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Chairman: Mr. Jorge Pablo FERNANDINI
(Peru).

AGENDA ITEM 43

Development of natural resources (*concluded*)

ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE'S DRAFT REPORT
(A/C.2/L.988)

1. Mr. CHADHA (India), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report on agenda item 43 (A/C.2/L.988).

The draft report (A/C.2/L.988) was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 47

Multilateral food aid (*concluded*):

- (a) Programme of studies on multilateral food aid: report of the Secretary-General;
- (b) Review of the World Food Programme

ADOPTION OF PART II OF THE COMMITTEE'S
DRAFT REPORT (A/C.2/L.987/ADD.1)

2. Mr. CHADHA (India), Rapporteur, introduced the Committee's draft report (A/C.2/L.987/ADD.1), which related to sub-item (a) of agenda item 47.

The draft report (A/C.2/L.987/ADD.1) was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 38

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: report of the Trade and Development Board (*concluded*)

ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE'S DRAFT REPORT
(A/C.2/L.995)

3. Mr. CHADHA (India), Rapporteur, introduced the committee's draft report on agenda item 38 (A/C.2/L.995) and called attention to the fact that various corrections had been made to paragraph 2. The first sentence had been recast so as to read: "The Committee began its consideration of the item at its 1146th meeting on 15 November 1967, when it heard a statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which was reproduced in document A/C.2/L.970". In the third sentence, after the words "Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria", the following words had been inserted: ", who led a mission of the ministerial meeting of the group of seventy-seven developing countries," and a sentence had been added at the end of the paragraph: "Statements were also made by other members of the mission, the representatives of Senegal and India".

4. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) made it clear that his delegation had not approved the political content of the statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria (1154th meeting).

5. Mr. DJOUDI (Algeria) said that the political aspect of that statement had been essentially designed to define the circumstances in which the Algiers meeting had taken place.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that the Argentine representative's reservation would be noted in the summary record of the meeting.

The draft report (A/C.2/L.995), as amended, was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)
(A/6703 and Corr.1, chap. I-X, XIII, XIV (sect. II and VIII-X), XV and XVII; A/6703/Add.1, chap. I, III and IV; A/C.2/L.993).

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION
ENTITLED "INCREASING THE PRODUCTION AND
USE OF EDIBLE PROTEIN" (A/C.2/L.993)

7. Mr. ASLAM (Pakistan) said that the report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development entitled: Feeding the Expanding World Population: international action to avert the impending protein crisis (E/4343/Rev.1), dealt with

a crucial problem of modern times, for over 300 million children were at present suffering from protein deficiency. The report contained a number of specific proposals which, in the view of its authors, should be given high priority in the programmes of the organizations in the United Nations system as well as by Governments. The problem of the protein gap had troubled the international scientific community for many years. Unfortunately, there were many countries of which the same could not be said, as far as political and industrial circles were concerned. It was therefore essential that the question should be discussed as widely as possible. The Second Committee could help to generate an international climate conducive to new efforts at both the national and international levels. According to the findings of the report, it was to the developing countries that most of the necessary resources and efforts should be devoted. It was vital, therefore, to create new machinery in those countries which would enable all the resources obtained to be used with maximum effectiveness. The United Nations could play a leading role in that respect. Pakistan, for its part, had recognized the importance of the problem and was already engaged in implementing the recommendations of the report. Various specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system could also participate in the action initiated in connexion with proteins. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which should surely be able to increase its assistance to projects designed to increase protein production, was a case in point.

8. With so serious a problem to tackle, draft resolution A/C.2/L.993 was of singular importance. A slight change had been made in operative paragraph 5: the words "improved co-ordination of the organizations in the United Nations system of activities" had been replaced by the words "concerted and well-co-ordinated action of the organizations in the United Nations system"; further on, the words "to ensure concerted action and" had been deleted, and at the end of the paragraph, after the words "duplication of effort", the words "and to achieve the maximum exchange of technology" had been added. The Pakistan delegation hoped not only that the draft resolution would be unanimously adopted but also that the question of malnutrition due to protein deficiency would be examined by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session in as broad a context as possible.

9. Mr. ANDRE (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the Director-General of FAO had repeatedly drawn attention to the seriousness of the world food situation, and to the fact that food production was being outstripped by population growth. Meanwhile, the world was facing an increasingly severe protein crisis, particularly in the developing countries. Protein deficiency directly affected adult health and productivity, and retarded the physical and mental development of children. For that reason, the Advisory Committee's report (E/4343/Rev.1) was particularly important. It contained fourteen specific proposals, and the Economic and Social Council had unanimously adopted resolution 1257 (XLIII) recommending that four of them, which called for immediate implementation, should be given priority: (a) promotion, in the developing countries, of the production and

consumption of the maximum amount of protein foods from conventional sources; (b) increased use of protein derived from oil-seeds, fish concentrates, algae and their yeasts, and improvement in the quality of the protein ration, particularly by the enrichment of cereals; (c) utilization of measures to reduce waste and losses of food; and (d) increase in the number and scope of national and regional centres in the developing countries concerned with research, development and training in the field of nutrition. The entire action to be undertaken was summarized in those four proposals.

10. For its part, the fourteenth session of the FAO Conference, which was deeply concerned with the question, had adopted a resolution which he read out requesting its Director-General to adopt measures to intensify the campaign against the protein crisis.

11. Commenting on the Advisory Committee's report, he recalled the manner in which the report had been prepared and gave some details of the number of scientific authorities, organizations and committees that had taken part in drawing it up. He emphasized that the report contained a dynamic and, at the same time, cautious synthesis of the views that had been expressed, and that the Committee could have full confidence in it.

12. The programme of action proposed in the report had been spread over ten years, and in view of that relatively long period of time, covered both existing and future possibilities. In that respect, it should be emphasized that the report clearly specified seven policy objectives corresponding to the fourteen proposals for action (see E/4343/Rev.1, chap. II and III). The first three objectives, which were given top priority, related to the production and consumption of protein from conventional sources. The fourth, fifth and sixth objectives related to new sources of protein. They were concerned with the increased production and consumption of oil-seeds and oil-seed protein concentrates, fish concentrate and amino acids. The first six objectives corresponded to action already undertaken and successfully carried out. The seventh objective concerned single-cell protein, and he strongly emphasized that all that was being requested in that sphere was the promotion of research.

13. With regard to the operation of the institutional machinery embodied in the WHO/FAO/UNICEF Protein Advisory Group, there was no question of establishing a new United Nations body, but merely of maintaining in existence an advisory group that had been set up as early as 1960, had demonstrated its effectiveness and had rendered outstanding service. It had been proposed that the terms of reference and membership of that advisory group of experts should simply be expanded, so that it could give advice and make suggestions on each programme of action, such as the ones proposed in the Advisory Committee's first report. With expanded terms of reference, the Protein Advisory Group would clearly have a paramount role to play in future action programmes and in co-ordination within the United Nations system. In addition, national co-ordination adapted to the technical and administrative structure of each country would have to be initiated, but there was no lack of solutions to that problem.

14. In conclusion, he recalled that: (a) FAO fully supported the Advisory Committee's report on protein (E/4343/Rev.1), and intended to co-operate actively in overcoming the world protein crisis; (b) everything necessary had been done to ensure full confidence in the Advisory Committee's report; (c) some goals should be attained immediately in order to meet immediate needs; others would assume crucial importance only in ten to twenty years, but some measures would have to be taken now, if they were to be attained; (d) international action through the United Nations family could be a decisive factor in mobilizing the necessary technical knowledge as well as the resources. In that connexion, the new Protein Advisory Group would have a leading role to play.

15. Dr. COIGNEY (World Health Organization) said that his organization was in full agreement with the views expressed by the FAO representative. It considered it vital to remedy the problem of protein-calorie deficiencies in the developing countries. Unless vigorous action were taken to ensure a better distribution of protein to the populations of a whole series of countries which were suffering in various degrees from the lack of protein, it was to be feared that the situation would become still worse, especially in tropical and sub-tropical regions. His organization was therefore happy to note the emphasis given by the Advisory Committee in its report (E/4343/Rev.1) to the problem of proteins, and considered Economic and Social Council resolution 1257 (XLIII) on that subject a welcome development.

16. There was no easy solution to the problem of meeting the threat of a protein crisis. To avert it, every known method of increasing the production, distribution and consumption of protein foods would have to be applied. That was the view that had been very clearly set forth in the Advisory Committee's report, on which the World Health Organization (WHO) had been consulted and the conclusions of which it endorsed. The fourteen specific proposals contained in that report (see E/4343/Rev.1, chap. III) could, if applied, ensure an improvement in protein production and lead to increased protein consumption by the population in many countries. Some of those proposals, incidentally, were already being implemented by WHO. To take only one example, it had already encouraged the establishment of nutrition institutes and the professional training of local staff in several countries by offering scholarships for further training, and by organizing courses and seminars at the national, regional or interregional level.

17. The magnitude of the problem was such that the effort to be made involved contributions by many disciplines. That concept of co-operation was nothing new, and WHO had for many years been collaborating with FAO and UNICEF in the Protein Advisory Group, which as a matter of logic would seem to be called upon to play an increasingly prominent role as the point of convergence of the results of the three agencies' efforts in respect of proteins. The task of WHO, primarily as the body directing and co-ordinating work on health problems and also as an active member of the Protein Advisory Group, was to ensure that protein foods were of maximum nutritive value and produced no harmful effects. It

was aware of the need to direct the experimental efforts to obtain a wider range of better-quality protein products along new lines.

18. With regard to the Advisory Committee's report, he called attention to the fact that the United Nations agencies were already giving assistance to the developing countries in most of the fields covered by the fourteen proposals, which thus required only an intensification or extension of activities already in progress. He stressed that the three organizations making up the Protein Advisory Group (WHO/FAO/UNICEF) had devised methods whereby systematic analyses could be made of the nutritional value, acceptability and harmlessness of new protein products. Those techniques, described in a lucid and detailed report, had been applied for some years by institutions in many countries. It could be said, from the experience gained, that it was already possible to make an exact evaluation of every new food product, the evaluation to precede a recommendation by WHO and the other agencies concerned for its widespread use.

19. The three organizations in question recognized that they had to take new measures to implement the programme. WHO's efforts to increase protein production were limited by the resources at its command. It was ready to intensify its efforts, but the activities covered so wide a field that special support from Governments and voluntary contributions would be needed to carry them out.

20. Mr. PISKAREV (International Atomic Energy Agency) said that IAEA was following the Advisory Committee's recommendations in its programme of work on proteins (see E/4343/Rev.1, chap. IV). Radiation-induced mutations had already resulted in substantial improvements in the quality of ground-nuts and in higher yields. Similar experiments had produced good results in the case of soya beans and lupines. The application of the same technique to leguminous plants, cereals and rice had shown that better crops could be obtained. Furthermore, the use of radiation limited the effects of parasitic diseases in livestock, with a consequent increase in the volume of proteins of animal origin. Significant progress had also been made in the preservation of food by irradiation. Pilot plants were already in existence or planned in that connexion. IAEA would welcome co-operation by Governments in pursuing its food preservation activities.

21. Although the Agency's work on proteins covered only a few of the Advisory Committee's fourteen proposals, it was important in that it provided an opportunity for applying new techniques to the problem of increasing the production and consumption of particular proteins. However, the work depended on large resources which were unfortunately not available. In any event, IAEA would continue its work in co-operation with FAO and in the light of the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

22. Mr. BERTRAND (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that it was UNESCO's intention to play an even more active part in the United Nations' joint effort in the vast field of protein. It proposed to encourage and assist, both at

the national and international levels, the organization of fundamental research in sciences possessing a potential for discoveries in respect of protein production and consumption, and especially of the basic biological mechanisms governing the production of proteins in the living cell. The intensification of its activities, in that connexion, had been based both on its programme of research and on its efforts to establish or strengthen national or regional institutions of higher education and research. It had already been asked by Governments for assistance in drawing up requests for the establishment or enlargement of microbiological institutes for the purpose of developing protein research. UNESCO would of course continue, within the scope of its activities, to maintain close contact with the WHO/FAO/UNICEF Protein Advisory Group, which was taking steps to broaden its mandate, functions and composition.

23. Mr. HEYWARD (United Nations Children's Fund) said that his organization was keenly interested in the question under examination, for the problem of proteinic malnutrition applied particularly to children. UNICEF accordingly welcomed the Advisory Committee's recommendations (see E/4343/Rev.1, chap. IV). On the strength of the experience it had acquired during several years of participation in the work of the WHO/FAO/UNICEF Protein Advisory Group, UNICEF considered that the recommendations should permit substantial progress in that field. It associated itself particularly with the emphasis laid on the problem of marketing, and if the draft resolution were adopted, it would exert every effort to contribute to its successful implementation.

24. Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (United States of America) considered that the Advisory Committee's report on protein (E/4343/Rev.1) was one further proof of the value of that body, which had pin-pointed a new problem to be faced and in so doing had also suggested action to remedy it. There were many obstacles blocking development, and they produced vicious circles, one particularly crass example of which was referred to in the report: protein-poor diets of pre-school children in the developing countries tended to cause permanent and irreparable physical and mental damage, resulting in less productive generations. It was principally pre-school children, indeed, who were affected by protein deficiency in those countries. The infant mortality rate was very high, and relatively minor childhood ailments often proved fatal. Malnutrition caused retardation of physical growth for many of those who did survive. But the most shocking revelation of the past few years was the apparent link between the retardation of mental development and protein deficiency. That fact seemed to have been verified by the scientists pioneering in that area of research. Protein deficiency represented only one aspect, of course, of the total problem of human malnutrition. Supplying adequate nutrition to a developing area was not an isolated protein problem. It involved control of the rate of population growth, creation of a food supply adequate in calories and essential nutrients including protein, and finally, other technological, economic and social factors. Hunger and malnutrition were symptoms of the lack of economic development. Attention had therefore to be focused on total economic and industrial development.

25. In the developing countries, the mass of the population obtained most of its protein and calories from grain. Thus, for those people, it was necessary to increase agricultural production, reduce the present enormous waste and improve the system of distribution as well as the nutritional quality of the grain protein by genetic means or by fortification with essential amino acids or protein concentrates from oil-seeds and fish. The minority obtained most of their calories from starchy foods which were low in protein. For those, there was no alternative to providing additional food-stuffs rich in protein.

26. What could be accomplished in a few years was obviously extremely limited. Present donations of grain and protein concentrates were having an immediate and important effect, of course, on protein nutrition. The programme which showed greatest potential for early results was the fortification of grain with lysine or oil-seed protein concentrates. It was the immediate efforts to stimulate production and distribution by industry of protein food products which would have the greatest long-term impact. Eventually, all agricultural and non-agricultural methods of providing adequate protein and calories would be needed in order to satisfy the massive needs of the increasing populations of the world. An assessment of the over-all protein needs of the developing areas and a comparison of those needs with the resources of the developed countries showed that the ability to feed those areas was limited and diminishing. Efforts had to be directed towards stimulating activity in the protein-deficient countries themselves. The solution of the protein supply problem could not be separated from the over-all food supply and distribution problems.

27. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/L.993 would set programmes in motion to meet those goals.

28. Mr. KAUL (India) said that he, too, hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

29. It had taken the world a long time to become aware of the problem of the protein shortage. As the needs were constantly increasing, it was necessary to turn to non-traditional sources and hence to have greater recourse to the application of highly advanced techniques. It was in that particular field that the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development was proving a most valuable instrument. The Indian delegation commended the Advisory Committee's excellent report on protein (E/4343/Rev.1), which was an important first contribution. It lay with the Governments to put the recommendations in the report into effect. India was doing so as far as it was able. It agreed that there was no single solution that could be adapted to all cases. Efforts in the matter should be guided by the possibilities of practical and immediate application, due regard being paid to the diversity of the situation in the countries concerned. Each country should work out its own strategy, taking care to obtain the help of the appropriate technical skills.

30. India, for its part, in co-operation with UNICEF, had established factories for the processing of ground-nuts, which were an important source of protein in

that country. It had also had the assistance of FAO in establishing study and research centres. By its own efforts it was carrying out studies in several comparatively new fields, such as that of sea-weed. Indian research workers had produced a food-stuff which cost little and was rich in protein, and the Indian Government was encouraging the industrial production of other similar food-stuffs.

31. India was endeavouring to overcome the protein shortage, which was a particular threat to 40 per cent of its population, those under 15 years of age. It was willing to give other countries the benefit of the experience it had acquired in that field. It would, of course, welcome the assistance of other countries and of the international organizations and institutions concerned.

32. Mr. KAHILUOTO (Finland) said that the report of the Advisory Committee showed clearly that the protein shortage in many areas of the world had proved to be an extremely serious matter, especially since the population increased more rapidly in the countries where the protein content of food-stuffs was traditionally low. Table 3 of the Advisory Committee's report (see E/4343/Rev.1, pp. 44-45) showed how uneven was the distribution of protein in the world. The importance of the figures it gave became evident in the light of the fact that the optimum need for the human body was about seventy grammes of proteins a day, of which at least half should be of animal origin. As far as Finland was concerned, the consumption of animal protein obtained from milk was the largest in the world. FAO had prepared estimates of the necessary increase in the world's production of protein. Failure to reach that target would mean a multitude of deficiency diseases in the developing countries and a serious setback in their efforts to achieve economic progress.

33. In its report, the Advisory Committee discussed new means of production of single-cell protein sources and the use of synthetic amino acids. His delegation, however, would have expected the report to pay more attention to the traditional means of protein production. It seemed to his delegation that, for the next twenty years, agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries would still be the main sources of protein for human consumption. The other sources of protein needed a long period of study and testing. Moreover, people had to learn to change their eating habits. In fact, it was more a question of expanding the use of new means and methods than of taking new methods into use. Much greater financial efforts would be required from both the developed and the developing countries for that purpose.

34. Professor A. I. Virtanen, a Finnish scientist, had developed a method of feeding cows with non-protein diet and yet producing milk rich in protein. His delegation thought that the result of those experiments could be applied in the developing countries, in view of their particular circumstances.

35. In its report, the Advisory Committee drew attention to the need for institutes and research centres which would develop educational programmes leading to the improved utilization of food resources. There were detailed data available of the food-stuffs

in use in developed countries, but corresponding data on many food-stuffs used in developing countries was still lacking. An effort should be made in that field.

36. His delegation hoped that the recognition of the importance of those problems would lead to an increase in technical co-operation—multilateral, regional and bilateral—in those fields.

37. Mr. POSNETT (United Kingdom) said that his country had taken an active part in the work of increasing the supply of edible protein, not only at the Government level but also in academic institutions and in the sphere of private enterprise. His delegation therefore welcomed draft resolution A/C.2/L.993.

38. A diet which did not provide the necessary protein impaired physical and mental development. The report of the Advisory Committee (E/4343/Rev.1) was a valuable document and his delegation endorsed the analysis of the ways in which protein deficiency could be reduced. Some of the Committee's recommendations, however, particularly in regard to the scale of operations proposed and its demand on multilateral and bilateral resources, had implications which his delegation could not, at the present stage, accept. The protein programme could not be considered in isolation; it should be integrated with other programmes, such as those of food aid and agricultural development. There were other fields, such as development of water resources, industrial development, family planning and so forth, which had pressing claims upon the available resources. It was above all a matter of priorities. It lay with the developing countries themselves to decide upon those priorities and it was to be hoped that the Governments of those countries would take the initiative in that matter and submit requests to UNDP for projects in connexion with the production and use of edible protein. In some cases, use could be as difficult a problem as production. Those were problems which the developing countries should study and in which their knowledge of local conditions was an essential ingredient of success in the improvement of children's nutrition.

39. His delegation considered that the United Nations, and even the specialized agencies, were not necessarily the best equipped to undertake or finance research on the development of artificial protein foods for animals. The research already being done by academic institutions or by private enterprise, as also by Governments, should be encouraged. That was why the United Kingdom delegation welcomed the suggestion in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. In implementing that provision, developed and developing countries could bring about increased co-ordination, both in their own national efforts and in co-operation with one another.

40. Mr. BILLNER (Sweden) said that in many of the developing countries the protein crisis was an even more serious long-term problem than that of food shortage. The report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (E/4343/Rev.1) showed how urgent it was to fill the gap between needs and supplies in protein. The programme of action recommended by the Advisory Committee for that purpose seemed to be constructive and rational. His delegation attached particular im-

portance to research into means of stimulating protein consumption by making all the necessary information available to the public—households, school canteens and so forth. The Swedish research institutes and organizations had for years been concerned with the problem of edible protein, and a special working group had recently been instructed to co-ordinate, and if necessary intensify, the efforts being made in that field. In accordance with the provisions of operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.993, the Secretary-General would be informed of the action taken by the Swedish Government. It was particularly urgent that a list, as complete as possible, should be drawn up of the activities undertaken or contemplated in that field at the international level. Such a list would help Governments to determine national priorities and would make it easier to co-ordinate the programmes undertaken to combat protein malnutrition. The WHO/FAO/UNICEF Protein Advisory Group could carry out that last task. It would do well, however, to set up specialized sub-groups and to entrust the work of evaluation to other international bodies.

41. Mr. OLSEN (Denmark) said that it was imperative that the production and use of edible protein should be increased rapidly. The report of the Advisory Committee put forward a number of valuable concrete proposals for that purpose. His delegation had decided to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.993 because it considered it essential that the problem of the protein gap should be considered at the political and administrative level after the scientific aspects had been dealt with. It had noted with interest the Advisory Committee's recommendations concerning the co-ordination of the efforts of the United Nations in that field with bilateral projects. His delegation felt that efforts in the developing countries should, in the first instance, be centred on measures to promote the production and use of the conventional sources of protein. It would be unfortunate, however, if further progress in the matter were to await the appearance of the report which the Secretary-General was requested to submit in the draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-fifth session. His delegation consequently attached great importance to the provisions of operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution. The authorities dealing with the question of development assistance, in co-operation with other Danish authorities and institutions concerned, were already endeavouring to determine in what areas a Danish effort, possibly in collaboration with the WHO/FAO/UNICEF Protein Advisory Group, would be feasible. His delegation endorsed the plans of the organizations concerned to increase their participation in the Protein Advisory Group and to broaden the functions of the Group.

42. Mr. OHIN (Togo) said that protein deficiency was nothing new. As long ago as 1935, a committee of the League of Nations had tried to determine what the protein requirements in human food were. Since then, a great deal more had been learned and it was now possible to designate standards for an adequate diet. Although a normal diet should produce a positive protein balance, it was clear from the excellent report of the Advisory Committee (E/4343/Rev.1) that that balance was unfortunately negative. In general, the

deficiency was due either to an over-all food shortage or to the operation of economic and social factors which limited the consumption of proteins by the under-privileged classes. Obviously, such a situation required immediate action by all countries. Proteins played a primary role in nutrition with respect to the growth, development and energy requirements of children and adults. The report pointed out, however, that at the present time there were 300 million children in the world whose growth, physical development, and in some cases mental development and behaviour, were seriously retarded owing to the shortage of proteins and calories in their food. It was easy to imagine the effects of such a situation on the adult population and, consequently, on the entire nation. The problem was acute for developing countries since the diet of more than a third of their population was poorly balanced with respect to proteins. It was therefore not surprising that kwashiorkor, the typical disease resulting from a protein deficiency, had first been discovered in a developing country. Sometimes, even when not manifested by clinical symptoms, protein malnutrition may affect as many as 50 per cent of children between the ages of one and five in some areas, rendering its tiny victims helpless against the slightest infection. Fortunately, adults generally suffered from only marginal protein deficiency, which was often seasonal and not serious. Nevertheless, such a condition made them more vulnerable to disease and less resistant to accidents and surgical operations. There seemed to be a regrettable confusion in the minds of many people between protein deficiency and undernourishment. Of course, malnutrition implied an insufficiency of a number of elements, including proteins, but the undeniable fact remained that bilateral or multilateral food aid might help to eliminate the danger of famine without thereby solving the problem of protein deficiency. Consequently, closer and more active co-operation was necessary, not only among FAO, WHO and other United Nations agencies, but also among all the branches of modern science and technology engaged in research on malnutrition. It would be necessary to co-ordinate efforts to increase every form of production and to ensure adequate conservation and consumption of available proteins.

43. He expressed the hope that a small team of highly qualified experts would soon be formed in the United Nations Secretariat for the purpose of co-ordinating the implementation of the Advisory Committee's recommendations. Naturally, the developing countries, where malnutrition was responsible for an infant mortality rate that was 20 to 50 times higher than in the developed countries, would be the first to benefit from such a humanitarian project.

44. Mr. VASCONCELLOS (Brazil) said that it was the task of the United Nations to co-ordinate all international programmes designed to close the gap between world protein needs and supplies, and to initiate concerted action in that field. His delegation agreed with the authors of the Advisory Committee's report (E/4343/Rev.1) that the Governments and international organizations concerned should make concrete proposals concerning the earliest possible implementation of the measures and policies recommended by the Advisory Committee's experts. The

problem was a difficult one and its solution would require long-range efforts both at the national and at the international level. The measures recommended by the Advisory Committee were a most important first step in the right direction, and he hoped that draft resolution A/C.2/L.993, of which his delegation had decided to become a co-sponsor, would be unanimously adopted.

45. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that edible proteins were essential for the growth and well-being of all peoples. To combat effectively protein malnutrition would require the co-ordination of all national, multilateral and bilateral efforts. In the developing countries, it was important to strengthen co-operation among all the sectors concerned (public authorities, research organizations, universities, agriculture and industry). A campaign to inform the public of the aims of the fight against malnutrition would seem advisable. In the developed countries, a similar co-ordination of efforts, which might be financed by both the authorities and industry, would also appear desirable. However, the emphasis there should be on problems of relevance to the developing countries. The competent United Nations bodies could provide useful assistance in that regard to the Governments concerned.

46. Without denying the value of bilateral programmes, he considered it necessary to underscore the need for multilateral co-ordination. In particular, the links between UNDP and UNICEF should be strengthened. The United Nations Secretariat should not content itself with making recommendations; it must assume responsibilities in co-ordination and implementation. Governments, particularly Governments of developing countries, needed guidance in the complex fields of science and technology. His delegation hoped that the Secretariat would be able to cope with that challenge.

47. In conclusion, he said that it would be desirable to have a thorough review of the report which the Secretary-General was to submit on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/L.993.

48. Mr. POPA (Romania) announced that his delegation, which had voted for Economic and Social Council resolution 1257 (XLIII), had decided to become a co-sponsor of the draft resolution. Mankind now had sufficient knowledge to tackle the problem of protein malnutrition, and co-operation among research bodies, industry, agriculture and marketing agencies could only facilitate such efforts. Developing countries should have the benefit of United Nations assistance and advice. It was the duty of the United Nations to determine the fields in which multilateral assistance could play a significant role.

49. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that his delegation attached very great importance to increasing the output of conventional food-stuffs, which were, and for the foreseeable future would continue to be, the main source of humanity's food supply. It was therefore important to utilize more intensively the traditional sources of proteins (animals, fish, domestic fowl, etc.) and not lightly resort to methods which had not yet proved themselves. It was just as important to fight against the enormous protein losses that resulted from the

absence of adequate means of conservation and transport.

50. The Advisory Committee's report (E/4343/Rev.1) estimated that \$300 million would have to be spent on a campaign against protein malnutrition. That figure seemed very high in view of the present resources of United Nations bodies and it was regrettable that the Advisory Committee had relied on a single expert whose estimates seemed most arbitrary. Such calculations should have been entrusted to a team of food, social and technological experts and should have taken into account the estimates of competent bodies of Member States. In general, the main defect of the Advisory Committee's recommendations was that they were based on the opinions of individual experts. The representative of India had rightly remarked that mistakes in that field could prove very costly. For example, some countries would obviously not be in a position to follow the authors of the report when they recommended expansion of the fishing industry. The Soviet delegation believed that problems of increasing protein production should be dealt with at the national level with the assistance of the competent United Nations bodies.

51. Draft resolution A/C.2/L.993 should have been submitted after a careful study of the question similar to that which had preceded the Economic and Social Council's adoption of its resolution 1257 (XLIII). The Advisory Committee's report had not been thoroughly examined. Operative paragraph 2 prejudged the conclusions of the report which the Secretary-General was asked to submit to the General Assembly in operative paragraph 9. The General Assembly could logically endorse the recommendations of the Advisory Committee only after assembling the proposals and suggestions of the Governments and organizations concerned and after proceeding to a thorough study of the problem. His delegation hoped that the sponsors of the draft resolution would bear those observations in mind.

52. Mr. ZORRILLA (Mexico) said that the report on protein of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (E/4343/Rev.1) was a document which would unquestionably be very useful to all countries, and especially to developing countries, since it was in the developing countries that protein deficiency was most keenly felt. In Mexico, the situation was no less serious than elsewhere. It was therefore necessary to increase the production of conventional proteins and to look for new sources of protein. With respect to research activity in that field, the developing countries were at a special disadvantage because of their inadequate financial, natural and human resources. They also confronted enormous obstacles in food distribution. In that respect, his delegation regretted to have to note that the Advisory Committee's report seemed a little too academic and abstract. What was more, in many developing countries the main difficulty was not in the elaboration of new products, but in the production and marketing of those already known.

53. So far as Mexico was concerned, after having long suffered from underproduction of maize, wheat, beans and rice, crops which constituted the staple

food of the population, it had finally succeeded, after prolonged and arduous efforts, in making their import unnecessary. At the present time, the responsible authorities were trying to encourage the population to eat more fish. Mexico had also achieved satisfactory results in the sphere of agricultural research, but not to the extent of being able to do without foreign aid, both bilateral and multilateral, which it continued to need very much. The Mexican delegation felt that it was extremely important to involve technicians from the developing countries in the work of advisory and similar bodies.

54. Finally, he explained that his delegation had become a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.993 because it considered it particularly opportune to recommend the developed countries to promote the exchange of technical knowledge in the protein field.

55. Mr. MUZIK (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. VLADOV (Bulgaria) requested a postponement of the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/L.993 to the following day in order to enable them to discuss with the sponsors operative paragraph 2, with which they were not satisfied.

56. Mr. AHMED (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, said that he saw no reason why the vote could not be postponed to the following day.

57. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, he would consider that suggestion adopted, it being understood that the discussion on that aspect of the item was closed.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 7.25 p.m.