

Strategy and, accordingly, was ready to effect fundamental reforms of its economy as a major step. It was determined to institute land reform in the interest of the majority of its people. Nevertheless, international assistance was needed, together with soft and untied aid. It was essential that the principle of non-reciprocity should be taken into consideration in respect of Afghanistan's trade.

68. The delegation of Afghanistan felt that it was in the economic and social fields that the United Nations could best exploit its potential. It welcomed the enlargement of the Economic and Social Council to 54 members as a measure which would give the Council a wider outlook on the problems of the international community and would place it in a better position to carry out its functions.

69. He fully shared the views expressed at Algiers by the non-aligned countries, which felt that the movement towards *détente*, although welcome, had thus far had little effect on the progress of the developing countries. It was to be hoped that the *détente* would promote the mutual economic relations of the countries directly concerned, but that it would also result in a general improvement in economic relations to the benefit of all the members of the international community.

70. Afghanistan supported the decision of the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned

Countries that an emergency joint conference of FAO and UNCTAD should be convened at ministerial level in order to formulate principles of international co-operation designed to overcome the growing shortage of food and other primary commodities and to maintain stable prices. In that regard, his delegation also supported the proposal by the United States of America that a world food conference should be convened in 1974, together with the idea of holding a special session of the General Assembly at a high level in order to consider the problems of development and revitalization of the machinery set up to achieve the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy, well in advance of the mid-Decade review due in 1975.

71. He fully supported the proposal by the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the reduction of the military budgets of the States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries. He expressed the hope, however, that that assistance would then be channelled through the international organizations and would take account of the urgent needs of the least developed among the developing countries.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

1529th meeting

Tuesday, 9 October 1973, at 3.20 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Zewde GABRE-SELLASSIE (Ethiopia).

A/C.2/SR.1529

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*)

1. Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina) said that the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly was taking place during a transitional period in international economic affairs which was of vital importance to the developing countries. The new climate of *détente* between countries with different social and economic systems had already had repercussions in the economic field. While his delegation agreed with the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (1516th meeting) that the *détente* could be beneficial to world trade, it feared that all the developing countries could hope for from the *détente* were the indirect effects of more active world markets. Indeed, the agreement between the great Powers might well indicate their intention to perpetuate their hegemony rather than to lay the foundations for a more equitable distribution of income in the world.

2. His Government hoped that progress in disarmament would give added impetus to development co-operation, since the frustrations caused by under-development obviously had a bearing on international peace and security. The interdependence of all States was exemplified in the common approach of Governments to such matters as environment policies, the food shortage, exploitation of the sea-bed, and science and technology. The monetary crisis, which had affected

large and small nations alike, had proved that isolated solutions were impracticable. The fact that inflation was affecting even traditionally stable economies was yet another proof of the interdependence of nations.

3. It was accordingly paradoxical that there should have been a standstill, and even a retrogression, in international co-operation within the framework of the International Development Strategy in the first years of the Second United Nations Development Decade. It was clear from the first review and appraisal exercise by the Committee for Development Planning¹ that the cause of development had lost momentum.

4. The working paper submitted by the Economic and Social Council as an annex to resolution 1827 (LV) clearly identified those responsible for the failure to meet the modest targets set by the Strategy, namely, the developed countries, although there were some exceptions. The first review and appraisal exercise would undoubtedly reach the same conclusion. Any conclusions on the success of the Strategy should be based on a diagnosis of past events and related to the progressive approach required by the present challenging times. Whatever the verdict was, there could be no justification for any weakening of the goals and objectives of the Strategy.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 5*, para. 29.

5. Economic growth was not synonymous with development, which was an integrated process which gave due emphasis to the qualitative aspects of human well-being and social justice. His Government was committed to promoting a new type of society in which all social strata participated fully and the gap between the social strata was narrowed through a redistribution of national income. However, economic growth, in all sectors, was required to bring about such qualitative changes, and his Government therefore maintained that the fulfilment of quantitative targets was essential for full human development. The co-operation of the international community in such integrated national development should be in the form of policy measures taken by both developed and developing countries; it should not be expressed as targets or indicators, which divided rather than united the peoples of the third world. Such an approach was too academic to meet the challenge of the current evolutionary period.

6. The international negotiations on a new monetary system and the GATT trade negotiations showed that the international community was on the brink of a new era in international economic relations. His Government was participating in both series of negotiations and had made its position clear, which was that any agreement on the monetary system or on terms of trade must take into consideration the characteristics of all member States, and in particular their level of development. For instance, the machinery established to deal with imbalances in the balance of payments must take into account the special economic and social problems of the developing countries. His Government believed that special drawing rights (SDRs) should be the core of the reformed monetary system and endorsed the principle of linking SDRs to development assistance. The least developed among the developing countries should be given larger SDR allocations in order to promote the growth of international trade and the flow of real resources to the developing countries.

7. The Tokyo declaration of GATT (14 September 1973) was, on the whole, disappointing, despite some positive elements. The share of the developing countries in world trade was decreasing, and the purpose of the forthcoming round of trade negotiations was to arrest and, if possible, reverse that trend. The developed countries must show that they were conscious of their responsibilities to the international community and commit themselves to a programme which would benefit all countries. His Government wished to stress that, in both the monetary and the trade negotiations, the interests of the developing countries must be taken into account and the agreements reached should lead to a new international division of labour in which financing and technological development would be accorded the required priority.

8. The growing influence of multinational corporations was causing concern to the international community in general and the developing countries in particular. Such corporations exerted a new kind of interference and domination which affected the national decision-making process of the host country, particularly in the developing countries. His Government hoped that the Group of Eminent Persons appointed in accordance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1721 (LIII) would develop detailed rules of conduct which would take into consideration the struc-

tural problems and the weaker position of the host countries; the establishment of regional and/or international information and advisory centres would be an important first step.

9. His country welcomed the progress made towards drafting a charter of the economic rights and duties of States. In that connexion, the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Economic and Social Council had made an important contribution to the practical application of the concept of collective economic security.

10. His delegation was particularly concerned over the food crisis which threatened the lives of millions of people in Africa and Asia. At the fifty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council, Argentina had pledged a contribution to the emergency relief for the Sudano-Sahelian zone, and it welcomed the new United Nations effort to find long-term solutions to the drought problems of that zone.

11. A particularly significant and promising development was the common effort of the developing countries to become self-reliant through mutual aid and solidarity, as evidenced by the decisions which Argentina fully endorsed, taken by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Georgetown from 8 to 12 August 1972, and by the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973. Self-reliance was the basic instrument for achieving true political sovereignty and the necessary structural changes for real economic independence and social justice. The new movement was partly motivated by the frustrations developing countries had suffered in their dealings with the major developed countries. Nevertheless, the struggle of the third world for self-sustained and integrated development was dependent upon external factors: terms of trade and financing, the transfer of technology and technical assistance must be improved. The fact that the developing countries were determined to adopt a common approach to a wide range of economic and social activities was bound to affect the co-operation programmes controlled by the United Nations, and all international co-operation for development. With progress under the International Development Strategy virtually at a standstill, the will of the developing countries to co-operate among themselves was particularly encouraging.

12. Mr. SHIRAMANGA (Burundi) said that the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade had raised hopes that solutions to the development problems of the developing countries were on the way. However, the results of the first two years of the Decade were discouraging. The gap between rich and poor was widening and the growth rate of the economies of many developing countries was declining. Universal solidarity seemed to have become less attractive in recent years, particularly to the richest countries. The flow of assistance from the developed to the developing countries had fallen substantially during the Second Development Decade. Even more discouraging was the evidence that the richer countries took little interest in the economic advance of the poorer nations. The United Nations had been born out of a common concern to safeguard universal peace, but universal peace would never be a reality unless existing disparities in levels of development disappeared and

the conditions of life for all mankind reached a decent level. Nor was the attitude of international financial institutions any more favourable to development. On several occasions, they had altered their decisions because of their judgement regarding a particular Government. Such measures led the developing countries to ask what those organizations considered the role of the Strategy to be.

13. The indifference, and even selfishness, of the rich countries and the disillusionment of the developing countries were evident in their trade relations. Co-operation in trade was the ideal way to help the poor nations in their efforts to improve their lot. Stable and remunerative commodity prices and the removal of trade barriers to the developing countries' raw materials and agricultural products would help to increase production and trade and thus make larger resources available for investment. The liberalization of trade in all fields would result in a better division of labour, since it would enable countries to develop the sectors which were most important to them. Special measures were needed for the least developed among the developing countries. The General Assembly should take action to ensure that the forthcoming trade negotiations, the objectives of the Strategy regarding the least developed countries, were borne in mind. To that end, the restrictive measures and import and export controls imposed by the rich countries must be eliminated to make way for the establishment of more healthy, and therefore more normal, trade relations.

14. However, it would be difficult to establish normal trade relations if the current monetary system, with the recurrent monetary crises it caused, was maintained. The joint annual meeting of IBRD and IMF at Nairobi from 24 to 28 September 1973 had shown that the prospects for agreement between developed and developing countries were remote. A solution must be found at world level; isolated adjustments made by individual countries could only be considered temporary. The monetary system must be reformed, taking into account the interests of all parties concerned, and SDRs must be redefined so as to enable the poor countries to improve their balance of payments.

15. Multinational corporations could have a detrimental effect on the development planning of host countries, particularly in developing countries. The current session of the General Assembly should adopt a resolution to limit the powers of multinational corporations and protect the sovereignty of States in planning their economic and social future.

16. Special measures must be taken by the developed and more advanced developing countries to help the poorest countries to overcome their development problems, in accordance with UNCTAD resolution 62 (III).² The land-locked countries, for example, had to meet transport costs which could amount to as much as one third of the value of the goods imported or exported. Neighbouring coastal countries should apply to the land-locked countries' exports and imports in transit the same terms as were applied to their own goods.

17. As the President of the Republic of Zaire had said in the General Assembly (2140th plenary meeting), the

United Nations should recommend that the States which had made loans to the countries affected by the drought in the Sudano-Sahelian region convert those loans into grants in order to help the peoples of that region to recover from the effects of the disaster as speedily as possible. Moreover, the situation should be studied with a view to preventing other similar disasters, particularly with regard to food shortages, in the Sudano-Sahelian region and elsewhere.

18. All previous speakers had agreed that the current international economic situation demanded the collective determination of rich and poor alike to change the face of the world and create genuine solidarity. He hoped that the Committee would reach a consensus on a specific programme for the crusade against underdevelopment and social and economic imbalance already launched by the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

19. Mr. HOSNY (Egypt) said that the review and appraisal of progress in implementing the International Development Strategy, the most important item on the Committee's agenda (item 46), must, if it was to produce positive results, be based on an assessment of the achievements and shortfalls of the developing countries, collectively and individually, during each review period. It was also necessary to determine whether additional goals and policies were needed in a changing world. Naturally, the central goal of the Strategy, to achieve more balanced world-wide development with a view to diminishing existing disparities, remained valid.

20. A number of favourable developments since the adoption of the Strategy had contributed to the improvement of the general international situation. First, there was the admission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, its expanding participation in international economic co-operation and the growing knowledge of the concepts on which the Chinese economic development experience had been based. Secondly, the *détente* between the major Powers prompted the hope that the huge resources wasted on the arms race would soon be directed to development. Thirdly, there was a growing awareness among peoples and Governments of the interdependence of their interests and of the need for global endeavours to solve interrelated problems, and a recognition that the commitments embodied in the Strategy were essential for a sustained rate of growth in developed and developing countries alike.

21. The wide acceptance, in the Economic and Social Council, of the concept of collective economic security had demonstrated that Governments were more responsive than ever to the requirements of an emerging international order based on equity. The conclusions and recommendations of several recent international meetings were among the more important pillars of that order. Significant progress had been made, in particular, at the second ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 at Lima in November 1971, the third session of UNCTAD at Santiago in April-May 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm in June 1972, the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries at Georgetown in August 1972, and the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries at Algiers from 5 to 9 September 1973. Furthermore, the world community

² See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.D.4), annex I.A.

recognized the urgent need to reform international trade and the international monetary system, and it was generally accepted that the developing countries must participate effectively and on an equal footing in all the relevant negotiations. It had been agreed that trade negotiations should aim at securing substantial benefits for the developing countries; it remained to be seen how far declarations of intent would be translated into action.

22. Unfortunately, the over-all situation of the developing countries had deteriorated since the closing years of the First United Nations Development Decade. Some of the more affluent countries had followed practices in trade, development, financing and monetary matters which had caused the international economic structure to deteriorate so severely as to jeopardize the chances for sustained growth and prosperity on a world-wide scale. Lack of confidence in the international monetary system and inability to take effective remedial measures had generated a series of monetary crises, and the consequent currency realignments had eroded the value of the foreign exchange reserves of the developing countries. Rampant inflation in the developed market economies had contributed to a further deterioration in the balance of payments, terms of trade and debt position of the developing countries.

23. Simultaneously, the imposition of tariffs and non-tariff barriers by some developed countries had seriously damaged the export potential of the developing countries, which were no longer able to finance the planned imports of capital goods needed to implement their industrialization programmes. The cost of their basic food imports had tripled within the past few months. The flow of official development assistance had attained only half the target set by the Strategy, at a time when the developing countries faced a growing burden of debt-servicing charges. In a number of developing countries, including Egypt, debt servicing absorbed more than 25 per cent of export earnings. Owing to growing inflationary pressures, financial transfers to developing countries could not be said to have increased in real terms during the two years under review.

24. Despite such obstacles, the developing countries had been responsibly facing their commitments and had attained an over-all rate of growth of approximately 5.4 per cent during the same period, a rate which was, however, far below the minimum target of 6 per cent for the Second Decade, and which represented a significant decline from the rate of 6.2 per cent achieved during the closing years of the First Decade. Again, because of population growth, the rate of growth of *per capita* gross domestic product had actually declined, to 2.5 per cent, in the developing countries in 1970-1972, in the least developed countries there had been no increase at all, and the figure for the countries comprising three fourths of the population of the third world had been below 1 per cent. Accordingly, the income gap between developed and developing countries was continuing to widen.

25. Unemployment continued to increase in the developing countries; the problem was exacerbated by the high rate of population growth in the majority of those countries. The unanimous conclusion of all demographic studies was that accelerated economic and

social development was a prerequisite for the solution of the population problem. However, there was also the danger that the partial achievement of development objectives could worsen the initial situation before any accomplishments had been registered. For example, the over-all rate of population growth in the developing countries during the period under review had risen to 2.7 per cent as a result of improved health conditions and a lower rate of infant mortality, without the socio-economic advancement required to redress the balance between development and population growth.

26. His delegation was extremely alarmed at the precarious situation prevailing in the countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region and his country had shipped assistance in kind within the limits of its modest possibilities. He endorsed the pragmatic recommendations for alleviating the situation made by the President of the Republic of Zaire at the 2140th plenary meeting. A lasting solution must be sought to the world food crisis. His delegation supported the recommendation made by the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries in its action programme for economic co-operation that an emergency joint world food conference, at ministerial level, of FAO and UNCTAD should be convened.

27. The Economic and Social Council at its fifty-fourth session had discussed the economic and social consequences of disarmament. Of particular importance was the recommendation in the report³ of the Group of Experts appointed to study the question that economic assistance granted by developed to developing countries could and should be greatly increased and should be given higher priority in the allocation of the resources released by disarmament. Had that recommendation been implemented earlier, fewer people would have died in the Sudano-Sahelian region. The proposal made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR to the General Assembly on 25 September (2126th plenary meeting), that the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council be reduced by 10 per cent and part of the funds thus saved utilized to provide assistance to developing countries, was an important contribution towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Group of Experts.

28. The developed countries had failed to fulfil the trade and monetary targets established in the Strategy. The developing countries were particularly concerned lest they suffer further losses from the monetary reforms being contemplated. The developing countries had been assured of some, although insufficient, representation in the IMF Committee of 20, and would participate in the forthcoming GATT multilateral trade negotiations in 1974; they would press for their interests to be taken fully into account in both series of negotiations. The economic declaration adopted by the Algiers Conference provided a solid basis for the developing countries' participation in the GATT negotiations. His delegation held that the Trade and Development Board should co-ordinate the reform of the international monetary system and the multilateral trade negotiations, and that effective co-ordinating machinery should be institutionalized, with the participation of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the Director-General of GATT and the Managing Director of IMF.

³ *Disarmament and Development* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.IX.1), chap. V.

29. He stressed the need to establish an organic link between SDRs and additional development financing, and expressed the hope that the final provisions of the monetary reform would remove the reservations on that subject expressed at Nairobi by some developed countries during the joint annual meeting of IBRD and IMF. The new monetary system should also comprise a mechanism for automatic compensation for losses incurred in the real value of foreign exchange earnings of developing countries, particularly those which exported agricultural products, oil and raw materials. An automatic adjustment mechanism should also be provided to protect the developing countries against loss of income attributable to price and export fluctuations in trade with their industrialized partners. It could take the form of compensatory financing commensurate with adverse developments in the terms of trade, a device already embodied in the arrangements of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries with the oil companies.

30. The working group established pursuant to UNC-TAD resolution 45 (III)⁴ had made significant progress in preparing a charter of the economic rights and duties of States and the remaining work was expected to be completed during 1974. Once adopted and acceded to by all countries, the charter would be a legally binding instrument regulating economic relations among States, and no longer a mere ideal.

31. Foreign assistance to the developing countries, including foreign private investment, should be extended without jeopardizing the national interests or natural resources of the host country and without coercion. The developing countries were endeavouring to eliminate the harmful practices of some multinational corporations and to regulate the conditions under which foreign firms could invest in their territories. The report prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs⁵ to facilitate the deliberations of the Group of Eminent Persons appointed pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1721 (LIII) contained a number of recommendations on regulating the activities of multinational corporations, which took into account the interests of the latter and the sovereign rights of host countries.

32. Since the 1952 revolution Egypt had concentrated on achieving social and economic progress through far-reaching structural changes. By 1956, the year of the invasion of the Suez Canal zone, the old obstacles to steady economic development had been overcome. The formulation and implementation of comprehensive development plans from 1960 onwards had stimulated the country's economy. In 1960-1966 an annual average rate of growth of 6.5 per cent in real terms had been achieved, made possible by the generous contribution of the Soviet Union, which had helped to establish the nucleus of productivity in industry and agriculture, particularly through an iron and steel complex and the Aswan High Dam. Marked improvements had also occurred in social services, especially education and public health. The most important change in the structure of the economy had been the higher contribution of industry to gross domestic production. The Aswan

High Dam had provided the necessary potential for unprecedented growth in agricultural production through land reclamation and irrigation of the desert. Extensive land reform and the application of new technologies had also improved the agricultural situation.

33. The growth of the economy had, however, suffered a serious setback since the Israeli aggression of June 1967, which had resulted in the closure of the Suez Canal, the occupation of Sinai and the plundering of its rich oilfields and mineral deposits, the destruction of certain industries and a decline in tourism. The continuing Israeli occupation, accompanied by repeated acts of aggression against neighbouring countries, of which he cited several examples, proved conclusively that a basic objective of Israeli policy was to prevent the Arab countries from improving their lives in peace. The Israeli policy of repeated aggression constituted a serious obstacle to the development efforts of its Arab neighbours and imposed a heavy burden on their economies, requiring the diversion of resources from the development effort to defence. The rate of growth of Egypt's gross national product (GNP), which in 1966 had been 6.7 per cent, had fallen after 1967 to 5 per cent. Egypt had to allocate for defence almost twice as much as it did for development.

34. The Israeli occupation prevented Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan from exercising permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, a right which had been repeatedly emphasized by the General Assembly. Far from complying with relevant Assembly resolutions, Israel was plundering the natural wealth of the occupied territories, and exploiting their human resources as cheap manpower. In 1972 alone, Israel had looted from the petroleum resources of Sinai an estimated 35.7 million barrels of crude oil valued at approximately \$82.5 million, and was exploiting those oilfields without regard to their future productivity. It had been no surprise when Israel had further expanded her territorial demands to cover the major part of the Egyptian Sinai, ensuring that the part to be annexed included the oilfields of the peninsula. The looting of the resources of the occupied territories was in direct contravention of General Assembly resolution 3005 (XXVII), which had warned against such exploitation.

35. The unlawful Israeli occupation had also had serious repercussions on the development of most other countries. According to a study prepared by UNC-TAD, the closure of the Suez Canal had resulted in annual increased shipping costs and trade losses estimated at \$1,700 million. Most severely affected were the developing countries of East Africa and South-East Asia, which continued to sustain an annual loss of approximately \$560 million. Egypt's loss was greater because, had the Canal remained open, revenue would have risen annually above the \$250 million reached in 1966. Until June 1967 the Egyptian Suez Canal Authority had been active in carrying out improvement projects. In 1966, a major undertaking, originally scheduled for completion in 1975, had been launched to deepen the channels of the canal to accommodate supertankers.

36. That the restoration of the occupied territories was a prerequisite for the safety of navigation in the Suez Canal had been stressed at a number of important international meetings, including the recent Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned

⁴ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.D.4), annex I.A.

⁵ *Multinational Corporations in World Development* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.11).

Countries; Israel's response had been to begin preparations for another sequence of acts of aggression extending beyond the occupied territories. The attacks on El Zaafarana and El Sukhna on 6 October were related to Israel's policy of crippling the development of the Arab countries, and in particular Egypt, in that the planned new oil pipeline was to begin at El Sukhna.

37. Against that background, his delegation requested the Committee, in the light of paragraph 5 of the International Development Strategy, to appraise the adverse consequences of the occupation of Arab territories on the development efforts of the countries concerned, and to initiate appropriate recommendations. Despite the economic effects of Israel's aggression, Egypt was determined to improve the living standards of its people. Its 10-year development plan for 1973-1982 aimed at doubling national income, with an annual average growth rate of 7.2 per cent. Industrial output was to increase by 120 per cent, and agricultural production by 50 per cent; social services would be expanded and improved, and new employment would be created. During the plan period domestic saving was expected to rise almost fourfold. The total investment of 7,500 million Egyptian pounds over the 10-year period was to be distributed among various sectors in a manner conducive to balanced growth.

38. However, recent Israeli aggression had convinced the world that Israel had no intention of abiding by the Charter or the resolutions of the United Nations. Contrary to the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2949 (XXVII) and 3005 (XXVII), Israel was declaring at the highest governmental levels that it intended to annex part of the occupied territories, and it was in fact implementing a programme which envisaged *de facto* annexation and economic integration of those territories. For those reasons, Egypt had had to revise its investment and current expenditure plans in order to release additional resources for defence. Apart from more stringent budgeting of current expenditure, investment priorities had been readjusted with a view to sustaining the efficiency of existing productive capacity, completing ongoing projects and implementing new projects designed to improve the structure of production. Among the investment priorities which remained intact were projects relating to irrigation, water purification, human settlements, hospitals and schools. Egypt, an African country, had been forced into a war of liberation. Once it was finally liberated, other oppressed parts of the continent would soon be free from oppression, *apartheid*, racism and economic exploitation.

39. Mr. MÜEZZINOĞLU (Turkey) said that many earlier speakers had noted the positive effects of political *détente*. However, the recent unfortunate developments in the Middle East, in which Turkey as a neighbouring country had a particular interest, had somewhat overshadowed the promising atmosphere. His delegation hoped that the present conflict would not last long, and would lead to a peaceful, just and honourable solution.

40. Political *détente* had been paralleled by favourable developments in international economic relations over the past year, including the expansion of world trade, progress towards starting the multilateral trade negotiations, and work on monetary reform and environmental questions. However, crucial problems had

also arisen in the same period, including world-wide inflation, the impending energy crisis and the alarming world food situation.

41. The Committee's main concern, however, was to evaluate the implementation of the International Development Strategy. The results achieved so far were somewhat discouraging, and there were serious shortcomings in the performance of both developed and developing countries. The latter had found it difficult to increase their internal financial resources, and had not carried out the reforms necessary for rapid development, while the flow of capital from the former had lagged far behind the target, particularly in terms of official development assistance. In addition, the indebtedness of the developing countries had been aggravated. On the positive side, some developed countries had expressed their willingness to achieve the targets envisaged in the Strategy, while the operations of the World Bank had doubled during the current five-year fiscal period, and funds lent to the least developed among the developing countries had trebled. In that context, the expansion of foreign trade deserved particular attention. Special measures must be taken to help the developing countries to increase their export earnings and to promote their economic development. The coming multilateral trade negotiations would be a step towards that goal, and should not only result in the expansion of international trade, but also create a new spirit of economic co-operation between developed and developing countries.

42. It was unfortunate that the implementation of the Strategy had begun at a time when the monetary system established by the Bretton Woods Agreement was in disarray. Turkey had welcomed the establishment of the IMF Committee of 20, and believed it essential that the proposed reform of the monetary system should take into account the particular situation of the developing countries. It was disappointing that the only result of the joint annual meeting of IBRD and IMF at Nairobi had been the establishment of a deadline: the delay in establishing a new system adversely affected the development of world trade, and in particular the foreign trade of the developing countries.

43. The uncertainties of the monetary system aggravated inflation, from which the developing countries suffered most because of the weakness of their economies. Inflation imported from the industrialized countries complicated the problem even further. The current commodity price boom was temporary, and the benefits the developing countries derived from it did not compensate for their economic and social losses. Unless inflation was curbed, there would be no solid basis for development.

44. The world food situation was a problem of the utmost urgency. His delegation therefore welcomed the reaction of the international community and the United Nations to the recent drought in the Sudano-Sahelian region and to the floods in Pakistan. It also supported the proposal that a world food conference should be convened; such a conference could achieve significant results if it approached the problems in the over-all context of international development, rather than as sectoral issues.

45. Over the past decade, the international community had become better equipped to find solutions to development problems, and yet targets had not been

achieved, and the gap between developed and developing was widening. To remedy the situation, developing countries should concentrate on key development issues, which should receive the support of the international community. The necessary transformation of the International Development Strategy from a wish into an operational policy would require greater mutual understanding among countries. The time had come not only to ease political tensions, but to create a better world economic order and to open new horizons for future developments. His delegation therefore welcomed the call by the recent Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries in its action programme for economic co-operation for a special session of the General Assembly devoted to economic issues. The evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy must also be improved, and the United Nations was well equipped to undertake that task. His delegation agreed with the view expressed in the introduction to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization that the United Nations "would be a more effective Organization if Member States were always prepared to put their influence behind the implementation of the decisions of its organs".⁶ In that context, he welcomed the enlargement of the Economic and Social Council, which would make it more representative of different regions, economic and social systems, and development levels. The Council should make use of the opportunity given to it by the review and appraisal exercise to exert a unifying and co-ordinating role within the United Nations system.

46. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said it was regrettable that the representative of Egypt and a number of other representatives had been unable to resist the temptation to make tendentious allegations against Israel in a Committee which was not conducting a debate on the Middle East. His delegation had repeatedly refuted those charges, and they were being dealt with in other bodies. Clearly, the economic difficulties of the Arab countries were a result of the aggressive attitude they had adopted towards Israel since 1948, and they could not avoid their own responsibility in that respect. For the truth in relation to the allegations made by the representative of Egypt, delegations should consult the letter dated 7 October 1973 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel to the Secretary-General,⁷ which made it clear that United Nations military observers could confirm that the current hostilities had in fact been initiated by Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic. It was clearly inconceivable that Israel should have begun the fighting on the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, the Day of Atonement. Nothing more need be said, as the facts given in the letter spoke for themselves.

47. Mr. HOSNY (Egypt) said that, on the question of whether or not the Committee was competent to discuss the occupation of territories, he would refer the representative of Israel to paragraph (5) of the International Development Strategy, which indicated that, along with colonialism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, such occupation should be eliminated. Egypt was used to Israel's distortions of fact. The Arab States had

not been the aggressors when, in 1956, Israel had collaborated with two great Powers to invade the Suez Canal area. In relation to the war of June 1967, it was only when the Israeli militarists had written their memoirs that they had told the truth about who had initiated the aggression. Delegations should read the letter dated 6 October 1973 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt to the President of the General Assembly,⁸ which stated that Egypt had been attacked on that date by Israeli air and naval forces.

48. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that his delegation was one of those referred to in the unconvincing statement by the representative of the so-called State of Israel. His delegation had not been yielding to temptation, but discharging its duty of revealing Israel's aggression and its ulterior motives of expansion and annexation by force of the territory of other States. Israel's violations of the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, and its admission at the highest governmental level of its intent to disregard General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, constituted ample grounds for its expulsion from the United Nations.

49. In the light of the generally acknowledged relationship between economic and political questions, the Committee was certainly entitled to discuss the situation in the Middle East, and in particular the effect on the Arab countries' development of Israel's annexation of their territory. If the representative of Israel did not wish to hear discussion on those lines, he was free to withdraw.

50. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that the statements of the representatives of Egypt and Sudan had done nothing to change the fact that everything they had said was part of a continuing propaganda campaign conducted against Israel in all United Nations bodies and elsewhere, to the detriment of rational discussion. He rejected all their allegations.

51. Mr. QUARTIN SANTOS (Portugal), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, recalled that during the general debate the representative of Zambia had referred to Zambia's economic difficulties, and had attributed part of the responsibility for them to Portugal. His delegation felt that, had the representative of Zambia requested detailed instructions from his Government, the accusations he had made would not have been confirmed.

52. Mr. CHILUBA (Zambia) said he was sure that the rest of the world was not as blind as some delegations in the Committee appeared to be, and could see the difficult position in which Zambia had been placed by the abominable, unchristian and uncivilized practices of the unholy trio of Portugal and its allies. His delegation saw no need to reply to the spokesman for such a régime.

53. Mr. QUARTIN SANTOS (Portugal) drew the attention of the representative of Zambia to an article in the issue of *Time* magazine for 8 October 1973, which, although extremely suspect and heavily biased in favour of Zambia, had nevertheless mentioned Portuguese help to Zambia at a time when it was experiencing economic difficulties.

54. Mr. CHILUBA (Zambia) said that Zambia's principles were civilized and acceptable by all standards. It

⁶ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 1A, sect. VII.

⁷ Document A/9204-S/11011.

⁸ Document A/9190.

upheld the principle of non-interference, and accordingly its efforts to safeguard its independence were not directed against any one particular State. The latest remarks by the representative of Portugal did not merit

the Committee's attention, since the world knew the truth.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

1530th meeting

Wednesday, 10 October 1973, at 10.55 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Zewde GABRE-SELLASSIE (Ethiopia).

A/C.2/SR.1530

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Wilfred C. Jenks, Director-General of the International Labour Office

1. The CHAIRMAN paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Wilfred C. Jenks, Director-General of the International Labour Office, the news of whose death had been received with great sadness. Mr. Jenks had contributed much, particularly to the establishment of harmonious working relations among the organizations of the United Nations system, and his passing was a great loss to the entire international civil service.

AGENDA ITEM 101

Consideration of the economic and social situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region stricken by drought and measures to be taken for the benefit of that region (A/9178, A/C.2/L.1290 and Corr.1)

2. Mr. MORSE (Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs) said that the situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region presented to the entire international community, and to the United Nations and the General Assembly in particular, a challenging opportunity to take concerted action to meet one of the most serious tragedies of the present generation.

3. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1759 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Secretary-General had designated FAO to undertake responsibility for the emergency relief operation in the Sahelian countries. Long before that, FAO had been actively concerned with the drought-related problems of the region, and the Director-General of FAO had established a special Office for the Sahelian Relief Operation. He (Mr. Morse) had been designated by the Secretary-General to assume responsibility for medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation efforts.

4. Because of that division of responsibility, he requested that the officer-in-charge of the FAO relief operation, Mr. J. V. A. Nehemiah, Director of the Office of Inter-agency Affairs of FAO, should now be permitted to speak, after which he himself would have something further to say.

5. Mr. NEHEMIAH (Officer-in-Charge of the Sahelian Relief Operation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that he wished first to convey to the Committee the greetings of the Director-General of FAO, who had agreed to supervise the relief operations personally and to be responsible to the Secretary-General for their conduct within the United Nations system as a whole.

6. The special FAO Office for the Sahelian Relief Operation, which he headed, had become operational within days of the agreement between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO as a result of their meeting in Rome on 20 May 1973. From the outset, it had received and continued to receive the co-operation of the United Nations, all the organizations concerned, the UNDP resident representatives in the region and the principal donors who had very generously participated in the co-ordination effort.

7. The five major fields of activity of the Office were the following: monitoring of food shipments and co-ordination of rail and road movements and airlifts of food grains; provision of seed; supply of animal feed and vaccines; co-operation with other members of the United Nations system in non-agricultural fields such as health; and collection of information on the relief activities.

8. As a result of significant bilateral and multilateral aid, the remarkable efforts of the countries themselves, which in some cases had been the crucial factor in saving lives, and the assistance and co-ordination provided by the United Nations through FAO, starvation during the critical months before the harvest had been averted.

9. Outside food supplies continued to arrive in large quantities at the West African ports and would be adequate to meet basic needs before the harvest in late October and early November.

10. The rains had brought some relief to the people and animals alike, and crops and pastures were slowly recovering. The rather heavy rains in some areas in August gave grounds for cautious optimism. For instance, the water level of the rivers Senegal and Niger had risen, a start had been made on transporting food supplies by river, and the two rivers were reported to have flooded. Considering that in 1972 they had failed to flood for the first time in 60 years, those were encouraging signs. However, the September rains did not, unfortunately, seem to have been very steady. In the areas drained by the two rivers, the flooding was not as great as had been expected and the area under "flood-plain" crops had thus been reduced. The multi-donor mission sponsored by FAO was to assess the situation.

11. The absence of a coherent food shipment plan had resulted in significant quantities of the outside food commitments of 470,000 tons arriving at the ports simultaneously with the commencement of the heavy rains in July. The arrangements initiated by the Office had helped to mitigate the situation. Nevertheless, it