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*Chairman:* Mr. Jorge Pablo FERNANDINI  
(Peru).

## 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.985, A/C.2/L.986)

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED "THE ROLE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION" (concluded) (A/C.2/L.985)

1. Mr. KAHONO (Indonesia) recalled that, although draft resolution A/C.2/L.985 related to the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), General Assembly resolution 46 (I) had recommended the establishment, not only of that Commission but also of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE). At its twenty-third session, held at Tokyo in April 1967, ECAFE had adopted resolution 77 (XXII), commemorating its twentieth anniversary, and resolution 78 (XXIII), containing the Tokyo Declaration. The achievements of ECAFE had also been commended in Economic and Social Council resolution 1246 (XLIII). It would therefore be appropriate for the Committee to congratulate both ECE and ECAFE for the progress achieved during the twenty years of their existence, which had been of the greatest benefit to the development of their respective regions.

2. In the absence of a resolution congratulating ECAFE on its twentieth anniversary, draft resolution A/C.2/L.985 should in no way be interpreted as giving priority to the interests of the developed countries. His delegation therefore proposed that the Committee's report should contain an expression of its appreciation for the outstanding achievements of ECAFE in assisting the countries of Asia and the Far East in their efforts to raise their standards of living, and should make it clear that draft resolution A/C.2/

L.985 was not intended to subordinate the interests of the developing countries to those of the economically advanced regions. If that was done, the Indonesian delegation would be able to approve the draft resolution, whose second preambular paragraph it particularly endorsed.

3. Mr. VISESSURAKARN (Thailand) said that his delegation welcomed the initiative taken by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.985, but felt that the resolution might appropriately have included a reference to the outstanding achievements of ECAFE, which, as the representative of Indonesia had recalled, had been established at the same time as ECE. ECAFE had now become a most effective means of promoting dynamic regional economic co-operation and accelerating the pace of economic development. Its intensive research and planning activities had greatly stimulated a spirit of self-help with regard to the solution of regional problems. Some of its most notable achievements had involved the implementation of regional projects such as the Mekong River Project, the Asian Highway, the Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the Asian International Trade Fair, the Asian Industrial Development Council and the Asian Development Bank.

4. Despite ECAFE's achievements, however, there were still some obstacles to Asia's economic growth, such as lagging exports, declining external aid and the increasing technological gap between developing and developed countries. His delegation therefore noted with appreciation the stress laid in operative paragraph 2 (a) of the draft resolution on the promotion of economic, scientific and technical co-operation among member States of ECE for the benefit of the entire international community, especially the developing countries.

5. His delegation associated itself with the Indonesian representative's proposal that the Committee's report should include an expression of appreciation for ECAFE's work and make it clear that draft resolution A/C.2/L.985 should not be construed as subordinating the developing countries' interests to those of the economically advanced regions.

6. Mr. TSERENCHOODOL (Mongolia) said that his delegation wished to pay a tribute to the activities of ECE, which had done much to create a climate propitious for better mutual understanding and the development of economic relations among European States having different economic, social and political systems. ECE's activities would be even more effective if it ceased discriminating against the German Democratic Republic, but his delegation was sure that that abnormal situation would soon be corrected, to the benefit of all European countries. His delegation

supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.985 and also the Indonesian representative's proposal.

7. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that all the regional economic commissions had played an important role in regional co-operation and development and had been in the forefront of the struggle against hunger, disease and poverty throughout the world. The establishment of ECAFE had been significant because ECAFE had been the first regional group of its kind in Asia and its real roots were to be found in the political awakening of that region after generations of foreign domination. The establishment of ECAFE had been the first major occasion on which the United Nations had recognized that Asia existed in its own right and not simply as the responsibility of a few colonial Powers. His country had been one of the original four Asian members of the Commission and took great interest in its work.

8. At its twenty-third session, ECAFE had reviewed its record and reassessed the economic and social problems still facing the region. Concern had been expressed about some disquieting world economic developments. First, it had been observed with regret that the region's share of United Nations technical assistance and projects financed under the Special Fund component of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was comparatively smaller than that of other regions, in relation to population and absorptive capacity. Second, the Commission had discussed deterrents to economic growth, such as unsatisfactory conditions in foreign markets for exports from ECAFE member States, instability of export prices, lack of adequate commodity agreements and the slow progress made in implementing the recommendations of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).<sup>1/</sup>

9. There was, however, a brighter side to the picture. Tangible results had been achieved in regional and international co-operation, and institutions for accelerating such co-operation had been established. Work programmes and methods to promote pre-investment had been streamlined, and those relating to planning, production and intra-regional trade had been co-ordinated. The institutions established included, in addition to those mentioned by the representative of Thailand, the Asian Food and Fertilizer Bank and the Asian Standards Advisory Committee. The establishment of the Asian Development Bank had been particularly important, and the Bank was now sending survey missions to various countries in the region with a view to identifying suitable projects for financing, with special emphasis on the smaller and less developed countries.

10. His delegation would support draft resolution A/C.2/L.985, on the understanding that, in accordance with the Indonesian representative's proposal, the report would reflect the Committee's satisfaction with ECAFE's achievements.

11. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) commended the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.985 for having drawn attention to the twentieth anniversary of the establishment

of ECE, an event which deserved to be noted by the General Assembly. The draft resolution stressed two important aspects of ECE's work. First, the preamble and operative paragraph 2 (a) emphasized the role which ECE could play in furthering the developing countries' economic development. In the past ECE had, perhaps, concentrated too exclusively on the interests of its member States, and it was now time for it to enlarge the scope of its activities to cover the interests of the whole international community, and particularly those of the developing countries. ECE had recently decided to adapt its work programme so as to facilitate co-operation with UNCTAD, and was now awaiting the outcome of the second session of the Conference before taking any further action. ECE should not be expected to provide the developing countries with economic and technical assistance; it would further their interests by establishing conditions which would enable East-West trade to take its place in the general framework of world trade, with particular reference to trade between European countries and developing countries.

12. The second important aspect of ECE's work was its role in promoting increased co-operation between the countries of Eastern and Western Europe, an aspect which was sometimes neglected and to which his country, which played a leading part in East-West trade, attached particular importance. Much could be done to increase East-West trade, which was far from having fulfilled its potential and could represent a much greater percentage of total world trade than at present. Recent technological progress in the field of transport and communications had paved the way for greater economic co-operation between Eastern and Western Europe, and both groups of countries had expressed their desire for such co-operation. What was needed was effective action to remove the obstacles impeding co-operation: for example, the improvement and enlargement of all instruments which had proved effective in promoting East-West trade; the improvement of the existing relevant inter-governmental agreements; the intensification of trade promotion activities; the conclusion of economic and technical co-operation agreements; the holding of bilateral and multilateral consultations with a view to overcoming obstacles; and the examination of the possibility of introducing gradual trade liberalization on an autonomous and experimental basis.

13. The third and fourth preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution stressed the development of co-operation among European States having different economic, social and political systems, but that co-operation was not referred to specifically in the operative paragraphs. The promotion of East-West trade was one of ECE's main functions and he therefore wished to propose that the words "between European States having different economic, political and social systems" should be inserted in operative paragraph 2 (b) after the words "development of trade".

14. Mr. GEORGE (France) said that the regional economic commissions could give other United Nations bodies valuable help in many fields, including industrial development, trade expansion, the preparation of regional technical assistance projects and the training of skilled personnel. ECE had already shown

<sup>1/</sup> See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, vol. I, Final Act and Report (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.II.B.11).

that it could do much to promote co-operation between United Nations bodies and to further the cause of economic development in general, and the declaration adopted at the commemorative meeting to celebrate the Commission's twentieth anniversary (see E/4329, para. 260) showed that ECE member States intended to encourage the development of new forms of economic, scientific and technical international co-operation. His delegation consequently supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.985, which stressed the positive aspects of ECE's work, and also supported the Indonesian proposal that the draft report should reflect the Committee's appreciation of ECAFE's outstanding achievement.

15. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.985 because it believed that the development of economic, scientific and technical co-operation among European States having different economic, social and political systems would promote the economic development of those States and of the world as a whole. It also supported the amendment to operative paragraph 2 (b) proposed by the representative of Italy.

16. Lastly, he wished to congratulate ECAFE on its outstanding achievements during the past twenty years and to wish it success in the future.

17. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said that the regional economic commissions had become cornerstones of the work of the United Nations in the economic field and to some extent in the social field also. His country was proud to be a member of three of those commissions, namely, ECAFE, ECE and the Economic Commission for Latin America and attached importance to the work of the Economic Commission for Africa. His delegation had never recognized any hierarchical relationship among the commissions. It supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.985, as well as the Indonesian representative's proposal regarding the insertion in the report of an appropriately drafted passage expressing the Committee's appreciation of ECAFE's work and making it clear that the adoption of the draft resolution did not imply that it attached more importance to the work of one commission than to that of any other.

18. Mr. DEWULF (Belgium) said that his delegation had co-sponsored draft resolution A/C.2/L.985 for the reasons explained by the Austrian representative when introducing the draft resolution at the previous meeting. His Government was making every effort to ensure that the signs of an easing of tension in Europe were made tangible and irreversible, in particular by trying to promote increased East-West European trade. ECE could do much to further the cause of peace and co-operation, and he therefore hoped that the draft resolution under consideration would be adopted unanimously.

19. Mr. REISCH (Austria), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, thanked those delegations which had expressed support for draft resolution A/C.2/L.985. The fact that the draft resolution referred only to ECE in no way implied any lack of appreciation of ECAFE's achievements, and his delegation supported the proposal that the report should reflect the Com-

mittee's satisfaction with ECAFE's work. He had not had time to consult all the sponsors regarding the amendment proposed by the Italian representative, but he himself could not accept any change in the existing text of operative paragraph 2 (b), which was the result of lengthy discussion among the sponsors. In any case, the need to promote East-West European trade was undoubtedly taken into account in ECE's work.

20. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) said that in his view operative paragraph 2 (b) should be interpreted as referring particularly to the development of trade among European States having different economic, social and political systems, and he hoped that that interpretation would be reflected in the Committee's report.

21. Mr. CHTOUROU (Tunisia) requested that the text of the declaration adopted by the commemorative meeting of ECE, referred to in the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution under consideration, should be circulated to the members of the Committee.

22. The CHAIRMAN said that the Rapporteur would note the Italian representative's request. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/L.985 unanimously.

*It was so decided.*

#### CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY" (A/C.2/L.986)

23. Mr. MURGESCU (Romania), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.986 on behalf of the sponsors, announced that the delegation of Syria had decided to become a co-sponsor. After consultations with a number of delegations, the sponsors had agreed to make the following amendments to the text: (1) the words "little progress has been made to enable" in the fifth preambular paragraph should be replaced by "little progress has been made in enabling"; (2) the word "concrete" in the sixth preambular paragraph should be replaced by the words "the best"; and (3) the word "Appeals" in operative paragraph 2 should be replaced by "Recommends".

24. The profound implications of the modern scientific revolution had been revealed in all their aspects in the many studies and articles published during the last decade. Without wishing to repeat generally recognized facts and trends, he pointed out that, for economists, there was one basic fact that must be taken as a point of departure: the decisive role of research and technology in current economic development, in the emergence of new sectors, sub-sectors and products, and in the increased economic efficiency of plant and labour. That meant that no solutions to the problems with which the Romanian delegation was concerned could be found without bearing in mind the effects of modern science and technology on those problems. When the problems of the second session of UNCTAD had been discussed at the present session, the Romanian delegation had reaffirmed its view that practical solutions should be sought to secure easier access to world markets for the manufactures and semi-manufactures of the developing countries. While it was to be hoped that such solutions would be found, consideration must, at the same time, be given to the

implications of modern science and technology for the competitive character of products.

25. The basic trend in the changes that were taking place lay in the acceleration of the process of obsolescence and loss of commercial value. In sectors where technological progress was rapid, there were some well-known cases where machines had become technically obsolete as soon as they had appeared on the market. While those were, of course, exceptional cases, the fact that the period of economic obsolescence for all categories of goods was becoming shorter was a general phenomenon. That process had forced one-third of United States firms to redesign half of their products within a single decade.

26. On the basis of the studies that had been carried out, the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development had proposed in its third report a World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development (see E/4178, chap. I and VI). At its forty-first session, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1155 (XLI), had closely studied that proposal and had endorsed the objectives for the proposed plan set forth by the Advisory Committee. The sponsors believed that the General Assembly would support the Advisory Committee and enhance its already well-established prestige in the United Nations system by endorsing Council resolution 1155 (XLI) and the basic objectives proposed by that Committee.

27. It was inconceivable that any country could obtain access to modern scientific and technological progress without a national system of research, training and dissemination corresponding to its needs. That truth was so obvious as to need no explanation, but the real question was how matters stood at the present time. According to data published the previous year, only eighteen out of 113 countries had a complete and adequate national research and training system. On the other hand, in thirty-five countries where the network of institutions for higher education and research included certain strong elements, government structures for the elaboration of scientific policy or the co-ordination and support of research were non-existent or inefficient, and auxiliary services in science and technology were usually meagre (see E/4178, para. 29). In forty other countries, institutions for higher education were just beginning to emerge, and other scientific institutions were performing only routine operations (*ibid.*). In other words, seventy-five countries, or 60 per cent of the total, lacked the institutional infra-structure required for the introduction of science and technology.

28. The Advisory Committee had drawn up an extensive list of the areas in which present scientific knowledge at the world level could accelerate the economic progress of the developing countries if properly adapted to local conditions. At the same time, it had endeavoured to determine, in each case, the likely economic effects and the factors hampering the application of that knowledge in practice. Anyone perusing that study was bound to be struck by the frequency of the cases in which the practical application of the scientific knowledge gained by mankind was hampered, in many countries, by a lack of information, by the absence of research facilities for adapting the knowl-

edge to local circumstances, or by shortcomings in the techniques for applying the knowledge. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.986 had therefore felt it necessary, in operative paragraph 1 (b), to stress a second objective of the World Plan of Action proposed by the Advisory Committee, namely, improvement of the arrangements for the transfer and adaptation of knowledge and technology already available in more developed countries. They believed that closer co-operation between the scientists, universities and research centres of the various countries could go far towards improving facilities at the national level and promoting the transfer of knowledge and technology so that economic growth might be accelerated through the widest possible application of science. That idea had been incorporated in operative paragraph 2 through an appeal to Member States to take full account, particularly in their bilateral aid programmes, of the aid requirements of the developing countries in the field of science and technology.

29. In order to meet their financial requirements, the countries with the highest economic level were now devoting between 1 and 3 per cent of their gross national product to modern science and technology, whereas the corresponding figure for most of the developing countries, which were pressed by needs that had to be met immediately, was only between 0.1 and 0.2 per cent and was only expected to reach 0.5 per cent during the next decade. In absolute terms, those percentage differences reflected a vast imbalance in the proportion of resources allocated to research, and that situation was further aggravated by the fact that the effectiveness of the action undertaken varied greatly according to the availability of equipment and the level of training of the available staff.

30. His delegation therefore believed that untiring efforts should be made, within the United Nations multilateral financing system, to find new ways of assisting the developing countries in carrying out their scientific and technological plans.

31. As compared to Economic and Social Council resolution 1155 (XLI), draft resolution A/C.2/L.986 laid greater stress, in the preamble and in operative paragraph 6, on the regional aspects of the World Plan of Action and the strengthening of co-operation between the Advisory Committee and the regional economic commissions. He had already referred to the difficulties encountered by developing countries in the application of modern scientific advances, owing to the absence of the research necessary for adapting those advances to the particular circumstances prevailing in various areas and regions. It was obvious that such difficulties could be more easily overcome if the countries concerned joined together, with the support of the regional economic commissions, in initiating projects of common interest.

32. In view of the urgency of the problems, the sponsors of the draft resolution would have liked the progress achieved in that sphere to be considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-second session. His delegation, however, had hesitated to propose too short a term because experience had shown that the preparation and discussion of reports were sometimes accelerated to the detriment of their contents. His

delegation accordingly felt that the report requested of the Advisory Committee should be considered as thoroughly as possible by the Economic and Social Council before being submitted, with the Council's suggestions, to the General Assembly. It had therefore preferred that the draft resolution should state that the report should be submitted "not later than at its twenty-fourth session", in the conviction that the flexibility of that wording would lead to the preparation of a full and detailed report containing specific proposals, and not to the adjournment of a debate to which his delegation attached great importance.

33. Mr. DJOUDI (Algeria) said his delegation hoped that the General Assembly's endorsement in resolution 2082 (XX) of the Advisory Committee's proposal for a concerted attack on a limited number of important research problems would be followed by its endorsement at the current session of the objectives proposed by that Committee for a World Plan of Action. The approval of those objectives would be particularly appropriate in view of the efforts being made by the United Nations as a whole to determine the components of a global strategy for development for the nineteen-seventies.

34. Only 5 per cent of current scientific and technical research was carried out in the developing countries and every new discovery merely served to widen the gap which separated them from the industrialized countries. The situation was aggravated by the brain drain problem, which represented a further gain to the advanced countries at the expense of the developing countries. Moreover, some African countries, including his, already devoted between 20 and 25 per cent of their national budgets to training and education; the magnitude of the task they faced could be measured by the fact that, in some cases, the annual cost of educating a student was higher than in advanced countries and the cost of employing a secondary teacher might be between twelve and thirty times as high as a developing country's national per capita income.

35. The World Plan of Action proposed by the Advisory Committee with a view to bringing the benefits of scientific and technical advances within the reach of the developing countries would obviously require resources on a far greater scale than that implied by the \$80 million expended by the specialized agencies on science and technology in the first five years of the current United Nations Development Decade. The Governing Council of UNDP had, in fact, already indicated its support for the expansion of United Nations activities in science and technology by approving a UNESCO request for assistance for basic science, educational and research projects. Similar encouragement was provided by the agreement between the Advisory Committee and the specialized agencies on the form and content of the statements to be supplied under part I, operative paragraph 5, of Economic and Social Council resolution 1155 (XLI) in connexion with that Committee's special report on the World Plan of Action, which was to be compiled in 1968. The United Nations system of institutions was accordingly willing and able to undertake the enormous co-operative effort implied by the World Plan of Action and it was to be hoped that the developed countries which had helped

to build those institutions would do their part in supplying the necessary resources for the task.

36. Mr. FIGUEROA (Chile) said that the developing countries, in order to escape from hunger, ignorance and disease, required, not only the transfer to them of scientific and technological knowledge, but help to create the necessary institutions to enable them to apply that knowledge. The World Plan of Action represented a practical method of achieving that objective through intensified co-operation from the developed countries and greater efforts by the developing countries to modernize their institutions and train the scientific and technical personnel needed for their development plans. His delegation fully supported the objectives for the World Plan of Action, as outlined in part I, operative paragraph 2, of Council resolution 1155 (XLI) and had therefore welcomed the opportunity to be a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.986. The improvement of the scientific and technical infrastructure of the developing countries would, of course, have the further advantage of helping to check the tendency of qualified staff to emigrate to or remain in the developed countries; but those countries could help in that respect by encouraging such personnel to return to their own countries after their training was complete.

37. The Advisory Committee had produced an excellent report on edible protein entitled: Feeding the Expanding World Population: international action to avert the impending protein crisis<sup>2/</sup> and his delegation fully supported the draft resolution, which would be considered by the Committee in that connexion approving the content of that report. His Government had a special interest in the subject, since it was sponsoring research at the national level on new local sources of protein; the results so far were very encouraging.

38. Mr. POSNETT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.986, and was grateful that the sponsors had agreed to incorporate its suggested amendment in the fifth preambular paragraph. It would be quite wrong to assume that nothing significant had been done to promote the application of modern technology to development, and he wished to describe some of the activities in that sphere being undertaken by the United Kingdom, which supported research in overseas countries through a wide variety of formal and informal links between domestic and overseas universities and research stations. Such links existed, for example, between Glasgow University and the Veterinary Faculty of Nairobi, the University of Edinburgh and the Veterinary Faculty at Ibadan, the Rothamsted Experimental Station and the Research Institute of Ghana, and the Macaulay Institute of Soil Science and the Indian Institute of Agricultural Research. The Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux provided an outstanding service in the preparation of surveys and abstracts for developing countries, while journals and bulletins were issued by such organizations as the Tropical Products Institute, the Tropical Pesticides Research Headquarters, the Tropical Stored Products Centre and the Building Research Station.

<sup>2/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIII.2 (E/4343/Rev.1).

39. Although some of the problems recommended by the Advisory Committee for concerted attack could not easily be tackled outside the developing countries themselves, much was being done to put the Committee's recommendations into practice in the United Kingdom itself. The Tropical Products Institute had issued a report on the production of protein products from oil-seeds for the relief of malnutrition, which would be of special value to developing countries, and its current research programme included a number of projects of particular interest to those countries. The Institute had carried out research in Botswana, Zambia, Kenya and Guyana, had pioneered new storage methods and developed new building materials. In addition, the establishment of a Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh would greatly increase the United Kingdom's capacity to carry out the Advisory Committee's recommendations on new methods of preventing animal disease. Finally, remarkable advances had been made in developing new techniques of water desalination, and two United Kingdom desalination experts were currently working in the Resources and Transport Division of the United Nations Secretariat.

40. All those activities were examples of the practical work undertaken, often with little publicity, to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and to apply new technological developments for the benefit of developing countries. The existence of such activities explained why the United Kingdom had supported the changes that had been made in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution. His delegation attached particular importance to the sixth preambular paragraph and to operative paragraph 1 (a). The developing countries' own requests for aid largely determined the assistance which they received, and it was to be hoped that, in drawing up such requests and their development plans, those countries would take full account of the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

41. Mr. NEDIVI (Israel) said that while the general objectives of draft resolution A/C.2/L.986 were of great importance, his delegation continued to believe that priorities should be established for problems in which international efforts could be most successful. The increasing scarcity of available resources underlined the urgent need for scientific and technological breakthroughs, which could best be achieved if efforts were concentrated on specific areas. Such a concentration of efforts did not imply that the general programme should be abandoned or that the areas chosen would absorb a disproportionate amount of available resources.

42. Achievements in the application of science and technology to development must be measured against over-all needs, and it was regrettable that the Economic and Social Council had not been able to endorse the allocation of sufficient funds to the Advisory Committee to enable the United Nations to fulfil its co-ordinating role in that sphere. The question of science and technology was of great importance to developing countries, and should not be dealt with in a rather summary fashion at the end of the session; in that connexion, the Israel delegation would support any proposal relating to the future organization of the

Second Committee's work aimed at enabling it to concentrate on three or four items of the greatest priority, which should include the question of science and technology.

43. The Israel delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.986, subject to its usual reservations regarding the references to the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut. The Secretary-General should be invited to take the lead in publicizing and implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, co-ordinating scientific research in the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and building up an international scientific community for the application of science to development. Such an invitation would not reflect on the great achievements of public and private scientific institutions throughout the world, nor should it be construed as an encroachment on the preserves of national Governments or private business. Unfortunately, the need to go beyond limited national and private objections in research was not adequately reflected in the draft resolution, and his delegation would have some further comments to make on that question in the discussion of the draft resolution on edible protein, which should be considered in conjunction with the draft resolution under discussion.

44. Mr. AMIRMOKRI (Iran) said that, in response to the need to establish institutional machinery in the developing countries to promote the application of science to development, Iran had recently created a new ministry to deal with scientific and technological problems, including the preparation of a national policy for the application of science and technology to development. The United Nations had an important role to play in assisting developing countries to make greater use of scientific and technological progress in promoting their economic growth, and the Advisory Committee had done impressive work in that sphere. It was therefore to be hoped that the resources which that Committee needed in order to fulfil its important and difficult task would be made available.

45. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation, which took an active part in the United Nations scientific and technical activities, fully supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.986. The measures proposed in the draft resolution would help to improve and expand those activities to the benefit of the developing countries.

46. Mr. DE SEYNES (Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs) said that there was increasing awareness in the international community of the importance in promoting economic development of science and technology, and of the need to expand United Nations activities in that sphere. One of the main reasons for the increasing imbalance in the world economy was the present structure of scientific and technological activities, and such problems as the brain drain had therefore assumed vital importance for developing countries. Another aspect of the problem was the basic imbalance in the emphasis laid on different branches of science and technology, resulting from the fact that scientific research activities were still largely carried out at the national level in order to achieve national objectives. Greater multilateralization of such programmes was needed in order to



make them more responsive to over-all needs, and the United Nations must therefore tackle the problem of reorganizing the structure of world scientific and technological activities. That could only be done gradually, and it must be realized that the progress so far achieved represented only a rudimentary advance in tackling an immense problem.

47. Like central scientific organizations at the national level, the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development had been established in order to identify the gaps in existing programmes, to formulate new programmes and recommendations, and to avoid duplication and waste by co-ordinating existing efforts. It was gratifying that any apprehension that might have been aroused by the establishment of the Advisory Committee had now been completely eliminated, and that the Advisory Committee's role was fully understood and appreciated by all concerned, including the specialized agencies. In that connexion, he wished to express the Secretary-General's gratitude for the valuable co-operation extended by the specialized agencies in the work of that Committee.

48. It was greatly to be hoped that the present difficulty in allocating sufficient resources to the Advisory Committee could soon be overcome, and the establishment of programme budgeting would be particularly desirable in that regard. It was essential that the Advisory Committee should be given sufficient resources to enable it to succeed in its task, which could only be fulfilled through the establishment of close contacts with Governments, universities and and scientific and technological organizations through-

out the world. In promoting the expansion of research and the acceleration of institution-building in developing countries, the Advisory Committee had to do much more than make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council, and eventually to the General Assembly and Member States; if its regular work was not to be largely invalidated, sufficient resources must be available so that it could, for example, meet between sessions, convene seminars and publish documents for wide circulation to scientific communities. The Advisory Committee's work was informational and organizational rather than operational, and the enthusiastic response that it had so far elicited from Governments and scientific organizations reflected the importance of its activities.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any objection, he assumed that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.986), as amended, unanimously.

*It was so decided.*

50. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted for draft resolution A/C.2/L.986 because of the importance of science and technology in accelerating economic growth rates in the developing countries. However, the Argentine Government was currently studying the question of protein production and consumption and therefore wished to reserve its position on that question, which would be fully stated during the forthcoming discussion of the draft resolution on that subject.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*

