. The fundamental reason lay in the inadequate extent of the areas under cultivation. In addition, the continued increase in population made it all the more urgent to bring the land resources into full use. The main problem was to increase food production; food consumption per head was lower than it had been fifteen years ago.

9. The need for reform of the land tenure system and for an equitable distribution of land had also been recognized; but an equitable allocation of agricultural land was not easy to achieve without extending the area under cultivation; hence the need to exploit arid and virgin land. Where land was inadequate, too great insistence on the splitting up of large estates might have unfavourable consequences; for it could be argued that fragmentation would lead to a decrease in production. As he had pointed out before, exploitation of the arid zones was therefore a matter of great importance. They represented a very large proportion of the earth's surface and expensive scientific research and long-term plans would be required to bring them under cultivation. In the Secretary-General's report on the development of arid land (E/2191), countries had been divided into groups according to the proportion of arid land in their total land area. In the first group 67 per cent or more of the total area was extremely arid or arid land; and in the second group from 33 to 66 per cent; in the third group 33 per cent or more was arid or semi-arid land; in the fourth group 10 to 32 per cent, and in the fifth group less than 10 per cent. The report indicated that although every geographic area had special problems of economic development, the development of arid areas involved one common problem: deficiency in water supplies. Accordingly, their development was a very complicated problem requiring costly

long-term measures. Alongside those long-term measures steps must be taken in the meantime better to protect, distribute and market the world's present harvests.

10. Moreover, agriculture was not so much an occupation as a way of life, and therefore the social aspects of agrarian reform must receive due attention. He hoped FAO would be able to speed up the execution of its work programme for the provision of agricultural training and the establishment of regional training centres and he appreciated the value of UNESCO's basic education schemes in that connexion.

11. In 1951, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions had addressed a communication to the Economic and Social Council (E/C.2/294) pointing out that its resolution 370 (XIII) on land reform had neglected the question of financing; the Confederation had recommended the establishment of a special fund for that purpose. That willingness on the part of working classes all over the world to support such a principle contrasted with the spirit of statements of representatives of the wealthy countries in the Second Committee and with the timidity of General Assembly resolution 524 (VI) on the subject.

12. The joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.160/Rev.1) now before the Committee covered all the various aspects of agrarian reform, but was very modest in its suggestions as to financing. Nevertheless it had met with some criticism: for example, the sponsors had been criticized for having combined in a single resolution the question of agrarian reform and that of the arid zones. The principle of the inter-relation of those subjects had in fact been recognized by the General Assembly, FAO and other authorities, but the sponsors of the draft resolution had taken the criticism into account and in their revised text had omitted the specific question of arid zones, substituting the compromise phrase "to bring new lands under cultivation". It remained true that agrarian reform in itself would not suffice to increase productivity and living standards unless it permitted the establishment of family small-holdings, safeguarding the principle of freedom and ownership, and was accompanied by technical and mechanical innovations and training programmes. Economic and technical progress, moreover, must not be dissociated from social progress, in which the family unit played a vital part. The revised joint draft resolution took account of all those principles.

13. In concluding, he wished to point out that his comments on the French representative's statement on land reform at the 224th meeting had been incorrectly reported in *The New York Times* of 2 December 1952. He repeated the tenor of his remarks on that occasion in order to dispel any misunderstanding that might have been caused.

14. Mr. LEE (China) congratulated the Secretary-General on his progress report on land reform (A/2194) and ILO, FAO and UNESCO on their effective response to General Assembly resolutions 401 (V) and 524 (VI) and Economic and Social Council resolution 370 (XIII). He had been particularly impressed by the interest shown in land reform by the three regional economic commissions.

15. The Pakistani draft and the joint draft resolution, both referred to paragraph 5 of General Assembly

resolution 524 (VI), the second part of which, although going beyond land reform as such, dealt with projects, such as land reclamation and irrigation, essential to the implementation of land reform measures. While appreciating the emphasis rightly laid on measures to bring about land reform, the Committee should not overlook land reform measures as such, such as the improvement of land tenure systems, the promotion of agricultural co-operatives, the improvement of land and land-tax administration, and the development of rural welfare and rural credit.

16. The Chinese Government had taken active steps to carry out land reform in accordance with the first part of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 524 (VI). The rent reduction programme in Taiwan had already been brought to a successful conclusion. By reducing land rent to a fixed percentage, 37.5 per cent, of the principal produce, as compared with the former traditional rate of 50 per cent and above, the standard of living of the tenant farmers in Taiwan had shown noticeable improvement. Perhaps the greatest administrative triumph of his Government in that connexion had been the wholehearted co-operation of the land-owning class which, as a result of educational campaigns, had recognized that the programme was to the long-term advantage of all.

17. In 1951, one year after the rent reduction programme had come into force, rice production had risen to the unprecedented level of 1,400,000 metric tons and to 1,600,000 metric tons in 1952. Land value had dropped by more than one third and 24,000 tenant farmer families, taking advantage of the low price, had purchased a total of 12,400 hectares of land. In order to encourage even greater production and to secure greater social justice and stability, legislation was being enacted which would require landowners to relinquish, for fair compensation, the land which they did not till; the land would then be leased to tenants on a long-term payment basis. It was expected that 83 per cent of all cultivated land under tenancy would be transferred from landowners to tiller-farmers. The Government, itself a big landowner, was taking the lead: 50,000 hectares of the 180,000 hectares of public land had already been distributed and most of the balance was assigned to sugar-cane production. The Government was studying methods of distributing that land to private owners without disrupting the sugar industry. It should be noted that land was transferred and not confiscated; China respected the right of private property subject to governmental regulation and landowners were given fair compensation. The treasury was not able to give full compensation in cash to all former landowners and plans had been devised to pay them partly in cash, partly in land bonds and partly in shares in government-owned industries.

18. There were certain fundamental limits to the economic benefit which land reform could confer, not only in China but also in most under-developed countries in the Pacific and the Far East. The average farm was small and difficult to extend. The standard of living of a farming family was therefore limited to what could be produced on its small holding. The Committee should therefore study as soon as possible financial plans for the rehabilitation and establishment of industries in the under-developed countries. As the New Zealand representative had remarked at the previous

meeting, a high standard of living was not inconsistent with an agricultural economy. That was true provided that abundant arable land was available and population pressure not too heavy. In many eastern countries the reverse was true; it was essential for them to supplement their agricultural economies with industry. It was for that reason that he supported the general principle of the two draft resolutions before the Committee. He was moving an amendment (A/C.2/L.186) to the Pakistani draft resolution for the sake of clarity and to bring it into closer conformity with the relevant General Assembly resolution.

19. The USSR and other representatives had repeatedly referred to alleged land reform on the mainland of China but had not mentioned the price which the Chinese people had to pay in the name of land reform. According to *The New York Times* of 23 October 1952, the Free Trade Union Committee of the American Federation of Labor claimed that the Chinese Communist régime had been responsible for the death of more than 14 million people in the course of five years, 5 million of whom had been executed in rural areas after having been accused of being "landlords" or "village despots". Land reform in Taiwan differed from the land confiscation and landowner liquidation forced upon the Chinese mainland by the Communists in objectives, methods and final effect. Whereas the Communists resorted to outright confiscation and purged and massacred the landowners, land reform in Taiwan was based on the peaceful transfer of land from the landowner to the tiller by rational and legal means.

20. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed, on a point of order, that the Chairman had not prevented certain speakers from indulging in worthless political propaganda totally unconnected with the item under discussion.

21. Mr. JUNG (India) stated that India's main objective was to change the character of its agriculture from subsistence farming to economic farming in order to enable the low-income farmers to increase their return. It was trying to achieve the objective in a way which would help to satisfy conflicting interests within the agrarian economy, to remove disparities and to provide a social and economic basis for the balanced development of village communities.

22. Although conditions of land tenure and land legislation varied considerably in different states of India, they were consistent with the fundamental directives of Indian State policy and the Five-Year Plan. Hence, land reform legislation contained certain common features: the abolition of intermediaries and, under certain conditions, the conferment of proprietorship upon tenants, the protection of tenants, the fixing of a maximum price for future acquisition of land by individuals, fair rents, restrictions in sub-letting, consolidating of holdings and the encouragement of co-operatives. Increasing importance was being attached to the development of multi-purpose co-operatives in preference to credit societies. In addition to various kinds of co-operative societies, improved farming societies had been founded. Encouragement was given through grants, subsidies, low-interest loans and technical guidance.

23. Co-operative farming had been introduced in most states and to encourage it the state governments were granting land-revenue concessions and preferential treat-

ment in the extension of aid. Various facilities were provided to promote co-operative marketing societies. Debt relief acts were passed from time to time to reduce or liquidate rural indebtedness. As the debts had shrunk as a result of those acts, attempts had been made to develop co-operatives as the main agency for supplying agricultural credit.

24. India was an under-developed rather than an over-populated country and the only remedy for it was extensive and intensive land reform. Outmoded traditional methods had to be not only removed but replaced on a vast scale by new systems leading to greater productivity, to an increased supply of equipment and to more extensive educational facilities, for which great financial assistance was required.

25. The Indian Constitution respected the right of private property. The State therefore had to pay compensation for such proprietary rights as it wished to abolish. Compensation to intermediaries alone involved a tremendous financial outlay.

26. The joint draft resolution of which he was a co-sponsor dealt with the more important aspect of land reform and he trusted that the Committee would find it acceptable. He welcomed the United States amendment (A/C.2/L.187) to the joint draft and wholeheartedly supported the Pakistani revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.158/Rev.1).

27. Mr. PATINO ROSELLI (Colombia) said that land reform played an important part in the economic development of Colombia. One indication of that fact was that the Colombian Agricultural Credit Bank had, in the course of the past year, increased its loans by more than 50 per cent, the current total exceeding 220 million pesos. His Government, with the co-operation of that bank and the Institute of Land Distribution, Colonization and Forest Conservation, had recently distributed land to 500 families in the River Saldaña area, where great irrigation schemes had been launched to improve a vast region of land-holdings, most of which belonged to small landowners. Another irrigation scheme had recently been initiated in the regions of the River Coello, the Sisga and Neusa dams and the Bogotá plain.

28. The Agricultural Credit Bank had been of great assistance in providing agricultural machinery, and over 150,000 borrowers had benefited from its loans. The Territorial Credit Institute was undertaking an ambitious scheme to establish and finance rural housing. Government agencies gave every encouragement to agricultural co-operatives.

29. One interesting experiment had been rural education by a system of schools using broadcasts subsidized by the Colombian Government. The success of the experiment had led to the expansion of the broadcasting station into one of the most powerful stations in South America. Rural educational courses had been developed and new teachers' training colleges established. The River Magdalena Railway would soon open up vast areas of virgin land to economic development. The Government proposed to distribute holdings in that region to persons of limited means.

30. He would vote for the Pakistani draft resolution and for the joint draft resolution both of which sug-

gested suitable methods of introducing sound and rapid land reform.

31. Mr. LUBIN (United States of America) recalled that in 1950 the United States Secretary of State had referred to the efforts of many nations, especially in Asia, to achieve better systems of land ownership and land tenure and had urged the United Nations and its specialized agencies to launch programmes which would bring new hope to millions whose most urgent needs were food, land and human dignity. The General Assembly had subsequently adopted resolution 401 (V) which, in essence, advocated a study of existing agrarian structures and of the ways in which governments, at their request, could be helped to eliminate inequities and stimulate production. Since then much had been done to translate the resolution into positive action.

32. In June 1951, the Secretary-General's report on *Defects in Agrarian Structure as Obstacles to Economic Development* (E/2003/Rev.1) had been published and had formed the basis of the Economic and Social Council's discussion on land reform at its thirteenth session, at which emphasis had been laid on the extent to which equitable land distribution must be supported by a whole series of closely co-ordinated programmes. It had also been agreed that the effectiveness of efforts to encourage improvements on the land and greater productivity were likely to be limited unless accompanied by appropriate changes in land tenure. As he had pointed out at that session, land reform included much more than improved systems of land tenure<sup>1</sup>.

33. The action taken by the Economic and Social Council and approved by the General Assembly had been carried still further by FAO. As the United States representative at the most recent FAO Conference had stated, the great objectives of FAO could not be achieved unless a high percentage of the world's farmers had an opportunity to own their own land, to work it under conditions favouring maximum production, to achieve fair returns and to conserve and rebuild the fertility of the soil. His Government had earnestly and consistently sponsored the cause of land reform in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and FAO.

34. The real test of the efficacy of United Nations work in that connexion lay less in surveys and reports than in governmental action and he would welcome further statements by representatives on the progress achieved by their respective governments. He hoped that some of the agricultural leaders of the countries represented in the Committee had benefited from participation in the University of Wisconsin Land Tenure Conference of 1951. Another conference, sponsored in 1952 by the University of California, had enabled participating delegations to exchange experiences in agricultural credit and co-operative systems.

35. Since Italy and Japan were not represented in the Assembly, he wished to refer to the land reform progress made in those countries. Under the land reform programme instituted in Italy in 1950 new owners paid their predecessors on an instalment basis over a thirty-

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirteenth Session, 533rd meeting.*

year period and could not dispose of the land except by returning it to the land reform agency for alternative distribution. New owners were obliged to ensure the optimum development of their land, and the government assisted them by supplying low-cost credit and technical assistance.

36. The same long-range and comprehensive policy characterized land reform in Japan. In 1945 approximately 70 per cent of Japan's 6 million farming families had worked their land on lease at rentals varying from 50 to 70 per cent of the proceeds of the annual crop. The Japanese Government had acquired and resold nearly 4,630,000 acres during the course of the land reform programme and had reduced tenant farming from an estimated 46 per cent to a mere 10 per cent of the total cultivated area. Since 1946 only a very small percentage of the beneficiaries of Japanese land reform had become indebted to their former landlords and only a very few of the tenants had resold their land to the former owners. The Government and all major parties in Japan supported the basic principles of the land reform programme and no legislative revision was contemplated.

37. With regard to the Secretary-General's progress report (A/2194), his delegation had been glad to hear that the Secretary-General had sent governments the questionnaire on defects in agrarian structures, and had been gratified to note that the secretariats of the regional economic commissions and of FAO were prepared to assist governments in preparing the material needed for their replies. He associated himself with Mr. Blough in urging governments to reply as fully as possible to the questionnaire. His delegation would also be very interested in the results of the studies undertaken on co-operatives and on fiscal problems.

38. The reference to regional studies and seminars on land tenure problems planned by ECAFE and ECLA jointly with FAO was particularly significant in view of the second operative paragraph of the joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.160/Rev.1), which advocated regional conferences or seminars on the technical and practical problems encountered in carrying out a land reform programme. It would seem to be particularly appropriate in the Near East. He assumed that the proposed conference on land administration, including tax administration, to be held by ECAFE and TAA would also include FAO.

39. He urged interested governments to ask the United Nations for technical assistance in connexion with land reform, since that was the only way in which the available facilities could be utilized. Several governments in Southeast Asia and Latin America had asked FAO for technical assistance in land reform and he hoped that that lead would be followed by more countries.

40. His delegation commended the Secretary-General, the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies for their prompt action in developing concrete programmes. It was unnecessary to emphasize the importance of inter-agency consultation to avoid duplication of work. He believed that FAO should take a lead in defining problems and in giving over-all guidance on the work, and hoped that in future it would give lower priority to functional monographs and studies. The extensive legal studies of land reform and

the studies of co-operative problems which UNESCO proposed to undertake could be better handled by other agencies. UNESCO might give higher priority to education on land reform problems, expansion of fundamental education programmes, and co-operation with FAO in certain social science studies relating to land reform.

41. His delegation fully supported the joint draft resolution submitted by Egypt, India and Indonesia (A/C.2/L.160/Rev.1). He wished, however, to propose amending it by adding a paragraph on education and publicity (A/C.2/L.187). One of the most important functions of the United Nations was the stimulation of general interest in land reform and of an awareness of the need to take practical action.

42. Commenting on the last paragraph of the Pakistani draft resolution (A/C.2/L.158/Rev.1), he pointed out that the task assigned to the Committee of experts under Council resolution 416 A (XIV) was to consider in detail the nature of possible international arrangements to finance economic development. His delegation visualized that as involving study of such questions as the volume of resources necessary, the nature of the resources and the conditions under which contributions to and payments from the fund would be made. The last paragraph of the draft resolution, however, would ask the experts to deal with what was essentially an operating problem. That was the type of recommendation which might be made to the governing board of the fund if and when it was set up but it did not appear appropriate to give detailed instructions of that kind at that stage. His delegation could not therefore support the paragraph, but that did not mean that it did not recognize the great importance of promoting programmes of agrarian reform.

43. His delegation could support the remainder of the Pakistani draft resolution, but since it appeared to duplicate to some extent the provisions of the joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.160/Rev.1), he suggested that the sponsors of the two drafts might find it possible to agree on a combined version.

*Mr. Nosek (Czechoslovakia), Chairman, took the Chair.*

44. Mr. NURADI (Indonesia) said that since the representatives of Egypt and India had commented on the provisions of the joint draft resolution of which his delegation was a co-sponsor, he would, in his statement, merely explain why Indonesia took a particular interest in the question of land reform.

45. In Indonesia, landlordism as such no longer existed to any practical extent; the country's chief problem was to increase production. That was an economic problem of great magnitude which affected the very existence of the population. There was a serious disparity between the amount of food produced and the increase in the population.

46. Indonesia was a rice-producing country. In 1940, the average per capita consumption of rice had been 89 kilogrammes but in 1951 it had been only 78 kilogrammes. The average daily diet in Indonesia was of 1,700 calories, whereas the minimum requirement was 2,250 calories. Several other Asian countries had achieved the level of 2,250 calories and in advanced countries such as the United States and the Netherlands the daily average was about 3,000 calories. Indo-

nesia had been compelled to import from 500,000 to 600,000 tons of rice in 1951 and 1952. Before the war it had been self-supporting in rice and had even had a small export surplus. During the Japanese occupation, however, and owing to the subsequent revolution, the crops had been neglected and the rice fields had been damaged by military operations. In addition to importing rice, Indonesia had been compelled to import other foodstuffs, such as wheat, when rice was scarce and those imports had seriously affected its balance of payments position. Moreover, rice played a primary part in the economic structure of the country; the price of rice affected wage levels, production, the volume of exports, the balance of payments position and indeed every aspect of economic life. More rice was therefore essential for the country's economic well-being.

47. His Government was giving the highest priority to agricultural improvements. Steps were being taken to increase production in vast areas in Borneo and Sumatra, and irrigation and hydro-electric projects were being carried out in Java. The Government was also promoting agricultural credit co-operatives and agricultural extension services, and it had declared itself willing to subsidize rice if necessary.

48. He hoped that the Committee would unanimously adopt the joint draft resolution. His delegation was prepared to accept the United States amendment and would also support the Pakistani draft resolution.

49. Mr. ABDELRAZEK (Egypt) said his delegation was in complete agreement with the United States amendment (A/C.2/L.187) to the joint draft resolution. He suggested, however, that the words "at their request" should be inserted after the words "Member Governments" in the first line of the United States amendment, so that there would be no danger of its giving the impression that the Secretary-General had the right to impose assistance on governments.

50. His delegation was prepared to support the Pakistani draft resolution but suggested that its title should be changed to "Financing of land reform", since that was the only aspect of land reform with which it dealt. With regard to the second operative paragraph of the draft resolution, he felt that the intention had been that the special fund should finance non-self-liquidating economic development projects. It could not be claimed that all land reform projects were non-self-liquidating. He therefore suggested, and he hoped that his suggestion would cause the United States representative to withdraw his opposition to the paragraph, that the words "non-self-liquidating or gradually self-liquidating projects" should be inserted after the words "financing of" in the second operative paragraph.

51. Mr. LUBIN (United States of America) accepted the Egyptian representative's oral amendment.

52. Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs) said he understood that the United States amendment (A/C.2/L.187) was intended to be applied within the limits of existing budgetary resources. If that interpretation was correct, the task would be carried out by the Department of Public Information, under existing appropriations, and the amendment would have no budgetary implications.

53. Mr. ELAHI (Pakistan), referring to the United States representative's comments on his delegation's draft resolution, said that so far as he was concerned one of the essential tasks of the Committee of experts would be to consider how the funds available were to be used. He felt that the Egyptian representative had not been entirely correct since the special fund would give low-interest long-term loans as well as financing non-self-liquidating projects. Land reform projects would undoubtedly require extensive sums and those sums would have to be provided by international agencies. He would like more time to consider the United States and Egyptian representatives' suggestions and would inform the Committee of his decision the following day.

54. Mr. ABDELRAZEK (Egypt) said that as he understood General Assembly resolution 520 (VI), the special fund was to be set up to finance only non-self-liquidating or gradually self-liquidating projects. It might, in appropriate cases, give subsidies or long-term loans to gradually self-liquidating projects. If, however, the fund were to finance all projects without discrimination, it would be usurping the functions of the International Bank and the proposed international finance corporation.

55. Mr. LIMA (Brazil) said his country's National Commission on Agricultural Policy was defining the material essential to enable it to carry out the task the Government had set it. When that was done, his Government would be able to answer the Secretary-General's questionnaire on land reform more fully. Land reform was in full progress in Brazil. Measures had been adopted which would lead to the fuller utilization of the arid lands in the northeast of the country and an extensive network of rural social services financed by special governmental funds would be established.

56. Mr. DOMINGUEZ COMPANY (Cuba) said his delegation had carefully studied the draft resolutions before the Committee. He interpreted the second operative paragraph of the Pakistani draft resolution (A/C.2/L.158/Rev.1) as implying that land reform projects were of equal importance with other projects of economic development, but should not be given specific priority. He therefore suggested that the words "without this consideration implying priority" should be added at the end of the paragraph. He agreed that land reform was vitally important and required the application of urgent measures appropriate to each country. It must, however, be remembered that the aim was to accelerate the economic development and raise the standard of living of under-developed countries, hence the need for integrated economic development, including the diversification and increase of agricultural production and the establishment and expansion of new industries.

57. Mr. ELAHI (Pakistan) said his delegation had merely suggested that the Committee of experts should also give consideration to the financing of land reform; it had not been his intention to urge that special priority be given to such projects. If the Cuban representative pressed his proposal, he would accept it.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.