



*Chairman:* Mr. Carlos GIAMBRUNO  
(Uruguay).

**AGENDA ITEM 54**

**Youth, its education in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its active participation in national development and international co-operation (*continued*)** (A/8743, A/8782 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.3/L.1981, A/C.3/L.1982, A/C.3/L.1983/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.1984):

- (a) **Channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations: report of the Secretary-General;**
- (b) **Implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between peoples**

1. Mr. TORRES (Philippines) said that the report in document A/8743 was brief yet comprehensive and was appropriately action-oriented. One of the key problems was how best to gain the attention, understanding and co-operation of youth and certain guidelines should be observed in developing effective channels of communication. Today's youth should not be patronized. They looked for respect, especially from their elders, and, as indicated in the report of the symposium on the participation of youth in the Second United Nations Development Decade in 1971, they did not want themselves and their problems to be viewed in isolation from the rest of society, or to be regarded as mere objects of lectures, guidance or even sincere concern. They quite justifiably demanded a serious and searching dialogue and felt that their right to participate in, contribute to and derive benefit from such an exchange should be recognized. Above all, they wanted precepts to be matched by practice, words by deeds and promises by performance. The crux of the matter, as observed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social and Humanitarian Matters (see 1966th meeting), was that young people saw the contradictions between what was said and what was done. There was therefore an urgent need for the United Nations to establish two-way communication with youth in order to bridge the credibility gap.

2. It was perhaps paucity of information that had caused most of today's youth to feel that the United Nations had become irrelevant and anachronistic. In many parts of the world the average young person lacked adequate information on the structure and oper-

ation of the United Nations, its weaknesses and its strong points and the reasons for its achievements and failures. The average young person's concept of the United Nations was probably based on the somewhat elementary ideas imparted in school. The United Nations was doubtless depicted as a powerful world authority, rather than the modest centre for harmonizing disparate, contradictory and nationally self-serving actions that it really was; as a cornucopia of technical assistance for economic and social development, rather than an international organization which in fact channelled only a relatively small amount of foreign aid because many rich nations were reluctant to give more economic assistance in the multilateral framework which did not tie the recipient country economically and politically to the donor country. Yet, how could those young people appreciate the value and usefulness, despite its shortcomings, of a United Nations that was not realistically understood? Better communication was certainly part of the answer, marked not only by technical improvement, but also by true reciprocity. It was important not only to establish communication with the generation that would inherit the earth but also to understand their needs and aspirations and to secure their participation in shaping the world of the future.

3. The concept of mutuality, of creative interchange, of honest and fruitful dialogue between the generations—or between the United Nations and today's youth—provided the inspiration for draft resolutions A/C.3/L.1981 and A/C.3/L.1982, of which his delegation was a sponsor and which he hoped interpreted correctly the essential message of the Secretary-General's report (A/8743) and the introductory statement made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social and Humanitarian Matters.

4. In connexion with the Secretary-General's report, he felt that there was a contradiction between the statement in paragraph 12 that "there is increasing evidence that existing channels of communication with the United Nations are inadequate and that major changes are needed" and the lengthy account, in the annex to the document, of current arrangements within the United Nations system of organizations for communication with youth. It was obvious that those arrangements lacked the necessary degree of co-ordination and he hoped that such co-ordination, which was provided for in draft resolution A/C.3/L.1981, would result in greater coherence and effectiveness.

5. He endorsed the recommendations concerning national programmes contained in paragraph 36 (a) of the report, but urged that the UNDP resident represen-

tatives should try to involve young people from the areas affected in the planning, implementation and evaluation of country programmes. Regarding regional programmes, referred to in paragraph 36 (c), he suggested that the proposed youth officers should also be responsible for helping to organize regional youth organizations having close relations with the United Nations. That was particularly important for Asia and the Far East, Western Asia, Africa and Latin America, where there were few international youth organizations indigenous to those regions. Currently, most of the international youth organizations consulted by the United Nations in New York and Geneva were based in Europe and North America. Strengthening the relationship of national youth organizations to the United Nations, as suggested in paragraph 36 (c) (iii), would not be an adequate substitute, since periodic consultations with over 130 national organizations would be impracticable.

6. He strongly endorsed the proposal, in paragraph 39 (a) to set up an *ad hoc* advisory group on youth, which would help to counterbalance the professional representatives of international non-governmental youth organizations mentioned in paragraph 39 (b). Care should be taken not to appoint members of the group who were also involved in the youth consultations at Geneva and New York. He hoped that the consultations in question would prove more effective than the existing arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations under Article 71 of the Charter.

7. He supported the proposal in paragraph 40 for a three-year testing period of the Secretary-General's proposals and hoped that delegations which might have reservations concerning the financial implications of individual proposals would be prepared to give the proposals a chance. The amounts involved were small compared with the importance and urgency of the task of enabling young people to realize their full potential as agents and beneficiaries of development, rather than its victims.

8. Mr. PETROV (Bulgaria) said that his Government attached paramount importance to the matters with which the item was concerned; they received the attention of almost all State institutions and social organizations. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers had spoken of the complexity of the problems involved and stressed that the future of the rising generation depended on the extent to which State and other institutions fulfilled their obligations to youth. The plan for social and economic development for the period 1971-1975 devoted considerable attention to such questions as the education of youth and its participation in the development of socialist culture and the Ministries and various State and regional bodies had drawn up specific programmes with a view to carrying out the plan. Article 39 of the new Constitution had elevated the moral, political and vocational training of youth to the level of State policy: in the previous four years the Council of Ministers had adopted 25 measures relating to youth.

9. The mass information media, the social organizations, the school and the family all played an important role in educating young people in the spirit of the struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination and oppression of all kinds and in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding and respect among peoples. In that connexion, the work of the Dimitrovsky Communist Youth Organization deserved special mention.

10. The existing possibilities of solving the problems of youth and educating young people in the spirit of international co-operation, as well as the new national role played by Bulgarian youth, resulted from the political and economic changes which had taken place in his country in the previous 28 years. In that short time Bulgaria had achieved progress which, in other circumstances, would have taken centuries: for example, the national income had increased almost seven times, and Bulgaria had been transformed from a backward agrarian country into a highly developed industrial and agrarian State. Those achievements had been accomplished during the lifetime of one generation and were the work, to a large extent, of young people—an illustration of the role played by the younger generation and of the hopes placed in it in the matter of national development. Yet it would be wrong to think of youth only in terms of the future; the present belonged to it as well. Young people must be trained for future tasks, but they must also be involved in current problems.

11. The youth of his country was constantly striving to fulfil its international duty. Its most important task was the struggles against the instigators of imperialist wars and for the strengthening of peace; victory in those struggles would consolidate the position of young people throughout the world. Such activities were fully in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions relating to youth, in particular General Assembly resolution 2633 (XXV).

12. Since 1965 there had been a noticeable increase in United Nations concern for the involvement of youth in the solution of important political and economic problems. The World Youth Assembly in 1970 had been a milestone in that process. Young people and youth organizations had in turn showed greater interest in United Nations efforts for the strengthening of peace and development of international co-operation. European youth organizations had been especially active in working for the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and for the convening of a European conference on security and co-operation.

13. Since their first meeting in Poland in 1964 the representatives of European youth organizations had held a number of seminars on the questions of security and co-operation. The most recent seminar had been held at Helsinki in August 1972. Thus, youth initiatives often anticipated diplomatic action, and young people exercised a growing influence on governmental decisions—evidence of their social and political maturity and sense of responsibility for the destiny of the world. That point had been emphasized in a recent

statement by the Chairman of the National Committee of Socialist Youth of Poland.

14. His delegation supported the development of contacts between the United Nations and youth representatives at the national and international levels. It had co-sponsored the texts of a number of previous resolutions on youth and would continue to work for the solution of youth problems. It was gratified by the willingness to co-operate which other delegations had expressed and wished to congratulate the Secretary-General on his report (A/8743), in particular his recommendations, which would effectively serve the purposes of the United Nations and the interests of youth.

15. However, his delegation had certain reservations. It was unrealistic and incorrect to seek to establish communication with youth in general and individually, as was recommended in paragraphs 25 and 27. It was, indeed, a violation of the Charter to bypass Governments and ignore existing national and international organizations, even on the ground that they were insufficiently representative or linked to a narrow professional or ideological purpose. The point made in paragraph 22 seemed to be contradicted by many of the comments in the succeeding six paragraphs. Furthermore, paragraph 29 referred to the establishment by the United Nations of mechanisms capable of making the views and interests of young people actually felt; that was a direct contradiction of paragraph 22, which recommended that the United Nations should avoid creating new structures.

16. His delegation regretted that because of the limited time available it had been unable to refer to a number of positive recommendations in the report and it hoped that all the comments of other delegations would be taken into account by the Secretariat in its work to improve channels of communication between the United Nations and young people.

17. Mr. RAJU (India) said that the Secretary-General's report (A/8743) was significant both for what it said and for what it did not say. A sizable proportion of present-day youth had been born at the time of the founding of the United Nations. They had grown up in affluence generated by the application of science and technology, but the international community had a long way to go before it achieved complete human prosperity and well-being. Present-day youth seemed to feel strongly that the new scientific knowledge had not been correctly applied by their elders to relieve mankind from the misery of poverty, ignorance and war, but had been deliberately misapplied for the manufacture of sophisticated weapons for the mass destruction of the young people who were the war recruits. That was the crime of their elders that youth contemptuously condemned.

18. Present-day youth also suffered from a sense of alienation. They wanted to participate in the great deeds of the current generation and in delineating the contours of the new society. They rightly saw that the great technological changes currently taking place would have an impact on the values and structure of

society and they rightly claimed that the future for which foundations were being laid was theirs. They accordingly demanded a greater say in the matter.

19. The problems of youth in the developing countries differed from those in affluent societies, as was recognized in paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's report. In the developing countries youth did not represent a single entity: the youth population was divided into rural, urban and other segments and there could be no uniform, common programme. Educated youth, who were mostly urbanized, were frustrated through lack of employment opportunities and in some countries had started to rebel against the establishment, and to question the relevance, utility and purpose of the current educational system. The situation in the developing countries was a major problem and merited immediate and deeper study by United Nations agencies.

20. New scientific knowledge was exposing the instability and irrelevance of the old social system. In the affluent societies, where the trend was towards economic independence for the individual rather than interdependence of members of the family, young people were rejecting parental interference in many matters, including vocation and marriage, and were questioning the relevance of traditional social values. Having crossed the poverty line, societies in the developed countries were faced with the problem: what next? The problem was how to use to good purpose the greater leisure that had resulted from technological development.

21. Student unrest had assumed significant proportions. The student community desired and demanded participation in the implementation of decisions as well as in the decision-making process. In the affluent societies young people faced such problems as drug addiction and permissiveness. The rapid changes in the environment brought about by technological advances had provoked youth not to accept the *status quo* and that had to some extent widened the generation gap. His delegation considered that the United Nations should prepare a programme that would help to bridge that gap. If society was to enjoy continued orderly and harmonious progress, the wisdom of the elders should be blended with the dynamism of youth. That was the only way to eliminate the destructive sense of revolt and frustration that affected youth today.

22. In order to consider what the United Nations could do to develop in the younger generation a greater sense of involvement in and understanding of the issues facing the world community, it would be well to consider how present-day youth viewed the United Nations. The 1970 World Youth Assembly had noted the provisions of the Charter and found them wanting. It had found overwhelming contradictions based on colour, religion, race, sex, materialism, tradition-bound superstitions and the like; institutions run by people who were out of touch with reality, and dogmas which impeded the evolution of world politics. But one thing had emerged: modern youth dreamed of living in equality and dignity in a world free from want. It

had been pointed out, however, that it had taken the United Nations 25 years to organize a world meeting for young people to exchange ideas on problems of common interest.

23. In his own country, where similar problems existed, everything possible was being done to improve the conditions of youth. The primary purpose of the Government's youth policy was to involve youth in nation-building activities. Nehru Youth Centres had recently been established throughout the country and it was hoped that they would pave the way for the establishment of channels of communication at the local and national levels.

24. It was time to replace the one-way channel of communication by two-way channels at the local, national, regional and United Nations levels and to create a climate in which tomorrow's citizens could assimilate the spirit of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations should all take an abiding interest in the welfare of young people, in helping them and in understanding their particular problems.

25. With regard to the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report, he welcomed the proposal in paragraph 36 (a) (ii) for the establishment of youth advisory groups to the UNDP resident representatives but thought it would be preferable for the resident representatives to attend meetings of national youth councils so that Governments themselves could decide how and where best to enlist the services of youth. He also welcomed the proposal in paragraph 36 (c) for regional programmes and suggested that young people should be enlisted as volunteers to work on projects in other developing countries as well as in their own. The importance of using United Nations information media in advancing the youth programme could not be too strongly emphasized. The proposal to appoint an *ad hoc* advisory group on youth, in paragraph 39 (a), needed careful examination, since the question of geographical representation was bound to arise. Moreover, it was not clear whether the reference in that paragraph to "persons with extensive experience in government youth programmes" applied to youth leaders—who could not be expected to have extensive experience—or whether it meant that the *ad hoc* advisory group would be composed of older members—which might not be acceptable to youth. It might be advisable to obtain the views of international non-governmental youth organizations on that question.

26. With regard to the convening of world youth assemblies recommended in paragraph 39 (c), he suggested that Member States which had not done so should be requested to reply as soon as possible to the Secretary-General's note verbale of 31 August 1971. He supported the recommendation in paragraph 39 (d), that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2736 A (XXV) should be implemented with a view to encouraging people under 30 to enter and remain in the service of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. He also supported the other minor recom-

mendations, including the three-year testing period referred to in paragraph 40.

27. Mr. NDIMBIE (Cameroon) said that since the General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples (resolution 2037 (XX)), his Government had intensified its efforts concerning the needs, problems and aspirations of youth and had actively involved youth in all aspects of national development. It believed that adequate measures should be taken at the national and international levels to involve youth in the implementation of national development programmes and in policy formulation, in the interests of promoting progress, development, international peace and security.

28. In his own country, the youth wing of the National Unity Party was one of the Party's most dynamic and powerful organs. His delegation to the current session of the General Assembly included a representation of the Students' Union and Cameroon had participated in the World Youth Assembly in New York in 1970 and in other international forums. The adoption of French and English as the country's official languages helped the younger generation to address itself to world problems in general and to African problems in particular, since language was a powerful instrument of international communication and mutual co-operation and understanding among peoples.

29. His delegation welcomed the growing interest of the United Nations, as reflected in the Secretary-General's report, in the important role that youth could play in the realization of the purposes of the Charter, particularly with respect to peace, mutual understanding, friendly relations and co-operation among peoples, the dignity of the human person and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In that spirit it wished to join the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.3/L.1981 and A/C.3/L.1982.

30. Miss SANO (Japan) said that her delegation welcomed the increasing attention being paid by the United Nations to the question of youth, which in many countries had come into prominence for the first time. She was in sympathy with the philosophy underlying the Secretary-General's report (A/8743) and supported his recommendations.

31. Her delegation had for some time been aware of the problem of inadequate communication between the United Nations and the world's young people and shared the view expressed in paragraph 16 of the report that the United Nations might lose fruitful contact with future generations unless it established better channels of reciprocal communication without delay. In particular, the United Nations must maintain its role as an effective vehicle for the development of informed world opinion. The report provided an appropriate basis for consideration of the subject and her delegation particularly welcomed the suggestion, in paragraph 31, that the United Nations should be opened up to young people for wider and more direct participation in its activities. That would undoubtedly develop more effective communication with the youth of the world.



32. It was disappointing to note that only a little over 4 per cent of the entire professional staff currently employed in the United Nations Secretariat was under 30 years of age. In that connexion she recalled paragraph 2 (d) of General Assembly resolution 2736 A (XXV) concerning the recruitment of qualified young men and women through the development of more objective methods of selection. Her delegation believed that those ideas should be immediately incorporated in the recruitment policy of the United Nations and it would support draft resolution A/C.3/L.1983/Rev.1.

33. With regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, her delegation considered that versatile approaches were called for in view of the wide scope and variety of youth problems. The most serious problem was the clash between traditional concepts and new values—the generation gap. In her country information and education were being mobilized to bridge the gap and to inculcate in young people respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in all phases of their lives. At the international level, her country had been endeavouring to promote international understanding and co-operation through projects for young people, including the Overseas Co-operation Volunteer Programme inaugurated in 1965. About 1,100 young volunteers had already been sent abroad under the programme. Her delegation was convinced that the promotion of co-operation between peoples and international friendship could best be started through young people.

34. Mr. BUHL (Denmark) said that his delegation attached great importance to constructive deliberations on the item under consideration and hoped that specific measures would be taken to provide for harmonious co-operation between youth and the United Nations. In the long run the efforts of the United Nations would not be meaningful unless provision was made for the younger generation to play an active role in those efforts. There was a feeling of alienation between generations in otherwise harmonious societies which was mainly due to the rapid and immense social and technological development which had occurred. In the interest of society as a whole youth should therefore be given a greater role in the development of society. The Secretary-General's report, and particularly the recommendations in paragraphs 35 to 42, were a first step towards the strengthening of communications between youth and youth organizations on the one hand and the United Nations on the other. Although in principle most of the information provided by the United Nations on questions of interest to young people was available to them, the volume, frequency and complexity of that information in fact made it difficult for most young people to make full use of it. He therefore welcomed the measures proposed in paragraph 37 to increase the availability of such information, in a form specifically designed for youth. It was essential that youth should be given greater access to the formulation of United Nations policies and he noted that for the preceding few years a representative of Danish youth organizations had been attached to the Danish delegation to the General Assembly.

35. He supported the proposal in paragraph 39 (a) of the report, embodied in draft resolution A/C.3/L.1981, which called for the convening of an *ad hoc* advisory group on youth. Its members should preferably be appointed from among young people active in youth work who should be chosen so as to achieve a reasonable geographical distribution. With regard to the world youth assemblies recommended in paragraph 39 (c), he considered that it would be premature, on the basis of the 25 replies received, to determine whether another world youth assembly should be convened. While assemblies where young people could meet to discuss their various problems and needs were highly important for their understanding of international co-operation, if a future youth assembly was to be held, it should deal with the specific problems of youth in order to promote the work on such problems within the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It would also have to be carefully prepared so as to avoid the procedural difficulties which had hampered the first World Youth Assembly; it should be determined in advance what countries should be invited, attention should be drawn to the strict application of the agreed age limit, and the principle that participants were not official representatives of their countries should be upheld. The basic view of his delegation was that the United Nations should act principally as a service organ and that it should be left to the international youth organizations themselves to draw up the final guidelines for the work outlined in the Secretary-General's report. It was therefore important to allow for a three-year period in which to test that new co-operation; at the end of that period the Committee should reconsider whether and how co-operation could be improved. He supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1983/Rev.1 and stressed the importance of the efficient distribution of information on job opportunities in the Secretariat in order to increase the recruitment of qualified young people for service in the United Nations.

36. Mrs. BARISH (Costa Rica) said that her Government had for a number of years been taking concrete action to promote increasingly active participation of young people in national development. For that reason, it was co-sponsoring draft resolutions A/C.3/L.1981 and A/C.3/L.1982, which dealt comprehensively with the two aspects of the item under consideration.

37. In her introduction, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social and Humanitarian Matters had highlighted important aspects of the report of the Secretary-General (A/8743), emphasizing the current situation and the fact that, as stated in paragraph 23, very few of the world's young people—in some countries the proportion had been estimated at less than 1 per cent—were aware of the specific activities of the United Nations, including its role as the vehicle for a substantial portion of the multilateral assistance being made available to developing countries or its efforts in the field of social and economic policy and human rights. Her delegation agreed that effective channels of communication would have to be based to some extent on an increased knowledge on the part of youth of what the United Nations was doing, since the dis-

enchantment of young people who were not fully conversant with the work of the United Nations could be attributed to their lack of awareness of what the United Nations was capable of doing and what its limitations were.

38. It would be noted that operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1981 endorsed the conclusion expressed in the Secretary-General's report that the United Nations should pay particular attention in the future to involving youth in programmes of national development and international co-operation as well as in the activities of the United Nations. In that regard, the activities of the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sport, established in her country in 1970, had already borne fruit. It encouraged support for the United Nations Volunteers programme and was endeavouring to secure the participation of young people in resolving problems that affected the whole of mankind, such as human rights, disarmament, decolonization, the environment, and drug abuse.

39. In her view, the recommendations contained in paragraph 36 (a) (i) and (ii) of the report were of great importance, for success in promoting communication with young people at the local and national level would depend first and foremost on governmental action to provide greater opportunities for young people to contribute to development. In that connexion, it should be remembered that General Assembly resolution 2497 (XXIV) had recommended to Governments that, especially during the Second United Nations Development Decade, youth and youth organizations should be given an appropriate opportunity to participate in the preparation and implementation of national development plans and in programmes of international co-operation. She welcomed the recommendations concerning action by UNDP resident representatives and the establishment of youth advisory groups. Similarly, noting that current channels of communication were deficient and that the consultative arrangements provided for in Article 71 of the Charter had not encouraged extensive or intensive communication with young people on the social, economic and political issues dealt with by the United Nations, her delegation fully supported the recommendation in operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1981 to convene an *ad hoc* advisory group on youth. The aim of such a group would be to advise the Secretary-General on the activities the United Nations should undertake to meet the needs and aspirations of young people, as enumerated in paragraph 39 of document A/8743.

40. It was her hope that draft resolution A/C.3/L.1981 would be adopted unanimously. Draft resolution A/C.3/L.1982, relating to implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, was fully in accord with her country's views on educating young people in respect for the principles embodied in the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and it called for no comment on her part.

41. Mr. PORTALES (Chile) said that youth was playing an important part in the revolutionary changes which were taking place in Chile. It was working to eradicate poverty, dependence and ignorance, and was actively participating in the defence of Chile's right to exploit its natural resources and in building a new society. Young workers were joining in the effort to increase the productivity of labour, to develop new and improved methods of work and to combat irresponsibility, indifference, dishonesty and absenteeism. Young people were also involved in the social and political struggle against the great monopolies in agriculture and industry and in implementing local health programmes and mass health education campaigns. The Youth Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic had drawn up proposals for government measures concerning young people of all categories and the participation of youth in Government. Those measures were being discussed with young people through youth organizations in order to achieve genuine participation by youth in the task of national development.

42. It was regrettable that the Committee could not analyse the report of the Secretary-General with the attention it deserved, particularly since it must make recommendations on the subject. He endorsed the Secretary-General's comments that nothing should be proposed or done that would tend to isolate young people from society as a whole, that young people throughout the world and within countries were not a homogeneous group and that they were wary of being co-opted into a system that promised communication and participation but might prove in practice to be so closely tied to established procedures or special interests that those processes would turn out to be little more than a means for ratifying the *status quo*; those comments were particularly valid for the third world.

43. The Secretary-General's recommendations needed to be studied in detail by the competent national organizations. The creation of an *ad hoc* advisory group on youth, recommended in draft resolution A/C.3/L.1981, must be carefully considered and his delegation understood that the group's tasks would not go beyond the preparation of reports to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council. He supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1983/Rev.1 and hoped that enough time would be allocated by the General Assembly to the periodic examination advocated in that text.

44. Mr. HUME (United States of America) noted that a majority of the people in the world had been born after the signing of the Charter of the United Nations. It should be possible for youth's aspirations towards peace, progress and justice to find expression through the work of the United Nations, but too often the Organization had shunned the kind of action programmes which would attract youth. Young people frequently had a clearer vision than their elders of the changes occurring in the world and the United Nations system had unique opportunities to use the energies and enthusiasm of youth in support of economic and social development. One example of the current con-

tribution by youth was the campaign against smallpox being waged by WHO in Ethiopia; that programme was almost entirely staffed by young volunteer workers, half from the United States and half from Ethiopia.

45. His delegation placed a high value on the role of the United Nations Volunteers, who were assigned to work on development projects covering a wide range of economic and social problems. The United Nations Volunteers programme was the kind of action programme in which youth was making an important contribution and it should be continued and expanded.

46. His delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1981, which approved the Secretary-General's recommendation to convene an *ad hoc* advisory group on youth. The group would be financed from available resources within the United Nations regular budget for the execution of the work programme of the Commission for Social Development for the period 1971-1975 approved in Economic and Social Council resolution 1583 (L). All the members of the advisory group should be under 30 years of age and should have an academic background or practical experience enabling them to make specific contributions to the economic and social activities of the United Nations. The group should not exceed 10 members and they should be selected from among young people with expertise in health, education, housing, administration, agriculture, environment or population. Increased and direct involvement of youth in the work of the United Nations would be of benefit to all.

47. Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago) noted that her delegation was a sponsor of the three draft resolutions before the Committee (A/C.3/L.1981, A/C.3/L.1982, A/C.3/L.1983/Rev.1). Each of those texts would require the necessary political commitment on the part of Governments, at both the national and international levels, to the implementation of programmes encouraging young people to participate in development by increasing their awareness of the issues involved in development programmes and policies. Sixty-two per cent of the population of her country was under 25 years old and recent manifestations of restlessness and impatience on the part of youth had increased the concern of her Government to strengthen the channels of communication between youth and the rest of society. The tremendous advance of science and technology continued to increase expectations in all societies. Those advances, by creating new sensations, new ways of thinking and new life styles, had eroded traditional methods of discipline and attitudes calling for respect and dignity—qualities which promoted the spirit of peace through justice, co-operation and national development. The indiscriminate use of advertising in developing countries had transmitted information and alien attitudes in an unselective manner to young people who were finding it increasingly difficult to accept the contrasts between affluence and poverty. In an effort to meet the urgent need to promote the development of youth, her Government had recently expanded its conventional formal educational facilities and would continue its

programme of youth camps and annual youth art and craft exhibitions. Moreover, it was preparing to initiate a National Youth Service, with emphasis on practical training in agriculture and trades related to agriculture, self-discipline, self-reliance and active participation by youth in the management of their affairs. It had also embarked on a broad general programme of education to help youth achieve gainful employment. In that connexion, consultations were being carried out with FAO and UNESCO to utilize their youth programmes for the expanded development of agriculture and education in order to involve young people in national activities. The time had come for the international community to make a concerted effort to foster integrity, industry and unity, which would prepare young people for their future roles as worth-while citizens.

48. Mr. ZINCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation welcomed the increased United Nations interest in youth problems. The measures taken by various United Nations bodies to satisfy the needs and aspirations of youth enjoyed wide support among young people, who were aware of their responsibility to become more actively involved in the solution of international problems, as had been demonstrated at the Seminar on the Role of Youth in Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, held at Belgrade, and the World Youth Assembly in 1970.

49. Regional and interregional surveys had shown that many of the problems of young people derived from the problems of the societies in which they lived. At previous sessions of the General Assembly many delegations had stressed that the problems of youth could not be considered in isolation from the problems of society as a whole. Although young people had special needs in such matters as education and employment, they did not constitute a special social or professional category. Both the younger and the older generations were involved in the solution of the problems of colonialism, racism and *apartheid*, social justice and progress and international peace and security.

50. Countries with different social systems adopted different approaches to the question of the participation of young people in political, economic and social activities. It was therefore difficult to put forward all-embracing recommendations on means of solving youth problems. However, his delegation was ready to co-operate in the working out of such proposals, as it had done in co-sponsoring the text adopted as General Assembly resolution 2770 (XXVI).

51. Draft resolution A/C.3/L.1981 was designed to give effect to the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report. His delegation, together with the delegations of Hungary, Mongolia and Poland, was unable to agree with many of those recommendations and had therefore submitted a number of amendments (A/C.3/L.1984) to the draft resolution. Operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution referred to channels of communication with "youth". Youth made up more than half of the population of the world, and it was

clearly impossible to establish channels of communication with every member of the younger generation. The paragraph ought more logically to have referred to communication between the United Nations and "national and international youth organizations". Operative paragraph 5 was so vague and open to so many different interpretations that it should be deleted. Operative paragraph 7 dealt with the convening of an *ad hoc* advisory group on youth, but it made no mention of the composition, the periodicity of meetings and the nature of the activities of the group or of its financial implications. The members of the group, who would be appointed by the Secretary-General, would not be responsible to their Governments, would work independently of national and international youth organizations and would therefore have no contact with young people. Thus, they could hardly advise the Secretary-General on activities that should be undertaken to meet the needs and aspirations of youth. In any event, existing United Nations bodies were already serving that purpose. Acting on the recommendations of the Committee and the General Assembly, those bodies had already given effect to a number of useful measures. In view of the nature of their activities and their composition, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development were particularly competent to carry out the tasks envisaged in the draft resolution. Consideration of the Secretary-General's report was already on the agenda of the twenty-third session of the Commission for Social Development. Account should also be taken of the work of such organizations as UNESCO. The draft resolution should have given more details of the programmes and recommendations to which it referred. It should also be noted that there was no precedent for the establishment of *ad hoc* groups to study the problems of a particular section of the population. Changes would also have to be made in operative paragraph 8.

52. The sponsors of the amendments endorsed the critical comments made by the representative of the Soviet Union concerning paragraphs 34 to 42 of the Secretary-General's report. They could not support the proposal to establish channels of communication between the United Nations and "youth" in circumvention of Member States of the United Nations and national and international organizations. With regard to operative paragraphs 6 and 7 (a) it was impossible to "appreciate" such recommendations and it would be unwise to adopt in haste any "concrete measures" for their implementation. Accordingly, those paragraphs should be deleted.

53. The aim of the amendment to operative paragraph 7 (d) was to avoid additional costs and provide an opportunity for using the experience already acquired in the matter.

54. It was to be hoped that the Committee would endeavour to adopt a draft resolution which would accord with the needs and aspirations of the younger generation.

55. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Cyprus) said that youth today had different ideals from those by which the

founders of the United Nations had been guided when drafting the Charter 27 years earlier. The problems of youth were becoming more acute and young people were becoming more aware of world problems and values. Owing to advances in technology and travel facilities, young people had become better able to communicate among themselves; however, there appeared to be a lack of communication between young people and their elders.

56. He supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1981, which approved the Secretary-General's recommendation to convene an *ad hoc* advisory group on youth. Many countries needed increased assistance and information on the problems of youth and the advisory group would help fulfil that need, while at the same time creating a link between modern youth and the ideals of the founders of the United Nations.

57. Mr. SHUHAIBER (Kuwait) said that, like most other developing countries, Kuwait was entirely dependent on the young for its national development and progress and it took pride in the fact that the country was being administered to a very large extent by well-qualified young people. Highly effective results had been achieved by combining the energy and creativity of youth with the guidance and wisdom of the older generation.

58. He shared the view that the "youth phenomenon" had been misrepresented and widely misunderstood. Many saw in it little more than utter idealism, irresponsibility and rebellion, failing to recognize that the often ignored qualities of idealism, drive and commitment represented a constructive effort by young people which could influence national and international policies affecting the entire human community. A recent UNITAR study had pointed out that the youth movement in Western societies in the 1960s had had a significant impact and had been able to force Governments and educational institutions to deal with issues of vital importance. The study had stated that it would be regarded as part of the totality of youth movements throughout the world, many of which had had long histories of direct social and political involvement in their societies.

59. He was gratified to note the genuine concern for youth expressed by the Secretary-General in his comprehensive report. Noting the observation of the Assistant Secretary-General for Social and Humanitarian Matters to the effect that people under 25 years of age constituted 54 per cent of the world population, he said he completely shared her view that changes must be made in the assumptions concerning youth, so that communication would indeed become participation. His delegation would therefore lend its full support to draft resolutions A/C.3/L.1981 and A/C.3/L.1982.

60. At the same time, he felt that immediate consideration should be given to yet another matter, namely direct employment of young people in the Secretariat as one of the most effective means of ensuring their direct involvement in the United Nations. The General



Assembly had in fact pointed the way along that practical road by noting in its resolution 2736 A (XXV) the need to recruit qualified young men and women for service with the United Nations. Moreover, the Secretary-General had referred in his report to the need to "open up" the Organization to young people and had pointed out that only 4 per cent of the United Nations Professional staff was under 30 years of age.

61. Accordingly, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1983/Rev.1, which he had the honour to introduce, specifically endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation concerning recruitment of young staff members to the United Nations, which would ensure the active participation of young people in shaping their world, for they should be thought of not only as citizens of tomorrow but also as citizens of today. Obviously, the Secretariat had to broaden effectively the base of employment for qualified youth in the United Nations, recruiting more young people in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Any proposal of such a nature naturally required follow-up action and, for that reason, the Secretary-General was requested to submit a progress report to the General Assembly, within three years. He expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously. The main aim was not only to ensure the involvement of young people in the Organization but also to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations machinery in achieving the objectives of the Charter.

62. Miss PINTASSILGO (Portugal) observed that the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General clearly depicted the tension currently existing between young people and the United Nations. Paragraph 20 of the report included the telling remark that one-way channels of communication that simply conveyed reasons why the suggestions by young people could not be accepted, why participation would be unworkable, or why decisions had already been taken, would not last very long and were likely to have negative results in the long run. Indeed, in the current circumstances, the Organization could only be a disappointment to young people. How could they, with their radical outlook, their sense of urgency imparted by life in a world of rapid communications and their protest against society, accept or understand a system in which priorities were often dictated by expediency or by group, economic or political interests? Such tension was to be found not only in the United Nations but also in local, national and international institutions. She had herself witnessed it among young workers and peasants questioning the harsh realities of their lives and among students and graduates, torn between uncompromising idealism and what they regarded as the temptations of joining the system. She did not however, believe that the problem could be overcome simply through better "communication". In the 1960s, the youth protest movement had not found its full expression because of the stand taken by the older generation, while the young people co-opted for various reasons into the system had, instead of renewing it from within, made it more powerful by giving it a youthful image. Young people were rarely wrong,

although their perception of the interrelationship of cause and effect in contemporary life was perhaps far too simplistic. Hence, the impression of idealism conveyed by a certain type of protest on the part of the young. However, it was impossible to ignore the criticism levelled by young people. In their impatience, they were interested not in procedure but in action and results.

63. In her view, communication between young people and the international establishment represented by the United Nations could not be conceived of in the terms employed in the Secretary-General's report, which implied harmony between the United Nations and the young, thus overlooking the confrontation between institutions created by one generation and the desire of the next generation for change. The presence of young people in local, national or international institutions was youthful only in so far as it introduced an element of continuing dialectical tension.

64. Consequently, the Organization faced a challenge, one that called for creative imagination. Indeed, as paragraph 31 of the report pointed out, the need was for participation, but participation in the sense she had endeavoured to attach to that term in her statement, during consideration of item 12, with regard to the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (see 1944th meeting). She was of the opinion that the Organization could set an example with respect to integrating the young into all local, national and international institutions. On the other hand, in a practical problem to which there were necessarily many solutions, a matter of particular importance was society's concept of education at all levels and the role of young people in determining their own future.

65. In certain sectors of society, young people had a crucial part to play in economic development, but a part which, as the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade acknowledged, was primarily qualitative in character. Accordingly, Governments should assess the current situation impartially and recognize the importance of the participation of youth in national affairs. Draft resolution A/C.3/L.1982 should be viewed in the conviction that the young had an indispensable contribution to make to programmes of direct concern to them. However, they should not only be included in State programmes but also integrated into all the organs of a pluralist society. In particular, participation in the work of non-governmental organizations would safeguard their right to the requisite independence of thought and action.

66. Another matter of great importance was international co-operation among young people in pilot projects in the various fields of development. It was above all in that area that the young people of the highly industrialized countries found they were as trapped as the young who lived in poor economic circumstances and that development was not an undertaking in technical assistance but a challenging of existing systems and a practical discovery of operational values. The "consciousness-raising" programmes initiated by

young people in recent years merited encouragement and examination by the United Nations, for they constituted a new method of tackling the problem of development. In addition, United Nations support for existing projects was essential, since they allowed young people to engage in international co-operation in a practical manner and represented a new hope for world peace.

67. Obviously, in the United Nations Volunteers programme, support should be sought from the non-governmental organizations in consultative status and also those affiliated to the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service. At the outset the Volunteers programme should not undertake new initiatives, since the volunteer services of the non-governmental organizations were for the most part international in character, but should above all endeavour to ascertain where and in what circumstances young people were in a privileged position to make a contribution to true international co-operation.

68. Her delegation fully supported the establishment of an *ad hoc* advisory group on youth, for the young

themselves were the best spokesmen for their aspirations. She earnestly hoped that planning for young people would be confined to the frame of reference of the mandate of that group, set out in operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1981, since it was up to the young to elaborate on that frame of reference. To that end, the Secretariat should make an over-all survey of youth organizations, their activities, and their relations with the Governments of Member States.

69. In conclusion, with regard to operative paragraph 3, it was her hope that, in addressing a solemn appeal to all States, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations, to take appropriate actions to foster among youth respect for all peoples, irrespective of nationality, race, sex or religion, the United Nations was itself moving toward an *entente cordiale* within the Organization, free of prejudice and discrimination.

*The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.*