

had been submitted to the Council in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions. He therefore suggested that the Council should decide to transmit the communication from the World Federation of Trade Unions, which was annexed to the Secretary-General's note, to the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts estab-

lished under resolution 2 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights and to request the *Ad Hoc* Working Group to include its findings on the matter in its report to the Council at its fifty-eighth session.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

1926th meeting

Tuesday, 19 November 1974, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. Aarno KARHILO (Finland).

E/SR.1926

AGENDA ITEM 5

World Population Conference (E/5585 and Corr.1)

1. The **PRESIDENT** recalled that at its 1890th meeting, held on 10 January 1974, the Council had decided to include the report of the World Population Conference as an item in the agenda of the Council's resumed fifty-seventh session in order that the report might be considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session and be given further consideration in depth by the Council at its fifty-eighth session. He therefore suggested that the Secretary-General of the World Population Conference should be asked to make an introductory statement, that the Council should take note of the report (E/5585 and Corr.1) and transmit it to the General Assembly for consideration at the current session, on the understanding that the report would be considered in depth by the Council in 1975.

2. Mr. CARRILLO FLORES (Secretary-General of the World Population Conference) said that the World Population Conference, held in Bucharest from 19 to 30 August 1974, had been attended by representatives of the organizations of the United Nations concerned with population and related matters, representatives of the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, and representatives of 137 States and four national liberation movements. The participants had thus represented 98 per cent of the world population.

3. A summary of the general debate of the plenary Conference was to be found in chapter IV of the report (E/5585 and Corr.1). He wished to make the following general comments.

4. First, there had been general recognition of the great diversity of situations from country to country and region to region and at the same time a feeling of world solidarity, although all States had energetically defended the sovereign right of States to define their own population policies. Secondly, the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (resolution 3201 (S-VI)), adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session, had had a strong impact on the Conference. At the same time, the strongest divergences of views that had appeared had related precisely to the new economic order, as was clear from the statements made by developed countries after the adoption by consensus of the World Population Plan of Action. Thirdly, the problem of popula-

tion growth was felt with differing degrees of urgency in different developing countries. Fourthly all the participants had agreed that population policies must be supported by vigorous and balanced economic and social development. All the specific recommendations on population policy had been adopted by a consensus of all the participants except for the Holy See. Fifthly, there had been general agreement that the fundamental rights and freedoms of the human being must be respected, although there had been wide differences of view as to what that entailed. Sixthly, the industrialized countries also had population problems, mainly connected with the emergence of enormous urban centres, and they had expressed concern about the effects of unskilled labour and technology on the environment and traditional values of their countries.

5. The Conference had divided its work between three main committees, dealing with the following agenda items respectively: population change and economic and social development; population, resources and the environment; and population and the family. It had also established a working group to consider the World Population Plan of Action on the basis of the draft submitted by the Secretary-General. The Conference had adopted 21 resolutions and 4 recommendations, which were to be found in chapter II of the report. The World Population Plan of action itself, which was set out in chapter I, combined the results of all the work done in the Committees and in plenary meetings. The original draft of the Plan had been prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in collaboration with a group of experts, and it had been discussed at five regional meetings before the Conference had opened. In the form in which it had been adopted by the Conference, the Plan retained its original structure and much of the original content, but a new section on socio-economic policies had been added, thus significantly extending the scope of the Plan.

6. It had been recognized in all the documentation of the Conference that population policy could be viable and beneficial only if it fitted into a framework of social and economic policies to improve standards of living and the quality of life of the people. Perhaps the main message of the Conference had been to emphasize that interrelationship. From personal observation he could say that the representatives of Governments had not confined themselves to the areas which scientists and experts had defined as proper to population policy. Nevertheless, population policy had been recognized as a legitimate area for Government action.

7. The Secretary-General's draft had underlined the sovereign right of States to decide whether to adopt a population policy. The Conference had emphasized that point even more strongly, but at the same time it had reaffirmed that international co-operation, by such organizations as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the Population Division, was not incompatible with national sovereignty if such co-operation was extended at the request of the countries concerned. In the Plan of Action such co-operation was conceived as part of the efforts of the international community to achieve the purposes laid down in Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations relating to economic development and promotion of respect for human rights.

8. He outlined the background of the Plan of Action, set out in chapter I, section A, of the report and emphasized that the explicit aim of the Plan was to co-ordinate population trends and trends of economic and social development, raise life expectancy and reduce morbidity and mortality levels. Owing to the phenomenon of demographic inertia in young populations—the lag between a decline in fertility levels and the time when that decline was reflected in a slowing down of population growth—the Conference had recognized the necessity of accelerating social and economic development.

9. The principles and objectives of the Plan of Action were set out in chapter I, section B, and the recommendations for action were to be found in section C. Section C opened with the encouraging statement that the world-wide rate of population growth would decline from 2 per cent to about 1.7 per cent by 1985. However, the question of quantitative goals had given rise to considerable discussion at the Conference and was hardly mentioned in the recommendations for action. It was referred to by implication in paragraph 17 and directly in paragraph 37, which contained the statement that nothing in the Plan of Action should interfere with the sovereignty of any Government to adopt or not to adopt such quantitative goals for 1985.

10. The most important recommendations related to the status of women and their integration in society and in development. Nevertheless, there was no specific recommendation on a closely related question, the number of children which couples or individuals should decide to have. The basic right to obtain the information and the means to regulate fertility was reaffirmed, but no date was set for the full implementation of that right, even though measures to that end were recommended in paragraph 29, which placed the whole question on the elevated level of respect for human rights. The family was recognized as the basic unit of society and Governments were enjoined to assist families to fulfil their role in society.

11. Paragraphs 44 to 50 were devoted to population distribution and internal migration. Both in the plenary meetings and in the committees, much thought had been given to the need to include the rural areas in planning for industrial development and economic activities, and also in the planning of the distribution of social services. It was stated categorically in paragraph 46 (d) that population distribution patterns should not be restricted to a choice between metropolitan and rural life: efforts should be made to establish and strengthen networks of small and medium-sized towns to relieve the pressure on the large towns

while offering an alternative to rural living. As a natural concomitant, intensive programmes of economic and social improvement were recommended for the rural areas.

12. In the section on international migration (paras. 51-62), the problems were envisaged largely from the angle of human rights, and Governments were urged to take practical and humanitarian measures to deal with the problems of migrant workers. In particular, countries affected by significant numbers of migrant workers were urged to conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements to regulate migration, protect and assist migrant workers, and protect the interests of the countries concerned. The section also contained a number of recommendations relating to the brain drain.

13. In the section on the promotion of knowledge and policies (paras. 71-95), the importance of data collection and analysis for economic planning was emphasized, and it was recommended that countries should take a population census between 1975 and 1985. The Plan of Action gave high priority to research activities, particularly to those that were important for the formulation, evaluation and implementation of population policies. Special emphasis was placed on family studies, the use and improvement of fertility regulation methods, and the incidence, causes and treatment of sterility, when applicable.

14. In chapter I, section D of the Plan of Action it was noted that the success of the Plan would largely depend on the actions undertaken by national Governments, which were urged to utilize fully the support of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with the proviso that national policies should reflect universally accepted standards of human rights.

15. In the section on the role of international co-operation (paras. 100-106) it was asserted that international co-operation, based on the peaceful coexistence of States having different social systems, should play a supportive role in achieving the goals of the Plan of Action. United Nations bodies were urged to give careful consideration to the Plan and to ensure an appropriate response to it. Developed countries and other countries able to do so were urged to increase their assistance to developing countries and it was recognized that considerable expansion of international assistance would be required. Countries sharing similar population conditions and problems were invited to consider jointly the Plan of Action, exchange experience and elaborate those aspects of the Plan that were of particular relevance to them. Considerable attention had been paid to that recommendation, which had been in the Secretary-General's draft, at the consultations prior to the Conference.

16. The concluding section (chap. I, paras. 107-109) was concerned with monitoring, review and appraisal of the Plan of Action; it was urged that those activities should be closely co-ordinated with those of the International Development Strategy and any new international development strategy that might be formulated.

17. Several of the resolutions adopted by the Conference had not been included explicitly in the Plan of Action and appeared in chapter II of the report. For instance, the Conference had recommended that Governments should lend maximum support to the formulation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (resolution III) and solemnly proclaimed its

firm determination to act to create a more equitable world (resolution V); and in resolution IX, on inter-relationships between population, development, resources and environment, recommended that facilities for central research services be provided in a co-ordinated manner within the United Nations system taking into account the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Resolutions on decolonization (resolution XVIII) and against *apartheid* and racial discrimination (resolution XIX) had been adopted by the plenary Conference without reference to a committee.

18. There had been no item on institutional matters on the Conference's agenda and the possibility of establishing a new agency had not been discussed. The World Population Plan of Action therefore did not contain any recommendation on that point.

19. Several meetings and exhibits connected with population matters had been organized in connexion with the Conference. The International Youth Population Conference had met from 11 to 15 August 1974, and had been followed by the Population Tribune, in which the World Federation of United Nations Associations had participated and which had been organized by the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. There had also been an Encounter for Journalists on Population from 15 to 17 August, and a number of related events and seminars had also been organized.

20. The World Food Conference, which had just been held in Rome, from 5 to 16 November, had adopted a resolution on achievement of a desirable balance between population and food supply (resolution IX), in which it called upon all Governments and peoples to support, for a longer-term solution, rational population policies relevant to national needs within a strategy of development, which would ensure the right of all couples, freely and responsibly, to determine the spacing and size of their own families.

21. In conclusion, he thanked the Secretary-General and his colleagues for their help in preparing the World Population Conference, and expressed his gratitude to the Romanian Government for its generous hospitality and efficient assistance.

22. The PRESIDENT, speaking on behalf of the Council, expressed his deep appreciation to the Secretary-General of the World Population Conference for having discharged his task with vision, efficiency and statesmanship.

23. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) welcomed the fact that, through the effort and goodwill of all participants at the Conference, it had been possible to adopt by consensus a World Population Plan of Action which reflected the various views expressed and the aspirations of the third world.

24. The Mexican Government had introduced significant constitutional reforms to ensure that women and men enjoyed the same legal status, as well as laws to implement those reforms. The objective was to ensure the full integration of Mexican women into the development process, as was called for in paragraph 32 (b) of the World Population Plan of Action. His Government wished to establish the family as the vital nucleus of society and to protect the organization and development of the family, to which end a new constitutional provision established the right of persons to determine in a free, informed and responsible manner the number and spacing of their children, in keeping with para-

graph 29 (a) of the Plan of Action. The Mexican delegation to the Conference had participated actively in the elaboration of that paragraph and of the section of the Plan of Action entitled "Reproduction, family formation and the status of women" (paras. 27-43) as a whole.

25. Mexico's population policy sought to stabilize population growth through the prudent use of rational measures consistent with respect for freedom and justice, the pursuit of national development and the well-being of the population.

26. He hoped that, once Governments had thoroughly reviewed the report and expressed their views on it and on the question of monitoring, review and appraisal raised in paragraphs 107 to 109 of the Plan of Action, it would be possible to take further steps to implement the measures adopted by consensus at the Conference.

27. Mr. ENE (Romania) said that the fruitful work accomplished at the Conference was only the beginning of a process which should be pursued using all the means at the disposal of the United Nations and, in particular, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies. The fact that goodwill and understanding had prevailed had made it possible to adopt all the Conference documents by consensus. In following up the process initiated at Bucharest, the Council must continue to be guided by the principle that the human being was the supreme value of the world and its population the most precious treasure of every country, as was recognized in resolution V of the Conference. That resolution also stressed the need for closer international co-operation, particularly through the United Nations system, in order to build a more just world. His delegation welcomed the inclusion of population problems among the basic concerns of the United Nations and hoped that further efforts would be made to cope with those problems on the basis of the recommendations adopted by the Conference.

28. Mr. PAVLOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that population questions were regularly discussed in the economic bodies of the United Nations because they played an important part in the solution of the socio-economic problems of various countries. The socialist countries adopted a Marxist-Leninist approach to the issue: demographic change depended on the development of productive forces and the nature of production relations. The position of the Soviet delegation at the World Population Conference had reflected its recognition of the need for a realistic approach to the problem.

29. At the Conference it had been generally felt that social and economic development was the principal factor in population growth-rate changes. Nevertheless, any population policy must be formulated by Governments independently without external pressure. The World Population Plan of Action could serve as a basis for working out practical measures, bearing in mind the particular circumstances of individual countries. The substantial amendments made to the original draft Plan of Action had improved it considerably. Nevertheless, the interrelationship between demographic and socio-economic processes was not always fully reflected. Population must not be seen as a purely quantitative parameter.

30. The positive provisions of the Plan were those relating to the use of socio-economic measures to solve population problems, the need for socio-economic reforms in the developing countries in order to bring development and demographic processes into line, and

the provisions based on the decisions of the sixth special session of the General Assembly relating to the equalization of trade and economic relations between the developed capitalist countries and the developing countries. His delegation had proposed a positive provision that the attainment of national independence, and the elimination of foreign and colonial domination, aggressive wars, racial discrimination and all forms of neo-colonialism were essential conditions for the progressive development of society. He expressed satisfaction that, following a proposal by the socialist countries, the theme of International Women's Year would be "Equality, Development and Peace".

31. In the socialist countries, a successful effort had been made to create conditions in which every member of society would be a conscious participant in the general drive for human progress. The demographic situation had also changed: mortality had dropped and people were living longer. Rapid improvements in education and high employment levels had also resulted in a substantially lower birth-rate, although no special action had been taken in the Soviet Union to reduce the population growth-rate artificially. Families decided for themselves how many children they wanted and the State protected and encouraged motherhood. Possibilities were provided for regulating the number of children in the family.

32. An objective assessment of the existing demographic situation and the scientific assessment of future prospects must not be confused with alarmist intimidation or unfounded assertions that there were no problems.

33. International co-operation could play an important part in achieving the aims of the World Population Plan of Action. His delegation therefore welcomed the fact that the Plan of Action reflected the need to develop international relations based on the principle of peaceful coexistence of States with different social systems. His delegation also supported the basic idea in the Plan that true development was possible only in conditions of total independence. It was therefore vital to implement those decisions of the Conference whose purpose was to remove the barriers to the progress of the developing countries. Accelerated socio-economic progress would create the proper conditions for raising the standard of living of the population and changing its attitude to reproduction.

34. The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries were helping to ensure the full political and economic independence of the developing countries. Closely related to that issue was the proposal made by the USSR at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly (agenda item 102) that States permanent members of the Security Council should reduce their military budgets by 10 per cent and use part of the funds thus saved for assistance to developing countries.

35. The socialist countries were building their relations with the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America on the principles of strict observance of sovereignty, equality, non-interference in domestic affairs, and mutual advantage. The Soviet Union was ready to co-operate with any country to accelerate progressive socio-economic development.

36. Mr. CHENG Yu-kuei (China) said that, at the World Population Conference, representatives from third-world countries and liberation organizations, perpetuating the militant spirit of unity against hegemony demonstrated at the sixth special session of the Gen-

eral Assembly, has stressed that the basic way to solve population problems was to persist in the struggle against the aggression and plunder—the causes of unemployment, starvation and poverty—perpetrated by the forces of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, particularly the super-Powers, and to eliminate inequality in international economic relations, fight for and safeguard national independence, and develop the national economy and culture through self-reliance. They had convincingly refuted the reactionary demographic theories of Malthus and all the pessimistic views of the super-Powers. It had been recognized that people were the world's most precious resource. The representatives of many third world and second world countries had emphasized that the formulation and implementation of population policies were the sovereign right of each country.

37. Although those important points had been partly reflected in the World Population Plan of Action, which his delegation basically supported, that document had a number of defects on matters of principle, owing to sabotage by the super-Powers. The Plan of Action failed to elaborate fully on the root cause of unemployment, poverty and other population problems or on the correct ways to solve them. Although it affirmed the principle of respect for the sovereignty of all countries, it set targets for restricting population growth and used them as a basis for review and appraisal; that was tantamount to interference in the internal affairs of States. The United Nations could organize the exchange of experience and multilateral co-operation with respect to population problems, but should not provide leadership and guidance in that area. Furthermore, the super-Powers' pessimistic views concerning a so-called population explosion appeared in many paragraphs of the document. Certain expressions which had been used were also inappropriate.

38. His delegation understood the well-intentioned desire of small and medium-sized countries for true disarmament. However, he objected to the assertion in the report of the Second Committee that support had been expressed for United Nations resolutions concerning the reduction of military budgets and the channelling of the resources thus saved to the promotion of development. That assertion was nothing but deceptive propaganda spread by a super-Power which had been increasing its weapons supply without abatement for more than a decade. Its wanton aggression and threats against other countries had become a major obstacle to the independent development of the third-world countries.

39. So long as the people of the third world and other countries strengthened their unity and persisted in their struggle, they would win new victories against imperialism and hegemony.

40. Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic) said that the World Population Conference and its outcome were clear proof that with a continuing improvement of the international situation it was possible to tackle the burning issues of international life. That was also how his delegation viewed the renewed call in the World Population Plan of Action for the development of international co-operation based on the peaceful coexistence of States having different social systems. It was in the interests of mankind and of a truly humanitarian population policy to safeguard peace, put an end to the arms race and conclude disarmament agreements.

41. The report of the Conference (E/5585 and Corr.1) made it clear that demographic processes were very complex and were closely related to prevailing

social and economic conditions. Demographic problems could be solved only if those relationships were taken into account when setting population policy objectives. In the German Democratic Republic, the welfare of the people was declared government policy—a policy which sought to raise further the material and cultural standards of living by a rapid development of production, science, technology and labour productivity. The socialist system of society ensured a systematic improvement of the people's standard of living, and provided social security and free development of the individual. It also provided a guarantee of certain civil rights.

42. The experience of the socialist States had shown that population growth need not be an obstacle to economic and cultural development. It corroborated, in fact, the view that the way to solve the population problem of the developing countries was to raise the standard of the productive forces while effecting a gradual socio-economic transformation. Colonial oppression and neo-colonialist exploitation delayed or prevented the development of socio-economic conditions that would enable the developing countries to create better living conditions for all their people. His country therefore supported the developing countries in their struggle for economic independence and for the final elimination of all forms of open or disguised imperialist exploitation. It was important to implement the principles of international co-operation formulated in the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session, and to establish an equitable international economic order.

43. The recommendations on population policy contained in the documents of the World Population Conference were useful and might provide an appropriate basis for the formulation of national population policies and the development of international co-operation in population matters.

44. His delegation deplored the fact that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam had not been invited to the Conference. The discriminatory treatment of the Republic of South Viet-Nam had also prevented the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam from taking part, thus prejudicing the universality of an important international forum. His delegation hoped that such relics of the cold war era would be finally overcome.

45. Mr. MARSHALL (United States of America) said that, although it might be a decade or more before the accomplishments of the World Population Conference could be fully judged, it was not too early to conclude that the Conference had been a remarkable success. It had clearly carried out the purposes for which it had been convened.

46. In 1974 population was recognized as an integral part of the quality of life of all people. The proclamation of 1974 as World Population Year and the participation of 137 Governments in the World Population Conference indicated that the international community recognized population questions as a matter of global concern. As President Ford had said, the world knew very little about the ways to deal with consequences of population growth. That problem must remain one of the primary concerns of the international community for the rest of the century.

47. Miss GHOSE (India) endorsed the President's suggestion that the report of the Conference should be transmitted to the General Assembly for action. Although the report could be studied carefully at the fifty-

eighth session of the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly must give due consideration to appropriate follow-up action.

48. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands) said that the results of the Conference were illustrated by the way in which it was possible to speak of the message and spirit of Bucharest, so well formulated by the Secretary-General of the Conference in his statement. His delegation looked forward to the further consideration of the report of the Conference at the fifty-eighth session. The intervening period would allow Governments to digest fully the contents and conclusions of the report and consider appropriate follow-up action.

49. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council might wish to adopt a draft decision reading:

"The Economic and Social Council

"1. Takes note of the report of the World Population Conference (E/5585 and Corr.1);

"2. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Romania for its kind hospitality in acting as host to the World Population Conference, 1974;

"3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the World Population Conference for the effective preparation and organization of the Conference;

"4. Recalls that the Council at its fifty-eighth session will study in depth the report of the World Population Conference;

"5. Transmits the report of the World Population Conference to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session."

The decision was adopted [decision 57 (LVII)].

REVISION OF THE AGENDA

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda: item proposed by the Secretary-General (E/L.1615)

50. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the note by the Secretary-General (E/L.1615) on the revision of the agenda as adopted at the 1622nd meeting.

51. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) informed the Council that, since provision for the international conference to be held during the International Women's Year had been made in the performance report on the 1974-1975 budget, a statement of financial implications was not required at that time. The estimates had been made on the assumption that the conference would be held at Headquarters; pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV), sessions could be held away from Headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation had agreed to defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved. It was the Secretary-General's understanding that if the Conference were held in Mexico the additional costs would be met by the Government of Mexico.

52. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council accept the proposal by the Secretary-General that, under rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the agenda of the resumed fifty-seventh session, as adopted at the 1622nd meeting, be revised by adding an item entitled: "International conference to be held during the International Women's Year: question of the change of venue of the Conference", and that the Council consider the new item forthwith.

The revised agenda was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 12

International conference to be held during the International Women's Year: question of the change of venue of the Conference (E/L.1615, annex)

53. The PRESIDENT said that if there were no objections he would take it that the Council decided to accept with appreciation the invitation of the Govern-

ment of Mexico to act as host to the Conference (see E/L.1615, annex), which would be held from 23 June to 4 July 1975 during the International Women's Year.

The decision was adopted [decision 58 (LVII)].
54. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) assured the Council that his Government would do everything possible to ensure the success of the Conference.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

1927th meeting

Tuesday, 26 November 1974, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Mr. Aarno KARHILO (Finland).

E/SR.1927

Tribute to the memory of U Thant, former Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. The PRESIDENT paid tribute on behalf of the members of the Council to the memory of the former Secretary-General of the United Nations. U Thant had devoted all his energies to the pursuit of the economic and social objectives of the Organization. He had been deeply sensitive to humanitarian and human rights questions but had also made the United Nations aware of the problems of development. He had believed that economic development was an integral part of international co-operation and that the economic and social well-being of mankind constituted the common concern of all Member States.

2. Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the staff of the Secretariat and he himself had been saddened by the news of U Thant's death.

3. The attainment by a citizen of the third world of the highest office in the United Nations had been an event in itself and had helped to develop reflection and awareness within the Organization. The former Secretary-General had further strengthened the commitment of all the members of the Secretariat to the third world. No one could be indifferent to the warmth of his personality, his natural kindness and his faith in the destiny of mankind, which had been a constant source of inspiration to all.

On the proposal of the President, the members of the Council observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of U Thant, former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Report of the International Monetary Fund (E/5584)

4. Mr. WITTEVEEN (Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund), introducing the annual report of the Fund (IMF), said that since he had spoken to the Council a year earlier, at the resumed fifty-fifth session (1883rd meeting), there had been great turmoil in the international economic situation. Everywhere inflation continued apace, while signs of recession were emerging in some major countries and massive imbalances had developed in international pay-

ments. The international economic institutions had not confronted such a set of complex and grave problems since their foundation.

5. Because of the international character of those difficulties, every Government had to undertake determined and persistent application of remedial action, taking due account of its repercussions on other countries. More than ever before, economic interdependence required national policies to make a positive contribution towards global solutions and the burden of adjustment to changing circumstances to be shared by individual nations in proportion to their economic strength. It was well known that many of the developing countries most severely affected by recent developments did not possess the reserves of economic strength to carry out those adjustments by themselves without causing the most serious economic and human consequences.

6. At their Annual Meeting the Governors of IMF had universally recognized that the need for international co-operation, both to harmonize national actions and to relieve situations of extreme distress, had never been more compelling. The Fund was intensifying its efforts, through close consultations with members and through its system of balance-of-payments financing, to promote national policies conducive to a solution of the world-wide problems faced by all, and was giving particular attention to facilitating the transfer of real resources to its economically weaker members.

7. IMF would be strengthened in its task in the coming period by the establishment of two new committees, the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the Fund on the International Monetary System and the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries, whose short title was the Development Committee. A very important feature of the composition of both Committees was that it had been based on the constituencies of member countries that appointed or elected Executive Directors, so that practically all member countries, developed and developing, were represented.

8. The work of the Development Committee should help IMF, the World Bank and the international community generally to deal more effectively in both the short term and the longer term with some of the problems of developing countries. The Committee had agreed at its first meeting that the immediate focus of