

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



**SECOND COMMITTEE, 914th  
MEETING**

Tuesday, 5 November 1963,  
at 10.55 a.m.

**NEW YORK**

CONTENTS

Agenda item 35:

*United Nations training and research institute:  
report of the Secretary-General (continued)* 203

*Chairman:* Mr. Ismael THAJEB (Indonesia).

AGENDA ITEM 35

United Nations training and research institute: report  
of the Secretary-General (E/3780, A/5539, A/C.2/  
L.743 (continued))

1. Mr. ZELLEKE (Ethiopia) said that in order to maintain the high standards proposed for it by the Secretary-General in his note (E/3780), the proposed United Nations training and research institute should take into account the activities of private and national institutions as well as of the specialized agencies. The institute should adopt a co-ordinated approach to development problems and should serve as a training-ground which would provide the developing countries with the skilled personnel they urgently needed. For those reasons, Ethiopia had co-sponsored the twenty-one-Power amendments (A/C.2/L.743) to the draft resolution which the Economic and Social Council had recommended for adoption by the General Assembly, the text of which appeared in Council resolution 985 (XXXVI). His delegation hoped that those amendments would receive general support.

2. Mr. TETTAMANTI (Argentina) recalled that his delegation had supported General Assembly resolution 1827 (XVII) and Council resolution 985 (XXXVI). However, he had certain doubts concerning the co-ordination between the proposed institute and the work being done by the specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions, as well as in the field of technical assistance. For that reason, he suggested that, as was already the case in resolution 1827 (XVII), a specific reference should be inserted in the Mexican amendment (A/C.2/L.749) to the existence of other programmes and institutions.

3. Mr. RAMAHOLIMIHASO (Madagascar) said that the proposed institute should be a permanent centre specializing in international affairs. It should be attended by graduates from the developing countries who would be trained to serve in their own countries, in the United Nations and in the specialized agencies. The institute could also be used as a centre for the study and practice of foreign languages. In spite of difficulties of distance and climate, New York would be the best site for the institute. From there the students could return to their own countries well qualified to tackle both national and international problems.

4. As was made clear in the Secretary-General's note (E/3780), there was a real need for such an institute. Since finance might prove a major obstacle, the twenty-one-Power amendments requested the Secretary-General to continue to explore possible sources of funds, both governmental and non-governmental. The Secretary-General would report on his findings to the resumed thirty-sixth session of the Council. The institute itself might then be set up during the first half of 1964. His delegation hoped that the twenty-one-Power amendments would receive unanimous support.

5. Mr. Ernest EASTMAN (Liberia) suggested that operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution submitted by the Council might be worded as follows: "Requests the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of plans for the establishment of the institute". Such a text would represent a compromise between the twenty-one-Power amendment and that proposed by Mexico. His delegation could also accept the third amendment of the twenty-one Powers, concerning operative paragraph 3. It would be able to vote for the draft resolution as a whole, with the above amendments.

6. Mr. TELL (Jordan) said that the sponsors of the twenty-one-Power amendments could accept the Mexican amendment (A/C.2/L.749) provided that the word "Also" was deleted at the beginning and that the words "and at the thirty-sixth session of the Economic and Social Council" were added at the end.

7. The representative of the Byelorussian SSR had criticized the Secretary-General's note, but the fact remained that the developing countries urgently needed the kind of trained administrators that the proposed institute would produce. Whenever the Secretariat was criticized for not recruiting enough staff from the developing countries, the difficulty of finding people from those countries with the necessary qualifications was always mentioned. The proposed institute would help to overcome that disadvantage and bring about a better geographical distribution of posts in the United Nations and the specialized agencies. It would also help delegations from the developing countries to achieve a better understanding of those bodies and therefore to represent their countries more effectively. His delegation had been one of the sponsors of the draft resolution submitted by the Council and it hoped that, with the Mexican amendment, it would be endorsed by the Committee.

8. Mr. VIAUD (France) recalled that his delegation had opposed Council resolution 985 (XXXVI). He was still unable to support it, even with the amendments proposed. General Assembly resolution 1827 (XVII) requested the Secretary-General to study the desirability and feasibility of establishing a United Nations institute or a training programme. Unfortunately, the Secretary-General had rejected the simpler proposal of establishing a training programme and had expressed a preference for the institute. His delegation was still convinced that a training programme would

give better results and that the training given at the institute would be unrealistic, theoretical and impersonal.

9. The proposed institute would deprive the developing countries of badly needed personnel and tend to create an international cadre of civil servants on the same lines as the OPEX programme, to which his delegation had also objected. It would be far better to encourage the development of regional institutes, which were much more conversant with the problems of individual countries, than to set up a kind of super-institute which would duplicate work being done elsewhere and run counter to the general policy of decentralization. It would also be wrong to use funds from private sources to finance an institute which would train personnel for employment by the State.

10. Mr. KAPLANSKY (Canada) said that his delegation, which was a sponsor of the original draft resolution (A/C.2/L.662 and Add.1-6) and of the twenty-one-Power amendments, supported the proposal to establish the institute. One of the major objectives of the United Nations Development Decade should be the training of personnel of the highest calibre, particularly from the developing countries. The institute would be an instrument for providing training and offering research facilities. He endorsed the proposals in the Secretary-General's note. He believed that the institute would be successful and that it would prove to be of great value to the developing countries and to the international community.

11. With regard to the French representative's remarks, the existing shortage of training facilities was especially serious for the developing countries. It was not the intention of the sponsors that the institute should be the only training centre; there already existed national centres, and centres established under bilateral and multilateral arrangements. But there was a need for a United Nations institute to train personnel for service with the United Nations and Member States. He doubted whether the institute should be discussed from the point of view of the centralization or decentralization of its activities. However, care should be taken to avoid duplication of the work being done by other bodies, such as the specialized agencies. He was confident that the Secretary-General could set up a flexible and efficient institute which would not duplicate the functions of other organizations. He hoped that the institute would concentrate, at the beginning of its operations, on the most essential needs; it could then go on to widen its range of activities.

12. Mr. SIMHA (India) said he was happy to support the proposal to establish the institute. The problems facing the world and the developing countries were increasing and becoming more complex. Every nation was confronted with the need to establish new institutions and modernize existing ones. The Secretary-General's note was valuable and gave a good description of the kind of organization that was needed and the problems with which it would be concerned. His delegation was convinced that such an institute would contribute much to the work of the United Nations. A central training organization was needed and he therefore saw no inconsistency between the establishment of the institute and the views expressed by the French representative.

13. The present wording of the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution submitted by the Council gave the impression that the proposed training was linked solely with the United Nations Development

Decade. He therefore proposed that it be modified to read: "... in order to fulfil the objectives of the United Nations, especially in the context of the United Nations Development Decade". In conclusion, he said that he supported the Mexican amendment with the modifications proposed by Jordan.

14. Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) said that his delegation was strongly in favour of the draft resolution under consideration. As one of the sponsors of the amendments in document A/C.2/L.743, he was in favour of the amendment submitted by Mexico, as modified by Jordan, and also of the Indian amendment.

15. As previous speakers had noted, the proposed institute would be of great value to many of the developing countries in providing training for individuals to play their full part both in national and international service. He emphasized that, in saying the training would be valuable, he was not casting any aspersions on the ability of the delegations from developing countries which had made extremely important contributions to the work of the United Nations. They themselves had recognized, however, that in many cases their countries did not have sufficient trained officials and that assistance was required in the training of personnel if their countries were to play a full role in the various international organizations.

16. In his view, the type of training that such an institute could offer would be most valuable to any young person, and he was happy to note in that connexion that the Secretary-General's proposals, while emphasizing that training would be primarily for the benefit of persons from the developing areas, did not suggest that it would be exclusively for persons from those areas.

17. The institute would also contribute to the effectiveness of the United Nations. He was sure that most members agreed with the view of the Secretary-General and his predecessor in office that the United Nations must be more than a debating society and that, if it was to meet the enormous challenges of the modern world, it must be an organization capable of action in the fields of peace-keeping and of economic and social development.

18. His delegation therefore considered that the institute should not limit its activity to economic and social development but should also include such vital United Nations functions as those of keeping the peace. As the Secretary-General had indicated in his note, various aspects of the institute's programmes could be carried out on a decentralized basis. Another important part of the institute's work would be research, which would be of value in finding ways to make the United Nations more efficient and doubtless attract outstanding individuals to work in the institute. It would also provide an institutional framework for mobilizing the services of individuals whose background and mature wisdom would enable them to play a highly useful role when the Secretary-General requested them to do so.

19. He hoped that the bulk of the funds required for operating the institute could be obtained from sources which were not normally used for the day-to-day functions of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, namely, from foundations, trade unions and, perhaps, individuals. He observed that there was a vast reservoir of goodwill towards the United Nations in all parts of the world and a desire to assist it. That was an asset which had thus far been largely ignored and the

institute would no doubt be able to draw upon considerable resources, both human and financial.

20. He hoped that the Committee would strongly support the draft resolution, as amended, so that the institute could be established as soon as possible.

21. Mr. HAMID (Iraq) said that the institute would be of great benefit to the developing countries since it would serve as a model for those countries which planned to set up their own national institutes. Its establishment should not be construed as reflecting on the capacity of the representatives from developing countries.

22. The institute should represent a fusion of all cultures and not draw upon the experience of one country alone. He hoped that the compromise text would prove satisfactory to all delegations. His delegation supported the draft resolution, as well as the amendments of the twenty-one Powers (A/C.2/L.743) and of Mexico (A/C.2/L.749).

23. Mr. AYARI (Tunisia) said that the Committee was confronted with a peculiar situation since, with the exception of the French representative, all members were apparently in favour of the institute and agreed upon the manner in which it should be financed.

24. As the Indian representative had pointed out, the Secretary-General's note was ambiguous in some respects. Paragraph 9 contained a list of existing national institutes, some of which were financed by the Special Fund. An African institute for economic development and planning had recently been established at Dakar. The Secretary-General's note said that the proposed institute would fill a gap, but it failed to indicate where the gap was. It also said that the institute would help to achieve the targets of the United Nations Development Decade. However, the economic bodies of the United Nations were already engaged in the study of economic development projects, and research was currently being carried out by various institutions. In the Tunisian delegation's view, the Secretary-General had not presented sufficient proof that another institute was needed in addition to those that already existed.

25. It would be better to train personnel from developing countries at the regional rather than at the international level, and the regional institutes should be allowed to develop their own programmes. Headquarters could organize and co-ordinate seminars and make comparative studies of work being done in different regions. Both the Argentine suggestions and the Mexican amendment were therefore acceptable to his delegation, and it would support the draft resolution, with the proposed amendments. In conclusion, it would be useful to request the Secretary-General to make a study of existing institutions and to submit a report in 1964 on the way in which the proposed institute could operate within the context of those institutions.

26. Mr. SIMHA (India) explained that he had not meant to imply any criticism of the Secretary-General's note, which constituted a good basis for further action.

27. Mr. GHEBEH (Syria) said that the proposed institute would provide the developing countries with more trained personnel and would do useful research. His delegation would support the amended draft resolution and hoped that the institute would be successful in training personnel from developing countries and devote particular attention to practical questions. The policy of decentralization should subsequently be

applied to the activities of the institute, so that its benefits could be enjoyed by many countries.

28. Mr. TABAJARA DE OLIVEIRA (Brazil) expressed support of the draft resolution. In his opinion, the text would be improved by the amendments of the twenty-one Powers and of Mexico. His delegation did not regard the Secretary-General's note as a definitive blue print but gathered from its broad lines that the institute would fulfil expectations.

29. Mr. TELL (Jordan) said that the proposed institute would not in any way overlap or detract from the work of regional organizations or similar bodies. At the seventeenth session of the General Assembly (853rd meeting), the Tunisian representative had opposed "provincialism" in United Nations activities. Yet stress on regional needs and characteristics would encourage that provincialism. It was true that the Secretary-General's note should not be regarded as a blue print, but it did state the purpose of the proposed institute.

30. Mr. AYARI (Tunisia) said that the questions he had raised were not answered in the Secretary-General's note. He had not intended to give the impression that the Indian delegation had criticized that note. Adaptation to regional needs and conditions was not the same as "provincialism". The needs and problems of the region should be given priority and only later should co-ordination at the international level be considered.

*The meeting was suspended at 12.30 and resumed at 12.45 p.m.*

31. Mr. TELL (Jordan) announced that the sponsors of the amendments in document A/C.2/L.743, who had been joined by the delegations of Mexico and Syria, had agreed to propose the addition, after the fifth preambular paragraph, of a new preambular paragraph to the draft resolution submitted by the Council, which was designed to cover the point raised by the Argentine delegation and which would read as follows:

"Bearing in mind that the proposed institute can make its most effective contribution by supplementing and co-operating with existing organizations engaged in training and research, including regional and other qualified institutes, and avoiding duplication,".

The sponsors of the amendments were in favour of the Indian amendment to the third preambular paragraph.

32. Mr. TETTAMANTI (Argentina) said that he could accept the text read out by the representative of Jordan.

33. Mr. AYARI (Tunisia) emphasized that a regional approach to training was essential. His delegation could support the draft resolution only if the date for the establishment of the institute, which was proposed for the first half of 1964 in document A/C.2/L.743, was postponed or left open. Otherwise, it would abstain.

34. Mr. TOURE (Mauritania) said that his delegation was in favour of any increase in the number of schools and institutes available for training, since human resources were essential to development and the main problem of the developing countries was their lack of training facilities. He recognized the validity of the Tunisian representative's argument, since the regional institutes were very important and should not be overlooked, but had been reassured by the new preambular paragraph read out by the representative of Jordan. The institute should be established as soon as possible.

35. Mr. MINAI (Iran) said that his country, which was engaged in various economic and social reforms, realized the need for trained personnel to implement its plans. The development of human resources was of vital importance and the institute should make a notable contribution towards the attainment of that goal. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

36. Mr. van TILBURG (Netherlands) recalled that, at the preceding meeting, the representative of Denmark had mentioned the possible inclusion of fact-finding activities in the programme of the institute. The role of such activities in international relations was increasing and had recently been mentioned by the Netherlands representative in the Sixth Committee (803rd meeting). Such activities should be undertaken more systematically by the United Nations. The Netherlands Government had given much thought to the matter; however, discussion of the subject and perhaps a study by the Secretary-General were needed, and it was not yet possible to define the form which fact-finding activities should take. Any fact-finding institution or centre should complement existing arrangements and recourse to it should be optional. The question of whether fact-finding activities might

usefully be included in the functions of the proposed institute could therefore only be decided upon at a later stage. It might also be possible to make the question of the establishment of fact-finding a subject for research. In the meantime, the adoption of the draft resolution before the Committee would not alter the attitude of caution and reserve with which the Netherlands Government approached the matter of a fact-finding centre.

37. Mr. VIASENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) requested that no vote should be taken until the following meeting.

38. Mr. GNAMBAULT (Gabon) said that his delegation would abstain in the vote unless the sponsors of the amendments in document A/C.2/L.743 agreed to modify their reference to the establishment of the institute during the first half of 1964.

39. Mr. TELL (Jordan) said that the sponsors could not agree to any postponement, since the whole purpose of their amendments was to accelerate the establishment of the institute. He supported the request made by the representative of the Ukrainian SSR.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.