



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Forty-eighth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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Thursday, 26 March 1970,  
at 10.50 a.m.

NEW YORK

*President: Mr. J. B. P. MARAMIS (Indonesia).*

## AGENDA ITEM 6

**Mobilization of public opinion in developed and developing countries regarding the United Nations Development Decade (E/4784 and Add.1/Rev.1)**

1. Mr. GIBSON PARKER (Director, Centre for Economic and Social Information) said that the concern of the major United Nations organs to mobilize public interest in, and public support for, the economic and social activities of the United Nations family was evident not only from Economic and Social Council resolution 1357 (XLV), under which the report of the Secretary-General (E/4784 and Add.1/Rev.1) was being submitted, but also from the Council's resolutions 1176 (XLI) of 5 August 1966 and 1265 (XLIII) of 3 August 1967 and General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV) of 13 December 1969. In the last resolution, the Assembly had in general endorsed the public information activities being undertaken in support of the aims of the Second United Nations Development Decade. As the Secretary-General himself had repeatedly observed, in industrialized countries, at least, the information media gave greater prominence to the political crises of the Organization than to its economic and social activities, despite all the efforts made by the corps of correspondents accredited to the United Nations to publicize the latter. In that connexion, the Centre for Economic and Social Information was making some new staff appointments which, it felt, would help to improve its services to correspondents.

2. The report outlined plans and projects designed to mobilize public opinion in developed and developing countries in favour of the Second Development Decade. The Centre took the view that, since public opinion was essentially national opinion and since the economic and social development policies of Governments varied considerably and were subject to differing pressures at different times, far closer and more direct contact must be established and maintained between international and national information services. If the international information services, like the Centre for Economic and Social Information, were to be in a position to supplement national governmental information, they must be aware of conditions in different countries. That was why the Centre, together with representatives of other members of the United Nations family, was arranging meetings with information officials in the departments concerned with the question of development of Member States. The first would be held at Stockholm in June 1970 and the second, addressed more particularly to the developing countries, would be held in Africa in December 1970, to be followed by other meetings

in 1971. The purpose of those meetings was more fully described in paragraph 5 of the report (E/4784).

3. As paragraph 5 of the report also indicated, the Secretary-General was proposing to invite Governments to consider establishing national information commissions or councils, preferably with the participation of Governments, non-governmental organizations and representatives of the information media. One meeting had already been held to discuss that very important subject: in February 1970, members of the national bodies in Canada affiliated with organizations of the United Nations family had met with representatives of those organizations and with representatives of the Canadian Government to discuss the possibility of setting up a Canadian national commission for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The Canadian Government was now giving serious consideration to the recommendations made at that meeting. The Centre felt that the activities of all such affiliated organizations in Member States should be reviewed to determine how they could best contribute to achieving the aims of the Second Development Decade. Proposals in that connexion were shortly to be considered by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC).

4. With regard to the question of the involvement of the information media in the development process, discussed in paragraph 11 of the report (E/4784), the Centre had come to the conclusion that information experts should be invited to visit various developing countries to study the local situation at first hand and discuss problems with officials of the Government concerned. Such study missions had been organized before, and the editorials and dispatches written as a result of the OPI missions to Tunisia and Chile showed their value. Their purpose would be to convey the story of the world-wide development effort to the most influential editors of the world's information media.

5. The Centre attached the greatest importance to providing further information on the aims and activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UNDP. It was at present planning a series of information projects on UNCTAD, in consultation with its special advisor on information.

6. The addendum to the report (E/4784/Add.1/Rev.1) contained the Centre's suggestions as to how the actual announcement of the Second Development Decade could have the greatest possible impact on public opinion. From the international point of view, the most important consideration would be to ensure that the proclamation of the Development Decade received due prominence in the midst of the celebrations of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Organization; accordingly, the Centre was preparing a

ceremony which would reflect both the solemnity and the human appeal implicit in the cause of the Development Decade. It hoped that the ceremony could be transmitted from the Assembly Hall by all the modern means of communication to every part of the world.

7. It would certainly be no easy task to mobilize public opinion in favour of the Second Development Decade because every day new problems arose which competed with the Development Decade for attention in the information media. One of the Centre's greatest concerns, therefore, must be to prove the urgency and need for development action, for if it succeeded, that alone would solve many other difficulties. As the report showed, a start, at least, had been made; the Centre hoped to continue and intensify that action.

8. Mr. ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil) said that the information activities aimed at mobilizing public opinion in favour of the Second Development Decade were merely a secondary aspect of the efforts of the Preparatory Committee for the Development Decade. The heart of the matter was the strategy of the Development Decade itself, more particularly that aspect which related to policy measures. However, the work of the Preparatory Committee had not yet reached the point where a clear picture of the scope and philosophy of that strategy could be formed and his delegation was therefore not yet in a position to take a final stand on it. Brazil welcomed the progress achieved at the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee, but it was to be regretted that such progress was almost exclusively confined to points of drafting, while all issues requiring political decisions and definite commitments on the part of the developed countries remained open. Agreement on the fundamental issues, which were still unresolved, was essential if the strategy was to have political substance and meaning. Reaching that kind of agreement would certainly require great efforts, but he was confident that Governments, particularly those of the developed countries, would make such efforts if they had the indispensable political will to do so. Indeed, if the Second Development Decade was not envisaged as a true programme of action, with commitments as to measures and a time-table for their implementation, his Government would find little meaning in the public information activities connected with it.

9. It was in that context that the Council should discuss the item before it. His delegation welcomed the suggestions put forward in the addendum to the report (E/4784/Add.1/Rev.1) and felt that, if a real strategy for the development of the developing countries could be laid down for the years ahead, it was only logical that all possible effort should be made to mobilize public opinion in both the developing and developed countries in support of it. His delegation was therefore prepared to discuss those suggestions in the belief that, once the substance of the strategy of the Second Development Decade had been defined, the proposals concerning its launching would be meaningful. The best approach to mobilizing public information was to make progress on the substance of the development strategy. What was needed was deeds, not words, and the will to implement policies. The Second Development Decade must not fail, as the First had, because the political shortcomings of the United Nations were carried over into the fields of economic and social development.

10. Mr. SEN (India) made particulier reference to two studies<sup>1</sup> issued by the Centre, one written by the late Professor Max Millikan and the other by Professor W. Arthur Lewis. The paper by Prof. Millikan was a modest tribute to his memory. India was particularly grateful for the advice it had received from him on development problems. He hoped that the series of papers being published by the Centre would include contributions by economists from the developing countries, not because other experts could not accurately analyse the problems of developing countries, but to ensure that the series would be as varied as possible.

11. The activities of the Centre had reached a stage where the Council must lay down specific guidelines on the substance and content of its work, particularly because the Centre was now venturing into new fields thus involving a departure from the traditional concept of the role of the United Nations in the field of public information.

12. The first point he wished to note was that the effectiveness of the Centre's activities in mobilizing public opinion in favour of the objectives of the Second Development Decade would depend upon the substance of the strategy adopted for the Development Decade. To have a significant influence on world public opinion, that strategy must be expressed not in vague generalizations or platitudes but in a definite plan of action with target dates and firm commitments. His delegation regretted that there had so far been no agreement on such a plan of action or on a time-table for its implementation. Indeed, at the last session of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade many developed countries had objected to stating policy measures in definitive form despite the willingness of developing countries to accept formulation of policy measures to be adopted by them in precise and specific terms. Without agreement on that fundamental point, United Nations activities for the mobilization of public opinion would be aimless and ineffective.

13. Secondly, the basic assumption of public relations activity in favour of the Development Decade should be the concept that development was a partnership among nations based on the principle of equality and mutual advantage. The point should be made that, as the Administrator of UNDP had stated, what helped the developing countries helped the whole world; that development was not charity but a sound investment in world peace and progress; and that the low-income nations were bearing 85 per cent of the cost of their own development. There was an urgent need also to emphasize that modern States must assume obligations extending beyond their national frontiers. He suggested that one of the papers being prepared by the Centre should be devoted to bringing out these aspects of international economic co-operation.

14. Thirdly, the importance of leadership in influencing public opinion was recognized in the draft strategy for the Second Development Decade. Public opinion in advanced countries often responded to effective and enlightened political leadership, and, conversely, when such leadership was ineffective it tended to shift its responsibility to public

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Centre for Economic and Social Information, *A Strategy of Development* by Max F. Millikan and *The Development Process* by W. Arthur Lewis.

opinion. In the same country, public opinion in favour of development changed with government leadership. For similar reason, there was striking difference in response of public opinion to development in different developed countries. Recently, in one developed country a change in leadership led to a change in the Government's attitude towards the acceptance of 1 per cent target for aid. In some other developed countries, public opinion seemed to be ahead of the Government.

15. Fourthly, the public information activities of the United Nations must be firmly based on the combined will of Governments and the consensus arrived at by them in suitable international forums. Any deviation from that concept carried the danger of introducing particular prejudices, fancies and pet theories of development could lead to credibility gap and, thus, do more harm than good.

16. He referred to the reservations made by many delegations to some of the premises of a report prepared by the Centre (A/AC.141/L.11), when it was first discussed at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade. A consensus had been reached in the Preparatory Committee on the following basic premises: (a) that the Governments of both developed and developing countries were primarily responsible for influencing public opinion in their respective countries; (b) that leadership had an all-important role to play in influencing public opinion; (c) that the role of the United Nations should be limited to providing various national information media with basic information; and (d) that the basic purpose of United Nations information activities should be to strengthen the sense of interdependence and partnership implicit in the concept of the Development Decade. Those concepts were reflected in General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV), and his delegation wished to stress that they should be the sole factors guiding United Nations public information activities in support of the objectives of the Development Decade. No purpose could be served by including in the relevant documentation controversial matters, such as the respective roles of developed and developing countries or of different factors of development. The broad consensus on those issues had been reflected in many documents; it favoured a balanced view emphasizing the responsibility of all countries and the importance of all factors. The publicity material to be issued by the United Nations should scrupulously avoid controversy, should not press any particular development philosophy and should be confined to publicizing the consensus reached by Governments.

17. His delegation had difficulty in agreeing with the statement in paragraph 4 of the report (E/4784) that neither policy-makers nor public opinion yet appeared to have arrived at a full realization of the issues at stake in so far as development aid was concerned. Numerous reports had been issued by United Nations bodies, particularly UNCTAD, which had dealt with those issues in depth and had made the policy-makers fully aware of them. It was a lack of political will on the part of the latter, and not a lack of appreciation of the issues involved, that had prevented decisions from being taken.

18. His delegation recognized the importance of the report of the Commission on International Development<sup>2</sup> and A

*Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System*,<sup>3</sup> which were also referred to in paragraph 4 of the report, but it felt that the many earlier studies on economic development should not be ignored. It was somewhat surprised that the Centre for Economic and Social Information had taken no account of the report of the Committee for Development Planning which was the most outstanding document on strategy for the Development Decade and which made specific suggestions for involving the people of developed countries with the objectives of the Development Decade. The Centre itself had referred to self-tax movements as a means of involving people in the developed countries in international economic co-operation, but it had taken no account of a similar proposal in the latest report of the Committee for Development Planning.<sup>4</sup>

19. His delegation had noted with interest the subjects suggested in paragraph 12 of the report (E/4784) for consideration at meetings between prominent journalists and editorial writers. It wished to suggest the inclusion of some additional items for discussion at those meetings, such as the relationship between the volume of aid and the achievement of the over-all growth target, concerted efforts for dismantling tariff barriers on products of export interest to developed countries and restrictions on the transfer of technology to developing countries. Instead of discussing the need for concessional financing, which should be taken for granted, the steps to be taken for implementing the decisions on the softening of terms and conditions of aid should be discussed. The subject of "employment problems created by trade liberalization" was conceived in too narrow a context. Discussion should rather be on "adjustment assistance and structural adjustments in the economies of developed countries in order to bring about an international division of labour in harmony with the needs of developing countries".

20. It fully supported the decision of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade that the draft strategy for the Development Decade should be completed in time for its adoption by as many Heads of State as possible at the commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on 24 October 1970. It did not support the suggestion in paragraph 20 of the report that there should be a separate document embodying a Proclamation of the Second United Nations Development Decade, over and above the draft strategy for the Development Decade. In order to have the maximum impact on world public opinion, the strategy should be prepared in an effective manner and failures should not be covered up by drafting a general proclamation.

21. Three conclusions could be drawn from the statement by the Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Information: the Council must set appropriate objectives for the Development Decade, administrative matters should be left to the Secretary-General, and an assessment should be undertaken of the use which the public information media made of material issued by the Centre. It was essential that material relating to development strategy should be concise and objective and that it should be disseminated as widely as possible by the world's press.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.70.I.10.

<sup>4</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 7 and Corr.1.*

<sup>2</sup> Commission on International Development, *Partners in Development* (New York, Praeger Publishers, Inc., 1969).

22. Mr. SKATARETIKO (Yugoslavia) said his delegation found it somewhat surprising that the subject under consideration had always aroused controversy. The fundamental problem lay in the fact that public opinion could not be mobilized in support of a development strategy that did not really exist. One of the reasons for the lack of improvement in the climate of opinion surrounding the development question was that one super-Power was not participating in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade, while another super-Power, which was participating, was not able to indicate its position with regard to specific commitments to international development. Attempts were also being made to replace actual assistance by promises of assistance. The fact that some major contributors had a negative attitude towards the Development Decade further aggravated the problem of mobilizing public opinion.

23. His delegation had difficulty in agreeing with the statement in paragraph 4 of the report (E/4784) that the issues at stake in development aid had now been brought into better focus in a series of recent reports, such as the report of the Commission on International Development and *A Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System*. Instead of solving urgent problems, the United Nations was being flooded with reports which were consuming its time, energies and money. It was therefore necessary to indicate the dangers involved in using such reports for the purposes of mobilizing public opinion. From discussions in the UNDP Governing Council it had emerged that there were widely differing opinions on some of the recommendations in the Capacity Study. Indeed, it was not certain which of them would actually be implemented. It was not proper for any United Nations body to propagate any document or study which was still being considered by Governments or intergovernmental bodies. Governments had agreed to set aside some \$500,000 for the Capacity Study and were expected to examine it in depth without being subjected to pressure. In the meantime, however, pressure had been exerted on them in connexion with that study. Action along the same lines by the Centre could have harmful effects and should not be permitted by the Council. His delegation agreed with the representatives of India that the public information activities of the United Nations must be firmly based on the combined will of Governments.

24. Although his delegation appreciated the importance of the mobilization of public opinion, it opposed the drafting of a Proclamation of the Second United Nations Development Decade. It also disagreed with the statement made in paragraph 6 of the addendum to the report (E/4784/Add.1/Rev.1) to the effect that, even if a final text had not been adopted by 24 October 1970, the main lines of the strategy would have been agreed upon and could serve as a basis for the ceremonies. It hoped that a document concerning international development strategy for the Development Decade would be adopted and signed at the commemorative meeting during the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

25. While his delegation agreed with the statement in the report that political and public willingness were indivisible, it felt that the question of the political willingness of many Governments of developed countries had not yet been given

adequate attention. Public opinion would be influenced more deeply by achievements during the Development Decade than by meetings between prominent journalists, university seminars and the like. What was of primary importance at the present stage was that Governments should be willing to act on each element of the international development strategy as tentatively formulated by the Preparatory Committee.

26. The final draft of the development strategy was expected to be signed by Heads of State or Government and would represent the best means of mobilizing public opinion for implementation of the Development Decade.

27. Mrs. SHELLEY (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that UNESCO had always been deeply aware of the impact that mass media could have on society. Mass media and development were related in a number of different ways; mass communication in itself was essential to development. It had been pointed out in the book *Mass Media and National Development*,<sup>5</sup> by Wilbur Schramm, that there were three tasks which were essential to development and in which mass communication could play an important part: the population must have information about national development, it must have an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process, and it must be taught the skills necessary for development. The first function fell within the capability of the mass media, the second could be helped by the media but generally required group organization and discussion, and the third could be performed by the media in conjunction with organized discussion. UNESCO's first task was, therefore, to assist Member States in setting up and enlisting the media for broad social and economic development, and for 1971 it proposed to help Member States plan their communication policies with those aims, in particular, in view. The importance of communication in the Development Decade had been recognized in several recent resolutions, but the willingness of the receiver to accept communication and to transform it into activity required greater knowledge of the effects of mass communication. In the developing countries the media had an important role to play in the three tasks mentioned and they would be successful, provided they were used as part of a properly organized over-all effort.

28. The mass media could have an equally telling effect on public opinion in the industrialized countries. In 1969 UNESCO had convened a conference to discuss the impact of mass media on society, and over the next two years it would conduct research which should provide information relevant to the aims of General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV). The results would be made available to the United Nations as a contribution by the agency to the Second Development Decade.

29. UNESCO fully concurred in the importance of studying the most appropriate means of achieving a climate for involving the peoples of the industrialized nations in development. It therefore agreed that arrangements for establishing national information commissions or councils for the Development Decade should be discussed through the ACC. It supported the conclusion reached by representatives of the specialized agencies and the Centre for

<sup>5</sup> Stanford University Press, Stanford, California, 1964.

Economic and Social Information at their meeting in February 1970 that the variety of the national organizations and experiences involved called for widely differing methods of promoting national involvement and action in the Development Decade. It also believed that effective implementation of General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV) would require more precise analytical data concerning the mandate and activities of existing national bodies connected with the United Nations system than were available, and it was ready to assist in the collection of such data. UNESCO was sensitive to the great impact that a combination of mass media and organizational activity at the local level could have on public opinion. It was therefore prepared to participate in any activity related to the Development Decade which involved the dissemination of information.

30. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) recalled that the Council had dealt with the item in previous years and that the conclusions which it had reached in 1968 were out of date. The Italian delegation had already had an opportunity clearly to state its views concerning the mobilization of public opinion, when an interesting discussion on the question had been held during the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade. He wished to reaffirm the importance which his delegation attached to the mobilization of public opinion for the effective launching of the Second Development Decade and would refer only to the aspects of the question which he considered most interesting.

31. The reports (E/4784 and Add.1/Rev.1) showed that the Secretariat had been making competent efforts to mobilize public opinion in both developed and developing countries. His delegation was also aware that the Secretariat had at its disposal a team of qualified staff and it hoped that its efforts would be successful. It should not be forgotten, moreover, that a sum of approximately \$8 million had been allocated by the General Assembly for the information activities of the Secretariat in 1970.

32. His delegation was pleased with the recently-published studies on development aid, which had been commissioned by the Centre for Economic and Social Information. The studies by Professor Arthur Lewis, for example, represented a particularly effective defence of development aid and should be circulated as widely as possible, without waiting for requests to be received. The Secretariat should follow the example of the IBRD in the case of the report of the Commission on International Development and have the studies concerned translated into other languages apart from the working languages of the United Nations. It was not enough to inform the mass media where studies and documents relating to international development could be obtained. The material should be sent directly to the journalists concerned, together with a letter explaining the purposes of the studies in question. As a minimum measure, a start should be made on providing the relevant material to correspondents in the United States and all foreign correspondents accredited to the United Nations Headquarters.

33. His delegation was pleased that its suggestion that meetings should be organized between journalists and editorial writers had been reproduced in the report (E/4784). It was necessary to ascertain why the results of

efforts by Governments and the Secretariat had so far proved ineffective. In the case of the First United Nations Development Decade, it should not be forgotten that the Development Decade had been launched without sufficient preparation and with hardly any notice to Governments. Another important point was that all documents relating to development strategy should be couched in clear, readily understandable language, in order to bring them more easily to the attention of Governments, members of parliament and the public in general.

34. Concern had been expressed that the draft of the international development strategy for the Second Development Decade might not be ready by 24 October 1970. Actually, that was not a vital consideration, for although failure to complete the draft by that date might detract somewhat from the solemnity of the occasion, it should be remembered that the development effort to which it would relate was to continue for ten years. His delegation would give full support to the team within the Secretariat which would be called upon to assist in mobilizing public opinion.

35. Mr. ARVESEN (Norway) observed that the report (E/4784) reflected an imaginative approach to the extremely important question of how best to mobilize public opinion in support of the Second Development Decade. It made useful suggestions to the Secretariat, specialized agencies and other organizations concerned, and rightly emphasized the role of Governments in mobilizing public opinion. His Government attached great importance to the question of action to be taken at the national level, and had already decided on certain specific measures. In its view, the launching of the Development Decade should be closely linked to the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary. In Norway, a National Committee for the United Nations Twenty-fifth Anniversary had been set up, which would assist the Norwegian Agency for Development Aid in preparing a booklet on the United Nations development system. The booklet would emphasize the Second Development Decade and the conclusions of the report of the Commission on International Development and the Capacity Study. Other measures would include the dissemination of information on the Development Decade to educational establishments and the holding of conferences and seminars.

36. With regard to measures at the international level, he agreed with the Yugoslav representative that it would be most unfortunate if the final draft of the strategy were not ready by 24 October. Any delay in agreeing on the final draft, which would probably be due to disagreement on some key element of the strategy, could have an adverse effect on a ceremony that had been publicized throughout the world.

37. The final form and content of the strategy would have a direct bearing on the extent to which public opinion would be mobilized. His delegation accordingly noted with satisfaction section B entitled "Specification of objectives" in the draft report of the Preparatory Committee on its fifth session (A/AC.141/L.24/Add.1). The emphasis on the social aspects of the development process was particularly welcome, and reflected growing recognition by the world community of the relative importance of social objectives. His Government found that trend all the more encouraging



in view of its conviction that as the developing countries themselves put greater emphasis on social objectives the prospects for broadening public understanding of the interdependence of economic and social development would improve. However, it was much easier to specify objectives than to formulate policy measures for their implementation. His delegation hoped in particular that agreement would be reached on adequate and meaningful policy measures for the attainment of the social objectives of the strategy in the fields of education and health, employment, nutrition, land reform, income distribution and, above all, population growth. It was convinced that the successful mobilization of public opinion in the developed countries would depend largely on the seriousness of the effort made by countries faced with the problem of population growth to find a solution to that problem.

38. Mr. MARTOHADINEGORO (Indonesia) said, with regard to the suggestions in the Secretary-General's report (E/4784), that his delegation welcomed the plan of the Centre for Economic and Social Information to organize meetings between journalists, writers and development specialists, and regarded as particularly commendable the suggested programmes aimed at the involvement of youth in development, such as the reviewing of school curricula, the "twinning" of colleges and universities, and the dispatch of student leaders to developing countries so that a broader understanding of development assistance might be promoted.

39. There were other aspects of the Secretary-General's report on which his delegation wished to comment. Firstly, with regard to the methods by which national information commissions or councils would be established, his delegation felt that, while each country was responsible for drawing up its own programme to mobilize public opinion, it could benefit, with the assistance of the appropriate United Nations bodies, from the experience of those countries which had already established information commissions or councils. Secondly, he stressed that the success of efforts to mobilize public opinion required agreement on policy measures for achieving the objectives of the strategy of the Development Decade. Finally, with regard to arrangements for launching the Development Decade, his delegation wished to underline the consensus of the Preparatory Committee that nothing must be allowed to overshadow the Proclamation of the Development Decade, which must have a prominent place in the commemorative ceremonies.

40. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the mobilization of public opinion was increasingly influencing Government policies and international relations. The growth of socialist and national liberation movements and the process of social and economic reform depended more and more on the expression of the people's will. In socialist countries, the interests of the people were the main criterion in the formulation of any policy. Lenin himself had stressed that the Government should always be under the control of public opinion. The purpose of the mobilization of public opinion should be to win support for progressive policies in developing countries and to assist them in overcoming their economic, social and

cultural underdevelopment in the interests of national independence. A list of measures for the attainment of those objectives, which his delegation had proposed during the forty-seventh session of the Council and the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, was set forth in the communications to the Secretary-General (E/4719 and A/C.2/248). His country shared the view that the extent of the effort made by the developing countries themselves to develop their internal resources and to encourage their people to participate in solving national problems would be a decisive factor in development during the 1970s. Attention must be given, in particular, to protecting the economic interests of those countries and securing compensation from the capitalist countries for the consequences of colonialism and the continued exploitation of the countries of the third world by foreign capital.

41. One of the purposes of the mobilization of public opinion in favour of the Second Development Decade must be to make it clear to all that the success of that endeavour would depend on the normalization of the international situation, consistent efforts by all States to achieve general and complete disarmament, decolonization and action to strengthen international security. Even the most successful solutions of economic progress could be set at naught by political events. But was the United Nations working for the mobilization of public opinion along those lines? From the Secretary-General's report it would appear that it was not. That document referred to the report of the Commission on International Development as a landmark in bringing into better focus the issues involved in development aid. His delegation had had occasion in the Second Committee during the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly to show that such an assertion was not correct. The report on the Commission on International Development distorted the real picture of economic progress and relations between countries, and made no mention of the world system of socialist economies or of the non-capitalist economic policies of the countries of the third world.

42. The activities of the Centre for Economic and Social Information, which were described in the report in document E/4784, followed the same lines as the Commission on International Development, as indicated by the recent publication by the Centre of two pamphlets entitled *A Strategy of Development* and *The Development Process*. Neither of those publications contained data on countries which had in a short period of time succeeded in bringing their economies up to the level of the economies of developed countries, or on countries developing along non-capitalist lines. The one-sided nature of such publications in no way contributed to the development of international co-operation.

43. The considerations which he had just outlined would determine his delegation's position on any draft resolution that might be submitted to the Council in connexion with the item under consideration. He reserved the right to comment on the addendum to the report (E/4784/Add.1/Rev.1) when agenda item 9 was considered.

44. In reply to the reproach which had obviously been directed at his country during the current meeting, he drew

attention to the letter dated 21 February 1969<sup>6</sup> from his delegation to the President of the twenty-third session of

the General Assembly explaining why his delegation had been unable to participate in the work of the Preparatory Committee.

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<sup>6</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, agenda item 37, document A/7490.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*