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Chairman: Mr. Moraiwid M. TELL (Jordan).

AGENDA ITEM 53

International Tourist Year (continued) (A/6303, chap. XIII, sect. V; A/6427, E/4218 and Corr.1, A/C.2/L.867 and Add.1)

1. Mr. FRANCO (Colombia) said that in 1965 the number of tourists throughout the world had exceeded 75 million and their expenditure had amounted to \$53,000 million, of which international tourism accounted for some \$13,000 million. Those figures showed that tourism was undoubtedly the most important socio-economic phenomenon of the twentieth century. The Economic and Social Council had therefore been right to proclaim 1967 as International Tourist Year.

2. In spite of its geographical position and other attractions, Colombia had not taken full advantage of its tourist potential and its income under that head barely reached \$27 million per year. With a determined policy aimed at promoting tourism, Colombia could multiply that income within a few years and was preparing a bill designed to increase state investment in the tourist infra-structure, to grant financial incentives to tourist establishments, and to reorganize the present Colombian Tourist Office. In addition, the Colombian authorities were hoping to launch an intensive campaign to make all Colombians aware of the benefits of tourism.

3. His delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.867 and Add.1 but agreed with the representative of Italy that the title might be more accurately rendered in French—and, he would add, in Spanish. Colombia considered tourism an important factor in the development of the developing countries and hoped that the members of the United Nations family would give the Secretary-General every assistance in carrying out the requests addressed to him in operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of the draft. He appealed to all countries to stimulate the flow of tourists to the developing countries as a means of promoting progress in those countries and world peace.

4. Mrs. KODIKARA (Philippines) supported the draft resolution and the amendment orally proposed at the previous meeting by the representative of Algeria. So far, the foreign exchange receipts which the developing countries had obtained from tourism

had been meagre and she hoped that, as a result of the encouragement given by the draft resolution, their share of international tourism would increase. She also welcomed the draft resolution as a means of promoting international understanding and of developing direct contacts between peoples. She hoped that International Tourist Year would be a success and would serve as the point of departure for further efforts in the years to come.

5. Her delegation was gratified at the studies of tourism that had been made, the seminars that had been held, the fellowships that had been offered by the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUTO) and the other measures outlined in the report of IUOTO (E/4218 and Corr.1).

6. The Philippines was anxious to build up its tourist infra-structure so as to facilitate traffic not only into and out of Manila but throughout its territory. It would co-operate whole-heartedly within the limits of its resources to the success of International Tourist Year.

7. Mr. AGIUS CESAREO (Malta) said his country was well aware of the contribution which tourism could make to understanding between peoples as well as to the alleviation of balance-of-payments difficulties in the developing countries. Malta was doing everything it could to encourage tourism and, while it agreed with the Secretary-General that the idea of designating years for specific purposes was likely to show diminishing returns, it supported the draft resolution.

8. He suggested that, as recreation was the primary aim of tourists, the word "recreational" should be inserted in the fifth preambular paragraph before the word "educational". Also, since International Tourist Year was more likely to increase the tourist receipts of the developed rather than the developing countries, his delegation felt that the words "will encourage" in the sixth preambular paragraph should be changed to the words "may encourage". He was glad to note that the study requested of the Secretary-General in operative paragraph 4 would be conducted within the limits of existing resources and hoped that the study outlined in operative paragraph 5 (a) would indicate the number of additional tourists attracted to the developing countries as a result of International Tourist Year.

9. Malta was prepared to vote for the draft resolution as it stood, while considering that the two changes it had suggested would definitely improve the text.

10. Mr. Mohamed AL-ATRASH (Syria) said that, besides its economic and financial benefits, tourism was of primary importance in enabling people to become better acquainted with one another. It was a

means of eliminating prejudice and hence of promoting peace, an idea that was embodied in the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

11. His delegation was glad to support the text but hoped that a suitable change could be made either in the preamble or in the operative part to take into account the principle of universality.

12. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon) said that tourism in Lebanon, while not playing such an important role as it did in Spain, for example, nevertheless represented 5 per cent of the national income. Lebanon considered tourism not only as a source of foreign exchange but as a means of enhancing international understanding. That point was brought out in the draft resolution of which Lebanon was a sponsor. At the moment, Lebanon was not engaging in any campaign for the encouragement of foreign tourists because it did not wish to have more visitors than it could properly accommodate. The developing countries were aware of the importance of tourism and would be able to attract more tourists once they had built up the necessary infra-structure. At the same time, it was important for all countries to simplify formalities.

13. His delegation agreed with the representative of Italy that the French title of the draft resolution should be clarified.

14. Mr. RYABONYENDE (Rwanda) said that, as a developing country, Rwanda recognized the importance of tourism as a means of improving its economic position and of contributing to international understanding. It appreciated the efforts that had been made to designate 1967 as International Tourist Year and warmly supported the draft resolution, together with the amendment proposed by the representative of Algeria at the last meeting. Rwanda had been termed the Switzerland of Africa and its attractions included lakes, mountains, parks and a wide variety of wild animals. Rwanda appreciated the assistance it had received in building up its tourist infra-structure.

15. Mr. CHADHA (India) said that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.867 and Add.1 were grateful for the widespread support it had received and for the many useful amendments that had been suggested.

16. The sponsors had made an effort to meet the objections expressed by the representatives of Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries to what they considered discriminatory and restrictive provisions of the draft resolution by adding, after the second preambular paragraph of the existing text, the following new preambular paragraph:

"Recalling further the resolution of the United Nations Conference on International Travel and Tourism entitled 'Importance of Tourism' which stated, inter alia, that tourism is a basic and most desirable human activity deserving the praise and encouragement of all peoples and all Governments."

17. The sponsors had decided that the best way of incorporating the very helpful suggestions made by the representative of Algeria would be to delete the third preambular paragraph and replace it by the following text:

"Recognizing the importance of international tourism and particularly of the designation of an

International Tourist Year in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere, in leading to a greater awareness of the rich heritage of various civilizations and in bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures, thereby contributing to the strengthening of peace in the world."

18. The sponsors had no objection to inserting the word "recreational" before the word "educational" in the fifth preambular paragraph, as the representative of Malta had suggested; they wished, however, to appeal to him not to insist on his proposed amendment to the sixth preambular paragraph.

19. The representative of Italy had made a suggestion concerning a change in the French title of the draft resolution. He had rightly pointed out that, in some parts of the preamble, reference was made to a year devoted to international tourism, while the French title spoke of an International Year of Tourism. However, the intention clearly was to devote an international year to tourism as was apparent in the IUOTO report. Although the basic emphasis would be on the promotion of international tourism, the activities during the International Tourist Year would also encourage tourism in general, which was to be desired. The sponsors, therefore, proposed to alter the opening of the sixth preambular paragraph to read as follows: "Considering that the designation of an International Tourist Year will encourage...". The sponsors would appeal to the representative of Italy not to press his amendment, particularly since all publicity material for the Year had already been prepared and issued with the wording used in the draft resolution and incorporated in the emblem prepared by IUOTO, and a change at such a late stage would cause great confusion.

20. Mr. NATORF (Poland), speaking on behalf of the ten socialist countries, thanked the sponsors of the draft resolution for having inserted a new paragraph in the preamble in order to establish the principle of universality. In a spirit of compromise, the socialist countries would now be able to vote for the draft resolution in its amended form but that did not mean that they approved of operative paragraph 2. The discriminatory phrase "States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency" should have been replaced by the phrase "all States".

21. Mr. SAMBIRA (Burundi) said that his delegation's views on tourism could be summarized in the slogan for International Tourist Year: "Tourism, Passport to Peace". The draft resolution was indeed a contribution to world peace and his delegation wished to be added to the list of sponsors.

22. Burundi's advantages as a tourist country were similar to those described earlier by the representative of its neighbour, Rwanda. It was doing its utmost to improve its tourist facilities and hoped, like other developing countries, that International Tourist Year would increase the number of visitors from the developed countries.

23. Mr. DELGADO (Senegal) asked that his delegation should be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

24. Mr. ELM (Iran) said that, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, he was prepared to accept all the amendments proposed; he had some doubt, however, about the appropriateness of the word "recreational" in the rather abstract context of the fifth preambular paragraph and suggested that it might be omitted or a more suitable word used.

25. Mr. AGIUS CESAREO (Malta) said that, in order to expedite the work of the Second Committee and meet the wishes of the sponsors, his delegation would withdraw both of its suggested amendments.

26. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) observed that he had raised the matter of the French title for the Year at meetings of the Economic and Social Council and IUOTO before referring to it again in the Committee. His views on the matter had been supported by the statements of the many speakers who had referred to the beneficial effects tourism—meaning international tourism—could have on a country's balance-of-payments position and by the repeated references in the draft resolution itself to international tourism. Moreover, a number of resolutions adopted by IUOTO at its nineteenth General Assembly had referred to "1967, Année du tourisme international". Nevertheless, if the members of the Committee were in favour of the existing title, he was prepared to accept their decision.

27. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out, in connexion with the International Tourist Year emblem, that the emblem shown in document E/4218 was to be replaced by another from

which the words "International Tourist Year" in all languages had been omitted. Agreement had been reached on that subject at the forty-first session of the Economic and Social Council,^{1/} as it was considered that it might be best if each country could add the words to its emblem in the languages it considered most useful for its purpose.

28. Mr. CHADHA (India) announced that the following countries should be included in the list of sponsors: Algeria, Burundi, Cyprus, Guinea, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda.

29. Mr. KITTANI (Secretary of the Committee) said that operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution would have no financial implications as it specifically stated that the Secretary-General should provide, within the limits of existing resources and available funds, necessary assistance for the successful organization of the International Tourist Year. With respect to operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would propose to request IUOTO to prepare a report on the International Tourist Year which he would submit to the Economic and Social Council in 1968, together with any comments that Member States might wish to make. If that procedure were followed, the paragraph in question would not involve any financial implications.

The draft resolution (A/C.2/L.867 and Add.1), as amended, was adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

^{1/} See document E/AC.6/SR.384. :

