

United Nations
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

Nations Unies
CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL

UNRESTRICTED

E/1174
19 February 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Eighth session

Item 18

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Report by the Secretary-General

1. At the First Part of its Third Session the General Assembly adopted Resolution 200 (III) on Technical Assistance for Economic Development, and in connection with it appropriated \$288,000 for the purpose of providing such assistance to Member Governments.

2. Paragraph 5 of the Resolution requests the Secretary-General

"...to report to each session of the Economic and Social Council on the measures which he has taken in compliance with the terms of the present resolution;"

This first report has been prepared at such a short interval after the General Assembly Resolution that it is possible for the Secretary-General to provide the Council only with a brief account of the initial steps taken by him to implement the Resolution. Further steps will be reported on more fully at the ninth and subsequent sessions of the Council enabling it to undertake the review provided for in paragraph 6 of the Resolution which

"Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that it review at each session the actions taken under the present resolution and, when necessary, formulate recommendations concerning policy and budgetary action required by the General Assembly to carry on the functions instituted by the present resolution."

General Background

3. In one form or another the question of providing technical assistance through the United Nations and its specialized agencies has been before the Economic and Social Council since 1946.* After the Economic and Employment Commission was created by the Economic and Social Council,

* See resolutions 27 (IV) and 51 (IV) of 28 March 1947, 41 (IV) of 29 March 1947, 96 (V) of 12 August 1947, 139 (VII), A, of 26 August 1948, and 149 (VII), C, of 27 August 1948.

/the Commission,

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the Commission, during its first session in January 1947, requested its Sub-Commission on Economic Development to make recommendations to it relevant to

"the furnishing of such technical assistance within the resources available, as members of the United Nations may request, relating to production and development; and to the organization, in co-operation with the governments concerned, of such missions as may be needed to perform this function."

The Commission further stated that

"pending recommendations from the Sub-Commission on Economic Development . . . the Commission urges that except for specialized requests received from member governments clearly within the scope of the several specialized agencies the Secretary-General make appropriate arrangements in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, for the provision of such technical advice as may be requested by member governments and as possible within the resources available, and as will enable them to plan and carry out a balanced development programme as speedily and competently as possible." (E/255)

4. At its first session in November 1947, the Sub-Commission on Economic Development adopted a report which dealt, among other things, with the problems of technical education and technical assistance. On this subject it came to the conclusion that in view of a number of considerations, including the existence of technical facilities within the specialized agencies of the United Nations, as well as the international political aspects involved, inter-governmental technical assistance "would be best secured by organizing the assistance under United Nations auspices." (E/CN.1/47)

5. The Economic and Employment Commission at its third session took note of the Sub-Commission's recommendations on general principles and, commending the Sub-Commission for its decision "to devote more time at its future sessions to more specific problems", suggested that

"one of the fields of activity which requires urgent consideration is that concerning the mobilization of the under-developed countries' domestic resources, human, natural, financial and technological, and that studies in this field should be undertaken forthwith so that the technical assistance which may be rendered at the request of member countries by the United Nations and its specialized agencies toward the mobilization of these resources can be utilized most effectively." (E/790)

/6. At its

6. At its second session in June 1948 the Sub-Commission on Economic Development devoted almost its entire efforts to the study of technical assistance. Part V of its report (E/CN.1/61) contains a series of recommendations concerning this matter, especially concerning the fields in which action is required and the policies under which such action might be carried out. This report has, in fact, not yet been studied either by the Commission or by the Economic and Social Council. However, the report, being a public document and available to all member governments, has already had important effects. The Governments of Burma, Chile, Egypt and Peru in effect adopted many of the recommendations of the Sub-Commission and embodied them in a draft resolution which they presented to the General Assembly at its recent session in Paris. This resolution, after some amendments, was adopted on 4 December 1948 as Resolution 200 (III).

7. The General Assembly laid down certain policies under which technical assistance for economic development should be extended by the United Nations and authorized the Secretary-General to carry out the following functions, when requested to do so by Member Governments, and, where appropriate, in co-operation with the specialized agencies:

- "(a) arrange for the organization of international teams consisting of experts provided by or through the United Nations and the specialized agencies for the purpose of advising those Governments in connexion with their economic development programmes, the organization of such teams, of course, not to preclude the invitation of individual, or groups of, experts from the United Nations or from specialized agencies in connexion with problems in the field of those specialized agencies;
- (b) arrange for facilities for the training abroad of experts of under-developed countries through the provision of fellowships for study in those countries or institutions which, in the particular fields of study, have achieved an advanced level of technical competence;
- (c) arrange for the training of local technicians within the under-developed countries themselves by promoting visits of experts in various aspects of economic development for the purpose of instructing local personnel and for assisting in the organization of technical institutions;
- (d) provide facilities designed to assist Governments to obtain technical personnel, equipment and supplies, and to arrange for the organization of such other services as may be appropriate

/in the promotion

in the promotion of economic development, including the organization of seminars on special problems of economic development, and the exchange of current information concerning technical problems of economic development;"

Steps Taken to Date

8. Early in January 1949 the Secretary-General dispatched a letter to all Member Governments enclosing a number of documents relating to the facilities for technical assistance for economic development which were available through the United Nations and the specialized agencies. This letter referred among other things to the General Assembly's Resolution 200 (III), advised Governments to communicate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations or with the executive heads of the specialized agencies for the purpose of determining the financial and other terms under which the technical assistance would be available, and transmitted a booklet, prepared in collaboration with the specialized agencies concerned, which sets forth in some detail the available facilities within the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

9. In February 1949, the Secretary-General dispatched another letter and memorandum dealing primarily with the implementation of paragraph 3 (b) of the Resolution concerning "the training abroad of experts of under-developed countries through the provision of fellowships. . ." The memorandum sets forth some of the fields for which facilities can most readily be arranged under the initial programme and explains the procedure which Governments should follow if they wish to make requests for Fellowships for their nationals. In addition the memorandum explains the steps to be taken by Governments who by virtue of their advanced level of technical development are able to arrange facilities which could be used for the training of the Fellowship holders. (The texts of the letter and memorandum referred to are appended to this Report as Annex I.)

In the interest of ensuring the maximum possible co-ordination among the several Fellowship programmes of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, the Working Group on Fellowships established by the Administrative Committees on Co-ordination will, at its forthcoming meeting in March, examine existing stipends, programmes, selection methods, and administrative services with a view to determining what further degree of co-ordination and integration of the Fellowship Programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies may be practicable.

10. The Secretary-General has also undertaken a number of other activities under the Resolution on the assumption that certain types of technical

/assistance

assistance will be required. In this regard he has been guided by conversations with representatives of a number of Member Governments, by the reports of the Sub-Commission on Economic Development, and by the knowledge accumulated by the Secretariat in the course of its work with the Regional Economic Commissions and its studies of the problems of under-developed countries. The activities undertaken are described below in relation to the functions as set forth in the third paragraph of the Resolution.

Paragraph 3 (a): In connection with the comprehensive economic missions ("international teams consisting of experts . . .") envisaged in this paragraph, representatives of a number of governments have informally discussed with members of the Secretariat the possibilities of sending such missions to their countries. These discussions are still at an early stage and the planning of the missions must therefore wait on further progress of the discussions.

A number of inquiries have also been received relating to the second part of paragraph 3 (a) of the Resolution dealing with specialized problems. These requests also are still in an early stage of negotiation.

Paragraph 3 (c): The Secretary-General considers that the promotion of "visits of experts in various aspects of economic development for the purpose of instructing local personnel and for assisting in the organization of technical institutions" is an activity which requires the closest co-operation of the headquarters and regional organizations of the Secretariat since the execution of this part of the technical assistance programme will in many cases largely be a responsibility of the regional organizations where they exist.

The first activity which is being instituted under this subparagraph is in the statistical field and is concerned with the organization of temporary institutes covering a 12-week period for the purpose of training local personnel in the collection of data bearing on the population, agricultural and other resources of under-developed countries. The institutes are being planned as co-operative undertakings of the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization and with the governments concerned especially those which are to act as the hosts for the duration of the institutes. It is hoped that the techniques developed in connection with this activity may serve as models for similar activities in other aspects of economic development.

/Paragraph 3 (d):

Paragraph 3 (d): Under this sub-paragraph the Secretary-General has already received requests for assistance in obtaining technical personnel and these are now under consideration.

In addition arrangements are being organized for the setting up of one round-table discussion on methods and techniques of promoting economic development. This is planned to be a conference of not more than twelve qualified persons from as many different countries who would review experiences in the countries from which they come on the basis of prepared papers submitted by the participants in advance of the meeting.

Steps have also been taken to determine the possibility of publishing a series of technical pamphlets dealing with various aspects of technology of special interest to under-developed countries, and of publishing a periodical bulletin devoted to the dissemination and exchange of information on progress of economic development in different areas and countries and of "information concerning technical problems of economic development."

11. The successful fulfillment by the Secretary-General of his responsibilities under this Resolution of the General Assembly depends on the full co-operation of Member Governments. This is especially true with respect to the co-operation of Member Governments whose technical knowledge is to be drawn on in connection with the provision of experts and of "host" facilities for the advanced training of experts from under-developed member countries. It is impossible to over-emphasize the need for co-operation and the dependence of the Secretary-General on access to the technical knowledge and institutions of those countries which have already achieved an advanced level of technical competence.

12. The Fifth Committee (on Administrative, Financial and Budgetary Questions) of the General Assembly recommended in connection with this Resolution that "the virtues of self-help should not be lost-sight of and that Governments when framing their requests for assistance, should also take due account of the question of sharing costs of services rendered" (A/745). Clearly, the volume of services which it will be possible to make available under this Resolution could be increased to the extent that Governments receiving technical assistance will themselves meet as much of the expenses as possible.

ANNEX I

Letter sent by Secretary-General to all Member Governments
concerning General Assembly Resolution 200 (III)

18 February 1949

The Secretary-General presents his compliments
to
and has the honour to refer to General Assembly Resolution
200(III) on Technical Assistance for Economic Development
adopted on 4 December 1948, and to paragraph 3 thereof which
authorizes the Secretary-General to perform the following
functions, when requested to do so by Governments:

- (a) Arrange for the organization of international
teams consisting of experts provided by or
through the United Nations and the specialized
agencies for the purpose of advising those
Governments in connexion with their economic
development programmes, the organization of
such teams, of course, not to preclude the
invitation of individual, or groups of, experts
from the United Nations or from specialized
agencies in connexion with problems in the
field of those specialized agencies;
- (b) Arrange for facilities for the training abroad
of experts of under-developed countries through
the provision of fellowships for study in those
countries or institutions which, in the particular
fields of study, have achieved an advanced level
of technical competence;
- (c) Arrange for the training of local technicians
within the under-developed countries themselves
by promoting visits of experts in various
aspects of economic development for the purpose
of instructing local personnel and for assisting
in the organization of technical institutions;
- (d) Provide facilities designed to assist Governments
to obtain technical personnel, equipment and
supplies, and to arrange for the organization
of such other services as may be appropriate in
the promotion of economic development, including
/the organization

the organization of seminars on special problems of economic development, and the exchange of current information concerning technical problems of economic development.

Although the present note relates only to paragraph 3(b), Governments may raise any questions at this time with regard to the other sections of the Resolution. As necessary, separate communications will be sent concerning the functions referred to in the other parts of paragraph 3.

In implementation of paragraph 3(b), a memorandum to all Member Governments, setting out information on the arrangements being made by the Secretary-General regarding the training abroad of experts during 1949, is attached herewith.

This memorandum explains the steps to be taken by Governments who, by virtue of their advanced level of technical development, are prepared to make arrangements for facilities to be used by Fellowship holders for training and study. Their attention is especially drawn to paragraphs 6 - 8 of the memorandum.

In addition, the memorandum sets forth the procedure to be followed by Governments wishing to make a request for Fellowships on behalf of their nationals. Their attention is especially drawn to paragraphs 9 - 13 of the memorandum in connexion with any applications they may wish to make.

In order that the Secretary-General may expedite action in carrying out the Fellowship programme, Governments are requested to send their replies to the questions asked in the memorandum to him by 31 March 1949, and at the same time to send a copy of these replies to the Executive-Secretaries of the United Nations regional economic commissions of which they may be members.

18 February 1949

MEMORANDUM
ON
TRAINING ABROAD OF EXPERTS OF UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
THROUGH UNITED NATIONS FELLOWSHIPS

1. The purpose of this Memorandum, which is being sent to all Member Governments, is to explain the arrangements which are now being made for the provision of Fellowships for training and study abroad, for which funds were appropriated by General Assembly Resolution 200(III) on Technical Assistance for Economic Development. A copy of the Resolution is attached to this Memorandum.

2. The Resolution authorizes the Secretary-General, among other functions, to:

"arrange for facilities for the training abroad of experts of under-developed countries through the provision of fellowships for study in those countries or institutions which, in the particular fields of study, have achieved an advanced level of technical competence;"

3. Thus, the object of the programme which is now being framed is to enable the less-developed countries to send selected experts or technical personnel to some other country where special facilities exist for higher training or advanced study of a kind which would benefit the country of the Fellowship holder when he returns home. About sixty Fellowships will be available in the year 1949, each of three to six months' duration. They are open to men and women who already have considerable experience in activities related to the economic development of their countries and in allied technical fields and preferably to those who are now engaged in such activities, and who, after completion of the period of study, would return to those fields in their countries. The Fellowships will be awarded with due regard to geographical considerations.

4. Paragraphs 6 - 8 below outline the steps which may be taken by the Governments of countries having an advanced level of technical development and who are prepared to make arrangements for facilities to be used by United Nations Fellows for training and study; and paragraphs 10 - 13 below set out the procedure which Governments should follow if they wish to make a request for Fellowships on behalf of their nationals.

5. Efforts are being directed during the initial programme towards making arrangements for Fellowships in the following fields for which

/facilities

facilities can most readily be obtained:

- (a) power development: techniques of planning, construction, maintenance and operation of thermo- or hydro-electric plants;
- (b) water control and utilization techniques: power, irrigation, drainage and flood control, and inland navigation where appropriate;
- (c) transport techniques of planning, construction, maintenance and operation of road, rail, water and air transport facilities;
- (d) communications: techniques of planning, development, maintenance and operation of telephonic, telegraphic, and wireless communication;
- (e) industrial processes and techniques related to utilization of agricultural, mineral and forest resources;
- (f) techniques in the promotion and planning of economic development, including techniques of collection and use of statistical and other data, in the institution of modern fiscal methods, and in methods of resource appraisal, including aerial surveying;
- (g) arrangements are also being made for a limited number of experts to study techniques in the combined use of resources for the development of an area or a region such as a river basin as a whole: for example, the development of raw material production, power and transportation for industrial purposes in conjunction with the proper use of land and water resources, through conservation, flood control and reclamation.

6. The success of the whole Fellowship Programme depends on the full co-operation of Member Governments who are able to arrange facilities in public or private institutions and organizations where it would be possible for an expert from an under-developed country to study and observe some general or specific aspect of economic development.

7. As stated in his covering letter, the Secretary-General requests those Member Governments who have achieved an advanced level of technical development in general or in specific fields to inform him by 31 March 1949 in detail of the facilities which they can make available in any of the fields listed in paragraph 5. The Secretary-General should also be informed of facilities available in other fields.

8. Countries which are able to offer the facilities referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 are requested to forward immediately to the Secretary-General the name of the authority or of the official with whom appropriate initial arrangements can be negotiated.

/9. The Secretary-General

9. The Secretary-General has for the present established the following financial arrangements to govern the award of Fellowships, keeping in mind the suggestions of the Committee on Administrative, Financial and Budgetary Questions of the General Assembly that "the virtues of self-help should not be lost sight of and that Governments when framing their requests for assistance should also take due account of the question of sharing of costs of services rendered". The Secretary-General has also taken into consideration the fact that the number of Fellowships could be increased to the extent that governments in framing their requests for Fellowships will themselves meet as much of the expenses as possible and thereby reduce the expenses which would otherwise fall on the United Nations.

(a) Subject to agreement between the United Nations and the Government concerned, the United Nations will provide:

- (i) A monthly living allowance of between US \$200 and US \$300.
- (ii) Travel in connection with his studies within the country in which the Fellowship is tenable, up to a limit which will be specified in each case.
- (iii) A limited sum for the purchase of technical publications.
- (iv) Travel from and to the Fellow's home country, in whole or in part, to the extent that it cannot be paid for in the currency of the Fellow's country.

(b) The Government will provide or ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made to provide:

- (i) All expenses of travel within the Fellow's home country incidental to travel abroad, including the expenditures for passport, visa, etc.
- (ii) Any advances necessary to enable the Fellow to make such other preparations in his home country as may be necessary before he leaves his country.
- (iii) Such other expenses as may be paid in the currency of the Fellow's country.

(c) The United Nations cannot assume financial responsibility for such expenses as may be incurred by the Fellow for medical care or other emergencies.

10. Taking account of the arrangements that it will be found possible to make and of the fact that all Fellowships awarded under the 1949 appropriation in connection with General Assembly Resolution 200(III) must be completed by 31 December 1949, the Secretary-General intends to award, in April 1949, a part of the total number of the Fellowships

/for 1949,

for 1949, and to award the remainder approximately two months later. The first awards to be made in April 1949 will be made from among the candidates about whom the information called for in paragraph 12 reaches the Secretary-General by 31 March 1949. If Member Governments are not in a position to nominate specific candidates for the award of Fellowships to be made in April 1949, they are requested to inform the Secretary-General (a) whether they are at all interested in Fellowships and if so (b) of the specific fields in which they are interested in order to facilitate arrangements. To expedite the second award of Fellowships which will probably take place in June 1949, Member Governments who desire Fellowships are requested to forward to the Secretary-General by 31 May 1949, the names of candidates including the information sought in paragraph 12 for each candidate.

11. Member Governments who desire to nominate candidates for Fellowships in 1949 are requested to notify the Secretary-General immediately of the name of the authority or of the official in the member country with whom he can correspond on matters of detail.

12. (A) Applications forwarded by Member Governments should contain in properly certified manner the following detailed information about each candidate:

- (i) The candidate's full name, age, sex, marital status, education, professional training and other qualifications. Recent evidence of satisfactory physical condition is also required.
- (ii) The candidate's employment record, including the nature and scope of his present work and responsibilities, and a detailed description of each of the posts he has held within at least the last five years.
- (iii) The languages he knows, stating in each case whether he has a reading, writing or speaking knowledge. If the candidate has been abroad before, a list of the countries which he has visited with dates and particulars of any study or work in which he may have been engaged.

(B) Member Governments should also submit in respect of each candidate the following information:

- (i) Detailed statement, prepared by the Government, of the proposed field and plan of study or training, including any particular branch that may be desired within the proposed field.

/(ii) The

- (ii) The country to which it is proposed by the Government that the Fellow should go.
- (iii) The period during the year 1949 in which the candidate would be able to take up a Fellowship.
- (iv) The arrangements envisaged by the Government for the Fellow's employment on his return to his home country.

13. Candidates who are selected for Fellowships will be expected to make a report to the Secretary-General at the termination of their period of Fellowship.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

200 (III). TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the action in relation to technical assistance previously taken by the General Assembly (resolutions 52 (I) and 58 (I) of 14 December 1946) and by the Economic and Social Council (resolutions 27 (IV) and 51 (IV) of 28 March 1947, 96 (V) of 12 August 1947, 139 (VII), A, of 26 August 1948 and 149 (VII), C, of 27 August 1948),
2. CONSIDERING THAT
 - (a) The promotion of conditions of economic and social progress and development is one of the principal objectives of the Charter of the United Nations,
 - (b) The lack of expert personnel and lack of technical organization are among the factors which impede the economic development of the under-developed areas,
 - (c) The United Nations can extend efficacious and timely help in this connexion for the achievement of the objectives set forth in Chapters IX and X of the Charter,
3. DECIDES to appropriate the funds necessary to enable the Secretary-General to perform the following functions, where appropriate in co-operation with the specialized agencies, when requested to do so by Member Governments:
 - (a) Arrange for the organization of international teams consisting of experts provided by or through the United Nations and the specialized agencies for the purpose of advising those Governments in connexion with their economic development programmes, the organization of such teams, of course, not to preclude the invitation of individual, or groups of, experts from the United Nations or from specialized agencies in connexion with problems in the field of those specialized agencies;
 - (b) Arrange for facilities for the training abroad of experts of under-developed countries through the provision of fellowships for study in those countries or institutions which, in the particular fields of study, have achieved an advanced level of technical competence;
 - (c) Arrange for the training of local technicians within the under-developed countries themselves by promoting visits of experts /in various aspects

in various aspects of economic development for the purpose of instructing local personnel and for assisting in the organization of technical institutions;

(d) Provide facilities designed to assist Governments to obtain technical personnel, equipment and supplies, and to arrange for the organization of such other services as may be appropriate in the promotion of economic development, including the organization of seminars on special problems of economic development, and the exchange of current information concerning technical problems of economic development;

4. INSTRUCTS the Secretary-General to undertake the performance of the functions listed in paragraph 3 above, in agreement with the Governments concerned, on the basis of requests received from Governments with due regard to geographical considerations and in accordance with the following policies:

(a) The amount of services and the financial conditions under which they shall be furnished to the various Governments shall be decided by the Secretary-General, and shall be reviewed by the Economic and Social Council at each of its sessions;

(b) The kind of service mentioned under paragraph 3 to be rendered to each country shall be decided by the Government concerned;

(c) The countries desiring assistance should perform in advance as much of the work as possible in order to define the nature and the scope of the problem involved;

(d) The technical assistance furnished shall:

(i) not be a means of foreign economic and political interference in the internal affairs of the country concerned and shall not be accompanied by any considerations of a political nature;

(ii) be given only to or through Governments;

(iii) be designed to meet the needs of the country concerned;

(iv) be provided, as far as possible, in the form which that country desires;

(v) be of high quality and technical competence;

(e) The sums appropriated for the performance of the functions set forth in paragraph 3 shall not be expended on functions or services which are a special responsibility of a specialized agency except in agreement with the executive head of that agency;

5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to report to each session of the

/Economic and

Economic and Social Council on the measures which he has taken in compliance with the terms of the present resolution;

6. RECOMMENDS to the Economic and Social Council that it review at each session the actions taken under the present resolution and, when necessary, formulate recommendations concerning policy and budgetary action required by the General Assembly to carry on the functions instituted by the present resolution.

Hundred and seventieth plenary meeting
4 December 1948.