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SOCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Tenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH MEETING

Hold at Lake Success, New York,
on Friday, 10 February 1950, at 3 p.m.

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Report of the fifth session of the Social Commission (item 18)
(E/1568, E/1568/Add.1); Housing and Town and Country Planning
(item 19) (E/1580, E/1580/Add.1) (continued).

Chairman:

Mr. DEHOUSSE

Members:

Mr. JOCKEL

Australia

Mr. RAEYMAEKER

Belgium

Mr. PENTEADO

Brazil

Mr. DAVIDSON

Canada

Mr. IARRAIN

Chile

Mr. CHANG

China

Mr. FRIIS

Denmark

Mr. KAYSER

France

Rani RAJWADE

India

Mr. ABDOH)

Iran

Mr. FENTEZAM)

Mr. PADILLA WERVO

Mexico

Mr. AREVALO

Peru

Mr. BOOTBY

United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Mr. KOTSCHNIG

United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. SOTO DE LA JARA	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Mr. ARNALDO	United Nations Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Dr. INGALIS	World Health Organization (WHO)

Consultants from Non-Governmental Organizations:

Category A:

Miss SENDER	American Federation of Labor (AF of L)
Miss PERLA BERG	World Federation of United Nations Associations

Category B:

Mrs. VERGARA	Catholic International Union for Social Service
Mr. BERNSTEIN	Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations for Consultation with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
Mr. de BOYSSCH	World Federation of Democratic Youth
Mr. FOX	World's Young Women's Christian Association

Secretariat:

Mrs. MYRDAL	Acting Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Social Affairs
Mr. DELIERNEUX	Acting Director, Social Activities Division
Mr. DUMONTET	Secretary of the Committee

REPORT OF FIFTH SESSION OF THE SOCIAL COMMISSION (item 18) (E/1568, E/1568/Add.1);
HOUSING AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (item 19) (E/1580, E/1580/Add.1) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN called for the continuation of the general discussion of items 18 and 19.

/2. Mr. FRIIS

2. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) stated that his delegation associated itself with the general remarks made by previous speakers concerning the satisfactory progress of the Social Commission's work, and that it appreciated the Secretariat's extensive and conscientious work in the social field.
3. He noted that one of the most important tasks of the Secretariat was the preparation and publication of the Bulletin on Housing and Town and Country Planning. The Secretariat would be able in its work to benefit by the experience acquired during the first year of publication and the comments of Governments on the Bulletin.
4. A commercial publisher wishing to start a magazine or bulletin must, of course, be prepared to take the risk of initial loss; in the last analysis, however, the fate of the publication would depend on the interest which it aroused among the readers. In the case of official publications the cost of which was borne by Governments, the situation was different. Such publications ran the risk of being continued through inertia, the necessary appropriations being voted more or less automatically.
5. The total expenditure of the United Nations and specialized agencies on publications was already considerable, and now a new publication, in the field of prevention of crime, was being prepared by the Social Commission.
6. The Danish delegation suggested that the Secretariat of the United Nations should periodically carry out what might be called "a market analysis"; it should consult Governments, and through them the readers of the technical publications, to find out whether the bulletins or other publications were of real interest, what steps might be taken to improve them, and whether the form of the magazine might be simplified so as to reduce the cost of publication. While some Governments, including his own, had already stated their views with regard to the housing programme, a detailed study might be useful.
7. With reference to the statement by the Secretariat in document F/1580, page 2, that arrangements had been made to bring the report of the Secretary-General on Housing and Town and Country Planning to the attention of other interested Commissions of the Council during their sessions in 1950, he wished to know what other Commissions, apart from the Economic and Employment Commission which had already taken note of the Secretary-General's report, were interested in the matter. He also wished to know whether there was anything to prevent the Council from taking a final decision regarding the programme of work in the field of housing at its current session, or possibly without further discussion at its following session.

/Mr. Friis

Mr. Friis agreed in that regard with the representative of India that it might be possible for the Secretariat to be ahead with the programme which had been prepared after long consultation with the specialized agencies and other organs of the United Nations.

8. His delegation had no strong views regarding the form of the resolutions which the Council would be called upon to adopt. While there might be some advantage in concentrating on the general terms of the first three paragraphs of the United States and Brazil draft resolution, it should be remembered that the Social Commission, as well as other Commissions, had been asked by the Council to prepare draft resolutions, and it might be somewhat discouraging to the Commission to see that its efforts had not met with sufficient approval to be taken as a basis for discussion.

9. Mr. CHANG (China) associated himself with previous speakers who had expressed their appreciation of the report submitted by the Social Commission and of the work it had done. He believed that the Social Commission was performing a particularly useful task by giving ordinary men and women throughout the world tangible evidence of the activities of the United Nations and thus promoting loyalty to the Organization.

10. In connexion with the problem of prevention of crime and treatment of offenders, he drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 34 of the Commission's Report which recalled how the representative of China had emphasized the fact that there was a close relationship between the problems of juvenile delinquency and of habitual offenders, and that any study of one problem should, therefore, include consideration of the other. He hoped that the Council would bear that close relationship in mind.

11. Turning to the problem of the social aspects of the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped, he referred to the draft resolution adopted by the Social Commission which expressed the Commission's view that it should assume the leadership and a co-ordinating function in that field of social activity (paragraph 86, E/1568). He had certain misgivings about that wording because in his opinion the main task of the Commission was not leadership but initiating activities in that particular field.

12. He also wished to express his delegation's gratification at the progress achieved in establishing a closer relationship between the social and economic activities of the United Nations.

13. He was inclined to agree with the joint draft resolution submitted by Brazil and the United States on the Report of the Social Commission. Indeed, most of the draft resolutions proposed by the Commission were of a somewhat formal nature and it might be advisable to forward them to the Council together with a general covering statement, namely the joint draft resolution.

14. Drawing attention to the third paragraph of that resolution, which stated that the Secretary-General was to report to the sixth session of the Social Commission on the study on the continuing needs of children, he emphasized the particular urgency of that problem and expressed the hope that the Council would add its weight to the recommendations of the Commission.

15. Mr. AREVALO (Peru) also praised the Social Commission for the work it had done. Turning to the question of inter-relationships of the social and economic activities of the United Nations, he emphasized that the expanded programme of technical assistance for under-developed areas would also have favourable repercussions on the social well-being of the populations concerned. Referring to paragraph 99 of the Social Commission's Report, he expressed his satisfaction that new criteria had been recommended for the selection of expert personnel for field work in the United Nations social programmes.

16. In conclusion, having expressed full support both for the Report and for the joint Brazilian-United States draft resolution, he wished to repeat his pressing request that the publications of the Social Commission should also be published in the Spanish language.

17. Mrs. MYRDAL (Secretariat) wished to answer some of the points which had been raised during the discussion on the Report of the Social Commission. The French representative, for instance, had stressed the need for a certain amount of regionalization in matters of housing. Whether specific activities in the field of housing should be carried out at a central or regional level was, in her opinion, a matter of policy to be settled by the United Nations itself. She had reason to believe that the question would be raised in the Economic and Social Council during the next session.

/18. Regarding

18. Regarding the question of co-operation between the various organs of the United Nations, she could testify from personal experience--having recently taken part in the work of the Housing Sub-Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe -- that such co-operation was improving considerably. Furthermore, it was of an extremely practical nature. For instance, the Secretariat at United Nations headquarters always took full advantage of any relevant studies carried out at a regional level. That provided an answer to the Canadian representative who had asked how the Secretariat could study the financing of housing in 1950 without incurring additional costs: the Secretariat at Lake Success would make use of studies which had been planned by the ECE in that field. For other regions studies would be centralized and thus a global survey completed at the United Nations headquarters. That arrangement represented a particularly profitable form of co-operation and also one that led to considerable savings in expenditure.

19. The Canadian representative had also raised the question of costs relating to the programme of work for 1950 which included two new activities, a study on the financing of housing, and the preparation of a study on the neighbourhood unit. The original expenditure contemplated by the Social Commission, namely \$15,000 for a consultant on the first question and \$12,000 for a consultant on the second question, was no longer mentioned in the budget estimates submitted to the Council. Thanks to the co-operation of the ECE the first study in question would no longer entail any additional expenditure for 1950. However, it might perhaps have to be continued in 1951. The study on the neighbourhood unit could not be postponed because of its urgent character, but the revised plan of the Secretariat was to publish in 1950 a series of preliminary articles, probably as a separate issue of the Bulletin, and then await the results of more fundamental research, returning to the question after a few years.

20. The French representative had raised the question of the meetings of experts on tropical housing. She wished to make it quite clear that the Secretary-General had no desire to preclude the possibility of such a meeting. He had merely asked for authorization to send experts instead of holding a meeting in case of need. She wished to add that the integrated housing programme had been circulated to all the functional Commissions of the Council and that in particular the interest of the Statistical Commission was involved.

21. The Secretariat was also giving attention to the form and distribution of the Housing and Town and Country Planning Bulletin as requested by the representative of Denmark. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat had been asked to ascertain the needs and desires of potential readers through its regional offices, as well as possibilities for wider sale and distribution.

22. Mr. DELIERNEUX (Secretariat) said it had been asked whether the Social Commission had been fully acquainted with the proceedings of the International Conference of Workers for the Blind, held at Oxford, when it had examined the social aspects of the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. Although the Commission had not had at its disposal all the documents submitted to the Oxford Conference, the latter's work had been fully summarized in document E/CN.5/172 which had been distributed to members of the Commission. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Oxford Conference had attended the meetings of the Commission.

23. The Chinese representative had questioned the wording of the Social Commission's draft resolution which stated that the Commission should assume the leadership and a co-ordinating function in social aspects of the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. He wished to make it quite clear that the Commission was fully conscious of the fact that such work could not be tackled, let alone any success achieved, without the wholehearted co-operation of all specialized agencies concerned. All those taking part in that undertaking would be working as equals. On the initiative of the Secretary-General a conference would be held in Geneva in a few days' time by all the experts in the field, from both the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and they would then submit their recommendations to the Secretary-General.

24. It had also been asked, in connexion with the Social Commission's draft resolution on prevention of crime and treatment of offenders, whether the omission he had mentioned at the previous meeting of the Committee was a voluntary one or not. He could only refer members of the Committee to paragraphs 41 to 45 inclusive which made it quite clear that the Social Commission had envisaged a programme of action and not merely one of studies. As the draft resolution in question referred the Secretary-General to the Commission's Report (first paragraph of the operative part) there should be no doubt whatever as to what had been envisaged by the Social Commission.

/25. The CHAIRMAN

25. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the joint United States and Brazilian draft resolution (Conference Room Paper No. 1, E/AC.7/L.4) should be taken as the basic document for the purposes of voting. That document was intended to replace the draft resolutions submitted by the Social Commission on all the aspects of its work with the exception of housing and town and country planning, which was the subject of a separate draft resolution (Conference Room Paper No. 5) submitted by the representative of Chile.

26. Various amendments had been submitted to the joint draft resolution: one by the representative of France proposing the deletion of the two final paragraphs (Conference Room Paper No. 2), one by the representative of India involving changes in paragraphs 3 and 5 (Conference Room Paper No. 3) and a re-draft of paragraph 3 sponsored by the original authors of the draft resolution together with the representative of India (Conference Room Paper No. 4).

27. Rani RAJWADE (India) explained that her delegation had been somewhat concerned by the original wording of the joint draft resolution, because it had seemed to imply that the Social Commission would be unable to undertake any new work or to incur any additional expenditure in the year 1950, whereas the representatives who had spoken had agreed that the Commission had made a good start and that its programme should be carried out. That should be done however without prejudice to the long-range programme which the Commission might evolve during its sixth session. Since the Commission was due to meet early in April, it might even be necessary to revise the 1950 programme at the Council's eleventh session. Thus, for the time being, all that was necessary was to ensure that work could proceed on the basis of the 1950 programme until the Council's eleventh session. It had been with that purpose in view that her delegation had proposed the deletion of the words "pending the conclusions to be reached by the Social Commission at its sixth session on the long-range works programme in this field". Since then, however, the authors of the joint draft resolution had agreed to redraft the paragraph in question and she was therefore happy to withdraw her original amendment to paragraph 3.

28. The purpose of her delegation's amendment to the final paragraph was to make it quite clear that the Social Commission did in fact make specific recommendations and not merely suggestions in the hope that concrete recommendations would in the end emerge. She understood that the authors of the joint draft resolution would find no difficulty in accepting that amendment.

/29. With regard

29. With regard to the French amendment, she thought it had probably been based on a misunderstanding. She agreed that the last two paragraphs of the joint draft resolution merely recapitulated an existing situation and added little to the substance. Nevertheless, if the purpose of those paragraphs was to emphasize the Council's concern about the problem, she saw no reason why they should not be retained.

30. In conclusion, she stated that her delegation would have preferred to have taken the various draft resolutions submitted by the Social Commission separately, but if the other delegations preferred to cover most of them in a single draft resolution she would not object to that procedure.

31. Mr. KAYSER (France) said that he had understood that the joint draft resolution was intended to cover all the aspects of the Social Commission's report, including housing and town and country planning. Since that part of the report was to be the subject of a separate draft resolution, he suggested that the text of the joint draft resolution should be amended in order to specify exactly which aspects of the report it was intended to cover.

32. He also thought it would be useful to refer specifically to the discussions held by the Council in the text of the draft resolution.

33. If those suggestions were accepted, he would be able to withdraw his amendment for the deletion of the two final paragraphs.

34. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) and Mr. PENTEADO (Brazil) accepted the suggestions made by the representative of France.

35. Mr. ENTEZAM (Iran) suggested that the meeting should be suspended for a short while in order to enable the representatives concerned to agree on a definite text.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and resumed at 5 p.m.

36. The CHAIRMAN announced that the representatives of Brazil, France, India and the United States had succeeded in preparing a joint text (Conference Room Paper No.6). He had been informed that the adoption of the draft resolution would involve the additional expenditure of \$7,530 during the year 1950. He hoped that all representatives would be able to agree to that additional expenditure and that the draft resolution would be speedily adopted.

The joint draft resolution (Conference Room Paper No.6) was adopted unanimously.

37. The CHAIRMAN called for consideration of the Chilean draft resolution on Housing and Town and Country Planning (Conference Room Paper No. 5) proposed to replace the draft resolution contained in paragraph 24 of the Report of the Social Commission (E/1568).

38. Mr. LARRAIN (Chile) stated that his resolution had been drafted in the light of the opinions expressed by the various delegations, and with a view to achieving the greatest possible measure of agreement.

39. The draft, after stating approval of the 1950 work programme in the field of housing and town planning as adopted by the Social Commission at its fifth session, requested the Social Commission, in giving further consideration to its work programme, as outlined in the report of its fifth session, to concentrate on establishing priorities in a few items from which positive results could be attained.

40. Mr. Larrain noted that since the presentation of the draft resolution a number of changes therein had appeared advisable. He suggested accordingly that the third paragraph should be redrafted as follows:

"Requests the Secretary-General to promote and intensify the co-operation which has already been established with the various specialized agencies and other international organizations in carrying out the programmes in 1951 and the following years."

41. He also agreed with two drafting amendments suggested to him by the French representative. The first was to insert, after the first paragraph, the phrase "Draws the attention of the Social Commission to the discussions on these subjects which took place at the tenth session of the Council" for the reasons given by the French representative for the insertion of the same phrase in the joint draft resolution just adopted. The second was to delete the reference to the year 1950 in the last paragraph in view of the fact that, while there might be no meeting of experts in 1950, such a meeting might be held in the early part of 1951.

42. He hoped that his draft resolution would be adopted unanimously and without debate.

43. Mr. DAVIDSON (Canada) asked for clarification on three points: first, whether the wording of the first paragraph of the Chilean draft resolution
/approving

approving the 1950 work programme, implied endorsement of the supplementary expenditure of 10,630 dollars given in the relevant financial estimates (E/1568/Add.1, page 3); secondly, whether there was any difference of substance between the last paragraph of the Chilean draft resolution and paragraph 2 on page 9 of the Social Commission's report on housing and town and country planning, the wording of which was slightly different; thirdly, whether deletion of the reference to 1950 in the last paragraph of the Chilean draft resolution would mean that the Secretary-General would be able to use the funds for the two purposes mentioned therein in 1950, but not in 1951.

44. Mr. LARRAIN (Chile), in reply to the first question, explained that the first paragraph implied endorsement of the supplementary expenditure of 10,630 dollars. In reply to the second question he said that, while there was a slight difference in wording between the two texts in question, the intention in both was essentially the same, as his primary purpose had been to encourage visits of experts to the regions concerned. He was prepared to alter the wording of the paragraph if the Committee so desired.

45. The CHAIRMAN recalled, in connexion with the Canadian representative's first question, that the Committee had already approved the supplementary expenditure of 10,630 dollars.

46. Regarding the second question, he took note that the Chilean representative did not object to return, for the phrasing of the last paragraph of his draft resolution, to the phrasing originally used by the Social Commission in its draft resolution.

47. Regarding the last question, he said that the Secretary-General could not carry over funds for use in 1951 unless specifically instructed to do so by the General Assembly.

48. Mr. JOCKEL (Australia) recalled that the joint draft resolution just adopted by the Committee stated that the Council endorsed the work programme for 1950 developed by the Social Commission, subject to review by the Council in the light of further consideration of the programme by the Social Commission at its sixth session. From the explanation given by the United States

/representative

representative during the debate on the draft, that endorsement of the work programme would make it possible for the work to be continued until the following session, Mr. Jockel had gathered the impression that the joint draft resolution would have no financial implications. His impression had been the same in the case of the Chilean draft resolution. It now seemed, however, that there would be financial implications, and he would abstain in the vote and reserve the right to raise the question of financial implications arising from both draft resolutions in the plenary meeting of the Council.

The Chilean draft resolution was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.