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**SECOND COMMITTEE, 952nd
MEETING**
(Closing meeting)

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at 3.35 p.m.

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Chairman: Mr. Ismael THAJEB (Indonesia).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/5503,
chap. XIII, sect. VI; A/C.2/L.735/Rev.1) (concluded)

1. Mr. VIAUD (France) explained that his delegation had abstained at the preceding meeting in the vote on the draft resolution concerning enlargement of the Economic Committee, the Social Committee and the Co-ordination Committee of the Economic and Social Council (A/C.2/L.735/Rev.1) because it did not think that the time was appropriate for the submission of such a draft.

2. His delegation's main objection to the text was that the enlargement of the sessional committees of the Council might make it pointless later to increase the number of members of the Council itself, an expansion which his delegation sincerely desired and was anxious to see carried out. He feared that enlargement of those committees might later serve as a pretext for those who were opposed to enlargement of the Council itself.

3. His delegation also thought that the enlargement of the Council's sessional committees must be in line with the recommendations that the Special Political Committee would make to the plenary Assembly. It would accordingly prefer to wait for the Special Political Committee to conclude its debates. Finally, the arguments put forward by certain delegations, in particular that of Australia, concerning the number of seats to be added and the arguments, in particular those of the representative of the USSR, to the effect that the Committee's decision would have to be more or less final, had merely strengthened the reservations which his delegation felt concerning a matter to which it was, however, not absolutely opposed.

4. He pointed out, and that was the true reason why his delegation had abstained, that decisions on the enlargement of the Council's sessional committees were for the Council itself to take and that the General Assembly could only express a wish in that connexion, whereas the enlargement of the Council required an amendment of the United Nations Charter, which was directly within the competence of the General Assembly. With regard to the provision of additional seats on Council committees which might or might not be set up at each session, his delegation thought that the Council should be allowed full discretion to consider that matter. When the thirty-sixth session was resumed, the

French delegation would be among those which wished to comply with the General Assembly's wish, but it thought that the Council should be free to adapt its own decisions to the circumstances. The Council should be free to decide, for instance, to increase the number of seats on the Economic Committee and not to enlarge the Co-ordination Committee. It would seem at first sight that an increase in the membership of the first would really meet the wish of the Assembly, while an enlargement of the second, from the very nature of the questions with which it dealt, could only mean that certain countries wanted to be represented on certain organs at any price.

5. Mr. KADOTA (Japan) said that his delegation had always been in favour of enlarging the Economic and Social Council, in order to ensure balanced and equitable representation of Member States in that organ. That was why it had voted in favour of the draft resolution.

6. Several representatives had pointed out that the enlargement of the sessional committees of the Council would be a temporary measure prior to the enlargement of the Council itself, which required a decision by the General Assembly and amendment of the Charter. His delegation associated itself fully with that view and stressed that, while every effort should be made to implement the enlargement of the sessional committees, the ultimate goal, the enlargement of the Council itself, should not be lost sight of.

7. His delegation was glad that the sponsors of the draft resolution had emphasized, in the third paragraph of the preamble, that it was within the Council's competence to determine the membership of all its subsidiary bodies, and that they had refrained from mentioning figures or other details. It was convinced that the Council would take the necessary action in the light of the views expressed by the Committee, and that the General Assembly, for its part, would take steps to enlarge the Council, which was the ultimate aim.

8. Mr. CRISTUREANU (Romania) explained that his delegation had voted for the draft resolution because it considered it sound. It was in fact only fair that the newly independent States should be able to contribute to the Council their knowledge, their enthusiasm and their aspirations. Moreover, his delegation thought that the growing complexity of world economic problems could no longer be dealt with thoroughly by so small a Council. Finally, Romania had always shown a lively interest in the functional activities of the Council and, although it had never been a member of that body, it believed that the Council and its committees had made an important contribution to the work of the United Nations.

9. Mr. LUBBERS (Netherlands) said that his delegation would have voted in favour of the draft resolution

if circumstances beyond its control had not prevented it from attending at the time of voting.

10. U MAUNG MAUNG (Burma) wanted to make it clear that his delegation believed in the principle of enlarging the Economic and Social Council and its committees. His delegation had accordingly voted for the draft resolution on the understanding that, when it was implemented, it would meet the wishes of the developing countries as expressed in the draft resolution proposing the enlargement of the Economic and Social Council itself.^{1/}

Completion of the Committee's work

11. The CHAIRMAN stated that, while everyone professed a belief in the importance of the economic and social role of the United Nations in the present era, there were nevertheless marked differences in what the various representatives meant by it. Those who came from the developing countries wished that the United Nations could be given greater resources, since they believed that in the long run an international organization provided the best guarantee that assistance would be given on as disinterested, objective and non-political a basis as possible. They wanted multilateral assistance, in the form of studies and reports, technical co-operation and financial resources provided through the United Nations; but they constantly came up against the blank wall of financial stringency, aggravated by the cost of activities undertaken in fields other than that of economic and social co-operation. For some years, there had been no significant increase in the expenditure on economic and social activities, although the benefits to developing countries from the implementation of proposals made in the Second Committee would undoubtedly have been great had sufficient resources been available to carry them out. The question arose why that was so, since there had been a period in which the need for growth in economic and social activities had met with a response from the major contributors. However, the United Nations seemed now to be heading toward a crisis in which its financial limitations would prompt the developing countries to seek solutions outside the Organization. Many representatives were deeply concerned at such a prospect, which would be contrary to the interests not only of the developing countries, but of all groups of countries. An answer to that problem must be found sooner or later.

12. The inadequacy of resources to carry out existing programmes and research and the absence of resources to ensure the growth of United Nations efforts to accelerate development were the crucial problems with which the Organization was confronted in the United Nations Development Decade.

13. Although no new resources were as yet in sight for industrialization or other new activities, such as the United Nations capital development fund or development authority, the debates at the current session had nevertheless been characterized by an atmosphere of expectation, as representatives awaited with anxiety and hope the outcome of one of the most important ventures so far undertaken by the Organization: the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Never before had the United Nations attacked frontally and in depth the international trade system and its functioning which, in the present decade, had seriously

impeded the economic development of the vast majority of mankind and the expansion of trade between countries with different economic and social systems. The essence of international economic co-operation had since time immemorial been trade, and trade should become a consciously planned instrument for the economic development of the less developed countries rather than an instrument to enrich the already rich. He was profoundly convinced that the Conference might influence the course of history, not only in the Development Decade but in future decades as well. Trade and aid, two related phenomena, were likely to determine whether development would occur in relative peace and harmony or would be accompanied by violent convulsions, which would sooner or later spread from one country to another.

14. The verdict of history in the present age of tremendous scientific and technological progress and of affluent societies would be that man-made obstacles rather than physical or natural obstacles had prevented solutions from being found. That should not be the case. In all the developing countries, tremendous forces were at play and sighs of storms of unprecedented intensity were multiplying. There was still time, although it was running short. All countries believed that the United Nations held the key to solutions, provided those who had the means to change the course of history wished to use them for the benefit of mankind. Upheavals in the under-developed countries might change the course of history, and the affluent societies could not forever isolate themselves from the hungry, sick and illiterate masses in other parts of the world. Decisive and audacious action had to be initiated. The opportunity presented by the Conference should be used with wisdom and foresight.

15. There was little time left to initiate new policies of such practical significance that they would give new hope to those in the world who might soon reach the state of desperation. The spirit of co-operation and conciliation exhibited by all members of the Committee had made possible the unanimous adoption of many draft resolutions. He was particularly gratified that the Committee had in so many cases successfully used a procedure of resolving differences through consultation until consensus or unanimous agreement had been reached. If the initiatives which the Second Committee had taken were transformed into concrete action, the coming year would mark an important step forward on the road to development, along which it was the task of the United Nations to lead the nations of the world.

16. In conclusion, he expressed his deep and heartfelt appreciation for the co-operation and help given by the members of the Secretariat; he also expressed his gratitude to the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur, and the members of the Committee for the co-operation they had given him in the discharge of his duties.

17. Mr. ROUANET (Brazil) thought that he was voicing the wishes of all delegations in expressing his appreciation of the statement that the Chairman had just made, which was an accurate résumé of the Second Committee's work. He proposed that the complete text of that statement, including the last part in which the Chairman thanked the Secretariat for its services, should be circulated as an official Committee document so that it might be distributed as widely as it deserved.

18. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon) supported the proposal.

^{1/} Subsequently General Assembly resolution 1991 B (XVIII).

It was so decided.^{2/}

19. Mr. LUBBERS (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of his own delegation and those of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain and Turkey, congratulated the Chairman on having brought the Second Committee's work at the General Assembly's eighteenth session to a successful conclusion thanks to his great skill in the conduct of the debates, which had fully justified the hopes the Committee had placed in him when it had unanimously elected him.

20. He had been impressed by the perspicacity of the Chairman's closing statement and by his searching views on possible ways of improving the Committee's methods of work at future sessions. The Chairman had also earned his delegation's admiration by the tribute he had paid, on behalf of the Second Committee, to the memory of President Kennedy, in the plenary Assembly (1264th meeting).

21. The Chairman had been ably supported by Mr. Fernandini, the Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Appiah, the Rapporteur, and by the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Malinowsky, and his assistants, to whom he wished to convey his congratulations.

22. He was also grateful to the members of the Secretariat and in particular to the interpreters, the *précis*-writers, the conference officers and all who had made such a valuable contribution to the success of the Committee's work.

23. Mr. KAPLANSKY (Canada) said he was happy to take the floor on behalf of the Commonwealth delegations (Australia, Canada, Ceylon, Cyprus, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and the United Kingdom).

24. The fact that the Committee had successfully completed its work before the other committees was evidence of the effective way in which the Chairman had conducted its debates. He had also shown tact and a sense of humour, which had prevented explosive questions from turning into heated arguments, and had contributed to the amicable settlement of more than one major problem before the Committee. He also thanked the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, whom he had nominated at the first meeting, on the advice of Miss Sellers, Rapporteur at the preceding session. In addition, he expressed his gratitude to the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs and to the Secretary of the Committee, and most especially to the members of the Secretariat, interpreters, *précis*-writers, conference officers, documents officers and all who had helped the Committee to bring its work to a successful conclusion.

25. It was too early to assess the results of the Committee's work and, in any case, that was probably not a task for its members. Despite divergencies of opinion on the economic and social problems which the Committee had to discuss, it had, as a result of patient negotiation, goodwill on the part of delegations and their devotion to the principles and ideals of the United Nations, made a success of its work and a contribution to the achievements of the United Nations.

26. Mr. TELL (Jordan), speaking on behalf of his own delegation and those of Iraq, Lebanon, Libya,

Saudi Arabia, Sudan, the United Arab Republic and Yemen, congratulated the Chairman on the wisdom and skill with which he had conducted the proceedings. He thanked the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur, the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretary of the Committee and his assistants, and all members of the Secretariat, especially the interpreters and the *précis*-writers, for their contribution to the success of the work.

27. Mr. VIDAL ZAGLIO (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the Latin American delegations, paid a tribute to the composure and impartiality with which the Chairman had conducted the debates. He also wanted to thank the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur and all the members of the Secretariat for their efficient and devoted help.

28. Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) congratulated the Chairman on the courtesy and tact with which he had discharged his heavy responsibilities. His delegation had been particularly touched by the Chairman's words at the ceremony in memory of President Kennedy. He also paid a tribute to the skill of the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur and thanked the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretary of the Committee and his assistants, and all the members of the Secretariat, especially the interpreters and the *précis*-writers, for their assistance.

29. Mr. RAMAHOLIMIHASO (Madagascar), speaking on behalf of his own delegation and those of all the independent States of Africa, joined with the previous speakers in commending the impartiality and wisdom with which the Chairman had performed his important duties. Those delegations also wanted to thank the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur and all the members of the Secretariat who had contributed so unstintingly to the success of the Committee's work.

30. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) paid a tribute to the wisdom and tact shown by the Chairman during the debates. He also thanked the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur, the Secretary of the Committee and his assistants, the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, the Managing Director of the Special Fund, the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board, the interpreters and the *précis*-writers, who had all played such an effective and successful part in the Committee's work.

31. Mr. CRISTUREANU (Romania), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, commended the competence, authority and impartiality with which the Chairman had presided over the debates. He also thanked the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretary of the Committee and his assistants, and the members of the Secretariat, in particular the interpreters, the translators, and the *précis*-writers, for their contribution to the success of the Committee's work.

32. Mr. GHAUS (Afghanistan), speaking also on behalf of the delegation of Yugoslavia, congratulated the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur on the brilliant way in which they had carried out their duties. He thanked all the members of the Secretariat for contributing to the success of the Committee's work.

33. U MAUNG MAUNG (Burma), speaking on behalf of his own delegation and those of Indonesia, Japan,

^{2/} The complete text of the Chairman's statement was circulated as document A/C.2/786.

Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand, paid a tribute to the brilliant qualities and the impartiality of the Chairman and congratulated the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur on the competent way in which they had done their work. He thanked the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretary of the Committee and his assistants, and all the members of the Secretariat, who had contributed to the success of the Committee's work.

34. Mr. CHANG (China) joined with the previous speakers in congratulating the Chairman, the Vice-

Chairman and the Rapporteur. He also thanked the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretary of the Committee and all the Members of the Secretariat for their efficient help.

35. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur and the Secretariat, thanked the representatives for their words of praise and declared the work of the Committee concluded.

The meeting rose at 5.5. p.m.