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Chairman: Mr. Pierre FORTHOMME
(Belgium).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Reports of the Economic and Social Council (A/5803, chap. I-VI, VII (sect. I, II, III, except para. 346, IV and V), VIII (sect. III and IV) and X (sect. II and VIII); A/6003, chap. I-XI, XII (sect. II) and XIV (sect. II, IV, VI and VII); A/C.2/L.797)

EXAMINATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY" (A/C.2/L.797)

1. Mr. INGRAM (Australia) introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.797 on behalf of the sponsors, said that its purpose was to give expression to the firm conviction of many delegations that the application of science and technology to development was the key to a dramatic change in the pace of development.

2. It was desirable that the General Assembly should give its specific endorsement to the work of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, more especially since it was two years since the Assembly had met and during that period States which were not members of the Economic and Social Council had had no opportunity to express their views on the ground-breaking work done by the Committee.

3. The specific purpose of the draft resolution was to endorse the response made by the advisory Committee to the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 1944 (XVIII), that the Advisory Committee examine the possibility of establishing a programme on international co-operation in science and technology for economic and social development. At its thirty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council had dealt most comprehensively and effectively with most aspects of the Committee's report and it made numerous recommendations, in its reso-

lution 1083 (XXXIX), which met with the full approval of the sponsors. The draft resolution was therefore of a supplementary character. The first operative paragraph had been included in order to make that point clear.

4. The effect of operative paragraph 2 would be to endorse the Advisory Committee's view that a world programme of the kind contemplated in General Assembly resolution 1944 (XVIII), in the sense of a planned international campaign to strengthen existing programmes and add appropriate new arrangements, was desirable, and that the most suitable body to organize and manage such a programme was the Economic and Social Council.

5. Operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution referred to the proposals and suggestions made by the Advisory Committee in part IV of its second report (E/4026). Those proposals, which the sponsors considered to be of special relevance for a world programme of the kind under discussion, had been mentioned specifically in operative paragraph 4, which invited the Advisory Committee to continue its study of them. That Committee was concerned at the lack of co-ordination in the use of resources for research, at the absence, in many countries, of national policies for the application of science and technology to development, and at the shortage in the developing countries of trained manpower and research institutions. Moreover, it considered that arrangements for co-operation between research institutions in developed countries and those in developing countries should be encouraged on a long-term basis. The United Nations could play a vital role in all those matters and should therefore encourage the Advisory Committee to continue its study of the problems involved.

6. Mr. DELPRAT (Netherlands) said that his country, a sponsor of the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.797), had taken practical steps to help the developing countries in the field of science and technology as part of its over-all policy of allocating a larger share of its national resources to the development aid budget. In the Netherlands serious efforts were being made to concentrate on those aspects of science and technology which could be most useful for the developing countries, particularly nutrition, health, population growth, medical surveys, the development of non-conventional sources of energy, and audio-visual techniques for education. For such activities an appropriation of 2 million guilders had been proposed for 1966 and was before the Netherlands Parliament for approval.

7. Mr. MURGESCU (Romania) stressed that scientific progress was essential for advances in all sectors of the economy. Each country must solve its own problems in that respect and adapt scientific dis-

coveries to its particular development needs. However, particularly for the developing countries, the problems of science and technology were extremely complex and research and application in those fields involved great expense. Nevertheless, the complexity of the subject should not discourage the developing countries from forming the cadres that were so necessary for the spread of scientific training. On the basis of its own experience each country could contribute to the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge. International co-operation in that particular field should be based on the sovereign equality of all States in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The draft resolution represented an important step forward and his delegation was glad both to sponsor and support it. It fully realized that the text stressed only one of the points brought out in the Advisory Committee's report but progress on one particular front could pave the way for a broader advance in science and technology as a whole.

8. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) said his country was both a sponsor and a strong supporter of the draft resolution. It had long taken an interest in the problems of science and technology and had provided a number of experts, particularly on agricultural machinery, to help the developing countries. It was also keen to receive experts from the developing countries whose scientific knowledge was greater than that of its own experts. No substantial advances could be made unless the scientific and technical knowledge was disseminated on a rational and efficient basis. He hoped the draft resolution would be unanimously adopted.

9. Mr. ROOSEVELT (United States of America) agreed with those speakers who had already commended the draft resolution and recalled that the second report of the Advisory Committee had emphasized the desirability of developing a world programme in the sense of a planned international campaign to strengthen existing programmes and to add appropriate arrangements to round out the total effort. Since the draft resolution endorsed that concept and sought to give further impetus to the Advisory Committee's recommendations, his delegation fully supported it.

10. Mr. VIAUD (France) felt that assistance to the developing countries in science and technology would encourage the other efforts being made to help them. Both the Advisory Committee and the Economic and Social Council had discussed the problem at length; the time had now come to consider practical proposals and to see how the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology could be put into effect for the benefit of the developing countries. The Council had stressed that the Advisory Committee should put forward a well-defined programme and do everything in its power to further the co-ordination of science and technology. While supporting the initiative taken by the sponsors of the draft resolution, his delegation might suggest at a later stage the inclusion of certain of the points included by the Council in resolution 1083 (XXXIX).

11. Mr. WHYTE (United Kingdom) admitted that the draft resolution was positive and non-controversial.

He would merely add, as the Advisory Committee itself had recommended (E/4026, para. 133), that more complete information should be sought progressively in connexion with particular institutions and forms of co-operation, as a basis on which to plan new activities. Also, in operative paragraph 3 of the draft, reference might be made to governmental as well as non-governmental organizations. He was thinking in particular of the work of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

12. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should undoubtedly include the promotion of co-operation in science and technology, the achievements of which belonged to mankind as a whole. He therefore welcomed all efforts to intensify United Nations activities in that connexion and, while the primary responsibility lay with the Council, he was glad to see that the United Nations as a whole was not shirking its duty. Co-operation could be achieved through both bilateral and multilateral channels and was so important that it must go beyond the framework of the United Nations. States which were not Members of the United Nations should not be prevented from participating, so that the achievements of every country could be placed at the disposal of the developing countries. For example, the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of China, countries with a high technical level whose rights in the United Nations had been violated, could make valuable contributions.

13. Previous speakers had rightly stressed the importance of furthering the interests of the developing countries, which had been deprived of the opportunity to develop science, technology and education within their own borders. To right that injustice, countries with a higher level of science and technology must be ready to share their achievements with them.

14. His delegation would give favourable consideration to the amendments outlined by the French representative. Large-scale scientific and technical co-operation by all States could have a significant effect on the problems of development.

15. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) supported the draft resolution. In formulating its own development plans, his country had realized that a modern scientific and technological infra-structure was indispensable for development, and it was setting up a scientific research centre concerned with development. However, he admitted to a certain sense of frustration when he compared the second report of the Advisory Committee with the operative part of the draft resolution. It might be true that the latter dealt with only one aspect of the subject, but such matters as the transfer of scientific information from one country to another were of great importance for scientific research in general and for the application of science to development. Accordingly, he supported the French view that the resolution might be amended to endorse all or most of the Advisory Committee's conclusions.

16. Mr. ALLANA (Pakistan) said that his country had done its best to make rapid strides in science

and technology in order to accelerate its own development. Nevertheless, Pakistan and the other developing countries needed the help of the developed countries and the United Nations family. In general, his delegation supported the draft resolution, but wished to suggest certain amendments. In the first preambular paragraph, it was an exaggeration to say that science and technology could make an outstanding contribution to the achievement of the aims of the Development Decade, half of which had already passed. Furthermore, the aspirations of the peoples of the developing countries, which were referred to on the next line, clearly extended much further into the future. The word "outstanding" should therefore be deleted. He agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the word "governmental" should be added in the last line of operative paragraph 3. In operative paragraph 4 (a) the words "not yet possessing them" were superfluous and should be deleted. In operative paragraph 4 (d) the words "co-operative links" should be replaced by the rather stronger phrase "co-operative working links", and the words "non-governmental organizations" should be inserted after the word "universities". With those changes, his delegation would vote for the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 51

Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme (*continued*) (A/5755, A/6015; A/C.2/L.792, L.793, L.795/Rev.1, L.799/Rev.1, L.800/Rev.1)

17. Mr. ATTOUNGBRE (Ivory Coast) said that in principle his delegation supported the consolidation as a first step towards the start of investment activities by the United Nations. It would vote for draft resolution A/C.2/L.792 despite its imperfections, and hoped that those responsible for putting it into operation would bear the Committee's comments in mind. It would also support the amendments in document A/C.2/L.795/Rev.1, although it had reservations on the plans for the distribution of seats on the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme which had been suggested to the Committee.

18. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon) proposed that the Committee should adjourn until 3 p.m. so that the negotiations between the different groups of developing countries could continue.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.