

international monetary system was essential for the establishment of the new international economic order, and he believed that the General Assembly was fully competent to set guidelines for international monetary policy. As his delegation had stated previously, any opportunities for the developed countries to shift the burden of their past mistakes on to the developing countries should be precluded. The draft resolution as adopted was positive, however, in its reference to a tripartite approach. International monetary reform would be impossible so long as restrictive policies and practices continued and the possibilities for the transfer of real resources and technology to the developing countries remained limited.

37. Mr. ATANGANA (United Republic of Cameroon) expressed regret at the changes made to paragraph 4 as it appeared in document A/C.2/L.1373/Rev.1. The final version of paragraph 14, on the other hand, was satisfactory.

38. Mr. ARMENDARIZ (Mexico) said he was particularly pleased that the draft resolution took a global approach to international monetary problems. The programme of work for the Interim Committee of IMF referred to in paragraph 4, including in particular the question of the equity of the adjustment process, was especially important. His

delegation also welcomed the references in the draft resolution to the resolutions adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly.

39. Mr. KJELDGAARD-OLESEN (Denmark) said that his delegation interpreted paragraph 12 in the same way as the delegations of Finland and Sweden. Its acceptance of the need for a review of the quota system of IMF, as referred to in paragraph 14, did not change its position concerning the system for the distribution of voting power within the Fund.

40. Mr. HUME (United States of America) said his delegation would have preferred to have the idea formulated in paragraph 8(d) expressed in the language of article 18 of the draft Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. His Government supported a review of the quota system of IMF, but it interpreted paragraph 14 as in no way affecting the right of the Fund to conduct that review in accordance with its own rules and regulations. His delegation was pleased that the joint World Bank/IMF Development Committee was to be under the chairmanship of the Minister of Finance of the Ivory Coast.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

1653rd meeting

Wednesday, 11 December 1974, at 3.15 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Jihad KARAM (Iraq).

A/C.2/SR.1653

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters II, III (sections A to D), IV, VI (sections A to D and G) and VII (sections 1 to 3)] (concluded) (A/9588, A/9592, A/9599, A/9633, A/9648, A/9649, A/9656, A/9699, A/9716 and Corr.1, A/9761, A/9813, A/9855, A/C.2/289, A/C.2/291, A/C.2/293, A/C.2/L.1342, E/5425 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/5467, E/5473, E/5499, E/5501, E/5519, E/5585 and Corr.1, E/5587 and Add.1-4, E/C.8/21)

WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (concluded)* (A/9603/ Add.1 (part V), A/C.2/L.1390, 1416, 1421 and 1424)

1. Mr. HAMID (Sudan), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/L.1421, relating to the World Food Conference held in Rome from 5 to 16 November 1947. He pointed out some changes to be made in the text. In operative paragraph 8, the number of members nominated by the Economic and Social Council should be 36; moreover, in the penultimate line of the English text of that paragraph the full stop between the words "every year" and "Retiring" should be replaced by a comma, and in the final line of the English text the word "will" should be replaced by the word "to". In foot-note 1, the following

figures should be inserted in the blank spaces to read: "9 members from African States; 8 members from Asian States; 7 members from Latin American States; 8 members from Western Europe and other States and 4 members from the Socialist States of Eastern Europe".

2. The draft resolution under consideration was the outcome of intensive consultations, aimed at arriving at a consensus. The main concern of all delegations was that the World Food Council should be elected by the current General Assembly, and that the Council should be able to hold its first session as soon as possible. It was therefore important to have the secretariat for the Council established and operating immediately. Questions had been raised as to the framework within which the Secretary-General of the United Nations should act and consult with the Director-General of FAO regarding the setting up of the secretariat of the World Food Council. Obviously that depended on how the Committee and ultimately the General Assembly, interpreted paragraphs 11 and 12.

3. Resolution XXII of the Conference¹ provided that the World Food Council would be an organ of the United Nations which would report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. That was

* Resumed from the 1641st meeting.

¹ See E/5587, chap. VI.

confirmed by paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1421. Furthermore, the secretariat of the Council would be within the over-all jurisdiction of the Secretary-General.

4. Paragraph 4 (b) of resolution XXII of the World Food Conference recommended that the Council should be serviced within the framework of FAO, with headquarters in Rome. That formulation was a compromise, the intention being that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO would fill in the details by mutual agreement. The most important issue was that the Council and its secretariat should start work as soon as possible.

5. A small and effective secretariat was envisaged, not in FAO but within the framework of FAO, which meant that the administrative services and expertise of FAO would be geared to servicing the Council, within the mandate entrusted to the Secretary-General. The Director-General of FAO had already pledged to extend every possible assistance, and consultations with a view to finalizing the necessary arrangements for the implementation of resolution XXII were expected to be initiated soon.

6. Furthermore, it was expected that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Director-General of FAO and other relevant United Nations agencies, would work out the financial implications of the resolution both for the United Nations and for FAO and other relevant United Nations agencies. It was the understanding of the Committee that the expenditure to be incurred by the United Nations would be covered from the regular budget of the Organization.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/L.1421 without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted.

8. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus was an achievement which would considerably facilitate the implementation of the resolutions of the World Food Conference; the ultimate achievement of the Conference's objectives would depend on the measures taken by Governments.

9. The World Food Conference had been relatively successful. According to the decision taken by the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries in Algiers,² the purpose of the Conference had been to formulate a programme of international co-operation to cope with the food shortage and maintain stable prices. The General Conference of FAO in 1973 had defined clearly the objective, which consisted in arriving at a commitment to solve the food problem within the context of development activities.

10. The Conference had not succeeded in making a firm commitment to the developing countries; however, it had confirmed the need for a global strategy, including an increase in food production, improvement in food-con-

sumption patterns and food distribution and the organization of a food security system.

11. Two of the resolutions adopted by the World Food Conference deserved special mention: resolution XIII,³ concerning the establishment of an International Fund for Agricultural Development, and resolution XXII, in which the General Assembly was called upon to establish a World Food Council. The purpose of the measures adopted in the Committee was the speedy implementation of those resolutions.

12. In the past decade, more people had died of hunger than in armed conflicts; the United Nations, which had at its disposal the means to avoid war, also had to have at its disposal the means to avoid those other deaths. Therefore, the least that could be said of the World Food Conference was that it had made possible a thorough discussion of that very important problem in the General Assembly, and that was an undoubted achievement.

13. The developed and developing countries must act together to cope not only with long-term problems but also with the imminent disaster situation. One of the first issues that the World Food Council would have to consider was the provision of immediate relief to attenuate the suffering of the most seriously affected peoples. In conclusion, he requested the Secretary-General to publish the report of the Second Committee to the General Assembly as soon as possible.

14. Mr. MUMEKA (Zambia) welcomed the fact that the draft resolution had been adopted by consensus, since that showed the concern of mankind for the fate of the starving masses. The countries most seriously affected by the crisis had pinned their hopes on action by the international community, which depended on the follow-up action to be taken under the resolutions adopted, by the Director-General of FAO and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

15. His delegation hoped that the necessary measures would be adopted as soon as possible, so that the Council could meet without delay in order to solve the food shortage problem.

16. His delegation thought that it was most unjust to say that the World Food Conference had been a failure. Of course, short-term results had not been achieved, but that had not been expected. The international community had understood, as a result of the Conference, that hunger was not solely a technological problem, and that political and technical activities had to be co-ordinated; that had been the real achievement of the World Food Conference. Currently, everything depended on the measures taken to implement the resolutions adopted by the Conference.

17. Mr. AL-EBRAHIM (Kuwait) said it was his understanding that, with regard to the presentation of candidates for membership in the World Food Council, the Economic and Social Council would act solely on the basis of reports submitted by the chairmen of the regional groups.

² See A/9330 and Corr.1.

³ See E/5587, chap. V.

18. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee if it wished the report of the World Food Council (E/5587 and Add.1-4) to be published. In that connexion, he drew attention to document A/C.2/L.1424, containing the financial implications of the draft resolution.

19. Mr. SCHLAFF (Budget Division, Office of Financial Services) informed the Committee that it would cost roughly \$12,000 to publish the report in the five official languages.

20. Mr. AL-OBAIDLY (Qatar) asked whether the report would be published in Arabic.

21. Mr. SCHLAFF (Budget Division, Office of Financial Services) said it was his understanding that the use of Arabic was restricted to the documents of the General Assembly and the Main Committees and therefore the report of the Conference would not be published in Arabic.

22. Replying to a question put by the representative of Iraq, he said that the cost of publishing the report in Arabic would amount to some \$3,000, plus translation costs.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that, in those circumstances, the Arab countries would have to bear the costs of printing and publishing the document.

24. Mr. BENNANI (Morocco) said he did not see how the Arab countries could agree to the decision to take note of the report of the World Food Conference if the report had not been translated into Arabic.

25. Mr. FLEMING (Argentina) expressed his concern at the dangerous precedent which might be set by that situation. He also expressed serious reservations with regard to the fact that the group of Arab States would have to bear the costs of publishing the document, because that might lead to discrimination.

26. Mr. AL-EBRAHIM (Kuwait) observed that the basic problem was not the cost of publishing the report, but, rather, the fact that Arabic was an official language of the United Nations. Moreover, the Arab countries had taken part in the World Food Conference and took a keen interest in its results.

27. Mr. SCHLAFF (Budget Division, Office of Financial Services) said that, unless the General Assembly adopted a specific decision, the normal practice was for documents to be published in five languages. He pointed out that the statement of the financial implications of the draft resolution referred only to publication of the report in the five languages into which it had already been translated.

28. Mr. AL-KHUDHAIRY (Iraq) formally proposed that the report of the World Food Conference should be distributed in Arabic.

29. Mr. OMAR (Libyan Arab Republic) said that the General Assembly had adopted a clear decision with regard to that problem and that all documents relating to items on the Committee's agenda must be translated into all languages.

30. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Committee), replying to a question put by the representative of Argentina, said that the document containing the report of the World Food Conference had been transmitted to the General Assembly in accordance with an Economic and Social Council resolution.

31. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) said that the report should be translated into Arabic and the cost charged to the regular budget of the United Nations.

32. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, taking into account the relevant financial implications, the Committee should decide to recommend that the report of the World Food Conference should be published in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to that suggestion.

It was so decided.

33. Mr. HASHMI (India) welcomed the achievements of the World Food Conference and said that the Committee must continue what had been started at the Rome Conference. The efforts made at the Conference should not be allowed to become useless because no follow-up action was taken. The decisions should be implemented as soon as possible.

34. Mr. BERLIS (Canada) said that the report and resolutions of the World Food Conference had established a world food strategy with the medium-term objective of creating a system of world food security to prevent starvation, and the long-term objective of increasing agricultural production. Canada had participated actively in the Conference and the Secretary of State for External Affairs had committed his country to action on four fronts, namely: the provision of an average of 1 million tons of food grains annually for the next three years, as Canada's more than proportional pledge towards the minimum annual target of 10 million tons for the triennium; a substantial increase in its transfers of non-grain food aid; the channelling of approximately 20 per cent of its food aid through multilateral agencies, such as WFP, to which it would make a supplementary unilateral contribution; and increased emphasis on the agricultural sector in Canada's international development assistance programme.

35. By adopting draft resolution A/C.2/L.1421, the Committee had confirmed the conclusions of the Conference. It was, however, necessary to establish a mechanism to ensure that the world food strategy was pursued effectively and coherently and that long-term goals were not lost sight of or subordinated to the demands of the moment.

36. The World Food Council must have the information sources and analytical capacity to carry out the task of supervising the implementation of the strategy. At the same time, its prestige must ensure respect for its recommendations by Governments and international organizations. His delegation considered that the World Food Council would be most effective if it was limited to a reasonable size and if its ministerial meetings were carefully organized through prior consultations among its members. As a food exporter, Canada welcomed the opportunity to participate actively in the World Food Council.

37. Mr. NIECKARZ (Observer of the Holy See), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that, despite the increase in world trade and the rapid rise in the production of goods and services, there was still a fundamental imbalance, inherited from colonial times, which the forces at work in the world's markets would not correct of their own accord.

38. The resolutions (3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)) adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session merely adapted to the world economy policies already adopted at the level of domestic economies. The developing countries' desire to participate in the policy-making institutions of the international community reflected the legitimate principle that those who suffered the consequences of the decisions adopted should have some say in their formulation. In sum, that meant that the principles of social justice must be applied to the great society of the world.

39.) The current world situation was precarious and economic uncertainty pressed most heavily on the poorest States, especially with regard to the food situation. The General Assembly should take the first step towards the establishment of a new economic order and that step was to guarantee the necessary availability and appropriate use of the funds needed to cope with the current crisis. The issue was, in fact, one of leadership and political will.

40. The first step towards a functioning new order had to be to prevent people from starving needlessly in 1975. On that basis, it would be possible to make new long-term changes of a more fundamental nature, such as an ambitious programme of investment in third-world agriculture, greater price stability and a joint programme to increase developing countries' access to fuel and fertilizers. Such objectives could not, however, be achieved if people were not first kept from dying of hunger. Famine could not be the basis for any human order. Playing politics with the lives of millions of persons was not only dangerous for the security and peace of the world, but was also a moral outrage.

41. As Pope Paul VI had stated at the World Food Conference, it was time to find out where the mechanisms had broken down so that the situation could be corrected, or rather, reordered from beginning to end. The family of man was threatened and must therefore act in solidarity to regain its dignity.

42. Mr. KITCHEN (United States of America) said that his Government considered the world food problem to be the most important currently facing the international community. Many efforts had been made at all levels, and in that process the participants had learned to work together.

43. His delegation would have liked to improve or change some parts of the draft resolution. It had nevertheless supported its adoption by consensus because it considered that the draft resolution would be an appropriate way of achieving the objectives set at the World Food Conference. With regard to immediate measures, he recalled that his country's contribution had been substantial. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that the draft resolution provided for the adoption of long-term measures which would

provide a lasting solution. That should be the main concern of the Second Committee, whose efforts should not cease until needy countries had become self-sufficient with regard to food production. The draft resolution laid the foundations for future action to which his Government would give its full support.

44. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) said that his delegation was gratified by the consensus which had been reached on the draft resolution; the Second Committee had demonstrated its sense of responsibility in following the recommendations of the World Food Conference. His delegation attached very great importance to the developed countries' understanding of the distress of the developing countries. It hoped, however, that the decisions of the World Food Conference would in practice take the form of concrete measures carried out without discrimination on grounds of race, ideology or membership of a particular geographical group.

45. The World Food Council could be the nucleus of a world food policy. His Government would therefore support the Council and would spare no efforts at the national, regional or international level.

46. Mr. MURIN (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation was pleased with the work which had been achieved both in the Second Committee and by the World Food Conference, and reaffirmed the right of all human beings to be free from the scourge of hunger; he recalled, however, that the Conference had adopted other resolutions on increasing agricultural production and eliminating obstacles to trade relations. The development by the developing countries of their own resources was of particular importance in that context. He recalled that the socialist delegations had been present at the Rome Conference and had made positive proposals in that connexion.

47. It should be emphasized that it would be dangerous to view the food problem as an isolated one, unconnected with the problems created by the capitalist system. The need to avoid exploitation had been stressed at the World Food Conference. Some participants had asserted that the rising birth-rate was the cause of the food shortage; however, the main cause of hunger lay in the economic and social conditions imposed by imperialism. The lasting solution to those problems therefore depended primarily on the will of all States to contribute to détente. International peace and security and the end of the arms race would play a decisive part in solving those problems. It was obvious that food resources were abundant, but it was also obvious that currently more resources were being used in the production of armaments than in developing the possibilities of the peoples of the world in the field of food production.

48. His delegation wished to express its dissatisfaction that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam had not been invited to the World Food Conference. The United Nations should give careful consideration to the need to compensate suitably those countries which had been colonized in the past and were continuing to suffer the consequences, and to supervise the activities of multinational enterprises in those countries.

49. The food crisis was clearly a problem, the study of which ought to have been undertaken much earlier; the fact that it had not was due to the tendency of certain countries to postpone decisions indefinitely.

50. The existing machinery of the United Nations, and particularly the Economic and Social Council, should be used to the full to solve the food problem. The necessary conditions must be created to stimulate and organize agricultural production by means of structural reform, training activities and so forth, and that was the field in which Czechoslovakia could make its main contribution.

51. With regard to the establishment of funds, his delegation fully supported the principle of voluntary contributions.

52. Czechoslovakia supported the developing countries in their just demand that an end should be put to all the forms of discrimination inherent in the trade practices of the developed countries.

53. Mr. CHANG Hsien-wu (China) said that while his delegation was in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1421, it should be recalled that the food problem was inseparably linked with the current struggle of the peoples of the third world to combat colonialism, imperialism and great-Power hegemony, and to break down the old international economic order and establish a new one.

54. Sympathy and concern should be shown to those developing countries which were experiencing acute food difficulties, but the developed countries should bear the main responsibility. The developing countries could assist one another on a voluntary basis. The third-world countries should have the full right to take part in all decision-making processes relating to the food problem. Any international measures concerning the problem should be taken with strict respect for the sovereignty of all countries and should not be imposed on any country. They should be conducive to the success of the struggle of various countries to safeguard their permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, to the development of their independent national economies and to the solution of their food problems.

55. His delegation was in principle in favour of the Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,⁴ which had been adopted at the World Food Conference, but had reservations on the establishment of the International Undertaking on World Food Security and the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture contained in the Declaration.

56. His delegation did not consider that resolution XIV,⁵ on the so-called "reduction of military expenditures for increasing food production" would help to solve the current world food problem. The so-called utilization of part of the funds saved from disarmament to provide assistance to developing countries served only to conceal the sinister purposes of the super-Powers, which were expanding their arms race on an unprecedented scale. His delegation was therefore opposed to that resolution.

57. Mr. ROUGÉ (France) said that the Economic and Social Council would have to examine thoroughly the institutional provisions of resolution XXII of the Rome Conference. He stressed the importance of the link between the World Food Council and the FAO General Conference, particularly in connexion with the reports to be presented by the former to the latter. Furthermore, the Council's authority should be extended to price-fixing policies, although that point had not been raised at the Conference. Paragraph 6 of resolution XXII of the Conference, on the co-ordination of food aid policies, provided that the Intergovernmental Committee of WFP, reconstituted as the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, should submit reports to the World Food Council. His Government was prepared to co-operate in an international effort, but would not make its food aid policies conditional upon guidelines aimed specifically at a particular group of countries.

58. Mr. ROSTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the global problem of hunger could be ascribed not to natural causes but to socio-economic circumstances. It should be understood that improvement of the food situation depended to a significant degree on the maintenance of international peace and on measures to achieve disarmament. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed resolution XIV of the Conference, on the reduction of military expenditures for increasing food production and emergency reserves. The policy of détente contributed to the implementation of agrarian reform in the developing countries and alteration of the land ownership system, which was a vital requisite for the eradication of the consequences of colonialism and neo-colonialism. The USSR had provided considerable assistance to the developing countries in the agricultural sphere and expected to continue to do so. The world possessed ample resources and there was no need to be pessimistic; what was needed was to improve methods of farming: the USSR had wide experience in that field, which it was prepared to share with the developing countries. It was also important to put an end to discrimination in international trade practices, and his country was prepared to provide assistance to achieve that aim as well. His delegation regretted that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam had not been invited to send a delegation to the World Food Conference.

59. He observed that the International Fund for Agricultural Development should continue to be voluntary. His delegation's final position on the World Food Council and its functional committees would be determined at a later stage. He reserved his delegation's right to comment in the Fifth Committee on the financial implications of the resolution just adopted.

60. Mr. CHAVANAVIRAJ (Thailand) expressed his satisfaction that a consensus had been reached on the draft resolution. His country's support for the main objectives of the draft did not change its position on resolutions XVII and XVIII of the World Food Conference, as had already been pointed out at the resumed fifty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council (1930th meeting).

61. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that the fact that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1421 had been adopted by consensus

⁴ *Ibid.*, chap. IV.

⁵ *Ibid.*, chap. V.

was a further proof of the world community's anxiety about and awareness of the dimensions of the problem of hunger in the world. The Sudan had collaborated intensively in the preparatory work of the World Food Conference and was satisfied by the success of its results; the Conference had opened the way to the adoption of national and international measures aimed at increasing food production, especially in the developing countries. It was now important that the developing countries should receive aid to develop their natural resources, as well as aid in the form of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural equipment. In addition, agricultural credits and aid in training and research should be made available to the developing countries. Among other measures to improve the situation of the developing countries, he mentioned the establishment of a rural infrastructure and the implementation of agrarian reforms; there was also a need to strengthen measures to reduce the loss of harvests, such as the construction of storage and conservation facilities. The developing countries likewise urgently needed private foreign investment in the agricultural sector.

62. With regard to the complementary activity of the World Food Conference, and to what was expected of the World Food Council, he said that attention should be focused on the following points: greater production of food-stuffs with high nutritional value; reduction of the cost of production and distribution of food and reduction of its international prices; better national and international systems to avoid food shortages; improvement of international terms of trade for food products from the developing countries; and minimum levels of consumption for the poorest sectors of the population and elimination of food wastage in the richest countries.

63. Mr. GATES (New Zealand) also expressed his satisfaction at the positive results of the World Food Conference and at the consensus achieved concerning the draft resolution.

64. At the Conference held in Rome his delegation had already emphasized the aspects of food production which were of major importance for overcoming the problem of hunger in the world; those aspects included an increase in the production of fertilizers and more adequate use of the services of FAO in that field, and the transfer of advanced technology from the industrialized countries to countries which had a great productive potential. In that connexion, New Zealand, a country 80 per cent of whose exports were accounted for by the agricultural sector, undertook to provide the developing countries with technology suitable for the development of their food production.

65. In conclusion, his delegation reiterated its support for the establishment of an International Fund for Agricultural Development and a World Food Council, and pointed out that, although it was not seeking membership in the Council, it was awaiting with interest the election of the members of that body.

66. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that the implementation of the recommendations of the World Food Conference would contribute to the solution of the serious problems affecting agriculture and food production in the developing countries. In particular, his country supported

the Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, in which emphasis was placed on the importance of international co-operation and détente for a solution of those problems.

67. Finally, his delegation endorsed the views expressed by the representative of the USSR concerning the participation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam in the Rome Conference.

68. Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic) said that, in order to help solve food problems, what was needed was not the establishment of a new body but the more effective use of bodies already existing within the United Nations system, in particular FAO, UNDP, UNIDO and UNEP. In that connexion, he observed that experience had shown that time was needed for a new body to be able to work effectively.

69. With reference to the proposed Fund, his delegation supported the system of voluntary contributions.

70. Mr. CHAVEZ (Grenada) said that Grenada was a country with an agricultural economy and that food products constituted one of its main exports. Food was without doubt the most acute problem facing the world, and his Government was working out plans to increase production and, in consequence, food exports. He attached great importance to draft resolution A/C.2/L.1421, and expressed satisfaction that it had been adopted by consensus.

71. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, to conclude the consideration of agenda item 12, the Committee decide to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the following reports: reports of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources (E/5425 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/9716 and Add.1); reports of the Secretary-General on special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries (E/5467 and E/5499); report of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development (E/5473); report of the Secretary-General on special measures related to the particular needs of the land-locked developing countries (E/5501); report of the Secretary-General on the outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries (E/C.8/21); and note by the Secretary-General on the status of the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization (E/5519). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the proposal.

The decision was adopted.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

72. Mr. DE SEYNES (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) reviewed the achievements of the United Nations during the 20 years of his service to the Organization, which he was about to conclude.

73. The development of the United Nations was characterized by a process of challenging the established order; that process had been accelerated in the past few years, and was entering upon a decisive phase. It was necessary, for

example, to make a series of adjustments in the world economic structure, and, in that connexion, significant progress had been made towards the establishment of a new international economic order. In that context, mention should be made of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the World Population Conference, the World Food Conference, the establishment of machinery for supervising the activities of transnational companies, and so on. It was necessary at the current stage to devise short-term measures as a first step towards the medium-term and long-term action which had always been the main objective of the United Nations.

74. An awareness had at last emerged of the global nature of the problems facing mankind and of the growing need for co-operation. The system of negotiation to achieve consensus, the corner-stone of the United Nations, was becoming increasingly useful. It was necessary to maintain the universal role of the United Nations and to support the efforts of the countries of the third world to bridge the gap separating them from the industrialized countries. Finally, the consensus achieved in the Second Committee concerning the grave problem of world hunger showed that the United Nations was capable of meeting the greatest challenge ever to confront it.

75. In conclusion, he expressed his appreciation to all those speakers who had referred to him in such kind terms, and to his colleagues and fellow-workers in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Completion of the Committee's Work

76. The CHAIRMAN reviewed the work of the Second Committee during the current session and said that 1974, which had begun with the sixth special session, continued with the World Population Conference, the World Food Conference and the negotiations relating to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and was ending with the current session had constituted a milestone in the

efforts of the international community to find urgent solutions to its acute problems of economic and social development.

77. Referring to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, he said that its adoption established an important basis for the new international economic order; he regretted that it had not been adopted without a vote, but expressed the hope that it would, through continuing dialogue and mutual understanding, win universal support.

78. The Second Committee had also dealt with many substantive questions, to which it had given careful consideration and concerning which it had recommended important draft resolutions and decisions to the General Assembly.

79. On the basis of the experience acquired during the current session he suggested that, in order to save time and concentrate efforts on specific proposals, general debates on each specific item should in future be avoided, and the procedure should be simplified by a general debate on the programme as a whole at the beginning of the session. He also suggested that consideration should be given to the possibility of eliminating explanations of vote in the Committee inasmuch as those explanations would be given when the General Assembly discussed the recommendations.

80. In conclusion, he expressed his appreciation to all those who had assisted him in the accomplishment of his task and to those delegations that had honoured him personally, and his country also, by electing him Chairman of the Second Committee.

81. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared that the Second Committee had completed its work for the twenty-ninth session.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.