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Chairman: Mr. Emilio ARENALES CATALAN
(Guatemala).

AGENDA ITEM 26

**Report of the Director of the United Nations Relief
and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the
Near East (A/3686 and Corr.1, A/3735, A/SPC/20/
Rev.1, A/SPC/21, A/SPC/L.21) (continued)**

1. Mr. WASHINGTON (United States of America), introducing the draft resolution submitted by the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States (A/SPC/L.21), said that despite the most cordial discussions and efforts its co-sponsors had unfortunately been unable to reach agreement with the interested Arab Governments on methods for securing additional funds to enable the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to continue to carry out its full programme. The five-Power draft resolution therefore reflected the views of the sponsors on the most practical action to be taken, though naturally other suggestions which might prove acceptable to the Special Political Committee were not precluded.

2. The five-Power draft resolution differed from General Assembly resolution 1018 (XI) in the added stress laid upon efforts to obtain additional finance; the fourth paragraph of the preamble drew attention to the inadequacy of contributions, while operative paragraphs 5 and 6 contained specific suggestions as to means of securing the additional financial assistance needed. His Government had already taken the initiative in authorizing an increased pledge, and he hoped that Governments would heed the appeal for new or additional contributions.

3. The remaining paragraphs of the draft resolution closely resembled earlier General Assembly resolutions dealing with UNRWA.

4. The fifth paragraph of the preamble referred to the continued failure of the States directly concerned to make serious constructive efforts to promote a solution of the problem along the lines laid down in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and paragraph 2 of resolution 513 (VI). Primary responsibility for working out a solution rested with Israel and the Arab States, and if they continued to make no real effort to seek a settlement, States which were not directly involved would undoubtedly be increasingly

reluctant to provide financial assistance to assure the future welfare of the refugees.

5. In regard to the sixth paragraph of the preamble and operative paragraph 2, which dealt with relations between the host countries and the Agency, he said the co-sponsors welcomed the co-operation which had been given, particularly during the past year, and the indications given by the host countries of their desire to continue that relationship. The desire of the General Assembly that such co-operation be continued and that the Director of UNRWA be given every appropriate assistance was expressed in operative paragraph 2.

6. Operative paragraph 1 was couched in terms identical with those of operative paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 1018 (XI). The Agency was asked to pursue its programmes for the relief and rehabilitation of the refugees, bearing in mind the limitation imposed upon it by the extent of the contributions for the fiscal year. That qualification was unfortunately necessary, as the General Assembly had to face the fact that the contributions so far pledged did not fully cover the Agency's minimum budget. While it was to be hoped that the gap would be closed through the action recommended in the draft resolution, if that expectation were not fulfilled, the Director of UNRWA would be obliged to make further cuts in the programmes of the Agency.

7. Operative paragraph 3 was identical with operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1018 (XI). As in the past, his Government was prepared to give sympathetic consideration to any requests it might receive for assistance in the planning and carrying out of projects capable of supporting substantial numbers of refugees. Operative paragraph 4 was merely a repetition of operative paragraph 4 of resolution 1018 (XI), while operative paragraphs 7 and 8 duplicated operative paragraphs 10 and 12 respectively of that resolution.

8. Mr. LARKIN (New Zealand) reiterated the regret he had expressed in the general debate that no progress had been made towards the settlement of the Palestine question as a whole. He felt, however, that the general discussion of political issues had served a useful purpose in emphasizing the deep concern with which many delegations viewed the situation and revealing the growing reluctance of many countries to accept passively the negative approach to the problem adopted by the States concerned. Many delegations, including his own, considered that a more constructive attitude was required of the Government of Israel than it had shown in its mere rejection of suggestions that it take without delay limited but positive action towards the implementation of General Assembly resolutions on repatriation and compensation.

9. The five-Power draft resolution was mainly concerned with the practical problems raised by the

budgetary aspects of UNRWA's operations; the preamble outlined the factors which had to be taken into account, namely that the budgets prepared for relief and rehabilitation had been cut to the minimum level; that contributions to the budgets were inadequate and the financial situation of the Agency was serious; and that the situation of the refugees continued to be a matter of grave concern.

10. The United Nations could not ignore the alarming possibilities inherent in the situation. It had to recognize that unless contributions exceeded those of previous years it would be impossible for UNRWA to carry out the plans outlined in the already minimal budgets; indeed, failure to increase the financial resources available to the Agency might compel it to confine its activities to the mere provision of the services required to keep the refugees alive and sheltered, and to abandon all rehabilitation work. If that were to happen, it was hardly likely that the refugees would endure their plight passively, and the United Nations might well be confronted with a most dangerous political problem. He therefore urged Governments to support the draft resolution and to respond generously to its appeal for greater contributions, so that the scope of UNRWA's activities could be extended.

11. Mr. MAURTUA (Peru) inquired whether it was envisaged in operative paragraph 6 that the Secretary-General should confine his efforts for securing the additional financial assistance needed to an appeal to the good will of Governments, or that he should adopt budgetary measures for specific allocations to be made to UNRWA.

12. Mr. DAOUDY (Syria) said that, as in the past, the United States delegation and representatives of other contributing countries had consulted with the Arab delegations on the five-Power draft resolution. Unfortunately, on the present occasion it had not proved possible for them to reach agreement on the text and, as the representative of the United States had indicated, the draft resolution represented the point of view of its sponsors only. The representatives of the Arab States did not feel that it was acceptable in its present form, since it did not provide for the minimum needs of the refugees, and there were gaps in it. In the circumstances, he requested an adjournment of the meeting until the following morning, 5 December, in order to give the delegations of the Arab States time to obtain final instructions from their Governments.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.5 a.m.