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Chairman: Mrs. Lina P. TSALDARIS (Greece).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (A/3848) (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mrs. DE ARENAS (Guatemala) expressed her country's great appreciation of the work of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). It was to be hoped that the Fund's current plans would be realized; any improvement in the lot of mothers and children in the beneficiary countries would help to strengthen the basis for peace and security throughout the world. Funds were urgently needed by UNICEF; it was for the more fortunate countries to help their less fortunate neighbours by matching the United States contribution of \$11 million.

2. She paid a tribute to the Government of Afghanistan for its courageous decision to ban the production of opium. Her delegation would support any proposal for extending technical assistance and financial aid to Afghanistan in order to enable it to overcome the economic difficulties that might result from that decision, which should lead to a notable reduction in the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs.

3. Turning to the question of the status of women, she said that in Guatemala women had acquired full political and social rights, and many women occupied important posts. However, many social evils affecting women still persisted. It was disgraceful that in the twentieth century so many children should still be born illegitimate, that prejudice should be rampant and that some occupations should still be closed to women with children. It was most important that social services and the UNICEF programmes should reach down to the village level, where problems were sometimes more acute than in large towns, with the result that women migrated to the towns, where their misery was often aggravated by ignorance, poverty and maladjustment.

4. Guatemala was making plans for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The anniversary would be observed as a day of prayer for peace and the triumph of justice. But while such occasions could give impetus to action in the field of human rights, it was only when more real progress had been achieved in solving the world's

social and economic problems that it would be possible to celebrate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with true rejoicing.

5. Mr. YEOH (Federation of Malaya) said that his delegation, representing as it did a newly independent State, attached great importance to social questions, and had been impressed with the Economic and Social Council's report (A/3848) on the achievements of the year under review. That applied particularly to the work of UNICEF, which perhaps represented the most humanitarian aspect of United Nations activities.

6. The Federation of Malaya had good reason to be grateful to UNICEF, which, in co-operation with the World Health Organization (WHO) had assisted its Government in many ways. Particularly effective aid had been received in connexion with yaws control, the BCG mass vaccination campaign and training for rural health work. Some 719,000 persons had been examined for yaws and 71,000 had received treatment; in the BCG campaign, 230,000 children had been tested and 126,000 vaccinated; and a training centre had been established for teams, each consisting of a health visitor, a midwife, a sanitary inspector and a dispenser, to be sent to visit rural communities.

7. His country was determined to accomplish economic and social progress commensurate with the political advancement it had achieved. The State education plan that had been carried out in the three years in which Malaya had had its independence had already led to a 50 per cent increase in school attendance and it was hoped that by 1962 every Malayan child between the ages of seven and twelve would be attending school.

8. With regard to chapter VII of the report (A/3848), concerning human rights, he observed that the Malayan Constitution provided safeguards for the exercise of rights on equal terms by all citizens, without discrimination as to race or religion. Malayan women had for some time been showing an increasing awareness of their rights and responsibilities in public, civic and political life, and had played an important part in the independence movement. They now had equal rights with men under the Constitution, and could elect and be elected to federal, state and municipal bodies.

9. Turning to the section of the report on international control of narcotics, he expressed satisfaction at the completion of the draft single convention, which his Government would consider carefully; on attaining its independence, the Federation of Malaya had assumed the rights and obligations previously exercised on its behalf by the United Kingdom under the 1925 and 1931 Conventions as amended by the 1946 Protocol. His delegation also congratulated the Government of Afghanistan on its decision to prohibit the production of opium, and hoped that that sacrifice for the benefit of the international community would receive practical recognition.

10. The Malayan delegation welcomed the proposals for the observance of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

11. Mr. AVRAMOV (Bulgaria) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the work of UNICEF. However, as the Chairman of the Executive Board had said, much remained to be done. His country's experience had shown it that the improvement of the well-being of children depended upon the improvement of the social conditions in which they were brought up. In Bulgaria, child care began before birth; comprehensive care for pregnant women, especially working women, was guaranteed by the Constitution and was provided by a wide network of maternal and child welfare centres and maternity homes. Working mothers were accorded extensive facilities for the care of their children under the most favourable conditions. Provision was also made for the health and welfare of children of school age. In view of the success Bulgaria had achieved in improving child welfare, in line with the general rise in Bulgarian standards of living, his Government had decided to resume its modest contribution to the Fund. It shared the views of those delegations which had stressed the need to develop new UNICEF activities and to allocate funds more equitably for that purpose.

12. Turning to the section of the Council's report (A/3848) on the status of women, he noted with satisfaction that women in seventy States Members of the United Nations had been granted political rights; but as was made clear in the report, legislative recognition of those rights was but the first step towards their practical exercise. In Bulgaria, women had been granted absolutely equal rights with men in 1944, and they were now taking an active part in all branches of national life. Working women enjoyed special privileges, and their pensionable age was at least five years lower than that provided for men. Accordingly, his delegation was surprised that the Economic and Social Council had not felt able to adopt even a resolution recommending an equal pensionable age for men and women. Lastly, he fully supported the position taken by the Commission on the Status of Women with regard to the unsatisfactory article on equal pay for equal work proposed in the draft Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation prepared by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

13. The Bulgarian delegation had been surprised at the unwillingness of the Commission on Human Rights to consider an international instrument for the prevention of discrimination in education. In the scholastic year 1957-1958, 48,000 teachers had been employed in Bulgaria and approximately 110,000 children of non-Bulgarian origin had been given instruction in their own language; nearly 100 per cent of all children of school age, irrespective of origin or language, had received education. It was to be hoped that the Commission would give more attention to that matter in the future and that the UNESCO conference on the subject would be successful.

14. Despite the General Assembly's resolution 1164 (XII), under which the Council was requested to include in its report a section on international co-operation in the fields of science, culture and education for consideration by the General Assembly, that subject had been dealt with in chapter VIII of the

report, which was usually not considered by any Assembly Committee. Moreover, the Council had rejected the proposal of several delegations that UNESCO should be requested to prepare recommendations on the subject, and had asked UNESCO only to prepare a survey on relations and exchanges in the fields in question. That merely repeated the Assembly's own request to UNESCO and the other specialized agencies in operative paragraph 3 of its resolution 1164 (XII); and the Council had thus failed to fulfil the request in operative paragraph 4 of the resolution that it should "give special attention" to the matter at its twenty-sixth session. Bulgaria was making great efforts to expand its cultural ties with other countries; over 670 students from twenty-eight countries were studying in Bulgarian educational establishments, and thousands of Bulgarian students were studying abroad. The Bulgarian delegation considered that the Economic and Social Council should be urged to act in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1164 (XII).

15. Miss MAÑAS (Cuba) paid a warm tribute to the work done by UNICEF during the past year, particularly in the fields of mother and child welfare, disease control, and nutrition. She welcomed the effective measures which had been taken to ensure co-operation with WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. The proposal that UNICEF should provide more direct assistance for children's social services, which had been considered at the last session of the Executive Board, was highly important. In Cuba, two national organizations were responsible for child health and the provision of meals for school children and low-income groups. The Government was devoting considerable funds to those organizations, with the result that Cuba was at present unfortunately unable to contribute to UNICEF.

16. Afghanistan was to be congratulated on its decision to ban the cultivation of the opium poppy. That decision would inevitably have an enormous influence on the Afghan economy, and her delegation agreed that all possible technical assistance must be extended to Afghanistan. She drew attention in that connexion to Council resolution 689 H (XXVI).

17. She welcomed Council resolution 683 F (XXVI), recommending that the General Assembly should devote a special meeting to the observance of the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, she felt that the best way of celebrating that anniversary would be to complete the work on the draft International Covenant on Human Rights.

18. At its tenth session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had considered several reports on discrimination in different fields. One of the most important had been the ILO report on discrimination in the field of employment and occupation. The principle of the complete equality of men and women was enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and must form the basis of all agreements in that field. The Sub-Commission had shown concern at article 6 of the ILO draft Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, which excluded equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value from the scope of application of the Convention. The Commission on the Status of Women, in considering

the draft Convention at its twelfth session, had felt very strongly on the matter, and had recommended to the Council that the Secretary-General should be requested to appoint a representative to the forty-second session of the International Labour Conference, at which the draft Convention was to be discussed.^{1/} The Council had approved that request, and the offending article had been deleted.

19. Cuba welcomed the Council's decision, in its resolution 683 E (XXVI), to authorize the Secretary-General to convene a second conference of non-governmental organizations interested in the eradication of prejudice and discrimination. The work of that conference would be of the greatest importance.

20. Turning to chapter VII, section IX, of the report (A/3848), she said that in Cuba, women enjoyed equal social and political rights with men. The Commission on the Status of Women had done excellent work in the field of women's rights, as was evidenced by the Convention on the Political Rights of Women and the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women. The Commission had striven to improve the position of women in private law, but much still remained to be done, particularly in connexion with the minimum age of marriage and the principle that the consent of both parties should be required. As an increasing number of women were participating in economic life, the Commission on the Status of Women had been obliged to take up questions affecting working women. The Commission had made valiant efforts to combat discrimination against women in employment, and had made some progress, for example by securing the deletion of the article she had already referred to from the ILO draft Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation. She was confident that the Commission would succeed in time; but in view of the many problems to be dealt with, she welcomed Council resolution 693 B (XXVI), authorizing the Commission on the Status of Women to hold annual meetings for the time being. Annual sessions were essential to effective work, for success could be achieved only through sustained and patient effort.

21. Mrs. MURAVYEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that although the report of the Council (A/3848) showed that progress had been made during the past year, it was obvious that much remained to be done in the social field. Many extremely important social problems still remained outside the range of vision of the Council and its organs.

22. The Council itself had recognized that considerably less attention had been paid to social problems than to economic problems, and had sought to justify that state of affairs on two grounds: the fact that some social questions were considered only every two years, and the deterioration of the economic situation throughout the world. The USSR delegation could not agree with the Council's reasoning. In the first place, the social questions which were included in the Council's report only every two years were usually discussed in the general debate on social matters. It was regrettable that the Council had not given separate consideration to such important matters as access to pub-

lic health services and education, and the extension of social security and insurance. Those questions should not be delegated entirely to the specialized agencies, which were often concerned only with specific aspects of the problems. As to the critical situation of the economies of certain capitalist countries, that could not be accepted as a pretext for setting aside the examination of social questions, so that the two aspects could not possibly be isolated from each other. It was particularly at such critical times that the social needs of the peoples of the countries concerned needed to be considered. The Council should therefore examine the most important social problems systematically, and submit appropriate recommendations on them to the General Assembly.

23. She drew attention to the urgency of developing cultural, scientific, artistic, educational and other contacts among nations; such contacts would promote the rapid progress of mankind in all spheres, and help to strengthen understanding, confidence and peace among nations. It was noteworthy that the discussion on that subject in the United Nations had been initiated not in the Economic and Social Council, but in the General Assembly itself, at the request of the Czechoslovak delegation. The Council's response to the Assembly's request could only be described as lukewarm. It was surprising to see that although a resolution on the subject (695 (XXVI)) had been adopted unanimously in the Council, only half a page had been devoted to it in the report, in a chapter which was usually not assigned to any Assembly Committee. It was to be hoped that the survey prepared by UNESCO in pursuance of the Council resolution would serve as a sound basis for further action. The USSR delegation would welcome information from the UNESCO representative at the current session on what had so far been done to implement the Council resolution.

24. The Soviet Government attached great importance to the strengthening of international ties, especially in the cultural field, and was itself taking an active part in international measures to achieve that end. In 1958 alone, an international congress of architects, a conference of specialists in the language and literature of the Slav nations and an international astronomical congress had already been held in the Soviet Union, and a congress of Asian and African writers and an assembly on the findings of the International Geophysical Year were still to be held. The Soviet Union had also taken an active part in various international undertakings, such as the International Exhibition at Brussels. The Soviet Union's bonds of brotherly friendship with the socialist countries were being strengthened from year to year, and its cultural ties with Asian and African countries endowed with extremely rich and ancient cultures were also developing. The basic principles of those ties were respect for national sovereignty, non-interference in the domestic affairs of States and equality of rights, irrespective of the past histories, present political systems or levels of economy and culture of the countries concerned. Accordingly, the Soviet Union had concluded a number of cultural agreements with other countries. A good practical step towards the broadening of contacts was the recent conclusion of a cultural, technical and educational agreement between the USSR and the United States, a step which would undoubtedly serve to increase mutual understanding among nations. Much interest had recently been shown by various

^{1/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7, para. 126, resolution 6 (XII).

visiting delegations in the policies and methods which the Soviet Union had applied to deal with its social problems. A large number of delegations from overseas had been welcomed in the USSR. The development of Soviet contacts with other countries might be seen from the fact that in 1957 alone approximately 550,000 foreigners had visited the Soviet Union and approximately 700,000 Soviet citizens had visited foreign countries; those figures were expected to be exceeded considerably in 1958. It was satisfactory to note that in 1958 the first group of Soviet tourists had been able to visit the United States in response to the visits of United States tourists, who had long been travelling to the Soviet Union in large numbers. Many more facts could be cited to attest the constantly renewed efforts of the Soviet Government and of public organization in the USSR towards the further development of international cultural co-operation. It was distressing to relate however, that the Governments of some countries, in defiance of the wishes of their peoples, created obstacles to that noble work. It was obvious that the cause of international understanding could only be furthered by efforts to promote contacts among the peoples, and the United Nations, through the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies, should give due attention to the matter.

25. The Soviet delegation endorsed the appreciation expressed by previous speakers of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, but wished to stress the need for legislation according women equal rights with men in political life, without any discrimination whatsoever. It was disquieting that the Convention on the Political Rights of Women had as yet been ratified by only twenty-nine countries. Moreover, as the Commission on the Status of Women had rightly stated, the adoption of legislative measures was only a first step towards the actual exercise of the rights in question. In the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, the participation of women in all spheres of public life had become the general rule, and satisfactory progress in that respect was being made in many of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. In many of the economically advanced countries, however, the full participation of women was prevented in various ways, and the Commission on the Status of Women had not yet exhausted all the possibilities at its disposal for taking further action in that field. The economic rights of women deserved particular attention. Women were the chief victims of the increased unemployment which was being experienced in many capitalist countries, and the principle of equal pay for equal work was by no means universally observed. It was to be hoped that the Commission on the Status of Women and the ILO would intensify their efforts to remedy that state of affairs, which was a flagrant injustice incompatible with the United Nations Charter. The experience of countries, such as her own, where equal pay for equal work was not only guaranteed by law but put into practice deserved attention in that connexion.

26. The USSR had participated actively in the work of the UNICEF Executive Board and had contributed to the Fund. While it greatly appreciated the work of UNICEF, the USSR delegation did not think that it should be regarded as anything but a supplement to government action for the improvement of maternal and child welfare; the Soviet Union's experience had shown it the great importance of care for the welfare

of the rising generation, and its Government had spared no sacrifice to create favourable conditions for the healthy growth of its children. Her delegation considered that the correct allocation of the modest resources of UNICEF was most important, and it regretted that the members of the Third Committee who were not members of the UNICEF Executive Board had not been given detailed information on that subject and were thus not in a position to comment on specific problems. It was to be hoped that such detailed data would be provided at future sessions of the Assembly.

27. One of the Economic and Social Council's most important tasks was that of assisting under-developed countries in raising their living standards. In that connexion the Soviet delegation wished to lay particular emphasis on the fact that a serious contribution could be made towards improved co-operation among nations by a decision on an item which had been placed on the General Assembly's agenda for the current session (item 72) on the initiative of the USSR—the reduction of the military budgets of the Great Powers with a view to using part of the savings so effected to assist the economic and social development of the under-developed countries. There was no doubt that that could prove of genuine assistance in solving the pressing problems of raising the level of living and the cultural level of the peoples of those countries, and her delegation accordingly hoped that such a humane idea would win the support and approval of the representatives of other countries.

28. In conclusion, she observed, with reference to paragraphs 454 and 455 of the Council's report (A/3848), that the Soviet Union had previously defended the right of Afghanistan to be an opium-producing country. The position in that regard had not changed. Now that the Afghan Government had decided to prohibit opium production, the USSR could not remain indifferent to the serious economic problems with which Afghanistan would be faced, and it strongly supported that country's appeal for technical and other assistance to mitigate the effects of its decision. It hoped that practical measures to that end would be described in the Council's next report to the Assembly.

29. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Argentina) said he was happy to note from the Council's report (A/3848) that during the year under review considerable social progress had been made. Although Argentina was no longer a member of the Council, it continued to give its active support to all international action which promoted the peaceful growth of the international community and the development of common ideals of justice and co-operation. In that connexion, UNICEF was particularly to be congratulated. Although Argentina was not a beneficiary of any UNICEF programme, it had been a regular contributor to the Fund for several years, despite the difficulties it was experiencing with its economic development. It intended to maintain its contribution at the current level and hoped that countries which were in a position to do so would increase their own contributions. He paid a tribute to those which had already done so.

30. Argentina intended to respect its obligations under the different international narcotics treaties. His delegation welcomed the Council's decision (resolution 689 J (XXVI)) to convene a plenipotentiary conference for the adoption of a single convention on narcotic drugs,

and hoped that the difficulties which had arisen during the preparatory stages of that work would not reappear.

31. Any Government which decided to prohibit the production of opium in its territory was to be most highly commended. Special consideration must be given to such a Government if it found itself in economic difficulties as a result of that decision. It was to be hoped therefore that the plea of Afghanistan for technical assistance would not go unheeded.

32. Several speakers had expressed the view that the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be celebrated by the completion of the draft International Covenants on Human Rights. It was not necessary to go so far; the Committee would be doing well enough if it used the time at its disposal for the consideration of the draft Covenants on constructive discussion, instead of wasting time on sterile argument.

33. His delegation would support any draft resolutions embodying the views he had put forward.

34. Miss HORNSBY-SMITH (United Kingdom) said that as the Social Commission and the Population Commission had not met during the current year, the Economic and Social Council's activities in the social field had been relatively slight. However, that did not imply that the United Nations had been idle. Indeed, the biennial system of Commission meetings had positive advantages for the Bureau of Social Affairs, as it was thus enabled to carry on its work uninterrupted over a longer period.

35. The United Nations Children's Fund had continued to make excellent progress, for which its staff and the Executive Board were to be commended. The continuing efforts to co-ordinate the activities of the Fund more closely with those of the Bureau of Social Affairs, WHO and FAO were to be welcomed. It was important that UNICEF, which was primarily a supply organization, should rely for technical advice on such specialized bodies.

36. The Government of Afghanistan was to be congratulated on its disinterested decision to prohibit the production of and trade in opium. The United Kingdom understood what repercussions such a decision would have on the economy of Afghanistan, and hoped that the technical assistance authorities would be able to provide any special assistance the country might need. Not only the United Nations, but WHO and FAO might be able to give technical advice on special problems arising from decisions of that kind. The evils of drug addiction and the illicit traffic were too obvious to need comment. She hoped that countries which had not yet responded to the appeal of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs would co-operate fully in submitting information on the illicit traffic, as an essential contribution to effective control.

37. She could not accept the view of the representative of Bulgaria that the Council had failed to consider or implement Assembly resolution 1164 (XII); in adopting resolution 695 (XXVI), in the course of which it had given the subject of international cultural and scientific co-operation full attention, it had in fact gone further than the Assembly, since it had asked UNESCO to prepare a concerted survey of activities in that field and to put forward recommendations

for developing them. She felt confident that the representative of UNESCO would be prepared to tell the Committee what his organization was doing to implement the Council's resolution.

38. Her delegation welcomed the Council's recommendation regarding the observance of the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Although much remained to be done, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women, particularly the latter, were to be congratulated on their work during the past year.

39. The advisory services in the field of human rights, and in particular the regional seminars organized under that programme, had been among the most successful and dynamic of United Nations activities. The seminars had been on a small scale but had been none the less fruitful for that; progress in a small group was often speedier than in a large one. Such seminars provided a practical and direct approach to the problems which the United Nations was attempting to solve.

40. Mr. MAKIEDO (Yugoslavia) said that although during the year under review the Council had been mainly concerned with economic problems, considerable progress had been made in the social field also. Furthermore, the results of some of the Council's decisions in economic questions, such as the establishment of the Special Fund, the expansion of the technical assistance programme and the reconstitution of the Commission on International Commodity Trade, would help to solve many social problems. At all events, it was now generally admitted that social problems could not be divorced from economic problems and that further progress in the social field was to a large extent dependent on economic development. Conversely, economic development could not achieve its full purpose if it did not go hand in hand with progress in social matters.

41. He associated himself with the commendation of UNICEF expressed by previous speakers. However, the world situation was such that UNICEF programmes, particularly mother and child welfare programmes, would be required for a long time to come. The resources of UNICEF were obviously inadequate to meet all the requests for help. He expressed the hope that all countries would do their utmost to comply with Council resolution 670 (XXV), and consider ways and means of increasing their support for UNICEF.

42. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had a number of achievements to its credit, not the least of which was the drafting of the single convention on narcotic drugs. The draft single convention codified the existing treaties and simplified the international control machinery and made it more flexible. Considerable effort would be needed before the single convention became an effective international instrument, but the adoption of the draft convention by the Commission was in itself an important step in the right direction. In connexion with the control of narcotic drugs, he congratulated the Government of Afghanistan on its decision to prohibit the cultivation of the opium poppy. The United Nations could not but respond to its request for help in solving the economic difficulties consequent upon that decision.

43. The Commission on the Status of Women was also to be congratulated on the results it had achieved.

It had contributed very largely to the recognition of the political rights of women in many countries, and had made it possible for women to participate increasingly in public life. However, the mere recognition of equal rights for men and women was not enough; economic independence was a prerequisite of the emancipation of women. Council resolution 680 C (XXVI), concerning economic opportunities for women, was an important step in that direction. Turning to the question of the retirement age for women, he said that the age fixed should be lower for women than for men. To insist on the same retirement age for women as for men would place women, in view of their special situation, in a position of inequality. In Yugoslavia, the retirement age for women had been fixed by law and was lower than that for men.

44. Yugoslavia welcomed the decision to observe the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and was planning a suitable programme of activities for that day.

45. Finally, he felt that the Council's resolution 694 D (XXVI), concerning programme appraisals for the period 1959 to 1964, would mark an important advance towards the successful solution of many social questions. The principles laid down for the preparation of the appraisals were sound, and the evaluation of programmes every five years would help to ensure closer co-ordination between the various agencies in the execution of their tasks and indicate possible fields for concerted action. Furthermore, it would give Governments and the public a clear idea of what was being achieved and attempted through international action.

46. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the time limit for the submission of draft resolutions in connexion with item 12 should be noon on Monday, 6 October.

It was so decided.

Organization of work (A/C.3/L.665) (continued)

47. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, as requested by the Ukrainian delegation which had proposed it, item 71 (The organization of an international public health and medical research year) should be considered immediately after item 31 (Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees).

It was so decided.

48. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Committee wished, as proposed by the Canadian delegation (836th meeting), to devote one-half of its meetings to the consideration of item 32 (Draft International Covenants on Human Rights).

49. Mr. THIERRY (France) felt strongly that not less than that number—thirty-five meetings—should be allocated to the draft Covenants, and that the Committee should make every effort to achieve better progress on the draft Covenants than in the past. He suggested that the Committee should approve the allocations of meetings to each item, and the order of items, set forth in the Chairman's note (A/C.3/L.665), except for the change just decided on with reference to item 71.

50. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) remarked that in any event the Committee could not hope to complete the draft Covenants at the current session. Whether it allotted thirty-five or thirty meetings to them was therefore immaterial. He proposed that the latter

figure should be approved and that the five meetings saved should be added to the fifteen at present allocated to items 33 (Recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination) and 35 (Freedom of information: report of the Secretary-General on consultations concerning the draft Convention on Freedom of Information); ten meetings could then be devoted to each of those items. Both were of great importance, and constructive work of immediate usefulness could be done on them at the current session.

51. Mr. ELMANDJRA (Morocco) supported that proposal, and moved that the two items in question should be taken up immediately upon the completion of the debate on item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council).

52. Mrs. KHADDURI (Iraq) also supported the Saudi Arabian representative's proposal.

53. Mr. BONDEVIK (Norway), Mr. ALDUNATE (Chile) and Miss HORNSBY-SMITH (United Kingdom) supported the Canadian proposal that thirty-five meetings should be devoted to the draft Covenants.

54. Mr. ROSSIDES (Greece) felt that it was essential to devote a sufficient number of meetings to the vital subject of self-determination. Whether a few more or a few less meetings fell to the share of the draft Covenants was of little importance, since they could not possibly be completed during the current session. He hoped that some of the delegations which were now so impressed with the urgent need for the draft Covenants would show the same sense of urgency if proposals should be introduced to expedite the adoption of measures for the implementation of human rights.

55. Mr. LOPEZ (Philippines) proposed, as a compromise, that the Committee should hold seventy-five instead of seventy meetings, the extra five to be devoted to items 33 and 35.

56. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should ask the Secretary to arrange, if possible, for five additional meetings to be allocated to those two items.

It was so decided.

57. Mr. ARNOULD (Canada) observed that the original Canadian proposal had been that one-half of that Committee's total number of meetings, not specifically thirty-five meetings, should be devoted to the draft Covenants. However, as he did not wish to upset the compromise arrived at by the Committee, he withdrew the proposal.

58. The CHAIRMAN said that item 34 (Advisory services in the field of human rights: report of the Economic and Social Council) had financial implications and would have to be referred to the Fifth Committee, which would need some time to consider it. She therefore suggested that the Third Committee should take up the item as soon as it had completed its discussion on the report of the Economic and Social Council.

It was so decided.

59. The CHAIRMAN said that the order of the remaining items would be discussed at the following meeting.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.