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**Chairman: Mr. Omar LOUTFI (Egypt).**

**AGENDA ITEM 12**

**Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters V and VI) (A/2943)**

1. Mr. TSAO (China) recalled that his delegation had always taken the greatest interest in the work of the Economic and Social Council. After a very thorough study of the Council's report to the General Assembly (A/2943), it was struck by the importance of the results achieved during the past year. Whatever the subject considered—the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* (E/CN.5/301/Rev.1)<sup>1</sup>, the aid given by the United Nations Children's Fund, the work of the World Population Conference, the question of the recognition and enforcement abroad of maintenance obligations or international narcotics control—remarkable progress had been achieved. The Council's report thus testified to the excellent results that could be expected from sincere co-operation between States desirous of promoting the economic and social welfare of all peoples.

2. There were, however, two points to which he wished especially to draw attention. The first concerned the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development*. Although that document was of undeniable practical interest, and Governments would find it to their advantage to be guided by it in planning their social development programmes, it was not entirely satisfactory. It was not possible to reach a sound judgement on a given programme on the basis of statistics alone. In every case, account should be taken of the way the programmes were carried out and of their social repercussions. A consideration of the methods used therefore seemed essential.

3. Two land reform programmes would serve as examples: that of mainland China and that of the province of Taiwan. The *Survey* gave only a few brief

data which did not bring out the difference between the methods used in the two cases. In mainland China the programme had been carried out by violence and terror, which had led to bloodshed in all the rural areas. In Taiwan the Government had followed quite a different policy: it had compensated the farmers whose land had been redistributed and had made sure that the inhabitants would co-operate. It had now completed the programme begun in 1949, the purpose of which had been to reduce rents, to ensure security of tenure for the peasants and to enable farmers to own the land. It could be stated that the level of living of Taiwan cultivators had never been so high. It would therefore be wrong to judge any programme without considering the social circumstances in which it was carried out. It was to be hoped that the Economic and Social Council, the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies would in future pay more attention to that criterion.

4. His second remark related to international narcotics control. In order to put an end to all illicit traffic and to make it possible for the United Nations Opium Protocol of 1953 (E/NT/8)<sup>2</sup> to be enforced, it was essential to be able to determine the origin of the opium. In that connexion, the setting up at Geneva of a United Nations Narcotics Laboratory, to which Governments would be able to send samples of seized drugs for examination, was to be welcomed. The Laboratory must be able regularly to examine the samples and the Governments concerned should be bound to accept its conclusions as to their origin.

5. All Governments, especially those of the opium-producing countries, should take part in the international campaign against the illicit drug traffic. It was regrettable that mainland China still permitted the export of large quantities of opium, morphine and heroin to certain Far Eastern countries, whence they were sent to other parts of the world. The illicit traffic was a scourge and it was essential for all States, especially the Asian States, to unite in combating it. They should be all the more vigilant and active because the question had not yet been finally settled through international legal instruments.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that the list of speakers would be closed at 6 p.m. that evening.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Publication, Sales No.: 1955.IV.8.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Publication, Sales No.: 1953.XI.6.