

27. The PRESIDENT said that if the number of candidates receiving the required majority exceeded the number of vacancies he would take it that the Council wished to follow the procedure of the General Assembly, under which those candidates receiving the lesser number of votes were considered as having been withdrawn.

*It was so decided.*

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Bennet (New Zealand) and Mr. Nishizaki (Japan) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

*Number of ballot papers: 25*

*Invalid ballots: 0*

*Number of valid ballots: 25*

*Abstentions: 0*

*Number of members voting: 25*

*Required majority: 13*

*Number of votes obtained:*

*Asian States:*

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| India            | 22 |
| Indonesia        | 22 |
| Pakistan         | 21 |
| Yemen            | 21 |
| Philippines      | 20 |
| Sri Lanka        | 20 |
| Democratic Yemen | 15 |
| Bhutan           | 1  |
| Kuwait           | 1  |
| Nepal            | 1  |

28. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with the decision taken earlier (see para. 27 above), Democratic Yemen would be considered as having been withdrawn.

*Having obtained the required majority, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Yemen were elected additional members of the sessional committees of the Council.*

*Latin American States:*

|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| Peru      | 24 |
| Argentina | 23 |
| Venezuela | 23 |
| Colombia  | 21 |
| Barbados  | 17 |
| Mexico    | 13 |

29. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with the decision taken earlier, Mexico would be considered as having been withdrawn.

*Having obtained the required majority, Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela were elected additional members of the sessional committees of the Council.*

30. The PRESIDENT, in accordance with the decision taken by the Council at its fifty-second session (1814th meeting), invited the additional members to take their places at the Council table and participate fully, without the right to vote, in the debates of the Council.

*The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.*

## 1848th meeting

Monday, 8 January 1973, at 3.40 p.m.

*President: Mr. Sergio A. FRAZÃO (Brazil).*

E/SR.1848

### Tribute to the memory of Mr. Gilbert Yates

1. The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. Gilbert Yates, who had been the first Secretary of the Council, from 1946 to 1952, had died. On behalf of the Council, he expressed sympathy to Mrs. Yates and her daughter and stressed the outstanding services Mr. Yates had rendered to the United Nations.

2. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that, while Secretary of the Council, Mr. Yates, with whom he had worked in close collaboration for several years, had given proof of a competence, a devotion to duty and a spirit of self-sacrifice which were seldom equalled. On behalf of both his country and himself, he associated himself with the President's statement and emphasized that Mrs. Yates herself was also remembered in the Organization as a remarkably competent official.

3. Mr. HEMANS (United Kingdom) said that the death of Mr. Yates, who had been British, was a loss for the Organization. As the first Secretary of the Council he had set an example and his memory would live on, particularly with those who had been serving the Organization for very many years. It was to be hoped that the spirit of continuity he had created would be perpetuated.

### Organization of work

4. The PRESIDENT said that, following consultations with the three Vice-Presidents of the Council, and if there were no objections, he wished to suggest that Mr. Ghorra should serve as Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee, Mr. Rabetafika as Chairman of the Social Committee, and Mr. Scott as Chairman of the Economic Committee.

*It was so decided.*

### AGENDA ITEM 8

**Measures to be taken following the earthquake in Nicaragua (E/L.1534)**

5. Mr. ROVIRA (Spain), recalling that his country had been elected a member of the Council by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session, said that he was gratified to be able to take part in the work of a particularly important United Nations body.

6. He congratulated the President and Vice-Presidents on their election. Under the guidance of Mr. Frazão, the Council would undoubtedly perform its task efficiently.

7. He expressed Spain's deep sympathy with Nicaragua in the tragedy that country had just suffered. There was certainly not a single Spanish home in which Christmas Day had not been darkened by the tragedy.

8. The devastated area must now be rebuilt and many countries had already acted generously and with dispatch. Nevertheless, it was important not only to co-ordinate assistance but also to ensure that it did not flag. The organizations of the international community, and first and foremost the Council, must therefore intervene as they had done in similar cases and continue the work of the Secretary-General who, with the Office of the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, had immediately taken emergency action. For its part, the Permanent Mission of Spain in New York had already contacted Nicaragua and the Latin American group and was proud to be a sponsor of the draft resolution before the Council (E/L.1534).

9. Mr. MORSE (Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs) gave details of the measures which, under the direction of the Secretary-General, had already been taken on behalf of Nicaragua.

10. As soon as news of the earthquake had been received, on 23 December 1972, the Secretary-General had established a co-ordinating committee at Managua to meet Nicaragua's needs and, pursuant to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) concerning assistance in cases of natural disaster, had immediately authorized payment of the maximum amount, which had subsequently been increased. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had authorized \$150,000 to be drawn from its emergency reserve in order to provide Nicaragua with the necessary medicaments. Furthermore, following both the earthquake and the drought, from which Nicaragua was also suffering, steps had already been taken to send sufficient food to feed 50,000 persons for one month. The World Health Organization, in co-operation with several Member States, had already sent typhoid and rabies vaccines as well as equipment and personnel. Five doctors, two sanitation experts, and a seismologist from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) were already in the field, together with two experts in the reconstruction of urban centres who had previously served on the 1970 mission to Peru. A water supply expert had also already arrived in Nicaragua.

11. The Economic Commission for Latin America had arranged for its Committee of the Whole to meet in New York on 16 and 17 January to determine what additional assistance should be given to Nicaragua.

12. The Disaster Relief Co-ordinator would go to Nicaragua straightaway to make an on-the-spot evaluation of long-term reconstruction measures to be taken; he would make a stopover in New York to discuss the matter with the Secretary-General and a group of experts; upon receipt of his report, the Secretary-General would probably launch an appeal on behalf of Nicaragua.

13. Mr. SEIGNORET (Trinidad and Tobago), introducing draft resolution E/L.1534, thanked Mr. Morse for having described the measures the United Nations had already taken on behalf of Nicaragua, and the Economic and Social Council for having agreed to revise its agenda.

14. In order to grasp the extent of the disaster which had struck Nicaragua, it must be remembered that

Nicaragua was a small developing country of 2 million inhabitants, 20 per cent of whom were concentrated in the city of Managua. According to preliminary estimates, 350 residential blocks had been completely destroyed, resulting in the loss of 14,000 dwellings, 50 primary schools, 7 secondary educational and vocational training establishments and 3 libraries. In addition, three big hospitals had been completely destroyed and had had to be replaced by hastily erected field hospitals. The number of dead was currently estimated at approximately 15,000 and the number of wounded at approximately 30,000. In addition to the disaster, there was the fact that Nicaragua, which was already facing all the problems of under-development, had recently been afflicted by a drought, which had reduced the harvest of basic food crops by 70 per cent.

15. The question now was to determine which of the country's needs were the most pressing. According to official sources, there were two categories of needs, namely, to provide food for the population until the next harvest and to find employment for the people, and, secondly, to reconstruct and rehabilitate the country. The problems posed by reconstruction and rehabilitation were inseparable from problems of economic and social development: it was therefore within the framework of such development that assistance must be viewed.

16. He drew attention to the fact that, owing to a technical error, the United States of America had not been included in the list of sponsors of the draft resolution. Furthermore, at their request, Madagascar and Zaire should be added to the list.

17. On the preamble of the draft resolution, the sponsors had briefly outlined the situation and recalled previous pertinent United Nations decisions. Should the Council adopt the draft resolution, it would, in operative paragraph 1, express its deep sympathy to the people and Government of Nicaragua and, in paragraph 2, it would take note with appreciation of the measures already taken by the Secretary-General and the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to help the victims; in paragraph 3, it would request the Secretary-General and the Co-ordinator to continue their efforts to that end and, in paragraph 4, it would request the international credit institutions to give consideration to any requests for loans and credits that Nicaragua might make by ensuring that such loans and credits were of the greatest possible magnitude and granted on the most favourable terms. In paragraph 6, the Council would request the Secretary-General to invite the Governing Council and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the specialized agencies to meet any assistance requests from the Government of Nicaragua relating to its initial emergency programmes and subsequent rehabilitation programmes and to devote the largest possible volume of their financial and technical resources thereto. In paragraph 7, it would convey its desire to the Governing Council of UNDP that the Governing Council consider favourably requests for assistance that the Government of Nicaragua might submit in connexion with its special medium-term and long-term programmes and, in paragraph 8, it would request the Governments of States members of the World Bank and the International Development Association to ask their directors in both agencies to give particular attention, if necessary, to Nicaragua's needs for funds to finance its programmes of rehabilitation and reconstruction. In paragraph 9, it would invite the agencies and institutions in question to give special at-

tention to the serious situation in Nicaragua and to that country's need for assistance, bearing in mind the principle that problems of reconstruction and rehabilitation were inseparable from problems of economic and social development.

18. Mr. MEDEIROS (Brazil), speaking as a sponsor of draft resolution E/L.1534, expressed the hope that the Council would adopt the draft resolution quickly and unanimously in order to create a wave of solidarity with Nicaragua in world public opinion.

19. Speaking as the representative of Brazil, he reaffirmed his country's sympathy with the unfortunate people of Nicaragua and said that Brazil had spontaneously gone to the assistance of Nicaragua within the extent of its possibilities. As soon as the news of the disaster had been received on 23 December Brazilian military aircraft had taken medicaments, food-stuffs and water, among other things, to Managua. On 27 December a special office had been set up in order to co-ordinate Brazil's national efforts.

20. Mr. IPOTO EYEBU BAKAND'ASI (Zaire), pointing out that it had taken only a few hours to jeopardize all Nicaragua's development efforts, said that the question the United Nations should ask itself was "what should be done?" It was true that whatever assistance the United Nations could give Nicaragua would be little compared with the extent of the disaster but the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1534 should be thanked for having tried to answer that question, particularly in operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 6.

21. Mr. RABETAFIKA (Madagascar) said that his country had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution because it understood perfectly the difficulties now facing Nicaragua, having experienced similar ones itself. The emergency relief and long-term measures which the United Nations must decide on were indispensable. He knew the extent and the difficulties of the tasks of reconstruction and therefore particularly welcomed the provisions of operative paragraph 6. Paragraph 4, which testified to Nicaragua's desire to carry out its rehabilitation and reconstruction itself, was also important.

22. On behalf of the Permanent Mission of Madagascar and the Malagasy people, he expressed his deep sympathy to the Nicaraguan people.

23. Mr. GHORRA (Lebanon), on behalf of his country and on his own behalf, expressed his sympathy to the Nicaraguan people. The fact that Nicaragua was a very small country battling with all the problems of development could only add to the seriousness of the problems resulting from the earthquake. It was the Council's duty to provide that unfortunate country with both immediate and long-term assistance. He thanked the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies for having gone spontaneously to Nicaragua's assistance. It went without saying that Lebanon supported draft resolution E/L.1534 and it wished to be included among the sponsors.

24. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) congratulated Mr. Frazão, who was well known for his perseverance, on his election as President.

25. As a sponsor of draft resolution E/L.1534, he expressed the hope that the text would be adopted unanimously, for he was firmly convinced that when a country was stricken by a natural disaster there must be universal solidarity. He was prepared to support unreservedly any step that the United Nations might take to alleviate the sufferings of the Nicaraguan people.

26. If one examined the list of disasters that had occurred during the past three years, one could not help noticing that in nearly every case the country involved had been a developing country. It was common knowledge that the problems generated by natural disasters were considerably aggravated when the country involved was under-developed. To quote an example, in a country where buildings and housing were not solidly built, the loss of life and of property resulting from earthquakes assumed considerable proportions; moreover, because of its low level of development a country stricken by such a disaster did not have the means to solve the problems stemming from it. He therefore appealed to the United Nations to link assistance in cases of natural disasters closely to development assistance. The General Assembly had taken positive steps in its resolution 2816 (XXVI), but they were not enough. In his view, the United Nations had a duty to show its solidarity by taking more vigorous action: for example, it could establish a special fund to contribute to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of countries stricken by natural disasters.

27. As a sponsor of draft resolution E/L.1534, he wished to make two suggestions, one of which had already been accepted by the other sponsors. The first was that the following new paragraph should be inserted between operative paragraphs 3 and 4:

*"Welcomes the initiative taken by the Economic Commission for Latin America to organize a special session of its Committee of the Whole in order to consider what measures of international co-operation should be taken;"*

The second was that the words "and the specialized agencies concerned" should be inserted after the word "Co-ordinator" in paragraph 3. Although some specialized agencies, such as the World Health Organization, were constantly being mobilized and were always ready to make an immediate contribution and to undertake long-term activities, there were others which could provide aid other than through UNDP.

28. Mr. MAGENGE (Burundi) congratulated the officers elected for 1973. He wished Burundi to be added to the list of sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1534 as a sign of its deep sympathy for Nicaragua. He welcomed the measures taken by the Secretary-General to deal with a situation that had called for emergency measures and he urged the specialized agencies and other organizations, particularly UNICEF, which had already responded to the Secretary-General's appeal, to continue their aid. Lastly, he thanked the organizations and Governments that had already made contributions to Nicaragua through the United Nations.

29. Mr. FLEMING (Argentina) congratulated Mr. Frazão on his election as President of the Economic and Social Council. With regard to the tragedy in Nicaragua he said that his country had already acknowledged the need to provide Nicaragua with the assistance necessary in such circumstances; he therefore asked the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1534 to add Argentina to the list of sponsors in accordance with rule 75 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, in order that it should be associated with the measures taken by the Council.

*It was so decided.*

30. Mr. BREITENSTEIN (Finland) conveyed his delegation's condolences to the people and Government of Nicaragua and expressed full support for draft reso-

lution E/L.1534. He thanked the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago for having taken the initiative in asking the Council to give priority to consideration of the question of Nicaragua.

31. Mr. SEKYIAMAH (Ghana) said he was gratified to be able to participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and congratulated Mr. Frazão on his election as President. He agreed with the representative of Chile that the Council should encourage all organizations within the United Nations system to give assistance and that the specialized agencies should be mentioned in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution. Finally, under rule 75 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, he asked the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1534 to add Ghana to the list of sponsors.

*It was so decided.*

32. Mr. NAKAGAWA (Japan) expressed his sympathy to the Government of Nicaragua on the great disaster which had stricken its people. His Government had already given medicaments and other forms of assistance to Nicaragua valued at £600,000. In addition, the Japanese Red Cross was taking steps to provide assistance and a campaign was currently under way to collect additional funds. His delegation fully supported draft resolution E/L.1534 and hoped that the city of Managua would be rebuilt as soon as possible.

33. Mr. WANG JUN-SHENG (China) congratulated the officers who had just been elected for the year 1973. A letter had been addressed to the representative of Nicaragua expressing the sorrow of the Chinese Government and people at the terrible losses suffered by Nicaragua and informing the Nicaraguan delegation that the Chinese Red Cross had already sent the equivalent of 500,000 yen in kind and 500,000 yen in cash to help the Nicaraguan people overcome their difficulties.

34. His delegation supported draft resolution E/L.1534 but had reservations concerning paragraph 8, which referred to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, since it could not accept that the Chiang Kai-shek clique represented China in that agency.

35. Mr. FACK (Netherlands) congratulated Mr. Frazão on his unanimous election as President. The news of the disaster which had befallen the Nicaraguan people had been received with great sorrow in the Netherlands. Accordingly, the Netherlands Government had rapidly taken steps to make considerable sums of money available to the Nicaraguan Government through non-governmental organizations, including the Red Cross. He had listened with great interest to the statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and fully supported the draft resolution under consideration as well as the amendments submitted by the Chilean delegation.

36. Mr. ROUGÉ (France) welcomed the expression of international solidarity which draft resolution E/L.1534 represented. He would, however, like to ask the sponsors for certain clarifications and offer them a few suggestions. In paragraph 4, for example, he found the words "the greatest possible magnitude" very vague and suggested that the last part of the sentence, beginning with "and to ensure that", should be deleted. Similarly, in paragraph 6, he found the words "the largest possible volume of financial and technical resources"

very vague. He would not, however, insist on his proposal, which he had made simply for the sake of clarity, if it did not meet with the approval of the sponsors.

37. In operative paragraph 5, he suggested that the last part of the sentence following the word "rehabilitation" should be deleted because it was always extremely disagreeable for a Government to have to ask its creditors to agree to arrangements for an amicable settlement. Lastly, in paragraph 7, he would like clarification concerning the words "in connexion with its special medium-term and long-term programmes of rehabilitation", which he suggested should be deleted.

38. In conclusion, he wished to express France's solidarity with the Government and people of Nicaragua.

39. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) expressed his sincere congratulations to Mr. Frazão on his election of President and assured him of his full co-operation. He was entirely in favour of draft resolution E/L.1534 and of the Chilean amendments, which simply improved the text. He realized the suffering of the Nicaraguan people and considered that every possible effort should be made to assist them.

40. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) wished to express his deepest sympathy to the Government and people of Nicaragua and his condolences to the families affected by the earthquake. New Zealand was particularly aware of the problem because it had suffered from earthquakes itself, and it had already made a financial donation to the International Red Cross. His delegation would fully support draft resolution E/L.1534 and wanted the name of its country to be added to the list of sponsors. He had no objections to the suggestion made by the Chilean delegation but pointed out that operative paragraph 6 contained a list of the various specialized agencies whose activities in the event of a natural disaster were to be co-ordinated by the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator.

*Mr. Ghorra (Lebanon), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

41. Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan) said that the people and Government of Pakistan had been shocked to hear of the disaster in Managua and that a few days after the earthquake the President of Pakistan had sent a message to the Head of State of Nicaragua expressing his sorrow.

42. It was most appropriate for the Economic and Social Council to consider the question as a matter of priority and to ensure that assistance was sent to Nicaragua as soon as possible. His delegation supported draft resolution E/L.1534 and called for it to be adopted unanimously without further delay.

43. Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy) reaffirmed the Italian Government's earlier expression of sympathy to the people and Government of Nicaragua. He recalled that the Italian authorities had taken immediate measures to send aid to Nicaragua. He welcomed the initiative taken by the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1534, which he warmly supported.

44. Mr. RAE (Canada) expressed his best wishes to the President and the Vice-Presidents and assured them of his sincere co-operation.

45. With regard to the tragic event which had occurred in Nicaragua, he said that the Canadian authorities had immediately taken bilateral action and he welcomed the initiative of the Economic and Social Council aimed at encouraging the United Nations system as a whole to

display its solidarity with Nicaragua. He fully supported draft resolution E/L.1534 and hoped that its provisions would be implemented as soon as possible.

46. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) congratulated the new officers of the Council and wished them every success in their work.

47. The Soviet Mission to the United Nations had addressed a note to the Nicaraguan Mission expressing its deep sympathy and the Soviet Red Cross had provided relief for Nicaragua by donating food-stuffs and medicines in the amount of 30,000 roubles. He supported all the measures taken following the earthquake and would vote for draft resolution E/L.1534.

*Mr. Frazão (Brazil) resumed the Chair.*

48. Mr. JAIN (India) congratulated the President and the Vice-Presidents. The Indian Government had already expressed its deep sympathy on the occasion of the disaster in Nicaragua and he welcomed the measures which had been taken by the Secretary-General to provide emergency aid for the Nicaraguan Government and people. His delegation fully supported draft resolution E/L.1534.

49. Mr. TRAORÉ (Mali) congratulated the officers of the Council. In view of the magnitude of the catastrophe which had befallen Nicaragua and the terrible suffering it had caused, action should take precedence over words and the Economic and Social Council should endeavour to respond to the challenge represented by that natural disaster. He requested that Mali should be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

50. Mr. AKSOY (Turkey) congratulated Mr. Frazão on his election. He expressed his deepest sympathy to the people of Nicaragua in connexion with the tragedy which had struck that country and welcomed the measures which had already been taken by the Secretary-General and the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to provide assistance to Nicaragua. He felt that draft resolution E/L.1534 was a good way of showing the world community's solidarity with Nicaragua and he was prepared to support all measures that would reflect international solidarity.

51. Mr. NDUNG'U (Kenya) congratulated the officers of the Council on their election. With regard to the earthquake in Nicaragua, he expressed his deepest sympathy to the Nicaraguan people and Government in connexion with the disaster which had struck them. He fully supported draft resolution E/L.1534 and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously and that all the specialized agencies would take speedy and effective action. In accordance with rule 75 of the rules of procedure, he requested that Kenya should be added to the list of sponsors.

*It was so decided.*

52. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) welcomed the draft resolution E/L.1534 introduced by the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago and hoped that international solidarity would give Nicaragua the courage to overcome its difficulties.

53. Mr. MEGUID (Egypt) congratulated the new officers of the Council. As an expression of its sympathy for the people and Government of Nicaragua, his delegation fully supported draft resolution E/L.1534, which would doubtless be adopted unanimously.

54. Mr. NARKHUU (Mongolia) congratulated Mr. Frazão on his election as President. He said that his

delegation was deeply grieved at the misfortune which had befallen Nicaragua and recalled that Mongolia itself had experienced similar disasters. His delegation accordingly supported the draft resolution E/L.1534.

55. Mr. ABDOULAYE (Niger) expressed his satisfaction at Mr. Frazão's election as President of the Council. His delegation wished to associate itself with that of Trinidad and Tobago and with the other delegations that had expressed their sympathy for and solidarity with Nicaragua. Niger was in a good position to realize what harsh trials that country would have to face. Furthermore, because of the responsibilities he had discharged in his own country, he was particularly aware of the external debt problem which crippled the developing countries and he therefore supported the French proposal to delete the phrase "if the Government of Nicaragua should so request" in paragraph 5 of draft resolution E/L.1534, since it was for the Council itself to ask the countries and institutions that were creditors of Nicaragua to take the situation into account.

56. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said he was pleased that Mr. Frazão had been elected President of the Council. Warsaw and Managua had both been destroyed, the first by the Nazi occupying forces and the second by the blind force of nature. Accordingly, the Polish people were deeply moved by the tragedy the Nicaraguan people were experiencing. His delegation therefore favoured measures aimed at mitigating the effects of that disaster, and supported draft resolution E/L.1534.

57. Mr. de RIVERO (Peru) congratulated the President and the Vice-Presidents on their election. He wished to reiterate his sympathy with the Government of Nicaragua in connexion with the trials which its people were undergoing as a result of the earthquake which had struck that country. Peru had also, in 1970, suffered from the results of an earthquake and had been moved by the international solidarity demonstrated on that occasion, which had considerably eased the sufferings of its people. Accordingly, it had from the outset given the maximum possible assistance to Nicaragua, and it supported draft resolution E/L.1534. Under rule 75 of the rules of procedure, he requested the sponsors to allow Peru to be included among them.

*It was so decided.*

58. Mr. FONSECA-MARTÍNEZ (Colombia) congratulated the President and the officers of the Council on their election. Since learning of the misfortune which had struck Nicaragua, Colombia had used all means available to it to render immediate assistance. He wished to assure Nicaragua yet again that the Government and people of Colombia were deeply moved at the extent of the disaster. As Chairman of the Latin American group, he welcomed the establishment by the Secretary-General of a co-ordination committee to work in Nicaragua; on behalf of the group, he expressed the hope that Nicaragua would find solutions to the serious problems currently facing it. His delegation requested, under rule 75 of the rules of procedure, that it should be included among the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1534.

*It was so decided.*

59. Mr. HOHLER (United Kingdom) said he wished to express to Nicaragua the sorrow felt by the United Kingdom at the announcement of the disaster which had struck Managua. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the immediate measures taken by the Sec-

retary-General to aid Nicaragua. The United Kingdom Government, for its part, was doing everything possible to render assistance to the victims. His delegation therefore supported the draft resolution E/L.1534.

60. Mr. TOURÉ (Guinea) said that the sense of urgency and priority which had inspired the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago should prompt all members to support draft resolution E/L.1534 without delay, for the population of Nicaragua was suffering a cruel ordeal. The adoption of that text would be the most eloquent sign of the Council's sympathy for the people and the Government of Nicaragua. He congratulated Mr. Frazão on his election as President.

61. Mr. SINGH (Malaysia) said that Malaysia had been deeply grieved by the misfortune which had struck Nicaragua and would naturally support draft resolution E/L.1534.

62. Mr. VALDÉS (Bolivia) welcomed the election of Mr. Frazão as President of the Council. In his delegation's view, Nicaragua would have considerable difficulties in regaining the level of development it had attained before the disaster. His delegation accordingly welcomed draft resolution E/L.1534 and called on all members to support it.

63. Mr. MOLI (Uganda) welcomed the election of Mr. Frazão as President. He wished to join previous speakers in expressing his sympathy for Nicaragua. His delegation believed that Nicaragua, as a developing country, would have great difficulty in recovering from its ordeal, and therefore appealed to all countries to come to its aid.

64. The PRESIDENT noted that the representative of Chile had submitted an oral amendment to paragraph 3 of draft resolution E/L.1534 and had requested that a new paragraph should be inserted between paragraphs 3 and 4. Moreover, some representatives had requested explanations and made suggestions with regard to paragraphs 4, 5 and 7.

65. Mr. AHMED (Secretary of the Council) read out the text of the new paragraph 4 proposed by Chile:

*"Welcomes the initiative taken by the Economic Commission for Latin America to convene an extraordinary session of its Committee of the Whole to examine measures for international co-operation to be taken by the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular by the Commission, in order to assist the Government of Nicaragua;"*

66. Mr. SEIGNORET (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the sponsors of the draft resolution had agreed to amend paragraph 3, which would now read:

*"Requests the Secretary-General, the Office of the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the specialized agencies concerned to continue their efforts to that end;"*

With regard to paragraph 4, now paragraph 5, he recalled that the intention of the sponsors was to make the decisions of the international institutions concerned subordinate to the wishes of Nicaragua in the matter of rehabilitation. That comment would also apply to the former paragraphs 5 and 7. The amendments submitted by the delegation of France to former paragraphs 4, 5 and 7, the second of which had been supported by the delegation of Nigeria, had not been incorporated, since those delegations had been kind enough not to insist on maintaining them. Where the former paragraph 6 was concerned, the phrase "financial and technical resources" would now read "financial, technical and other

resources". He wished to thank the Council for the spirit of conciliation which it had shown.

67. The PRESIDENT said that if there was no objection, he would assume that draft resolution E/L.1534, as amended was adopted by acclamation.

*It was so decided.<sup>1</sup>*

### **Suspension of rule 82 of the rules of procedure**

68. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of Council members to the proposal of the Ghanaian delegation for the suspension of that part of rule 82 of the rules of procedure which stated that the States to be elected to the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should be members of the Council. If he understood the proposal correctly, the purpose of suspending rule 82 would be to permit the election of States which had recently become members of the sessional committees. Although the representative of Ghana had not, in making his proposal,<sup>2</sup> indicated the duration of the suspension, he assumed that it would last only until the amendment to Article 61 of the Charter of the United Nations, increasing the number of members of the Council to 54, came into effect.

*It was so decided.*

### **Establishment of a Committee on Candidatures for election to the International Narcotics Control Board (E/5220)**

69. The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Council to consider the suggestions made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 3 of his note (E/5220) concerning the establishment of a Committee on Candidatures for election to the International Narcotics Control Board.

70. Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America) said it would be desirable to give not only Council members but also members of the sessional committees the opportunity to be members of the Board.

71. Mr. ABHYANKAR (India) supported the proposal of the United States delegation, which was compatible with the proposal of Ghana that had just been adopted (see para. 68 above). Moreover, the organ concerned was a technical one dealing with very important questions which the members of the sessional committees, as representatives of countries producing and importing the products concerned, should be able to consider.

72. Mr. AHMED (Secretary of the Council) said that when in 1966 and 1970 the Council had established similar committees on candidatures, they had had 13 members, 5 from the African and Asian States, 2 from the Latin American States, 2 from the socialist States of Eastern Europe and 4 from the Western European and other States.

73. The PRESIDENT asked whether, since members of the sessional committees would be members of the committee to be established, it would not be simpler to double the number of members of the latter.

74. Mr. AHMED (Secretary of the Council) said that in that event the members of the Committee on Candidatures would number 26, 10 from the African and Asian States, 4 from the Latin American States, 4 from

<sup>1</sup> Council resolution 1733 (LIV).

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Fifty-third Session, 1845th meeting, paras. 102 and 104.*

the socialist States of Eastern Europe and 8 from the Western European and other States.

75. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that in principle his delegation was opposed to enlarging the membership of bodies, and that such a decision would be especially premature considering that the Working Group on Rationalization might perhaps within a few days recommend the abolition of the Board. Moreover, he recalled that the previous July the Council had decided not to change the composition of its subsidiary bodies.

76. Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America) said that, as had been the case with respect to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and the sessional committees, enlargement of the Committee would enable delegations which were not, properly speaking, members of the Council to participate in its work. That measure would be in conformity with the

proposal appearing in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's note (E/5220).

77. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he was not opposed to the suspension of rule 82, but believed that, while the Committee concerned might be enlarged, there was no reason to go so far as to double the number of its members, which would make it larger than the Council itself.

78. Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America) proposed that the countries that wished to participate in the Committee should make their wishes known so as to give an idea of the number to be decided on.

79. The PRESIDENT felt that it would be better to postpone consideration of the question in order that the countries which were interested could make that fact known.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.*

## 1849th meeting

Wednesday, 10 January 1973, at 11.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Sergio A. FRAZÃO (Brazil).

E/SR.1849

### AGENDA ITEM 8

#### Measures to be taken following the earthquake in Nicaragua (*concluded*)

1. Mr. ZELAYA (Nicaragua) said that the unanimous response of the Council with regard to the resolution on the earthquake in Nicaragua was an expression of solidarity which his country was not likely to forget. The countries of all geographical and political areas of the world had come to the aid of Nicaragua and had vied with one another in providing relief. The citizens of Nicaragua now had a better knowledge of the world because the world had helped them in their hour of need. As the representative of Trinidad and Tobago had noted at the previous meeting, the earthquake at Managua had been the culmination of a series of catastrophes suffered by Nicaragua in recent years, such as hurricanes, floods, fires and a drought which had recently affected 70 per cent of the country's crops. A special commission appointed by the Government would soon give details of the disaster to the United Nations.

2. International bodies, research institutes, private institutions and the representatives of the Secretary-General and the President of the United States had all agreed that Nicaragua would have to rely on international assistance for food for the next 10 months at least, while the task of reconstruction would take at least three years, also with international assistance. His country was a small one, which could not possibly cope by itself with a disaster such as the earthquake, despite its will-power and capacity to work. The knowledge which his country had derived from its own experience showed the usefulness of the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly concerning assistance in cases of natural disaster. It also showed the need to strengthen the Office of the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, particularly in view of such considerations as the great number of

countries situated in areas exposed to natural disasters, the frequency with which such disasters had occurred in recent years, and the fact that large-scale natural disasters had repercussions which emergency assistance could not cover. For those reasons, the Disaster Relief Office should have the necessary means and authorization to make an evaluation of the cases of natural disaster in which massive assistance had been required in recent decades so that it could submit to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly recommendations enabling their decisions to be implemented without delay and suggest other measures which might be necessary to ensure that the world community would be rationally organized to face such emergencies.

3. As the Economic and Social Council had noted, the task of reconstruction of a stricken area or country was inseparable from over-all economic and social development plans and objectives; his Government, in all its communications relating to the earthquake, had recognized that fact.

4. His country wished to repay the assistance it had received from the international community by sharing with the Office of the Co-ordinator the experience it had gained. He wished to express Nicaragua's deep gratitude to the Secretary-General, to Mr. Morse, Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, to Mr. Berkol, the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, and to all the States which had tendered both short- and long-term assistance to his country.

### AGENDA ITEM 6

#### Actions arising out of decisions of the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session (E/L.1525 and Corr.1)

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
(E/L.1525 AND CORR.1)

5. The PRESIDENT said that the note by the Secretary-General consisted of three parts: section A dealt