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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION  
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES  
Fifth session

PRIORITY PROGRAMMES IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

1. Pursuant to resolution 451 (XIV) of the Economic and Social Council (E/2327), the Secretary-General draws the attention of the Sub-Commission to the following relevant parts of the statement on United Nations priority programmes, contained in the report of the Council's Coordination Committee (E/2306) which was adopted by the Council:

"(a) The Economic and Social Council reiterates the need for priorities to be established for the successful carrying out of the economic and social work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Only by concentrating the limited resources now available on tasks of primary importance for the realization of the objectives of the Charter can international action hope to achieve really substantial results.

.....

"(c) The Council has now considered proposals submitted by the ACC (Coordinating Committee) and by several delegations for the adoption of a few priority programmes on which efforts and resources might be concentrated, and has established a list of six major priority programmes, which in turn have been divided into contributory programmes.

"(d) This list was drawn up subject to the consideration that one overriding objective should be kept in view at all times, namely the economic and social development of under-developed areas. This overall priority should apply to all of the programmes listed below...

.....

"(i) The Council recognized that the priorities listed will not apply to

some urgent problems of particular regions which may call for special measures. It is further to be noted that this list is not a comprehensive list which attempts to cover all the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, but is rather a list of major activities on which efforts should be further concentrated...

"(j) The Council requests the functional and regional commissions to appraise their programmes in the light of the priority programmes outlined below, and in so far as feasible, to give special emphasis to projects likely to contribute directly to the fulfilment of these priority programmes. The Council invites the specialized agencies to keep the priorities suggested below in mind, when reviewing and formulating their programmes. It invites their comments with regard to these priorities.

"(k) The Council recognizes that both the commissions and the specialized agencies are engaged in certain programmes that are not listed herein. The Council realizes that many of these programmes are of great importance and must be maintained.

"(l) The Council, bearing in mind its resolution 402 B III (XIII), urges its subsidiary bodies and the specialized agencies to take into account the suggested priorities, both in reviewing existing projects and in particular when initiating any new projects.

"(m) The Council requests commissions and specialized agencies to include in their next reports to the Council information on the action they have taken in this direction, so that the Council may review the situation at its next summer session."

2. Included in the "List of Priority Programmes in the Economic and Social Fields," prepared by the Co-ordination Committee and approved by the Council, the following item appears (E/2306, p.8):

"F. Formulation and wider observance of human rights

"(a) Fuller dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and completion of the covenants on human rights

"(b) Promotion of human rights and their observance, including elimination of forced labour, of restrictions on freedom of association,

/and of all

and of all discriminatory measures referred to in the Universal  
Declaration of Human Rights

"(c) Promotion of freedom of information and of the press."

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