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Chairman: Mr. Pierre FORTHOMME  
(Belgium).

## AGENDA ITEM 47

World campaign for universal literacy: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/5830, A/6024, A/6048, A/6099; A/C.2/L.803/Rev.1 and Add.1, L.808)

1. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) accepted, on behalf of his delegation, the first Algerian amendment (A/C.2/L.808) to the draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.2/L.803/Rev.1); he hoped that the other sponsors would be able to do so too. Similarly, his delegation had no objection to the second amendment, since it reproduced one of the recommendations adopted unanimously by the World Congress of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy held at Teheran (A/6048, annex II). The literacy of foreign labour was important because the movement of workers across the world was tending to increase. Consequently, subject to the agreement of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution, the new paragraph could be inserted between operative paragraphs 5 and 6.

2. He had reservations about the advisability of the amendments proposed by the United States (980th meeting) which figured in the revised draft. However, he appreciated the concern of the United States delegation. Besides, that simple transposition in no way altered the meaning of the draft resolution. Moreover, operative paragraph 6 would have to be slightly altered because the word "sources" did not mean anything out of context. Similarly, sub-paragraph b of the fourth preambular paragraph would have to be reworded in consequence and the words "and in particular the sources mentioned in the resolutions adopted by the Congress" would have to be replaced by the words "and in particular the resolutions on mobilization of human and material resources".

3. The recommendations adopted at Teheran, however necessary, were not enough. Much time had already been lost and, for both human and economic

reasons, illiteracy should be eradicated and the problem should at last be given the priority it deserved. The experiments of UNESCO could serve as examples and models but in addition all countries should engage in a general and complete mobilization of their human and material resources to try to eliminate that international scourge as quickly as possible.

4. Mr. O HEIDEAIN (Ireland) said that, whatever a country's needs for university, secondary or technical education, there was no doubt about the need for basic literacy. To advocate literacy was not to disparage oral tradition, transmitted by history, song and music, which were the cultural heritage of millions of people who were technically illiterate. Still less was it a criticism of the ancient countries or new States where the problem of illiteracy existed through historical accident, because the whole world benefited in many ways from their cultural initiatives and intellectual capital. The ability to read and write could coexist with those forms of culture.

5. In Ireland, where there was no illiteracy problem, teachers had always occupied a leading position in the cultural and political life of the country, and it was encouraging to note that in many of the countries involved in the world literacy campaign, teachers also had a high place in public esteem.

6. Two basic needs of the developing countries—to provide sufficient food for their population and to abolish illiteracy—were closely linked because an illiterate people could not learn the necessary skills to increase the production of food in the modern world. Literacy was also an essential prerequisite for industrialization and, economically speaking, it was accompanied by concrete benefits in the shape of better employment and higher wages.

7. The existence of 700 million illiterates was a tremendous challenge not only to the families and parents directly concerned but also to the individual countries and to the international community which had the opportunity to eradicate that colossal problem in one generation. His delegation therefore warmly supported the draft resolution.

8. Miss WILLIAMS (Nigeria) said that illiteracy was a serious problem in her country, which was fully aware of its repercussions on economic, social and cultural development. Nigeria had therefore been one of the sponsors of General Assembly resolution 1937 (XVIII) which, *inter alia*, reaffirmed that the right to education was one of the fundamental rights of man and that mass illiteracy was an obstacle to social and economic progress during the United Nations Development Decade and thereafter. It was for that reason too that the Nigerian delegation warmly endorsed the objectives set out in the draft resolution.

9. The campaign for the eradication of illiteracy had two aspects: first, it was an integral part of the over-all effort to conquer poverty itself and, secondly, it was a frontal attack on poverty arising from ignorance which prevented a large part of the world's population from taking advantage of the resources at its disposal.

10. It was to be hoped that, by reaffirming the international nature of the problem, the draft resolution would encourage all concerned to give priority attention in their integrated development plans to the problem of illiteracy. Nigeria warmly endorsed the conclusions of the World Congress, in which it had participated. It was engaged in adult literacy programmes in rural and urban communities and was continuing to promote mass literacy, since it fully realized that literacy was of paramount importance to economic, social and cultural development.

11. Mr. DELGADO (Senegal) said that it was difficult to imagine that 700 million people were still the victims of illiteracy, when vast sums were swallowed up by armaments and space programmes. The Senegalese Government assigned priority to that problem and mass literacy programmes were an integral part of its four-year development plan, which had already reduced the illiteracy rate from 80 to 60 per cent. Mobile teams were conducting an adult literacy campaign in rural development centres, with the generous help of UNESCO. So far as requests for assistance from the United Nations were concerned, it should be noted that three out of five projects were directly concerned with education.

12. Senegal had noted with satisfaction the recommendations of the World Congress which were the result of the efforts exerted at the regional level, particularly in Africa.

13. His delegation supported the draft resolution and the amendments submitted by Algeria, which seemed to meet all the wishes expressed. In particular, it welcomed the clarification of operative paragraph 2. The second Algerian amendment underlined a very important problem which so far had not received all the attention it should. Senegal and Mali were directly involved in the matter because many Senegalese and Malian workers were currently in France. The industrial countries of Europe should co-operate actively in facilitating the vocational training of those workers.

14. Mr. TELL (Jordan) said that, as the UNESCO documents showed, the problem of illiteracy did not exist in Jordan. His delegation considered, however, that the problem was a universal one and it therefore fully supported the draft resolution and the amendments.

15. Mr. BARIGYE (Uganda) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution.

16. Of Uganda's population of 7.5 million inhabitants, 60 per cent of the men and 80 per cent of the women were illiterate. The results thus far achieved in the literacy campaign were modest but encouraging. In 1962, for instance, 9,000 certificates of literacy had been awarded, but unfortunately the Government had not been able to remunerate a sufficient number of

teachers and inspectors. Moreover, no attempt had been made to appeal to the population's imagination and initiative. Thus a new experiment had been undertaken in 1962 and 1963 in three regions of Uganda with a view to tackling the problem more successfully. The campaign had been conducted on a local scale and the local authorities had been given substantial funds. The public administration had provided teaching aids and had trained volunteer leaders, but its main concern had been to secure the voluntary participation of the local population, particularly by calling upon young people who had received some education. The results of that modest experiment had prompted the Government, in 1964, to embark on a national literacy campaign. For the purposes of that campaign, paid teachers and inspectors were being trained, district and sub-district committees were being established and new textbooks were being published; but the main emphasis continued to be placed on the voluntary co-operation of local communities. The Government had also linked the adult literacy campaign with national economic development. It had originally been intended to teach 800,000 people to read and write, but that figure had already been exceeded by 200,000, which was a very encouraging result given the size of the population. Current difficulties consisted less in a lack of teachers, since considerable use was being made of the services of volunteers, than in a lack of textbooks and facilities for follow-up activities.

17. His delegation whole-heartedly supported the view expressed by the representative of India and other speakers on the need to distribute available resources and to allocate them as a matter of priority to projects undertaken at the national level. It hoped that the adoption of the draft resolution would intensify the effort made by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to promote literacy.

18. Mr. TEMBOURY (Spain) said that his country had undertaken to carry out plans aimed at eliminating illiteracy by 1968. The Spanish Government regarded literacy as an essential element of education and instruction, corresponding to the successive stages of man's life.

19. Thanks to the action undertaken, the illiteracy rate in Spain had been reduced from 23 per cent in 1940 to 4.3 per cent in 1965, out of a population of 31 million persons on that date. That action was twofold: the "school front", which sought to eradicate the causes of illiteracy by ensuring compulsory education for all children of school age—an objective which had been almost completely attained; and the "post-school front" for adults, which was not confined to teaching reading and writing, in themselves insufficient, but was also aimed at enabling adults to continue their education. Thanks to that programme, 262,131 adults had become literate and 172,000 of them had qualified in primary schooling, all in the space of fifteen months. Because of those encouraging results, the programme was to be expanded to enable adults who had become literate to pursue their education; that was necessary not only in order to ensure the normal development of the population but also in order to increase productivity by raising the level of skills, a *sine qua non* for economic and social

development. At the same time the Spanish Government was using all the information media available to it to arouse public enthusiasm for its educational work.

20. The Spanish delegation hoped that its achievements in that connexion, although far from perfect, would be useful to those countries which were Spanish-speaking cultural communities and with which Spain intended to maintain friendly exchanges. It also hoped to benefit from the various ideas and experiments described by other delegations during the debate.

21. The Spanish delegation believed that the world literacy campaign would constitute a powerful instrument for ensuring world peace. That was why it enthusiastically supported the action of the Iranian Government and would vote for the draft resolution before the Committee. It also supported the amendments proposed by Algeria.

22. Mr. RAMAHOLIMIHASO (Madagascar) said that illiteracy was not only an affront to human dignity but also an obstacle to economic development and a blight in the modern world, whose scientific and technological advances made ignorance even more intolerable. Unfortunately, the number of illiterates was continually increasing and now constituted two fifths of mankind.

23. Governments were certainly making noble efforts to fight that scourge. Madagascar, for its part, had established a community development service which brought education to the remotest parts of the island. National institutions, however, could not succeed without international collaboration, the forms of which the Director-General of UNESCO had defined so well (980th meeting). Consequently, the delegation of Madagascar was unreservedly in favour of the draft resolution.

24. Mr. FILALI (Morocco) welcomed the happy initiative which the Shahinshah of Iran had taken, and the programme which UNESCO proposed to undertake. The developing countries, beset as they were by a multitude of problems, had also to deal with the scourge of illiteracy, which impeded orderly development.

25. As soon as it had become independent, Morocco had launched a campaign against illiteracy. A regional pilot project, based on modern educational methods, had produced conclusive results, and the Government had therefore organized a national campaign carefully prepared with the efficient assistance of UNESCO. For administrative reasons, and in order to co-ordinate it with the regional Arab campaign against illiteracy, it would not be launched until October 1966.

26. The Moroccan delegation would support the draft resolution incorporating the amendments proposed by Algeria.

27. Mrs. MISKE (Mauritania) unreservedly supported the draft resolution which constituted an important contribution to the cause of literacy and wished her delegation's name added to the list of sponsors. She drew the Committee's attention to two problems of particular concern to her country. Three quarters of the Mauritanian population were entirely nomadic;

every year, they roamed over several hundreds or thousands of kilometres in search of pasture, moving every month or even every week. Secondly, Mauritanian education was bilingual, being given in French and Arabic. The Mauritanian Government, which devoted a large part of its budget to education, had tried to deal with the situation by establishing nomadic schools, each attached to a camp. It could not succeed, however, without outside aid and it therefore addressed an urgent appeal to UNESCO and to any country which might be interested in those problems. The Mauritanian delegation also believed that particular attention should be given to the education of women which would help to hasten the establishment of schools. It might be possible to consider setting up an international literacy service composed of young people from all countries.

28. Mr. PETERS (Dahomey) wondered what criteria UNESCO was applying in choosing countries for its experimental programme. He pointed out that, of the forty countries which had requested assistance in the campaign against illiteracy, only eight had been selected. An explanation would exculpate UNESCO from any charge of partiality.

29. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that his delegation would be prepared to accept the second Algerian amendment, which to some extent affected the French Government, since many foreign workers lived in France. It would however, be useful if the Governments of the countries of origin were to give those workers a minimum education which would enable them to benefit fully from the advantages which they found in their country of residence. He announced in conclusion that the French delegation had been authorized to add its name to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

30. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the representative of UNESCO should take the floor at the following meeting to provide the clarification requested by the representative of Dahomey. He announced the closure of the debate on agenda item 47, adding that the vote on the definitive text of the draft resolution would be taken at the 983rd meeting.

#### AGENDA ITEMS 49 AND 50 (a)

Progress and operations of the Special Fund (A/6082)

United Nations programmes of technical co-operation:  
(a) Review of activities (A/6083; A/C.2/L.801, L.810)

31. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that it had before it, in connexion with agenda item 49, the documents specified in the Secretary-General's note on the progress and operations of the Special Fund (A/6082). The part (b) of agenda item 50, concerning the confirmation of the allocation of funds under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, could not be examined until after the meeting of the Technical Assistance Committee.

32. Mr. HOFFMAN (Managing Director of the Special Fund) said that he wished first to praise the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, which was celebrating its fifteenth anniversary that year, and its participating organizations for the work which they had been doing for the benefit of the developing nations

under the creative leadership of the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board.

33. The progress made by the Special Fund during the six years of its existence was described in the various documents before the Committee. He would therefore concentrate his remarks on the prospects lying ahead in the field of pre-investment. The number of requests for pre-investment assistance had increased during recent months at a pace that could be described as explosive: 300 new project requests were to be submitted for the approval of the Governing Council. It was thus clear that the developing countries were increasingly recognizing that the pre-investment assistance provided by the Special Fund was a crucial factor in enabling them to utilize their natural and human resources more productively, to attract capital investment as a result and to move faster towards self-sustaining economies.

34. While the opportunities expanded, the Special Fund and the United Nations family of organizations had considerably improved their capacity to respond to them. The Fund, which would shortly be recommending to the Governing Council the approval of the largest programmes ever submitted to it, was moving into new fields at the request of Governments. It would, for example, carry out on a pilot basis, adult literacy projects linked with the economic development of the countries concerned. Through the establishment of a research and training programme in community development, it would try to increase popular participation in the development process. Under another proposed project, the Fund would for the first time, through aid to a Government, assist an industry on the understanding that, if the enterprise was successful, the Government would set aside an agreed proportion of the foreign exchange earnings for the reimbursement in convertible currency of the Special Fund's contribution. A similar project would provide for reimbursement from follow-up investment capital of the foreign exchange made available by the Fund. Those proposed new projects testified to the Fund's desire to do more to foster industrial development—an activity in which it would undoubtedly have the benefit of active assistance from the Centre for Industrial Development and from the ILO, which had played a most valuable role as Executing Agency for Fund projects. The Fund remained ready to carry out additional industrial feasibility studies, including the preparation of loan applications to banks; it was ready to provide Governments, on request, with advisory services and assistance in drawing up industrial development policies and programmes and in preparing and evaluating specific projects; and it was prepared to provide assistance to national institutions offering advisory services to established industries. The Fund would spare no effort to respond imaginatively, flexibly and expeditiously to the urgent task of accelerating industrial growth in the low-income countries, and was steadily strengthening its relations with financial institutions such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and its affiliates, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank and, probably soon, the Asian Development Bank.

35. Many Special Fund projects had already made it easier for the countries concerned to obtain follow-up investment. Such was the case with the surveys for hydroelectric power production still being carried out in seven river basins in Brazil, as a result of which investments totalling \$146.9 million had already been forthcoming from the International Bank, which had served as Executing Agency for the project, as also from the United States Agency for International Development, from the Federal Republic of Germany, and from Brazilian sources, both governmental and private. The recommendations issuing from a survey for multi-purpose damming in Nigeria had already stimulated \$220.5 million in follow-up investments from the International Bank, from a five-nation consortium and from the Nigerian Government; the dams being built or planned would make it possible for Nigeria to meet its energy needs for nearly twenty more years, and the sales anticipated from the Kainji facilities would make possible the financing of Nigeria's network. Fund-supported institutes established in India for instructor training and engineering had probably encouraged IDA to advance two credits, totalling £190 million, to India for financing industrial imports, a fact which indicated that training activities helped to generate investment. As a result of work by the Institute for Development of Forest Resources and Industries established in Chile with the assistance of the Special Fund and FAO, external investment amounting to \$22 million had been attracted to join local capital in the expansion of pulp and paper plants. The Institute's activities had made possible a large increase in Chile's forest-product exports, and the creation of new industries would also expand employment opportunities. The Special Fund and WHO had assisted the Ghanaian Government in the preparation of a thirty-five-year plan to increase and improve the water supply for the metropolitan district, which included Accra and the new port and industrial city of Tema and whose population had doubled in five years. The first construction work recommended under the project was in progress as the result of a \$29 million loan from a consortium in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Special Fund and WHO were also assisting the Government of Ghana under the project in establishing a permanent independent authority which would be responsible for operating both existing and new facilities. It should be noted that an increasing number of Fund-assisted projects included the establishment of permanent institutions.

36. Up to the present date, investments totalling \$1,063 million had been directly or indirectly stimulated by only twenty-two of the 522 projects thus far supported by the Fund, projects on which total expenditure by the Fund and the Governments concerned had been only \$26 million. The ratio of investment return to project cost was thus approximately 50 to 1 (in the case of the Niger Dam, it had been almost 100 to 1), and he thought that the average future ratio could be expected to be no less than 20 to 1.

37. Meanwhile, some 88,000 people from the developing countries had completed or were attending courses at Fund-assisted training institutes, and those activities were certain, in the long run, to have

a considerably higher multiplier effect on development progress.

38. Now that it was proved that pre-investment activities could generate very large investments, they should not be held back for lack of adequate financial support. If, as could be expected, the rate of government requests remained as high in 1966 as in 1965, the Special Fund would require, even with a reasonable liberalization of its financial policy, at least \$50 million more at the next Pledging Conference than had been pledged at the Conference which had just taken place. He therefore felt compelled to draw the attention of the Committee members to the fact that if Governments did not provide the financing needed, the Special Fund would sometimes have to refuse vital and valid assistance, thus failing to meet the responsibilities which the General Assembly had given it. The Fund was in a position, from an administrative and technical point of view, to handle a greater work load. The agencies which implemented the Fund's projects had expanded and improved their capabilities at a commendably rapid pace; the only condition remaining to be fulfilled to allow the Fund to increase its pre-investment activities was thus a modest increase in voluntary contributions. He was confident that the representatives on the Committee would be advocates of that cause with their Governments.

39. He wished, in conclusion, to thank the Committee for its decision on the merger of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme (980th meeting); that merger would undoubtedly improve the ratio between work load and overhead costs. The creation of the new Programme would mean improved ability to help Governments to identify their priority needs and to formulate comprehensive, co-ordinated requests for pre-investment assistance; it would mean a continually growing capacity to respond rapidly, flexibly and competently to national and regional needs; it would mean a continually growing efficiency in the management of the resources of the United Nations family, thus attracting new sources of assistance for the implementation of projects; lastly, it would make possible closer co-operation with UNICEF and the World Food Programme. The new Programme would thus be better able to fulfil the basic mission of pre-investment, which was to help developing countries make fuller use of their own resources in order to strengthen their economies, enrich the lives of their people and contribute to the prosperity of the whole world community. Thus, the action of the Committee had not been a simple merging of important programmes but rather a "mobilizing for progress".

40. Mr. OWEN (Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board) said that the consolidation of the Expanded Programme and the Special Fund imposed upon him the duty to reassure the Committee as to the state of health and strength of the Expanded Programme and the viability of those special characteristics of the Programme which the Committee wished to see preserved. The year of the consolidation was a particularly appropriate time to draw up the balance-sheet of the Expanded Programme's first

fifteen years and to examine the moral values which had governed its actions. Considerable progress had been made during that period. The Programme's budget had risen from \$6.5 million in 1950-1951 to almost \$52 million in 1964. During 1964, 130 countries and territories had received assistance as compared with seventy-one in 1951. In 1964, the Expanded Programme had sent 3,292 international experts, advisers and instructors on field tasks and missions, as compared with 797 in 1951, and had awarded 2,545 fellowships as against 800 during the first year of its existence. The further expansion of the activities planned for the biennium 1967-1968 was another act of faith in the future.

41. However, a comprehensive examination of the Expanded Programme should go deeper than superficial appearances and should be made in the light of the basic objectives and principles laid down by the Economic and Social Council in 1949. The Technical Assistance Board had undertaken such an examination and had submitted its report: anniversary review of the Expanded Programme in document E/TAC/153/Rev.1. In addition to meeting the wish of the Participating Organizations to have their activities described in detail, the review contained a number of valuable suggestions that had been made by the members of the Technical Assistance Committee. There was reason to hope that the review, which was concise but at the same time comprehensive, would arouse the interest of Governments, of international civil servants and of experts in the programme.

42. Under the terms of resolution 222 A (IX) adopted by the Economic and Social Council in August 1949, the general objective of the Expanded Programme was to help the under-developed countries to strengthen their national economies with a view to promoting their economic and political independence and ensuring the attainment of higher levels of economic and social welfare for their entire populations. The key word in that clause was, of course, the word "help". The Expanded Programme was not in a position to supply any country with a modern economy. It was, however, endeavouring to provide developing countries with as much as possible of the help which they needed, and which they requested, in order to learn to manage and improve their economies and to master the techniques required by such a task.

43. By the end of 1964, the Programme had disbursed \$450 million—a figure that the commitments for the current year brought to \$500 million—contributed by 108 Governments for the provision of assistance to 150 countries and territories. The assistance furnished under the Expanded Programme was in three principal forms: the services of experts, the award of fellowships and the supply of equipment for demonstration and training purposes. The expert services which had been provided amounted to 32,000 man-years, which was the equivalent of maintaining 2,000 full-time experts in the field throughout each of the fifteen years of the Programme's existence. In fact, the Programme had used the services, for varying periods, of over 13,000 persons. It should be remembered that no expert worked in isolation. On the one side, he was supported by a team of technical and administrative people and remained in touch, through

the national and regional representatives of the agencies and of the Technical Assistance Board and sometimes through the regional economic commissions, with the headquarters of the agency concerned. On the other side, it took much more than the expert or team of experts to ensure the effectiveness of a technical assistance project; the most important elements in terms of human and material resources were the supporting services, the counterpart personnel and the financial participation of the recipient country. Although it was difficult to evaluate the exact amount of that participation, it was at least equal to the total of the Programme's own expenditures.

44. In addition to expert services, the Programme had been able to provide a total of 32,000 fellowships and to supply equipment, which was not available in the countries concerned, amounting to an aggregate value of \$36 million.

45. Such statistics, however, did not give an answer to the question of the importance of technical assistance for the recipient countries. The evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of such assistance was an unceasing preoccupation of the Technical Assistance Committee and the Technical Assistance Board, and it was hoped that the current pilot evaluation projects would provide considerable information concerning the present and future value of what was being done. The results thus far achieved showed that on the whole the Expanded Programme had justified the hopes placed in it by the recipient countries. Sometimes those results were easily measurable. However, the assistance furnished under the Expanded Programme had also acted as a catalyst and had made possible the transition to larger projects assisted by the Special Fund. The substantial number of Governments requesting assistance on a payment basis (sixty-nine in 1964) was proof of the value attached to the Expanded Programme's activities. A fundamental characteristic of the Programme was, in the words of Council resolution 222 (IX), that a sound international programme of that character must combine and make use of the experience of many nations, with differing social patterns and cultural traditions and at different stages of development. That principle made the Expanded Programme a unique vehicle for concerted mutual action on a world-wide basis to stimulate the development process. An effort had been made to carry out that function by constantly increasing the range of nationalities from which experts were recruited, by widening the basis of financial support and by assisting a large number of countries. Field experts were recruited in over ninety countries; more than 700 were from the Middle East, more than 800 from Africa, 2,500 from the developing countries of Asia and 3,500 from Latin America.

46. Thus, despite certain gaps, the Expanded Programme was continuing to move in the direction of universality. Another manifestation of that tendency was the increase in the number of Governments contributing to the Programme and the more equitable distribution of the financial burden among them. The number of donor Governments had doubled during the fifteen years of the Expanded Programme's existence. The third element of universality was the fact that the Expanded Programme was open, within the limits

of the resources available, to all countries and territories.

47. Another basic principle of the Expanded Programme, which it had been possible to respect fully, was that assistance should be given only at the request of and in agreement with the Government concerned and that it should not be accompanied by any considerations of a political nature.

48. As far as the content of the Programme was concerned, established procedures had made it possible to eliminate almost all the obstacles in the way of the full exercise by Governments of their prerogative to choose the kind of assistance they wished to receive. The present system of country programming, the simplification of programme changes under which fixed allocations of resources to the agencies had been abolished and, finally, the establishment of procedures to ensure that Governments would have the final say in the selection of experts and fellows had been steps aimed at making the Expanded Programme a service capable of meeting the most urgent and well-defined needs of Governments.

49. With the same foresight, Council resolution 222 (IX) had also stipulated that the Expanded Programme experts should have, in addition to the required technical competence, a sympathetic understanding of the cultural background and particular needs of the recipient countries. The participating organizations had carried out that task remarkably well, and the United Nations could justifiably be proud of the diligence, skill and impartiality of its field experts.

50. The factor of government support had likewise not been overlooked in the basic principles laid down in resolution 222 (IX). Considerable progress had been made in that essential field. The establishment of co-ordinating machinery had become the general rule and had often gone hand in hand with the adoption of planning techniques for economic and social development. There was no doubt that those processes had been stimulated by the very existence of the Expanded Programme. Indeed, Governments had realized that in order to derive the greatest possible benefit from the Programme they must know what they wanted and what it could offer them. An important part of the assistance provided by the Expanded Programme had been the establishment and improvement of co-ordination machinery. In many countries, that machinery still left much to be desired, but inexperience and imperfections in those fields were, after all, among the symptoms of under-development and, therefore, among the reasons for the existence of the Expanded Programme. The proper functioning of the Programme was based on the assumption that all its complex and far-flung operations would be effectively co-ordinated.

51. The increase in the Programme's resources and the even more rapid growth in requests for assistance had led to recognition of the need for a firmer and more continuous central leadership. The reorganization of TAB in 1952, the establishment of the network of resident representatives and the development of country programming had combined to bring about a workable compromise between centralization and de-



centralization. Those innovations had given the Programme some of the features of an institution. The most striking manifestation of that evolution had been the development of the field establishment of the Board, that is, the network of its regional and resident representatives and of its correspondents, who, from their offices in seventy countries, ensured direct liaison between TAB and the recipient Governments and advised them on the proper use of assistance provided under the Expanded Programme or the regular programmes. The TAB field service had been able without difficulty to assume responsibility for carrying out the Special Fund operations and to represent the World Food Programme. Although it was inevitable that those developments should have changed the role of the participating organizations to some extent, the responsibility for the execution of programmes and for a very large part of the formulation of those programmes remained in their hands.

52. The merger of the Expanded Programme and the Special Fund would be not so much the establishment of a new association as the strengthening of an old one. The common bonds linking the two were to be found not only in the joint administrative and financial servicing but also, and still more substantially, in their utilization, for the most part, of the same agencies of execution and in the complementary nature of many of the projects carried out under the two programmes. A substantial number of projects financed by the Special Fund had grown out of activities under the Expanded Programme. For example, the work of an ILO adviser on productivity had led to the establishment of a fully-fledged productivity centre, with the help of a group of ILO instructors and equipment financed by the Special Fund. In some cases, Expanded Programme assistance was designed to explore the viability of a Special Fund project and to help the Government concerned to formulate the necessary application. Another form of interaction between the two programmes was beginning to emerge: Governments sometimes looked to the Expanded Programme for continued assistance when a project was drawing to the end of the period of Special Fund support.

53. The Technical Assistance Board hoped that the merger would lead to the further development of that relationship and to the exploration of new areas of application where the most effective use could be made of the combined resources of the United Nations Development Programme.

54. It was common knowledge that the pace of economic growth in the under-developed countries was far from satisfactory. The situation involved many problems of trade and finance whose solution was not within the competence of the Expanded Programme. The Governments concerned, however, relied upon it more than ever for the technical advice and vocational training they needed in order to go forward. If it was to be able to carry out its responsibilities, the early achievement of the proposed \$200 million target in voluntary contributions was essential.

55. In conclusion, he expressed his appreciation of the support which the Expanded Programme had received from the Technical Assistance Committee and the Second Committee and of the understanding

that those two bodies had shown with regard to the specific tasks of the Technical Assistance Board.

56. Mr. HOO (Commissioner for Technical Assistance) reviewed the technical co-operation activities of the United Nations. The total expenditure for the various programmes, namely the Special Fund projects for which the United Nations was responsible, the projects administered under the Expanded Programme and the regular programme and the activities developed under funds-in-trust arrangements, had increased from \$12 million in 1961 to \$32.9 million in 1964, in which year eighty-nine countries had been assisted. The estimated expenditure for 1965 would amount to about \$33 million. That increase had been due largely to the expanding role of the United Nations as an executing agency for Special Fund projects and in part to funds-in-trust operations on behalf of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

57. On 1 November 1965, the United Nations had been in the process of executing seventy Special Fund projects and had had twenty-two others in preparation. On that date the value of all projects approved or completed had exceeded \$100 million and had in fact amounted to nearly \$191 million if the contributions in cash and in kind made available by Governments were taken into account. Those projects covered a wide range of activities: surveys of natural and energy resources, the establishment of national institutes for economic and social development, cartography, public administration and so forth. A large number of the projects had developed from missions sent out by the United Nations under the Expanded Programme or regular programme of technical assistance, such as the projects to be executed by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization respectively for the regulation of the flow of the Senegal River and the development of systematic irrigated agriculture in the area, as also the establishment of African and Asian institutes for economic development and planning.

58. The cost of technical assistance operations under the regular programme and the Expanded Programme had amounted to some \$16.8 million in 1964 as compared with \$14.5 million in 1963. On 1 October 1965, approximately \$12.5 million had already been expended or earmarked. In 1964, 61 per cent of the available funds had been directed to economic development, over 23 per cent to social activities, over 14 per cent to public administration and about 1.5 per cent to human rights and to narcotic drugs control. As far as economic planning and programming was concerned, the upward trend had continued; over 20 per cent of the funds earmarked for economic development had been spent on projects in planning; from 1960 to 1964, assistance relating to natural resources had more than doubled in value and that relating to housing had more than tripled in value; assistance in community development had nearly doubled in value, approaching an expenditure of \$1 million in 1964. Thanks to the new time-table adopted by the Technical Assistance Committee for the examination and approval of the programmes, that body had reviewed in June 1965, and the Economic and Social Council had subsequently endorsed, projects amounting to a value of \$6.4 million to be undertaken under the regu-

lar programme in 1966; of that amount, \$3.4 million would be for country programmes based on requests from individual Governments, and the rest would be for regional and interregional projects recommended by various bodies of the United Nations as a result of requests made by groups of interested countries. The initial distribution of the regular programme activities would be as follows: 52 per cent for economic development, 30 per cent for social activities, 14 per cent for public administration and 4 per cent for human rights and narcotic drugs control. On the advice of TAC, the Economic and Social Council had suggested that an equivalent sum, \$6.4 million, should be appropriated for the regular programme for 1967.

59. With regard to the World Food Programme, the number of projects undertaken by the United Nations had risen from six in 1963, with food valued at less than \$4 million, to forty-nine by 1 November 1965, with food valued at nearly \$20 million. More than half of that food had been distributed direct to the people engaged in the execution of the community development and housing projects. By 1 November the United Nations had received nearly fifty requests under the World Food Programme, but those requests could be met only if the programme was extended.

60. Following a request by the Economic and Social Council, three teams of experts had been sent to Thailand, Chile and Tunisia to evaluate the technical effectiveness of the technical assistance programmes being carried out there. Although it was too early to judge the value of that new method, the preliminary conclusions reached by the team sent to Thailand, for example, had been used in the preparation of the country programmes. If the United Nations engaged in a continual process of appraising and improving the effectiveness of its technical co-operation programmes, it would be more likely to receive greater support for its programmes from Governments. It was for that reason that the Council had asked Member States to take into consideration, in the preparation of their projects of technical assistance, the Secretary-General's suggestion that evaluation should become an integral part of all operational activities. In that connexion, he drew attention to the importance of evaluation undertaken by the recipient Governments themselves. For example, the Government of one of the African countries, reviewing the progress made in 1964 in the execution of its national development plan, had found that technical assistance programmes had been almost as important to the country in that matter as had external capital aid, although it had pointed out that all offers of technical assistance needed to be carefully scrutinized, in order both to avoid duplication and to prevent an expert from expanding his project unduly in relation to the national plan. The same Government had recognized the need to appoint counterparts and had pointed out that its inability to do so had been one of the major reasons for the failure of the country's technical assistance programmes.

61. Stressing the importance of training in the provision of technical assistance, he recalled that in 1964 over one third of the resources under the regular programme and the Expanded Programme had been devoted to training in the form of fellowships, training

centres, seminars, study tours and working groups. Furthermore, those resources did not include the training of national counterparts or on-the-job training. The possibility of transferring some of the training activities currently being conducted at Headquarters to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research was at present being discussed, for one of the main objectives of technical assistance was to help train the nationals of the receiving country to carry out programmes and projects of economic and social development undertaken by the United Nations experts. The experts were therefore asked to make known their plans in that regard, and Governments were invited to apply for fellowships to enable the candidates recommended by the experts to study abroad. Experience showed, however, that counterpart training could not always be undertaken, mainly because of a lack of qualified candidates. Much time would undoubtedly be needed to eliminate that problem.

62. With regard to the direction of technical assistance efforts, continued emphasis should be expected on such fields as planning and programming, industrialization, public administration, urbanization and housing. There were, however, several other areas in which increased requests for technical assistance might be expected. One of those was population, on which the second World Population Conference had focused world attention in September 1965. Further requests could therefore be expected for assistance in regard to demographic statistics and research on the demographic aspects of economic and social development, urbanization and fertility. The Sixth Committee, for its part, had just adopted a draft resolution (A/C.6/570) under which the General Assembly would establish a programme of assistance in the field of international law and would request the Secretary-General to make such provision as might be necessary for that purpose in the budget estimates for 1967 and 1968.

63. Another area in which increased activity might be expected was that of science and technology. The Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development had singled out a series of the main problems to be dealt with on a priority basis, among which were effective use of natural resources in the developing countries, desalination, better housing, urban planning and transport. Industrial research and the application of methods and techniques based on modern technology also called for international co-operation. In that connexion, all resident representatives had been provided in the latter part of 1964 with information on the role of patents in the promotion of economic development, and it had been pointed out that technical assistance to the developing countries in the establishment of patent offices and the training of staff could be obtained, at their request, in the form of experts and fellowships.

64. In so far as technical assistance for industrial development was concerned, the total expenditure on activities of that nature, including the Special Fund projects operated by the United Nations, had increased from \$2.3 million in 1963 to \$3.6 million in 1964. The expenditure on industrial projects under the regular programme amounted to \$807,000 in 1965,



representing 13 per cent of the regular programme, as against \$555,000 (9 per cent) in 1964. The industrial projects for 1966 were to represent 17.1 per cent of the entire regular programme, or in other words more than \$1 million. In reply to the question whether more could not be done, he pointed out that technical assistance in the fields related to industrialization and bearing directly on it (economic planning and programming, statistics and development of energy resources) had expanded considerably in recent years and that the figures which he had just cited did not include projects in those fields.

65. The recent increase in technical assistance activities was due, to a considerable extent, to regional and interregional projects. As to country programmes, there were several measures that must be taken to encourage industrial projects. It was for that reason that all resident representatives had been asked to draw the attention of Governments to the importance attached to industrialization by the United Nations and the assistance it could provide, especially in preparing effective industrial projects. The Centre for Industrial Development would be able to do even more if it was expanded in accordance with the proposals that had been made. It must not, however, be forgotten that it was the Governments themselves, and not the United Nations, which decided on the components of the country programmes. It was therefore to be hoped that the representatives of those

countries which had been very active in the support of industrial projects in the various United Nations bodies would be equally effective in the councils of their own Governments when the requests for country programmes were formulated. Furthermore, the importance of priorities was magnified by the scarcity of development resources, including funds made available to the developing countries through international co-operation. It was therefore essential for those countries to have well-organized co-ordinating units which could classify according to their degree of urgency all requests for technical assistance in regard to economic and social development. The existence of such units on the national level would also facilitate the task of the resident representatives.

66. Mr. ROOSEVELT (United States of America) requested that the statements made by the Managing Director of the Special Fund, the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board and the Commissioner for Technical Assistance should be issued as official documents of the Committee.

*It was so decided.*<sup>1/</sup>

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

<sup>1/</sup> The full text of the statements made by the Managing Director of the Special Fund, the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board and the Commissioner for Technical Assistance were subsequently circulated as documents A/C.2/L.811, L.812 and L.813, respectively.