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Chairman: Mr. Jiří NOSEK (Czechoslovakia).

AGENDA ITEM 29

Programmes of technical assistance:

- (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/3613, A/3661, A/C.2/196, A/C.2/L.347, A/C.2/L.348) (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE (concluded)

1. Mr. LICHTENECKER (Austria) said that in the technical assistance programmes the nations had accepted a concept of collective economic responsibility, founded on the belief that only the economic soundness and advancement of each individual country could assure a stable measure of over-all progress, far in advance of what was accepted at the individual and community level. His Government believed that to be one of the great positive results of post-war international co-operation and, as the Austrian Foreign Minister had said in the General Assembly at the 684th plenary meeting, considered the provision of technical and economic aid to be one of the foremost tasks of the United Nations. His country supported the Economic and Social Council's appeal for additional funds for the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, to which a note of urgency had been added by the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.2/L.347), and for 1958 had pledged a contribution 50 per cent higher than its contribution for the previous year.

2. Mr. CHAMPASSAK (Laos) said that his delegation had been among the first to suggest at the eleventh session that special consideration should be given to new Member States in the distribution of technical assistance. The problem had been discussed by the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) and the Economic and Social Council and it was clear that while there could be no question of "political bonus" to which newly independent countries were automatically entitled, for economic need must be the only criterion, most of the countries which had recently attained independence were in fact among those in greatest need for assistance.

3. In the field of public administration in particular, their difficulties were sui generis and should receive special consideration. The shortage of skilled administrators at every level of the administrative and eco-

nomie structure was a serious obstacle to balanced development and all the newly independent countries had specific needs in the fields of public administration and the co-ordination of economic development. The difficulty could of course be solved by the concentration of assistance in certain fields and his country had in fact requested that a higher proportion of its 1958 allocation be used to send Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) experts. However, if the total allocation had not been increased to take into account Laos' special needs as a newly independent country, that concentration could only have been achieved by eliminating other parts of the country programme for assistance in the various fields could not be reduced below a certain minimum level without substantially reducing its effectiveness. For those reasons, his delegation considered that the special needs of the newly independent countries in the fields of public administration and economic planning should continue to be recognized and hoped that the Committee would endorse the steps taken by the Technical Assistance Board (TAB) and TAA in that direction in planning the 1958 programme.

4. Expressing his delegation's interest in the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of an international administrative service, he observed that the decision to make a preliminary survey of potential needs appeared to be wise and reasonable since TAA would be able to meet the most urgent requests in the meantime by drawing on its resources. His delegation awaited with interest the replies to TAA's questionnaire on the subject and was sure that the misgivings expressed concerning the proposal would prove groundless since the new form of assistance would not be different in kind from that already furnished under the technical assistance programmes.

5. Mr. ARKADEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the values of technical assistance could not be expressed in purely monetary terms. It was a symbol of co-operation between peoples, and made technical knowledge a common property, not the exclusive possession of a few. It was, in particular, a means of helping the under-developed countries to overcome the backwardness that was the result of their long dependence as colonies by building economies based on sound technical and industrial foundations. His country had always supported any real endeavour to help those countries, through the disinterested provision of economic and technical assistance of every kind, to exploit their internal resources, develop their industry, agriculture and other branches of the economy and improve the conditions of their peoples. In connexion with the statement made in the Committee about neo-capitalism in the USSR, it should be pointed out that the Soviet Union was a socialist country where there was no private property and there were no capitalist monopolies or exploiting classes, the Soviet Union believed that the help given to under-developed countries should

carry with it no economic, political or other privileges. Furthermore, the absolute right of the countries concerned to dispose of their own natural resources and to develop their own industries should be respected. Those important principles had been laid down long ago in Economic and Social Council resolution 222 (IX) and his delegation had often drawn attention to the need to observe them strictly.

6. TAB's report, *A Forward Look* (E/2885), considered the possibilities for the future enlargement of the Expanded Programme and expressed some alarm at the financial prospect. There were, however, various ways in which the Programme's resources could be increased as, for instance, by the inclusion among the contributors of countries which were not Members of the United Nations; that was provided for in a special resolution of the General Assembly. Financial considerations had certainly not been foremost when the German Democratic Republic's offer of a contribution had been rejected. It would also be helpful if contributions could be made for longer periods in advance, say, two or three years. Economic and Social Council resolution 623 B III (XXII) was, however, an obstacle to the practical realization of that idea, and clearly violated the principle that contributions should be voluntary.

7. The question of reducing administrative expenditure was still on the agenda, and for good reason, since such costs remained high and there was no indication in the Annual Report of TAB (E/2965 and E/TAC/REP/103) that they would be lowered. In that connexion, his delegation considered the proposal regarding the creation of a permanent group of experts valueless and likely to lead to further unproductive expenditure. The very idea of forming a standing group of experts was a wrong one since such experts would soon cease to be specialists and become mere officials, for they would be out of touch with the latest scientific and technical achievements. Such a measure would, moreover, be contrary to the very principle that experts sent to the under-developed countries should possess the highest qualifications and should, before going to a country, thoroughly study local conditions which were very often different from those prevailing in their own countries. The principle of a proper geographical distribution in the choice of experts and consultants must also be observed. At the Council's twenty-fourth session a number of delegations had pointed to deficiencies in that respect; it was a fact that the majority of experts were drawn from a very few countries, notably the United States, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Yet many other countries, the Soviet Union among them, could offer valuable assistance in scientific and technical matters. When Soviet Union experts had been used either through the United Nations or under bilateral agreements they had earned high praise in the countries to which they had been sent, for they had been highly qualified and had been able to adapt advanced scientific and technical methods to local conditions. The Soviet Union, for its part, was ready to make its experts available for service in other countries not only against its own contribution to the United Nations for technical assistance but also against the contributions of other countries.

8. The training of national cadres of specialists and scientific workers should, either in their own countries or abroad, take an important place in the technical

assistance programme. The task was an important one to which the United Nations bodies engaged in technical assistance had not yet devoted sufficient efforts. The Soviet Union, for its part, was training a number of students from various countries, including under-developed ones, both through the technical assistance Programme and under bilateral arrangements. The Soviet Union was ready to receive 1,000 students and specialists in 1958 and 1959 to study at its higher and intermediate technical institutes and to improve their qualifications by undergoing on-the-job training at industrial undertakings and construction projects. The Soviet Union was ready henceforward to receive students and specialists not only against its own contributions to the United Nations technical assistance fund but also against those of other countries. Particular attention would be paid to training specialists with intermediate qualifications at industrial undertakings. The establishment of national technical training institutes in the under-developed countries was a very important part of that work, and the Soviet Union had contributed to the building of such institutes in India and Burma. It was to be regretted that TAB, which had allotted the equivalent of 3 million roubles to the Bombay project in 1956, had thought fit to curtail funds for that purpose in 1957. The representative of Mexico and others had emphasized the value which permanent training centres, either national or regional, could have for their countries in the formation of national corps of technicians, scientists and teachers. It was not enough simply to send experts.

9. His delegation also thought that the technical assistance authorities should concern themselves with the transmission to the under-developed countries of the latest industrial techniques. It was important to encourage the exchange of technical delegations. The Soviet Union exchanged delegations not only with the under-developed but also with the most highly developed countries such as the United States on such subjects as agriculture. The practice was a valuable one and should be extended to all countries. During the past year the Soviet Union had, against its contribution, received eight delegations and groups of specialists in various subjects from under-developed countries and given them the benefit of its advanced experience.

10. The provision of model and laboratory equipment for experimental workshops was also an important part of the assistance to be given to under-developed countries. But that item was accorded a relatively unimportant place in the Programme, absorbing only 14 per cent of all expenditure in 1952, and only 10.5 per cent in 1956 as compared with the 17 per cent spent on administrative costs that year. Yet it was very important that the research laboratories and workshops in those countries should be properly equipped; it was not simply a matter of money, for much of the equipment could be obtained cheaply or free of charge from various Governments—it was principally a matter of initiative and good organization. The under-developed countries would scarcely refuse such equipment if only it were offered them. Through the United Nations the Soviet Union was providing a number of countries, including India, Pakistan and Ceylon, with equipment of various kinds. It was also providing a great volume of equipment to universities and institutes in Bombay, Kabul, Damascus, Rangoon and Santiago (Chile).

11. Another useful form of technical assistance was the provision of scientific and technical information on all subjects, ranging from plans and drawings of machines, houses, schools and hospitals to analyses of soils and raw materials. Assistance of that kind would enable the under-developed countries to make speedier use of their own resources and to develop their industries. That was but one of the numerous ways of providing technical assistance. For, clearly, it was not simply a matter of how to spend the \$30 or even \$60 million which might be available for technical assistance: whatever the sum, it would be inadequate to meet the needs of the under-developed countries; essentially, the matter of technical assistance went far beyond the strictly financial sphere. The Soviet Union, for instance, had agreements with many countries for the construction in them of various industrial undertakings to be equipped by the Soviet Union and with the help of Soviet experts, on the basis of long-term, low-interest loans. Their number would increase as the Soviet Union's own economic and industrial capacities developed, and as there emerged in other countries, in particular the under-developed countries themselves, a desire to establish such relations with the Soviet Union, free as they were from all political and economic conditions.

12. Scientific and technical co-operation between the socialist countries was also increasing and spreading to more and more branches of the economy. The Soviet Union was helping socialist countries to construct industrial undertakings, workshops and plants and in recent years had provided socialist countries in Europe and Asia with vast quantities of literature, plans, drawings and specifications of technological processes. The Soviet Union in turn was benefiting from the advanced experience in special fields of other socialist countries as, for instance, Poland in the matter of mining, and Czechoslovakia, in the production of textile machinery, reinforced concrete and so on. Co-operation between socialist countries in the matter of nuclear physics and the peaceful use of atomic energy had also acquired greater importance in recent years. In fact, in 1956, eleven countries had agreed to set up a joint nuclear research institute. In various other ways the socialist countries were co-operating in the economic and technical fields. There were, for instance, agreements for the exchange of electrical energy between pairs of them. There were standing commissions whose task it was to draft recommendations for the co-ordination of their scientific and technical plans and their construction work in various branches. In recent years the Soviet Union had provided the socialist countries with 10,000 samples, plants and seeds of all kinds and had itself received some hundreds in return. It had received large numbers of specialists from those countries to study production and technical processes in its industries and had sent its own specialists on visits to their countries. Meetings and conferences on scientific and technical questions were frequently organized. Exchanges of undergraduate and graduate students took place. All-round scientific and technical co-operation was powerfully stimulating the development of the productive forces of all those countries.

13. It was not with the socialist countries only, however, that the Soviet Union was co-operating in that way. It had close relations in those matters with many countries in the Far and Middle East and also Europe

and was ready to extend such relations to other countries. It was important to note that in all its activities under bilateral arrangements to help other countries develop their natural resources and establish their economies, the Soviet Union was entirely disinterested; once the plant or factory was installed with its help, it was owned and operated entirely by the country itself. That applied to all kinds of constructions, from coal mines and cement factories to hydroelectric stations and irrigation systems.

14. The Soviet Union's efforts also included the organization of fairs and exhibitions; since the Second World War it had arranged more than seventy exhibitions in different countries and taken part in many trade fairs.

15. In an age of great and speedy technical advance like the present, the United Nations technical assistance bodies ought to take more positive measures to enable the less advanced countries to share those achievements. The use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes was an important matter and the Soviet Union was helping other countries to acquire the scientific basis which would enable them later to carry out research in that field for themselves. It felt that technical assistance should be given in that direction too. The Soviet Union was ready to offer students from under-developed countries places in the physics faculties of its universities.

16. Technical assistance was always a two-way traffic, and it must be realized that many of the under-developed countries themselves could usefully offer the benefit of their experience in certain fields. The Soviet Union was, for instance, gaining valuable guidance from the Chinese People's Republic in the matter of the cultivation of sub-tropical plants and from India in certain branches of medicine. He was sure that the countries of Africa could benefit greatly in the development of their agriculture from the advice of other countries including those called under-developed. Tropical Africa alone spent some \$200 to \$250 million a year on the import of foodstuffs which it could perfectly easily grow itself.

17. There was practically no under-developed country today which had not its plan of economical, social, cultural, industrial and technical development, which was not endeavouring to mobilize its national resources and to combine them with the help it could obtain from abroad in order to build a better future. Those countries richly deserved all the disinterested assistance which could be given them. The Soviet Union was convinced that international co-operation in implementing the United Nations Technical Assistance Programmes would continue to increase. It believed that if the other measures it had suggested were carried out they would contribute much to increasing the effectiveness of United Nations activity in that sphere. The Soviet Union for its part would continue to participate in that activity, in technical and scientific co-operation with other countries, and especially the under-developed countries; it was also ready to increase its scientific and technical contacts with all other countries similarly interested.

18. Mr. GARCIA ARIAS (Argentina), after paying a tribute to the achievements of the technical assistance programmes in terms of co-operation and of benefits to the recipient countries, said that his delegation viewed the Expanded Programme's financial difficul-

ties with concern. An increase in contributions was needed to prevent the paralysis of the Expanded Programme, but it would be difficult for the majority of countries to increase their pledges in view of the critical economic and financial position of most of the under-developed countries. He hoped that the highly developed nations, recognizing the value of technical assistance to recipient and beneficiary countries and to the United Nations itself, would find it possible to maintain and increase their contributions.

19. Argentina's technical assistance programme for 1958, although not spectacular, was directed towards the integrated economic development of the country. Technical assistance had been requested in the fields of electric power, agriculture and transport with a view to promoting industrial development and reducing the cost of Argentina's exports of foodstuffs.

20. In order to facilitate the co-ordination of technical assistance activities the Government was taking steps to provide headquarters in Buenos Aires for the representatives of United Nations bodies and of the specialized agencies in Argentina. In that connexion, his delegation noted with interest the Secretary-General's report (A/C.2/196) on the outposting of certain TAA programme officers to Latin America. Despite the unenthusiastic report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/3624),^{1/} his delegation believed that the experimental outposting, which had been approved by the recent Conference of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), should be continued since it improved the quality of the programmes and by facilitating contact between the interested Governments and TAA, led to greater co-operation in handling governmental requests.

21. As a means to improving the co-operation between experts and the Governments concerned, he suggested that experts might usefully be recruited in the countries in which they were to be employed. The many highly qualified technicians available in such countries had the advantage of familiarity with local conditions and methods.

22. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of the evaluation of the Programme included in TAB's Annual Report. What had been achieved showed that any innovation or limitation affecting TAB's flexibility of action in planning and implementing programmes would be ill-advised.

23. U AUNG SOE (Burma) said that the Expanded Programme had reached a peak in 1956. The scope and the scale of the assistance furnished had been substantially increased and highly efficient machinery had been developed for programme planning, execution and evaluation. In view of those heartening developments, it was paradoxical that the Programme's future should be clouded by financial difficulties and that, despite the increased pledges of some twenty countries, including Burma, operations might have to be curtailed. He hoped that the United States would reconsider its decision progressively to reduce its percentage contribution. If it did not do so, it would be difficult to raise enough funds to counterbalance the reduction, for no appreciable increase in contributions could be expected from the under-developed and principally

recipient countries which formed the majority of contributors. Certainly his own Government's contribution for 1958, which was 66.66 per cent larger than its first contribution to the Programme, represented a not inconsiderable portion of Burma's limited national resources.

24. In his delegation's view, there were three possible sources of additional funds. First, the administering Powers of the forty-seven dependent territories which were receiving assistance might see their way to increase their contributions to the Programme, from which they themselves, in a broad sense, had been deriving considerable benefits. Secondly, the terms of reference governing the acceptance of voluntary contributions might be reviewed with a view to broadening the basis on which offers of contributions might be accepted. Thirdly, the counterpart expenditures incurred by recipient countries, amounting to approximately \$77 million annually, might be incorporated in TAB's budget as contributions to the Programme, thus perhaps enabling the United States to reduce its percentage contribution still further.

25. Commenting on some of the other issues raised in the discussion, he said that his delegation welcomed the inclusion of an evaluation of the Programme in TAB's annual report. His delegation also welcomed the extension of the "Burma Plan" and looked forward to TAB's report on the subject under Council resolution 658 B (XXIV). In that connexion, he noted that the "Burma Plan" had been negotiated at the initiative of his Government as a practical means of enabling Burma to obtain urgently needed experts, over and above its quota under the Regular and Expanded Programmes, by utilizing the extensive recruiting facilities of the United Nations. There was no reason for apprehension that the provision of assistance under the Plan would alter the basic character of the Programme.

26. Turning to the question of the extension of United Nations technical assistance to dependent territories, he observed that the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration would face great economic and social difficulties when it became independent in 1960. As the realistic report of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on the Somaliland economy (T/1296)^{2/} showed, the Territory would be economically and politically uninhabitable unless the United Nations undertook to augment the aid extended by the Italian Government, generous though that aid had been. He therefore hoped that TAA, TAB and the specialized agencies would be able to give special treatment to Somaliland along the lines indicated in Economic and Social Council resolution 660 (XXIV).

27. In closing, he expressed his Government's deep appreciation of the assistance it had received under the Regular and Expanded Programmes. The aid received had been out of all proportion to Burma's financial contribution, and would, he trusted, enable his country to overcome its economic difficulties.

28. Mr. SERBAN (Romania) said that one of the United Nations chief problems was the most effective distribution of funds between the three forms of technical assistance: the provision of experts, the granting of fellowships, and the furnishing of supplies and experimental equipment.

^{1/}Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Supplement No. 7.

^{2/}Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 11.

29. Most countries which benefited from technical assistance went on to carry out national programmes of economic development. For that purpose, they had to develop their national personnel, but unfortunately the number of fellowships and scholarships available had steadily declined. In that connexion, his delegation fully supported the statement in TAC's report (E/3041)^{3/} that that form of assistance should be further developed as it played a key role in the training of national personnel, which was an essential element in the process of economic and social development.

30. Certain recipient countries including Ecuador and Syria, had expressed a desire to receive larger deliveries of experimental equipment. However, as an average of only 11.4 per cent of the available funds had been allocated to that form of assistance during the past six years, it was difficult to see how their requirements could be met.

31. It appeared from the TAC report that the bulk of the available funds was being devoted to experts and specialists, and his delegation believed that it was particularly desirable to engage experts from countries which had achieved a rapid rate of development during the past few years. The under-developed countries were not interested merely in long-term results; they wished to make rapid and effective progress and to that end they could profitably enlist the aid of certain socialist countries which, before embarking upon their programmes of economic development, had been at a level comparable with that of the present under-developed countries.

32. Formerly a non-industrial country, Romania now had a volume of industrial production which was 3.3 times as great as it had been in 1938. It possessed seventy-six scientific and technical commercial schools, which trained 41,000 students every year, including about 1,000 foreign students. Romanian specialists had been able to furnish technical assistance in the fields of oil and cement production to certain countries in South and South East Asia, as well as to some of its European neighbours. Its progress in other scientific and technical fields, such as malaria control, also placed it in a position where it might be of great assistance to under-developed countries.

33. In the circumstances, it was regrettable that more use had not been made of Romanian contributions. In view of the scarcity of funds available for technical assistance, it would be advisable to explore new possibilities of granting such assistance, including the possibilities proposed by the delegations of Czechoslovakia, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Hungary, Saudi Arabia and others. His delegation fully supported the view that the under-developed countries did not ask for charity but merely wished to develop their own resources and to take their place among the more advanced countries of the world on a basis of equality.

34. Mr. Gopala MENON (India) said that it was gratifying that both the under-developed and the advanced countries agreed that the Expanded Programme should continue to grow and expand. His own country had more than doubled its annual contribution in the course of seven years and, besides contributing nearly \$3 million, had, like other recipient countries, borne the counterpart expenditures on all the projects carried

out in its territory. In spite of its difficult balance of payments position, it had increased its contribution for 1958 and had, in all, placed 240 experts at the disposal of the Programme authorities.

35. The technical assistance programme was one of the most effective and fruitful activities of the United Nations. It had enabled India to obtain the services of experts from all parts of the world and since those experts were sponsored by an international organization, they were less affected by national considerations and more objective in their advice and conclusions. His Government, however, hoped to receive a larger allocation for the supply of equipment, which would help both experts and fellowship holders to function more efficiently. India was also greatly concerned at the reduction of funds for technical assistance and hoped that it would be possible, in the near future, to broaden the Expanded Programme to include more of the urgent and important requirements of the under-developed countries.

36. Summarizing his delegation's attitude toward a number of other points in connexion with technical assistance, he expressed the hope that the trend toward selecting an increasing number of experts from under-developed countries would continue. His delegation believed that the provision of technical assistance on a reimbursable basis was a good idea, provided it was not regarded as a substitute for assistance provided in the normal way. He welcomed the statement of the Director-General of TAA in regard to the efforts to reduce operational costs and urged that they be continued to the extent consistent with efficient operation. His delegation was pleased with TAC's decision to extend technical assistance to the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration. The experiment of outposting certain technical assistance officers in Latin America as proposed in document A/C.2/196 appeared to be satisfactory, but he agreed with the Netherlands representative that any drastic changes in the present arrangement should only be made after thorough evaluation of the results. It was to be hoped that such United Nations facilities as the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance could also be used for the training of scientific and technical personnel in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. He further welcomed the revised procedure which had come into effect in 1956 by which each country determined the kind of technical assistance it required and submitted a consolidated programme to the United Nations. There was also a need for the better co-ordination of technical assistance programmes with national development plans, which might be achieved by a high-level central co-ordinating authority, such as the Indian Planning Commission. In conclusion, his delegation wished to stress the desirability of reducing the number of projects handled under the Programme; a smaller number of well-planned and integrated projects would be more effective than a large number of small, isolated projects.

37. Mr. SCHMIDT (Brazil), after expressing his delegation's satisfaction with the achievements of the Expanded Programme in 1956, observed that its continued effectiveness would depend on the financial support it received. It was most unfortunate that the United States Government had decided on a progressive reduction of its percentage contribution to the Expanded Programme. With all due respect for the reasons

^{3/}Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 9.

which had influenced the United States in its decision, he felt that it was the industrialized countries which should increase their contributions to the Programme. The under-developed countries should also increase their efforts, but their contribution should consist largely of services and soft-currency funds.

38. In response to TAC's appeal last year, Brazil had decided to increase its contribution by 20 per cent and had reserved 15,400,000 cruzeiros for that purpose, although Brazil had been experiencing serious balance of payments difficulties and the situation with respect to its principal export, coffee, was far from encouraging.

39. His delegation considered that TAC had acted wisely in supporting TAB's recommendation (E/TAC/65) to suspend all new programmes for the European countries and to disapprove any appreciable increase in their present programmes until technical assistance in Europe had been subjected to a thorough review. Per capita income in those countries was relatively high and their own Governments ought to be able to supply their technical and financial needs. United Nations technical assistance was primarily designed to assist the under-developed countries, living at a subsistence level; countries with a relatively high per capita income were hardly entitled to such aid.

40. His Government favoured the "Burma Plan," provided that it was intended to supplement ordinary technical assistance and not to replace it. He hoped that TAB would study the proposal with great care to ensure that it did not impair ordinary technical assistance.

41. His delegation agreed that a clear distinction should be drawn between technical assistance and financial assistance. The two, however, should in practice be closely associated and he hoped that it would be possible to obtain better co-operation between the various technical assistance programmes and such financial institutions as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Finance Corporation.

42. With respect to the decentralization of technical assistance in Latin America, he endorsed the Secretary-General's report on the outposting of TAA programme officers. His delegation also fully supported the Mexican representative's suggestions (479th meeting) with respect to the establishment of a special fund to assist universities and specialized institutions to acquire technical or scientific equipment, and to the important part played by technical preparatory and research centres in Latin America.

43. While not a blind devotee of the nineteenth century ideal of scientific progress, he believed that applied science could enable mankind to eliminate the evil of rich nations and poor nations living side by side in the world. Success in that undertaking, however, would depend not only on technical skill but also on the willingness of the peoples of the under-developed countries to accept new ideas. To teach confidence in those new methods, as well as to teach the methods themselves, was the twofold task of the United Nations, TAB, TAA and the specialized agencies.

44. Ato Yawand-Wossen MANGASHA (Ethiopia) had no doubt of the great contribution of technical assistance to the development of the economically retarded countries, particularly in 1956 when the new country pro-

gramming procedure had been put into operation. His delegation had been glad to learn from the Executive Chairman of TAB that the programmes providing experts and training facilities could be further expanded without any sacrifice of quality. Now that the office of a Permanent Representative had been established in Ethiopia his Government hoped for greater assistance through the Programme. His country's primary shortage was in adequately trained administrators, for it was only now beginning to recover from its loss of its most able men in the war of 1936 to 1941. Ethiopia therefore particularly welcomed the programme for training public administrators and hoped that it would be further extended. Ethiopia also lacked trained commercial and industrial personnel. Thus, although it had recently increased its production of coffee and oilseed, the benefit was largely lost to it because most of the importers and exporters in the country were of foreign nationality. It would be of great help to countries like his own, therefore, if TAB were to undertake to train entrepreneurs either individually or collectively. If exporting and importing concerns in Ethiopia were run by Ethiopians the country's meagre capital resources would increase and there would be consequent beneficial effects in other branches of the economy.

45. His delegation shared the general apprehension about the Programme's financial future. The United States Government's decision to reduce its percentage contribution would have the effect of reducing its contribution for 1957 by some \$2 million. His delegation hoped that that would not in fact happen and trusted to the profound interest of the people and Government of that country in the Expanded Programme to persuade it to increase its contributions for 1958 and subsequent years above the 1957 level.

46. Paying a tribute to the Executive Chairman of TAB and the Director-General of TAA and their staffs for the very valuable work they were doing, in Ethiopia as elsewhere, he said that where other missionaries had failed those of the United Nations Technical Assistance bodies had succeeded; they had altered for the better the lives of many peoples all over the world.

47. Mr. OWEN, Executive Chairman, Technical Assistance Board, thanked all members of the Committee, on behalf of the Board, for their many helpful and constructive suggestions and for their points of criticism, all of which would be taken into account. The various tributes which had been paid to him he took as a sign of the Committee's confidence in the technical assistance staff both at Headquarters and in the field.

48. Mr. MARTINEZ CABAÑAS (Secretariat) thanked all members of the Committee for their appreciative remarks to the Director-General and his staff; they would be transmitted to all those working at Headquarters and in the field.

49. Some representatives had put specific questions. With regard to the outposting of certain TAA programme officers to Latin America, the United Kingdom representative had asked, first, whether such a partial reorganization of the Programme Division would affect the over-all direction of the Programme. He could say in reply that the over-all direction would remain, as before, centralized at Headquarters. The "partial reorganization" consisted merely in the physical transfer of certain programme officers from Headquarters to the Area Office. Answering the United Kingdom representative's second question on that sub-

ject, he said that the outposting of those officers would cost some \$37,000 more, in travel, communications, rental and air freight costs and in payments to local staff. The United Kingdom representative had also asked whether the new arrangement made it possible to meet requests from Latin American Governments more speedily. In fact there had initially been some delay, which had since been reduced, and requests were now dealt with at about the same rate as before. All administrative matters were now being handled, as they must properly be, by the central administration. It was hoped that the service would be better in the coming year.

50. The representative of Sudan had asked if it would be possible to recruit more experts from the under-developed countries. The Administration had made every effort to recruit as many experts as possible

from recipient countries; the limiting factor was not the lack of technicians in those countries but their own Government's desperate need of their services. Nevertheless it was expected that it would be increasingly possible in the future for countries at a similar level of development to exchange experts.

51. He thanked all delegations which had made a constructive evaluation of the Programme; their suggestions and observations would be taken into account. Their remarks on the public administration programme had been of particular interest and he could assure them that that programme would steadily improve over the years.

The CHAIRMAN declared the debate on that item closed.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.