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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE THIRD SESSION  
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
Lake Success, New York  
Tuesday, 1 October 1946 at 10:30 am

**PRESENT:****THE PRESIDENT:**

DR. STAMPAR

MR. NISOT	(Belgium)
MR. DAVILA	(Chile)
DR. CHANG	(China)
MR. ZULETA ANGEL	(Colombia)
MR. PAPANEK	(Czechoslovakia)
MR. HOFFMANN	(France)
MR. ARGYROPOULOS	(Greece)
SIR Girja SHANKAR BAJPAI	(India)
MR. FEONOV	(Soviet Union)
MR. NOEL-BAKER	(United Kingdom)

THE PRESIDENT: Meeting of the Council will come to order. We have  
a quorum.

MR. NOEL-BAKER (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I move that Paper 141 be adopted without further discussion.

The PRESIDENT: Is this proposal seconded?

MR. NISOT (Belgium): Yes.

MR. ZULETA ANGEL (Colombia): Yes.

MR. FEONOV (Soviet Union): Mr. President, yesterday we adopted a resolution concerning Resolution 103 of UNRRA about the rehabilitation of the children and adolescents. It seems to me that reference to this Resolution in this Paper is not necessary now, because actually, in this case, we will have two resolutions on one question. So I would propose this: From this Paper delete the words in Paragraph 2 beginning from "and Resolution 103, Resolution on the rehabilitation", to the end of this paragraph. And that Paragraph 2, the Proposed Resolution Page 2, read as follows: "Request the Social Commission at its First Session to make recommendations for continued action required to carry on essential functions performed by UNRRA in the field of Social Welfare." And that is all. And the following three lines should be deleted.

(During the above remarks Mr. Riddell, Representative of Canada; Mr. Cisneros, Representative of Cuba; Mr. Colbjornsen, Representative of Norway, Mr. Parra, Representative of Peru; Mr. Medved, Representative of Ukrainian SSR; Mr. Altmayer, Representative of the United States; Mr. Mates, Representative of Yugoslavia, arrived and assumed their seats at the Council table.)

MR. ALTMAYER (United States): We would be very glad to accept the amendment of the Representative of the Soviet Union. We think that 2(a) is broad enough to indicate that the Social Commission has a continuing interest, and also in welfare activities, including those of children.

The PRESIDENT: Therefore, you support the Soviet proposal?

MR. ALTMAYER (United States): Yes.

MR. NOEL-BAKER (United Kingdom): I agree.

(During the above remarks, Mr. Stinebower, Representative of the United States, arrived and replaced Mr. Altmayer at the Council table.)

The PRESIDENT: Since there are no objections to the Resolution, Document E/141, as-amended by the Soviet Delegation and supported by the United Kingdom and the United States, is adopted.

Document E/54-Rev. 1.

MR. ZULETA ANGEL (Colombia) (Interpretation from French): Mr. President, Mr. Noel-Baker has, several times, referred to the very useful and valuable character of the report of the Preparatory Commission. Indeed, with the valuable contributions of Mr. Noel-Baker, Mr. Gromyko, Mr. Massigli, Dr. Wellington Koo, Mr. Mudaliar, and others who worked so well in the course of the meetings of that Commission, it is no wonder that the report of the Preparatory Commission is a valuable document. It contains, undoubtedly, valuable pointers for the work of the Economic and Social Council.

On Page 38 of this Document, the following recommendation will be found: "It is recommended that the Economic and Social Council should consider the desirability of establishing at an early date, and possibly at its first session, the following commissions:

- (a) Demographic Commission
- (b) Temporary Transport and Communications Commission
- (c) Fiscal Commission."

And as regards the Fiscal Commission, on Page 39, we read the following: "This Commission would make studies and advise the Council on matters related to:

- (a) international taxation problems;
- (b) exchange of information among states on the techniques of government finance and on their social and economic effects;
- (c) fiscal techniques to assist the prevention of depressions or inflation; and

(d) such functions of the Fiscal Committee of the League of Nations as the United Nations may decide to assume."

It was in the light of these recommendations that, at the meeting, in June, of the Council, the Colombian Delegation put forward its proposal



which is contained in the Document dated the 4th of June. Following this, the Economic and Social Council took various decisions regarding the different Commissions that it was proposed to establish, and accordingly, this Document was modified, and we now have it in the shape that it assumes in Document E/54-Rev. 1 of the 21st of September.

I shall not repeat, Mr. President, the proposal submitted by the Colombian Delegation. That proposal is contained in detail, together with the explanations relating to it, in Document E/P.V./12 of the 11th of June, 1946. There, the stenographic record records the Twelfth Meeting of the Council, held at Hunter College on the 11th of June, and it contains, among other speeches, that of Mr. Toro, representing the Colombian Government in this matter, who gave all the reasons which militated, in his opinion, in favor of the establishment of a Fiscal Commission.

(During the above remarks, Mr. Malik, Representative of Lebanon, arrived and assumed his seat at the Council Table.)

MR. DAVILLA (Chile): I have the impression, Mr. President, that we have been rather slow, perhaps unduly slow, in acting upon the request of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations and upon the recommendation of the Organization Committee of this Commission, both concerning the establishment of a Fiscal Commission.

This subject was in the Agenda of the First and Second Sessions of the Council. It is before us for the third time. We had plenty of time and all the documentation to make up our minds on the matter.

I agree with the substance and the terms of the proposal submitted by the Representative of Colombia. The Chilean Delegation will support it, and hopes for a final favorable decision this time.

MR. HOFFHEER (France) (Interpretation from French): Mr. President, the French Delegation agrees, in principle, with the Colombian Delegation as to the need for the creation of a new Commission as proposed, but we consider that it is necessary to delimit very carefully the role of this Commission, if we are to avoid overlapping, and that will require, I think, a few days' work by a coordinating committee.



What exactly should be the role of the proposed Commission, in respect to economy of finance, and, for instance, as regards population and finance? Should these questions fall within the competence of the Fiscal Commission or of the Economic Development Commission or of the Demographic Commission? Which of these Commissions should be competent to deal with problems of this kind? I think we must be careful to see that the functions of the Commission are very accurately and carefully defined. I note that, under the functions of the Commission in this paper, the Fiscal Commission shall: "(a) Study and advise the Council in the field of public finance, particularly in its legal, administrative, and technical aspects."

We must decide exactly, Mr. President, what should be the role of the Fiscal Commission in the economic field.

MR. ARCA PARRO (Peru): Mr. President, I fully agree with what the Representative of Chile has said about the time it has taken to have this report and the proposal acted upon by the Economic and Social Council.

I really appreciate the effort made by the Colombian Delegation ever since the First Session of this Council in London. In order to get through, it has shown outstanding initiative.

I hope the Council will approve it now as soon as possible. Some opinions have been already expressed up to now which are favorable to this proposal. On the other hand, I think the remarks that have just been made by the French Representative should be taken into consideration.

It seems to me that from our terms of reference of the Resolution that is before us, this Commission will have to deal with just one part of the financial activities, if I may say so; but we know that the financial aspects are very closely linked with economic development and economic activities, and in some way with taxation and budgetary measures, which are a consequence, an expression, of the economic trends or economic policies that a given country or group of countries are following.

Therefore, if we really mean to do something important in the field of public finance, we shall have to deal at the same time in coordination

with the other Commissions of this Council, with the Specialized Agencies, as to how we could bring into being the sort of economic standards where economic trends are taken into consideration, in view of the financial measures that are supposed to be taken, or recommended to be taken, by different Governments.

Therefore, besides this very slight observation, I would suggest the inclusion of a special paragraph about the way in which the Commission will have to coordinate its work with the different Commissions or Agencies dealing with economic problems. I think the Resolution will be welcomed by all the Members of this Council -- at least, that is the opinion of the Peruvian Delegation.

Mr. NOEL BAKER (United Kingdom): Mr. President, no one who took part in the work of the Preparatory Commission in London will ever think of it except with a sentiment of pride and satisfaction. No one will forget the great services rendered to that Commission by its President who is now representing Colombia with us here. I have great pleasure in supporting the paper on the Fiscal Commission which he has put before us. I hope the Council will adopt it.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States): Mr. President, the United States also wants to support the Colombian proposal for the establishment of a Fiscal Commission. Its terms of reference seems to us to be carefully drawn and to outline clearly a field of work for this Commission which will be of great assistance to the Council and to the other Commissions and to the Member Governments. It is our belief that prior discussions which have taken place before this session of the Council have clearly enough defined the unique field in which this Commission will work, so as to alley any fears which might have arisen about its encroaching upon the fields of other Commissions which we have established. The point which the Member of Peru raised about closest cooperation and coordination with other Commissions, has been foreseen and has been rather well taken care of in point 1(b) in this Resolution. Accordingly, the United States indorses the proposal as it stands for a Fiscal Commission, and, in view of the desirability of an early establishment of the machinery of the Council, we urge the approval of the Resolution without delay.

Mr. FEONOV (Soviet Union) (Second interpretation; original in Russian): The Soviet Union also, Mr. President, values the eminent activities of the Representative of Colombia here in connection with the Preparatory Commission. As regards the proposed Fiscal Commission, we consider that the Council should follow the precedent already followed in the case of other commissions, and that it should be <sup>for</sup> the Commission when it meets, to consider in detail with all due care, the question of its terms of reference and its functions. It may consider the necessity for modifying the terms of reference proposed, and it may report to the Council, asking for such changes as it may wish to



ask for:

As regards the terms of reference proposed for the Fiscal Commission in the document before us, we would like to propose a slight modification under 1(a). We should like to suggest the following drafting: "The Fiscal Commission shall (a) study and advise the Council in the field of technical questions concerning public finance."

We consider that this change would be useful. It could be considered by the Committee and then approved after a report by the Committee to the Council, if the procedure I suggested is followed.

MR. ZULETA ANGEL (Colombia) (Interpretation from French): The suggestion just made by the Soviet Representative, Mr. President, was the intention of the Colombian Delegation in making its proposal. It is our belief also that the Commission should consider the function that it should properly undertake and report to the Council, for the Council finally to determine the functions of the Commission.

I should like also to express my appreciation of the remarks made by Mr. Noel-Baker and the other Representatives in connection with my work on the Preparatory Commission.

MR. CHANG (China): Mr. President, the Chinese Delegation has already expressed its support of this resolution for the establishment of a Fiscal Commission and the Chinese Delegation would like to see its early realization. We also appreciate the contribution made by the distinguished Representative of Colombia.

MR. Arca PARRO (Peru): I would just like to make an observation. My remark deals with the particular aim that the Fiscal Commission should be established as one of the objectives of the Council. To be brief, I would like to ask the Representative of Colombia whether or not he is prepared to accept my proposal that at the end of this paragraph (d) under I, there be added a sentence like this. I will read the whole sentence so as to understand why I am for it. "(d) to advise the Council and other Commissions of the Council, either upon request or on its own initiative, of the fiscal implications and recommendations made by the Commission in its field and, in general, to cooperate in matters of common interest to the other Commissions of the Council and the other organs of the United Nations, including the Specialized Agencies."

My other suggestion would be at the end of this paragraph, so it would read like this: "As to establish a correlation between the economic and social trends and fiscal policy." Really, this phrase would be just to clarify the concept as to what is the aim of the collaboration and the coordination with the other agencies. What do we want in trying to work in

cooperation with the other agencies? We want to establish a correlation between the economic and social trends and fiscal policy. That is all.

MR. ZULETA ANGEL (Colombia) (Interpretation from French): Would you please repeat the text of the proposed amendment?

(At this point, the interpreter repeated in French the text of the amendment proposed by Mr. Arca Parro, Representative of Peru)

MR. COLBJORNSEN (Norway): We are discussing, Mr. President, whether we should at this session establish a Fiscal Commission and lay down, even provisionally, its terms of reference. I take it that we will establish a Population or Demographic Commission which, to my mind, should have preference over the Fiscal Commission. If we plan to establish all these Commissions, I think we might find that we have established perhaps almost a dozen Commissions or Sub-Commissions, which is more than was originally intended for the first period of the Economic and Social Council. I certainly will not object as I see it is the general opinion of the Council Members that we should do it now, but once we start doing it, I think we should be rather careful with the terms of reference, even if we decide upon them only provisionally.

I quite agree with the suggestion of our Soviet Union colleague that it should be put in the resolution that the Commission itself shall consider the terms of reference with a view to expansion and improvement. I take it that that would be adopted here, but I must say that I cannot agree with his proposed amendment to insert the words, "technical questions concerning" before "public finance" in the first line of (a). To my mind, the Commission with the terms of reference proposed by the Colombian Representative, is perhaps too narrowly limited to the technical aspects of public finance, in view of the addition of the second line, particularly in its legal, administrative and technical aspects. After all, the technical aspects of public finance are not the most important and they are not the most difficult. The really important and difficult questions are, of course, the problems incident to taxation, the social and economic texts of various



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types of taxation, the redistribution of income through taxation, and all those things which I need not here further elaborate. Those are the real problems of public finance in the modern social world. When we are directing a Fiscal Commission, I think it is not quite right to narrow its terms of reference too much. I quite understand the difficulties which we are encountering here. Some may like to have a broadening of the terms of reference and some may like to have a narrowing but, at any rate, I think we cannot narrow it further down to its purely technical aspects, which already is the case in the text before us.

So, I am really more in favor of amendments along the line of those proposed by my colleague from Peru but, as they are amendments going into two different directions, perhaps the only solution is that we stick to the middle one proposed by our Colombian colleague, with a proviso that the terms of reference have to be very carefully considered by the Commission and we can clarify the position at a later session of the Council.

MR. ZULETA ANGEL (Colombia) (Interpretation from French): I am sorry to have to ask to speak for a third time, Pr. President, but I think it is necessary because I want to point out that what the Representative of Norway has just suggested is already contained in the text. Under Item 7, Page 3, of the text, we have the following: "Shortly after its creation, and thereafter when appropriate, the Commission shall make recommendations and reports to the Council with respect to its terms of reference, organization and program of work."

As regards the amendments suggested by the Peruvian Delegation, C I should like to say that I consider it to be well-defined, and I agree with it. Furthermore, I must say that I do not see that it is incompatible in any way with the amendment proposed by the Soviet Representative.

MR. MALIK (Lebanon): Mr. President, we support warmly the principle of the establishment of this Commission. I would like to make two simple remarks thereon.

In the first place, I believe it is permissible for me to point out here that certain pioneer work in this field covering many States in the Near East was initiated and executed in Beirut. My country therefore, and the scientists who made these studies, would be intensely interested in the work of this Commission. In the second place, I believe that the creation of such a Commission will be in line with the general desire to have the United Nations give the proper advice and guidance to the Member States in certain technical fields. I therefore welcome Paragraph 2 which envisages such possibilities, namely that: "The Fiscal Commission is authorized to assist any Member government ... in the field of public finance..."

In fact, I can say that as soon as the Commission is instituted properly and in full swing of action, my country will probably avail itself of its technical knowledge. And finally, Mr. President, it seems to me that such bodies as this Commission, dealing with specific technical topics, will help give the United Nations added weight and authority. The United Nations through the activity of such bodies and Commissions, will have an autonomous and creative function to perform, in addition to being the public platform where

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of these national policies meet and clash.

I am, therefore, in favor of strengthening all these independent aspects of the life of the United Nations, aspects whose cumulative effect will be to give the United Nations a separate character of its own.



SIR G. SHANKAR BAJPAI (India): Mr. President, the Council seems to be in an unusually happy mood of agreement this morning, so that it is not necessary for any one of us to speak at great length to expound one's own particular point of view, and I shall be brief.

I think there are two questions involved. The first is whether or not this Commission should be set up, and the second is, if so, what its terms of reference should be. On the first, namely, whether the Fiscal Commission should be set up, there is general agreement. It is only with regard to the terms of reference that some suggestions have been made. Now, Sir, it will be clear to everybody that when we are breaking new ground of this kind, any approach that we make in the first instance can only be an imperfect step and the possibilities of modification and change must be provided for. Those, Sir, are provided for, as has already been pointed out by our Colombian colleague, in paragraph 7: "Shortly after its creation, and thereafter, when appropriate, the Commission shall make recommendations and report to the Council with respect to its terms of reference, organization, and program of work." That being so, Sir, and considering further that this wording has had very careful consideration already, I am reluctant myself to support any amendment, no matter from what quarter it comes.

There is one further point, Sir, to which I should like to draw the attention of the Council. If you look at paragraph 2 of the Resolution, or Draft Resolution, it says: "The Fiscal Commission is authorized to assist any Member Government of the United Nations on the matter set forth in 1 (a) above, upon the request of that Government." If we accept the Soviet amendment, we limit 1 (a) to the study and advice to the Council in the field of technical questions concerning public finance. Now, it seems to me that a Member Government may want advice not merely on a technical question. It may want advice on a question of policy. If paragraph 2 is to govern 1 (a), then in that case, there is the risk that this Commission will be precluded by its terms of reference from giving any advice on a question of policy. I think that we have to be a little careful and also a little trusting, to begin

with to the wisdom of the Commission itself. I, for one, therefore, would be in favor of leaving the text of the Resolution as it stands. I think it is implicit in what I have said that we, of course, support the creation of the Fiscal Commission.

MR. HOFFHERR (France) (Interpretation from French): I come back to what I have already said, Mr. President, and I wish to express my support of the Peruvian Representative's proposal, which I know is also accepted by the Representative of Colombia. I think that we must widen the terms of reference of the proposed Fiscal Commission and not limit that Commission in its terms of reference to merely legal, technical and administrative aspects of the problem. If we limit it in any way to legal, technical and administrative work, we shall make it into a body devoted entirely to a work of compilation, codification perhaps, but in any case, a work which will be of interest to scientists from the scientific point of view, but which will not be of very much value from the practical point of view. I think we have already recognized the importance of having wider terms of reference, because we laid it down that the Fiscal Commission should study the technical aspects of the problem with a view to preventing depressions and deflations. And I submit that it is impossible for the Commission to do that, to take steps to prevent depression and deflation, without studying the economic foundations which underlie those phenomena.

MR. ARGYROPOULOS (Greece): Mr. President, what our Indian colleague has just said dispenses with the need of any further development on my part, because he expressed, probably much more glibly than I could...

SIR G. SHANKAR BAJPAI (India): Not glibly.

MR. ARGYROPOULOS (Greece): I beg your pardon.

...what I had in mind. So I just wanted to say that I thought, as long as we are disposed to accept the creation of this Commission, we ought not to restrict its field of activity. That is why I would like to propose the adoption of this Resolution, but I would admit, with my French colleague, that perhaps the amendment which was proposed by our Peruvian colleague would be



very useful, and I would be in favor of its adoption.

(During the above remarks Mr. Lebeau, Representative of Belgium arrived and replaced Mr. Nisot at the Council table.)

1 MR. NOEL-BAKER (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I think we are having a useful discussion. On my part, I felt much persuaded by our Norwegian and Indian colleagues, and I would be prepared to follow them on both points which are under discussion. On the first, namely the definition of paragraph 1 (a) of the aspect of public finance which the Commission is to study, I know that the Colombian Representative who drafted this took into consideration the fact that there had been a lot of international practice on this. In fact, the Fiscal Commission of the League of Nations has continued to meet, I believe, in Mexico in 1940 and in 1943. There was a meeting in March of this year in London. I think it is in the light of that experience that this draft has been made. And I think, for the present, we should adhere to it carefully.

With regard to the Peruvian amendment, I, personally, would not object to it, but I think it changes the emphasis a little. I feel sure, in fact, that the other Commissions and agencies will refer problems to this Commission for study, and I think it is in that way, by practice and custom, that the correlation of the activities of the different Commissions can best be built up. For that reason, I would, like the Norwegian and other Representatives, prefer to stick to the text as it is, recalling always that the Commission is itself, under paragraph 7, to reconsider the matter. We could refer our present discussion to them, so that they should take it into account when they do look into the matter. Of course, we remain master of the situation, and if we do not like what they are doing, whether they make any recommendation to us or not, we can, at our next session or later, reconsider the matter and change the terms of reference.



MR. FEONTV (Soviet Union) (Second Interpretation; Original in Russian):

I would like to say first, Mr. President, I share the opinion expressed by the Representative of Norway as to the creation of this Commission. The Soviet Delegation is also not very keen on creating this Commission immediately. It is possible that we have already tended to create too many Commissions too rapidly acting rather a priori in some cases. We would prefer, therefore, a slowing-down of this process of creating Commissions. The Soviet Delegation is ready to discuss the substance of the question in view of the general desire, but we would prefer not to create this Commission at the present stage.

As regards the remark of the Norwegian Representative concerning the Soviet amendment we are prepared not to insist upon our amendment. As regards the field of activity of the Commission, it seems to us that the practical work of the Fiscal Commission should be to give advice to the Economic and Social Council on questions connected with the organization of the interchange of information on the fiscal subjects between various countries. We consider that this would be a useful function. It is not our intention to restrict unduly the terms of reference of the Commission. We should like to propose, also, that among the activities of the Fiscal Commission should be that of studying and recommending to the Council upon the technical questions connected with international investments and tariff barriers.

It seems to me, Mr. President, that various remarks of some interest have been submitted during the present meetings, and it might be useful if we would set up a working group to take these remarks and specific proposals into account and to present us tomorrow with drafts of the various proposals and amendments. If the working group could report tomorrow to the Council, it might be possible for us then to adopt a final text.

MR. ARCA PARRO (Peru): Mr. President, I just want to say that my main object in taking part in this debate was to support the adoption of the Resolution. I, in no way <sup>want</sup> to slow down the discussion of the Resolution -- so in spite of the support that the Delegations like the French and Greek have been so kind as to

give to my amendment, I would rather be willing to withdraw that amendment having in mind that those terms of reference will be studied carefully by the Commission itself, and I am sure that some of the initiatives that have been brought up to this debate will have to be taken into consideration.

As to the suggestion made by the Soviet Representative to refer this to a Drafting Commission, I will say that it will be practically impossible to do it within such a short time as he suggested, and that we can, according to Paragraph 7 - it is a possibility of amending or clarifying concepts of the terms of references. So I am withdrawing my amendment. I should like to ask the Chairman that we take a vote on this question in which we all agree and on which we have been debating for over an hour. As we say in Spanish, El movimien to se demucstra andando.

The PRESIDENT: The debate is closed. We now have to decide on Document E/54.

It seems to me that all the Members agree that this Sub-Commission should be established at this session.

The Soviet Representative proposed to appoint a small working group to put some new wording in the terms of reference as it stands here, but as has already been said, paragraph 7 provides that the Members of the Fiscal Commission should discuss the terms of reference of this Organization and submit it to the Council.

If the Soviet Representative is satisfied with the provisions made under Article 7, perhaps it is not necessary to establish more working groups. Of course, I am not objecting to it because it is quite good procedure and satisfactory for everybody.

Is the Soviet Representative satisfied?

Mr. FEONOV (Soviet Union)(Second interpretation; original in Russian): Mr. President, the Soviet Delegation can agree with your proposal with the following understanding: That in the next session of the Economic and Social Council when we are discussing the terms of reference of the Fiscal Commission, any amendment can be submitted; on the understanding also that when the Commission itself meets and discusses the terms of reference that proposals and amendments of any kind - however radical - can be submitted at that time also. On these understandings, Mr. President, we have no objection to your proposal.

The PRESIDENT: So, with this understanding, the Resolution is approved if there is no objection. It is approved.

The next item is Demographic Commissions.

Are there any speakers on this subject.

Mr. HOFFMANN (France)(Interpretation from French): Mr. President, the French Delegation has noted with interest this proposal put forward, this Resolution put forward, by the American and British Groups.

The Commission, in our opinion, should not have only the task of collecting figures and statistics. If its task were so limited, it would



overlap with that of the Statistical Commission, and I think this is well understood by the British and American proposals of the Resolution, for they have termed the Committee a Population Commission.

Nevertheless, it seems to us that the program of work of this Committee should be very precisely defined, so that its field of work should not spread too wide.

We have already noted that one of the essential factors in population questions is the question of the age composition of populations. There are countries that we all know in which the population is rapidly growing. There are other countries which have a stationary population and to these the question of the aging of the population is a very serious problem which needs to be carefully studied. The Commission should certainly study the problems raised by the co-existence of countries with an expanding population and countries with a stationary population. From this age composition, factors of populations have consequences as regards a number of things, including the nature and volume of the population and the standard of life. Clearly, a country with a large proportion of its population consisting of elderly persons has special problems and these concern also the problems of social security.

We should like, therefore, to propose the addition of a clause in the terms of reference proposed by this Committee, between paragraphs c and d, along the following lines: "or in some other proper place...", we should like to have added: "the consequences of the different age structures on international relations upon living standards, and upon social security."

The Commission clearly will be linked in its work with the Commission on Devastated Areas. There are a number of countries who would be concerned in this connection. To take the example of my own country, the population of France has fallen in the last five years by about a million and a half, and this is without taking into account qualitative enfeeblement of the population due to such causes as deportation. So, the effects of war upon these countries need also to be taken into account where it has a bearing upon population. We should like to have a paragraph to cover this question in the terms of reference of the Committee.

MR. WINANT (United States): Mr. President, the proposed Population Commission is designed to meet the real need not only of the United Nations but also of the specialized agencies. Suitable arrangements for the coordination and initiation of population studies and population data are necessary for the efficient discharge of many of the tasks of the Economic and Social Council itself and of its Commissions and Sub-Commissions, as well as of the specialized agencies. Population is a subject which underlies most economic and social questions. Failure to understand and appreciate the influence of population factors would hinder the solution of such questions.

The proposed Population Commission is a necessary adjunct to the other Commissions, as well as to the specialized agencies. In recognition of this, paragraph 2 of the draft resolution provides for the selection of three Representatives, one each from the Economic and Employment Commission, the Social Commission and the Statistical Commission. This will help to insure that the influence of population changes and fluctuations in economic activity is taken into account by the Economic and Employment Commission in general in its work on business cycles. It is hardly necessary to illustrate the importance of population changes in the work of the Social Commission.

We expect that the work of the Population Commission will consist not so much in formulating recommendations to submit directly to the Council

as to bring in its influence to bear on the work of the other Commissions.

The Preparatory Commission in London recommended the establishment of a Demographic Commission and a draft resolution now before the Council gives effect to the recommendation. The Government of the United States fully supports this resolution and will give all such aid to the Commission in its work.

MR. Arca PARRO (Peru): Mr. President, I am glad that the British and American Delegations have presented this joint proposal on the setting up of a Demographic Commission because some time ago both of those Delegations presented separately their respective proposals. In view of this situation, the Peruvian Delegation presented a few days ago another proposal as to the appointment of a nuclear commission which would be entitled to view the proposals on the financial program of the World Health Organization and some other specialized agencies which are interested in the development of the Demographic Commission. Such a nuclear Commission would have to draft the terms of reference on the working program of the Commission to be approved at our next session. I want to make it clear that such a proposal was presented having in mind that there will be no time to study those two proposals of the British and American Delegations and to have a final draft that could be approved at this session. Since those two Delegations have come to this agreement, I am glad to withdraw such a proposal and to support this proposal because what we want is to start the setting up of this important Commission which has been suggested ever since our first session in London.

In so doing, I should like to clarify certain aspects as to the scope of the Commission and the work that it is supposed to do. According to paragraph 6 of this proposal, the Commission will have to draw up the original plan and submit to the Council for approval a specific program of work based on its terms of reference, taking into account modifications in those terms of reference which the Commission may wish to recommend to the Council. I think that it is wise to approve a procedure of this type because



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it will give an opportunity to the Members of the Commission--I mean, to those who have to deal with such technical questions--to present a program that is fit to meet the requirements of the different specialized agencies and to be of real service to the work of the United Nations as a whole.

But I would like just to say that I fully support the amendment presented by the French Delegation, and at the same time I should like to suggest that the composition of this Commission could be changed so as to have within its Members, one Representative of the World Health Organization. We cannot imagine<sup>2</sup> Demographic Commission working without direct, not only cooperation, initiative of the World Health Organization. We all know how population problems are so closely linked with vital statistics, and how the World Health Organization, in view of its task, is supposed to follow so closely the developments of vital statistics along different aspects and lines. So I think this Commission should not only have to seek the advice or expect the advice of the World Health Organization, but to have a Member of such Organization within its Board of Directors or as a Members of the Commission itself. I do not know if it is any technical difficulty in order to make this proposal, but in any case, as soon as the World Health Organization is a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, I hope there will be no objection at all to call for a Delegate or Representative of this Organization!

In order not to change the number of the Members of the Commission, if such a suggestion could be accepted, I think we could reduce the elective Members of the different States mentioned, eleven, I think, so the Members of the different Commissions and Specialized Agencies would be higher, in this case four.

Those are, Mr. President, some of the suggestions I wish to have taken into consideration by the different Delegations that have presented this important proposal, which I fully support.

(During the above remarks Mr. Zuletta Angel, Representative of Colombia left and was replaced by Mr. Betancur.)

(During the above remarks Mr. Argyropoulos, Representative of Greece left and was replaced by Mr. Loverdos.)

MR. NOEL BAKER (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I am glad this Commission is having a good reception and I listened with satisfaction to what was said by the Representative of Peru. This again is another commissioner

which was proposed by the Preparatory Commission. If those who carry the report of the Commission, as I always do, will look at page 38, they will find it in Chapter 3, paragraph 32. I recall that because the decision of the Assembly which I have here was that Chapter 3, paragraph 32 of the report was approved. In other words, Sir, we are more or less under instructions to appoint this Commission, and it was suggested by the Assembly that it should be done perhaps at the first session, but in any case at an early date.

We are now in our Third Session. These Commissions take a long time to set up. I hope we shan't have any further delay. I am not going to argue, Sir, how vital it is to study trends of population. The people are the markets for goods, and if we want an intelligently planned economic policy, which will avoid slumps and booms, and maximized production for the benefit of all the peoples of the world, raising the standard of living where it is lowest to the level of the countries where it is higher, this is a vital part of the work that we've got to do. With regard to the cooperation of the Specialized Agencies, I have the greatest sympathy with what was said by our Colleague from Peru, but I am in this difficulty, I do not think you could restrict it to the Health Organization, important as that Organization is. I think the ILO is concerned, I am quite sure that FAO is concerned, because they have already made inquiries on population matters. And I think that we do wiser to make no decision about that for the present. I personally believe that by invitation, by requests from either side to attend meetings when matters of mutual interest are under discussion, that again by practice the thing would work itself out. But we shall certainly see clearer at our next meeting when this body has been established and can make us a report on this, as on other points.

Now, Sir, with regard to the proposal of the French Representative to amend, or rather to make an addition to the terms of reference, I understand that the study of senescence - that is a new word which I have learned this morning - I am interested to see what the ~~interpreters~~ will make of it. The study of senescence, how and why you grow old, is in its infancy, and I am quite sure it will be of great interest that senescence should be studied



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by this Body, no doubt in cooperation with the Health Organization.

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But since, again, I think we might rely on the paragraph, which I think, in this case is numbered 6 instead of 7, as it was in the Fiscal Commission -- namely, rely on the Commissions itself to make these proposals, I would certainly not oppose it, if it was the desire of the Council, but I think that might be the best plan.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to call one point to the attention of the Secretary-General whom we are so glad to see here with us this morning. Without doubt, this work is both economic and social, but it is certainly, certainly economic. It is going to be vitally concerned with the preparation of statistics, which will be of importance to every specialized agency, but above all, to the economic specialized agencies and to other economic bodies we are creating. I hope, therefore, Sir, that arrangements in the Secretariat will be such that all this economic and statistical work will be adequately tied up. I am sure that is not beyond the ingenuity and administrative capacity of the Secretary-General. I think it important that it should be done.

(During the above remarks Mr. Winant, Representative of the United States, replaced Mr. Stinebower, and Mr. Zuleta Angel, Representative of Colombia, replaced Mr. Betancur at the Council Table.)

MR. FEONOV (Soviet Union): (Interpretation; original in Russian). It has already been said, a number of times, that the Economic and Social Council is creating a rather large number of Commissions, and that this will make it very difficult later on for the work of these Commissions to be carried through effectively. I am sure, for my own part, that in this first stage -- and by the first stage I mean the first two or three years -- we ought to proceed with the greatest of care in setting up Commissions. I am convinced that many Delegations will have difficulty in providing the staff that will be needed by a large number of Commissions.

We are now discussing the setting up of a new Commission. It is true that recommendations have been made for the establishment of a Commission, but we must remember that such a recommendation does not bind us in any way to set up the Commission now, at this moment. The Soviet Delegation believes, therefore, that we should go slowly, that we should wait with the establishment of this Commission. There are difficulties -- many Delegations will have difficulties -- if we set up this Commission at the present stage. I refer not only to the Delegations of the smaller countries but also to those of the larger countries, such as the Soviet Union. These Committees will call for personnel and we must also assume that the Commissions will set up Sub-Commissions and Sub-Committees, Committees of Experts, and so on. That involves not only personnel and expense, but also a good deal of organization.

The Soviet Delegation, therefore, submits that we should wait with the establishment of this Commission. If, however, the Economic and Social Council desires to begin and go ahead in this matter, then the Soviet Delegation would suggest that the proposed Commission take the form of a Sub-Committee or Sub-Commission of the Statistical Commission. If this course were taken, we should have to modify somewhat the proposed terms of reference of the Population Commission, and in particular



Paragraph (a) of Article I: "Population changes, factors associated with such changes, and the policies designed to influence these factors."

I propose, on behalf of the Soviet Delegation, that we eliminate the last part of this clause, limit the clause to "Population changes and the factors associated with such changes." In effect, the rest of the clause points to a very large number of complex interrelated problems. I think it would be difficult for the body that we envisage to make proposals upon these complex interrelated problems.

In the second place, I wish to say that the Soviet Delegation cannot agree to the inclusion in the Demographic Commission of Representatives of other Commissions. It is, of course, an accepted principle that a Commission or Sub-Commission may send its Representatives to meetings of other Commissions or Sub-Commissions, but these Representatives attend the meetings of these Commissions only in an advisory capacity. I think it would be altogether wrong to envisage the sending of Representatives to meetings of this Commission who should sit there in the capacity of Members.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Mr. President, I just want to say that I fully agree with the Representative of the United Kingdom, that this subject now under discussion is one of those which needs the close cooperation and collaboration in the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs. I shall see to it that this cooperation will be established from the very beginning. This field is one of the fields with which we always have difficulties between two Departments. It is a borderline question, and I have now arranged my work this week so I can be present with you until we have finished this work or this Session of the Economic and Social Council, to gain experience about the coordination of these special questions in the future.

MR. RIDDELL (Canada): Mr. President both proposals which have been made this morning for the establishment of Commissions have the full concurrence of the Canadian Delegation but I would like to make particular reference to this one to say that we are happy to associate ourselves with the proposal that is before us.

I recall that at former meetings of United Nations bodies the Canadian Delegation took some initiative in the preparatory work which is now embodied in these resolutions. Different commissions have particular interests to other countries. The Demographic Commission has a special interest to us partly because because we have had a demographic problem in our country during the last 75 years, which though perhaps/isn't of particular importance has been of special interest to us. During this period people have been moving into previously unpopulated areas at a time when full Government statistical services could be used to observe these movements of population. This factor has stimulated a very considerable interest in population questions in our country, and we are, therefore, particularly happy to see a proposal put forward for the immediate establishment of this Commission.

MR. LEBEAU (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): Mr. President, I wish to say just one word to express my general agreement with the proposal before us for the creation of a Population Commission. I wish to say also that we suggest in the proposal put forward by the Representative of France that we should include in the terms of reference in this Commission the function of studying the consequences of the age structure of a population and particularly the consequences of an aging population upon other factors.

As regards points (b) and (c) of Paragraph 1, that is the relationship between economic and social conditions and population problems, I think that we should ask for the collaboration, we should ask for collaboration between the proposed Commission and certain specialized agencies, particularly the International Labor Office which has already done a good deal of work in this field.

MR. MATES (Yugoslavia): I think that the point of difficulty concerning



the multitude of international bodies has already been put sufficiently clear. It certainly affects my country too. But I do not wish to make a major point of it. It is only to stress the importance of possibilities; to keep in mind the desirability.

Now, concerning the question of this particular Commission, there is another thing which would, in our minds, be one more reason to postpone for a certain time this Commission.

Every study on population has to be based on certain statistical data. Now, besides studying the general trends throughout the centuries, new data has to be compiled by governments in various countries. It goes without saying that the conditions in a considerable number of countries with a considerable proportion of population of mankind -- after this war and after the tremendous war losses, it is very difficult to speak of statistical population to be compiled -- of all data concerning population in those countries.

It is the same situation in my country which certainly is not one of the large countries. Still, it will take a certain time until we shall be able to bring in order all these data on population, on the composition of our population according to ages et cetera.

Now for any studies on the present situation, it will be necessary to have this work done by governments in their respective countries, and then we will be able to utilize them in an international body. But, Mr. President, this remark is only a suggestion of our Delegation. We do not intend to press it.

There is another point which I think is rather important, and I am a bit puzzled about it. It is Paragraph 2. The end of the sentence is: "...and one Representative from the Economic and Employment Commission, the Social Commission, and Statistical Commission..."

One of the Representatives already mentioned this question of Members of one Commission being also Members of another Commission. May I request, Mr. President, that we have the reading of the decision of this Council concerning the composition of Commissions, and to find out whether in the light of



these decisions such a thing is permissible. If it is permissible, then we can discuss it, and we can give our views on it. But should it turn out that our decision was that the Commissions be composed of representative countries, only then I think, this provision for having Members from other Commissions will certainly not be quite in conformity with our former and previous decisions.

In any case the view of the Yugoslav Delegation is as it was in the Second Session of the Council, that every Commission be composed of Representatives of countries and Governments for the coordination of work. Certainly, contacts between Commissions and advisory participation in various Commissions is not only admissible but, as I believe even more necessary.

The PRESIDENT: The debate is closed. There are no more speakers.

Now we have to decide on some of the amendments proposed. First, the amendment proposed by the Soviet Delegation that the Demographic Commission or Population Commission should function as a Sub-Commission of the Statistical Commission. Those in favor of this proposal should raise their hands.

Mr. MATEŠ (Yugoslavia): A point of order, Mr. President. Most respectfully may I request to have your ruling on one question which I have raised in my intervention; that is, whether the text in the proposal as it stands is in conformity with earlier decisions of this Council?

The PRESIDENT: I intended to do so, but you must leave the President good time.

Those in favor of the Soviet amendment? (showing of hands). Those against? (showing of hands). It is not carried.

The Soviet proposal is to change paragraph 1, sub-paragraph (a) by inserting "technical questions concerning" before "public finance". Those in favor of this proposal, please raise their hands (showing of hands). Those against?(showing of hands). It is not carried.

The Soviet proposal and, in fact, also the Yugoslav proposal is that the Representatives of the Economic and Employment Commission, the Social Commission and the Statistical Commission shall not be full Members of this Council because it is not in accordance with the ruling at a previous session that the Members of the Commissions should be Representatives of the countries designated for this purpose. We now have to decide on this issue of principle.

Mr. LEBEAU (Belgium)(Interpretation from French): I wonder, Mr. President, whether we could not satisfy these considerations raised by the Representatives of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia without attempting to decide this difficult question of principle. I wonder whether we could not get satisfaction for these Delegations in the following way: by laying down that no Government represented in the Demographic Commission can be represented in the Commission by Representatives of the Economic and Employment, Social, and Statistical Commissions. In other words, that Governments, Members of these Commissions, should not be represented in the

Demographic Commission by Representatives of these Commissions.

Mr. MATES (Yugoslavia): Mr. President, I appreciate the intention of the Representative of Belgium to make a compromise, but I do not think that this is the right way to do it. If we accept the Belgian proposal, we shall not have Representatives of our countries on some of the Commissions. If they are Representatives of the Commissions, then the Commissions shall have the full right to decide whom they will send, and I think it is much easier, perhaps, if we put the question in the light of our previous decision to see how much and how far we are entitled to discuss it at all. When we have our limits, then we can express our will.



MR. NCEEL-BAKER (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I am in a little difficulty about the question of principle which has been raised because I do not quite understand what it is. I may be wrong. I have studied the records of the last meeting with care. I remember no decision that all future Commissions must be decided in a given way. I remember decisions that such and such Commissions, the five that were in fact appointed, should be appointed in such a way, namely, by appointing people--let me find one-- "The Transport and Communications Commission shall consist of one Representative from each of fifteen Members..." etc. But I remember no discussion that other Commissions should not be constituted in a given way. The point of principle which was then discussed was whether these people were to come as spokesmen of their Governments under orders, or whether they were to come as individual experts chosen by us, responsible only to us and having no connection with their Governments. That was the point of principle, I think.

I still think that a compromise, largely in favor of the first thesis was obtained. But now these people from these three Commissions whom we proposed to put into this--what are they? Are they individual experts? Not at all. In their Commissions they are themselves from their Governments, and therefore I do not think that the point arises. I think you are entirely open to put in these people even if any decision of principle had been made which I do not think is the case. I still think it is entirely open to us to appoint these people from Commissions on the ground that they will not be individual experts chosen by us and responsible only to us.

Mr. FEONOV (Soviet Union) (Second interpretation; original in Russian):

Mr. President, I fail to understand the reasoning of the Representative of the United Kingdom. In effect, he said that the Representative of a Commission sent to a meeting of the Demographic Commission would be a Representative of the Government which had delegated him to the Commission. I think that is not correct. If, for instance, the Member chosen from the Social Commission to represent that Commission of the Demographic Commission were the Representative of the Ukraine, he would sit in the Demographic Commission not as the Representative of the Ukraine, but as the Representative of the Social Commission as a whole. He would act not independently, not as a Representative of the Government which had delegated him to the Social Commission, but as a Representative of the Social Commission as a whole.

I think this distinction is an essential one, and I must insist upon it. I think, also, that we must try and clear up the whole question of the composition of Commissions. As I understand the situation, it was decided in the last session of the Economic and Social Council by a general decision, following a general discussion -- a decision was taken as regards the composition of Commissions, and it was agreed that this decision should be applied to the various commissions as they came to be set up and, in effect, this decision was applied automatically when we came to set up the various commissions that we have set up since that time.

This general decision, following a general discussion, was intended to be applied to all the Commissions, and, therefore, I must insist that, in the case of the Demographic Commission, the Commission should be composed of Representatives of Governments.

As regards the suggestion that Representatives of the Social Commission, the Statistical Commission, and the Economic and Employment Commission should be allowed to take part in the meetings of the Demographic Commission, I would express my agreement, for this is not only not forbidden; on the contrary, it is encouraged -- that the Commissions should effect the greatest possible liaison by sending Representatives to sit in each others meetings.

The PRESIDENT: We have to decide now about the amendments of the Soviet Delegation and the Yugoslav Delegation.

Mr. MATES (Yugoslavia): Mr. President, I had requested earlier to have a reading of the relevant text concerning the previous decisions. These texts have not been read out, and the Representative of the United Kingdom referred to certain resolutions of the Second Session of the Economic and Social Council which refers to four particular Commissions only.

I submit, Mr. President, that so far as my recollection goes back, the decision in the Second Session had originally had the form as it is in the Journal.

There was a general decision, and <sup>there</sup> was a later decision, ~~two~~ complete decisions, on four Commissions, inserting these general principles in adequate words, which has been done, and now is a final achievement in the Journal. But this question, that it apply only to these four Commissions and not to these two Commissions we are now discussing, is only a simple matter of coincidence that we have not had sufficient time and we decided to postpone the discussion of the two Commissions -- that is to say, the Population Commission and the Fiscal Commission -- to the Third Session.

Mr. President, should those two Commissions have been discussed at Hunter College, the resolutions covering these Commissions would be exactly on the same lines as the four Commissions in the Journal, because this was our understanding. If there are doubts, that my recollection is wrong, then, I will find it necessary to insist on this point and to request all relevant text be read out on the discussion in the Second Session at Hunter College.

Mr. President, in the view of the Yugoslav Delegation, it would be no disaster if we have three Representatives of these Commissions in this particular Commission, and I do not see the reason why some Delegations should insist on putting it in.

There is some other thing at stake here, Mr. President, and this thing which is at stake is a question of principle, on which we shall insist and fight to the end.



If a decision is taken by an international body, it cannot be reversed by slipping through the back door precedents which abolish it. This is of special importance, in the view of our Delegation, because during the discussion of the principle and composition of commissions which applied, in the understanding of all Members of this Council, to all Commissions of the Council, at least to all those which have been on the Agenda -- and these two Commissions have been on the Agenda of the Second Session -- then, the Representatives of those countries which are now proposing here to insert a change of our decision have been those Governments which opposed the solution, as it has been made, by the majority vote and adopted.

Mr. President, without any prejudice and most respectfully, I say that this is one particular point of the whole question which the Yugoslav Delegation can not avoid stressing -- that those Delegations who have been opposed to a decision which has been adopted are now just using this mere fact that we have not had time in Hunter College to discuss it, and are now proposing to reverse a decision which has been taken by a majority vote.

Finally, even should it not be this way, as it is quite clear in the minds of all those who have been in Hunter College, there is another thing: If there is sufficient wisdom to have Representatives of the Economic and Employment, and the Social, and Statistical Commissions in the Commission of Population, then may I respectfully ask why is there not also as much reason to have mutual representation in the Economic and Employment, and Transport Commission; or the Statistical, and Economic and Employment. Why is the Membership of a Member of the Statistical Commission in the Population Commission more important than the Economic and Employment Commission? Or the Social Commission in the Population more important than the representation of the Social in the Economic and Employment? Or the Economic and Employment in the Transport Commission less important than the participation of the Economic and Employment in the Population?

No, Mr. President, it is impossible to argue on this, because, then, either we have been silly in Hunter College or we are silly now. I most respectfully state that I, with my humble common sense, cannot understand this;

Having in mind that from the point of view of adhering to a decision in principle, which has been taken, as well as on the merit of the question, I request that the Delegations who have inserted this, take out these few words from this resolution and save us much trouble and loss of time, because, Mr. President, I shall insist on the right of my Delegation to have it cleared up and read completely through, all texts and all the discussions.

The PRESIDENT: As the Yugoslav Representative spoke at such length, the translation will take place this afternoon at 2:45, when we shall meet.

We have to adjourn now.

The meeting of the Drafting Sub-Committee on Devastated Areas will not take place at 2:00<sup>0'clock</sup>, and will not take place today.

(The meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.)