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President : Sir Ronald WALKER (Australia)

Present :

Representatives of the following States, members of the Council: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, France, India, Iraq, Japan, Luxembourg, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

Representatives of the following States, additional members of the sessional Committees: Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Mexico, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

Observers for the following Member States: Brazil, Central African Republic, China, Cuba, Israel, Norway, Philippines, Romania, Spain, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Observer for the following non-member State: Federal Republic of Germany.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEM 46

Emergency aid to Costa Rica
(E/3940; E/L.1057)

1. Mr. HUIDOBRO (Chile) recalled that his delegation, giving expression to the grave anxiety the continued eruption of the Irazú volcano was causing in the American republics, had requested the inclusion in the agenda

of the item under discussion in order to obtain all possible aid for the people of Costa Rica.

2. The fund for emergency aid to Costa Rica, which the Secretary-General had set up in April 1964 under article 6.6 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, would, subject to the Secretary-General's consent, cover part of the cost of the preventive measures.

3. For over a year, a heavy rain of ashes had been devastating a fertile area of Costa Rica. A visiting mission sent by UNESCO had expressed the fear that the accumulated ash might endanger the population of the town of Cartago.

4. It was therefore imperative that the Council should urge Members States, the specialized agencies and such non-governmental organizations as were able to do so, to demonstrate their solidarity by contributing to the emergency aid fund or by providing other forms of assistance to Costa Rica. Spain, Venezuela, Israel, China, Bolivia and the Federal Republic of Germany had already promised substantial contributions; FAO, TAC, the Special Fund and UNESCO had already done valuable work.

5. Along with five other members of the Council, the Chilean delegation was submitting draft resolution E/L.1057 and the Indonesian delegation had indicated that it whole heartedly supported the draft resolution as an additional member of the sessional committees.

6. Mr. KOPCOK (Yugoslavia) said that Yugoslavia was the better able to appreciate the situation in Costa Rica inasmuch as it had itself, in 1963, been the victim of a terrible earthquake. He took the opportunity to thank the Council for its assistance as well as all the Governments and peoples which had given help to his country.

7. The Yugoslav delegation considered that the United Nations was in duty bound to assist Costa Rica without delay, and it was sure that the Council would adopt the draft resolution by acclamation.

8. Mr. ORBANEJA (Food and Agriculture Organization) recalled that FAO played an important part in assisting areas which were victims of natural disasters. On receiving a request for assistance from the Costa Rican Government, FAO had taken emergency measures to combat the harmful effects of the volcano's continued eruption. It had formed a team, consisting of two soil technicians, an entomologist and an expert on fodder production, which was due to leave for Costa Rica shortly.

9. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) said that, not being a member of the Council, his country had not been able to join the list of co-sponsors of the draft resolution, but the text had its full support.

10. The PRESIDENT informed the Mexican representative that, with regard to additional members of sessional committees who wished to support the draft resolution, the same procedure would be followed as for the draft resolution concerning the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (E/L.1056/Rev.1), dealt with at the 1331st meeting.

11. Mr. WILLIAMS (United States of America) said he would support the draft resolution, since he felt it natural and desirable that when a country was struck by a tragedy of such proportions, all Governments should quickly afford it all possible assistance. The United States had itself suffered a cruel blow in Alaska, and he took the opportunity to express his Government's gratitude for the sympathy and offers of help it had received, particularly from the officials of United Nations.

12. When the eruption began, the United States had immediately sent help to Costa Rica, to which it had supplied first \$1 million worth of fodder grains and later \$1 million for the reconstruction of dwellings in the devastated area. In April 1964, an agreement had been concluded for the establishment of a programme for the prevention of catastrophes under which a team of experts had already been sent to the scene of the disaster. Since the beginning of the catastrophe, the United States had supplied Costa Rica with aid amounting to approximately \$4 million, and it was examining the possibility of doing even more.

13. The United States Government had expressed doubts about the creation of an aid fund for a single country, when — as seemed to be the case with Costa Rica — bilateral aid might be both quicker and more effective. It was therefore not in a position to contribute to the emergency aid fund, but it appreciated that other countries might prefer that method of contribution. The United States delegation would support the draft resolution.

14. Mr. CISS (Senegal) welcomed the setting up of the emergency aid fund because, when a country was a victim of a natural disaster, it needed rapid and effective help. His delegation would support the draft resolution, and hoped that all the countries in the world would show their solidarity with Costa Rica.

15. Mr. WHYTE (United Kingdom) associated himself with those delegations that had already expressed their sympathy for the Costa Rican people. He would of course support the draft resolution. He welcomed the assistance already provided by the United Nations and a number of Governments. His own Government was considering sympathetically the supply of help to Costa Rica. That would be given direct since he shared the doubts expressed by the United States representative concerning the creation of special funds or machinery for such a purpose.

16. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) fully supported the draft resolution, and assured the Council that his Government's representatives in the specialized agencies, TAC and the Special Fund would do all in their power to contribute to the achievement of the aims in view.

17. It would be desirable for paragraph 7 to refer specifically to the Governing Council of the Special Fund, whose authority should be recognised.

18. Mr. REVOL (France) said that members of the Council were unanimous in recognising the necessity of helping Costa Rica, which had been the victim of a disaster that was all the more serious since it was still continuing to spread.

19. France, which had already promised direct assistance to Costa Rica, shared the doubts expressed by the United States and United Kingdom representatives as to the creation of an aid fund for a single country. It nevertheless supported the draft resolution, since the appeal in paragraph 4 was wide enough to allow each State to select the form of assistance which it regarded as most effective.

20. Mr. JAFERI (Iran) expressed his delegation's sympathy with the people of Costa Rica, and at the same time thanked the United Nations and the specialized agencies for their assistance to his country in connexion with the earthquake it had suffered the previous year. He expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

21. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) wholeheartedly approved the draft resolution, and especially paragraph 6, for it was important to make sure that the United Nations and the specialized agencies should continue to concern themselves with the consequences of the catastrophe.

22. Mr. MAZHAR (United Arab Republic) associated his delegation with the sympathy expressed for Costa Rica; he supported the draft resolution.

23. Mr. HIREMATH (India) said he was gratified to note the solidarity displayed by all countries of the world when one of them suffered a misfortune. He thanked members of the Council for their favourable reception of the draft resolution, and he accepted the amendment suggested by the Italian representative.

24. Mr. HUIDOBRO (Chile) said that the sponsors of the draft resolution had agreed to the following amendments: in operative paragraph 3, the word "and" before "UNESCO" should be deleted, and "FAO and WHO" should be inserted after "UNESCO"; in the last part of the same paragraph, the word "voluntary" should be inserted before the word "emergency"; in paragraph 4, the word "and" after the words "to that fund" should be replaced by the word "or"; greater freedom would thus be given to States which wished to assist Costa Rica without contributing to the emergency relief fund; in paragraph 7, the words "and the Governing Council" should be added after the words "the Managing Director".

25. On behalf of the Governments of Costa Rica and Chile, and also of the sponsoring delegations, he expressed sincere thanks to all members of the Council who supported that appeal for international co-operation.

Draft resolution E/L.1057, as amended, was adopted by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEMS 14 AND 15

Development of natural resources

- (a) Co-ordinated action in the field of water resources (E/3863, E/3881, E/3894/Rev.1);
- (b) Progress report on new sources of energy (E/3903);
- (c) Work in the field of non-agricultural resources (E/3904 and Corr.1, ST/ECA/82)

Permanent sovereignty over natural wealth and resources (E/3840)

GENERAL DEBATE

26. Mr. STAHL (Czechoslovakia), referring to the Secretary-General's report on a priority programme of co-ordinated action in the field of water resources (E/3863), recalled that in connexion with a previous report¹ prepared by the United Nations Water Resources Development Centre and considered at the thirty-sixth session, the Council had emphasized the need for closer co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the matter of water resources. The present report indicated that an adequate degree of co-ordination had not yet been achieved, and that the Centre did not have the powers necessary to ensure effective co-ordination. In paragraph 24 in particular the existence of overlapping was recognized, but at the same time excused, and paragraphs 75 and 76 indicated that the Centre wished to be entrusted with the organization of research — work that could be done equally effectively by the regional economic commissions or the specialized agencies.

27. The report emphasized the shortage of water-development experts, but made only general recommendations for remedying the situation and failed to mention the possibility of training local workers for the conduct of research. Annexes I and II were mainly based on evaluations — not always sufficiently objective — by United Nations bodies of their own work. That applied particularly to FAO and WHO, whereas UNESCO was to be commended for pointing out that the excessive amount of research and evaluation under way tended to intensify the shortage of qualified staff and for the importance it attached to the International Hydrological Decade. Yet UNESCO intended to allocate only \$2 million for the Decade, which was a small amount compared with the allocations for other activities. The Lower Mekong project, for example, had already cost \$42 million.

The main emphasis in activities under the Decade should be on research and education and training of experts. His delegation therefore recommended that steps should be taken to transform the United Nations Centre into a true co-ordinating body, to give special attention to the question of direct education and training of experts and technicians in the developing countries, and to the provision of opportunities for training in the universities and secondary schools of the developed countries. Czechoslovakia was participating actively in the Decade, and offered UNESCO the possibility of organizing courses for properly qualified persons from the developing countries. It could also send water-resources experts around the world.

28. Referring to the Secretary-General's report on permanent sovereignty over natural wealth and resources (E/3840), he emphasized the importance of the principles set out in General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII), I, operative paragraph 1. Although the Secretary-General's report contained much useful information, it merely described the situation instead of analysing it thoroughly, and failed to make any recommendations for improving the situation so far as concerned the transfer of profits and the free movement of capital in general.

29. Mr. SELMER, Observer for Norway, speaking at the invitation of the President, said that his delegation had studied with great interest the recommendations prepared by the United Nations Water Resources Development Centre, as set out in the Secretary-General's report. It hoped that closer co-ordination between United Nations bodies competent in that important sphere would be achieved.

30. Bearing in mind in particular the experience of the Special Fund, he expressed the hope that the competent bodies would assist Governments in preparing the preliminary studies to which the report referred, and in formulating their requests for assistance. Those studies would require the co-operation of experts, including outside experts, in a number of fields, so that use could be made of the experience acquired elsewhere in the world.

31. His delegation approved those parts of the report which dealt with the training of local staff. The establishment or strengthening of training institutions in the countries concerned was of vital importance, and should go hand in hand with the planning and execution of projects.

32. His delegation was not at present in a position to say exactly how it could help to carry out the measures proposed, but he could say that Norway had experts in some of the fields in question. Norway's water resources, which were among the richest in Europe, had been exploited for a long time, and the equivalent of about \$60 million was spent on them every year. *Per capita* electricity consumption in Norway was one of the highest in the world. Norway's particularly rich experience in the construction of hydro-electric power plants had already been placed at the disposal of many countries. Striking progress had also been made in numerous other branches, such as the electro-chemical and electro-metallurgical industries.

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, thirty-sixth session, Annexes, agenda item 6, document E/3760.*

33. Mr. CHANDERLI (Algeria) said that Algeria was taking a special interest in the development of its natural resources. It hoped that local personnel would be more directly and systematically associated with the work of the experts who undertook the proposed studies. He felt that Algeria, which was situated in the arid or semi-arid zone, could be used for certain pilot projects. His country was particularly interested in water desalination and the study of ground water. It was also interested in the development of new sources of energy; the studies of solar energy undertaken by UNESCO seemed most promising. The report revealed a lack of co-ordination between the different organizations concerned; better planning was indispensable. The Algerian Government had always endeavoured to comply with General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) and the Cairo Declaration of the developing countries of July 1962; it would spare no effort to ensure the application of, and respect for, the principles set forth in those texts.

34. Mr. WEBER (Luxembourg), referring to the question of co-ordination in the matter of water resources, observed that in every country the efficient use of water resources was one of the main prerequisites for economic and social development. The economic use of water resources required efficient planning based on existing and potential resources.

35. Local hydraulic projects and the training of technical staff were valuable only if they fitted into a national or even a regional plan. In that connexion, the work of UNESCO and WMO deserved the full support of the Council. It was clear that the action of the various United Nations agencies would be effective only if it were co-ordinated. The need for such co-ordination had rightly been stressed in the third biennial report of the Water Resources Development Centre (E/3881) and in the Secretary-General's report on a priority programme. The measures proposed could be readily accepted.

36. He wished to express his delegation's satisfaction at the intensive work of the regional economic commissions on the subject of water resources. On the other hand, he did not see the point of the measures proposed in paragraphs 95 to 98 of the report of ACC (E/3866), with a view to transferring the co-ordination functions of the Water Resources Development Centre to inter-organizational meetings. His delegation had always regarded the Centre as an important body, and believed that it might be preferable, if a reorganization was really necessary, to strengthen the Centre itself under a new administration.

37. The Secretary-General's report on new sources of energy (E/3903) gave grounds for cautious optimism. The profitable application of solar energy for the benefit of the developing countries appeared to be possible, but it was limited by geographical factors and should be resorted to only where no more economical sources of energy were available. The same applied to wind power. Geothermal energy, the development of which was closely dependent on geological conditions, was certainly of great interest to many developing countries.

38. It was not easy to assign priorities for the development of natural resources, and his delegation would be

inclined to give second place to water resources, the first place belonging to the preparation of surveys and maps for the development of resources. The increasing importance which the United Nations attached to cartographic projects was fully justified.

39. His delegation was particularly interested in the question of co-ordinating the work of the United Nations with that of the specialized agencies, such as UNESCO and FAO; it would like an assurance that that process would be extended. With regard to the question of personnel referred to in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report on work being done in the field of non-agricultural resources (E/3904 and Corr.1), it was perhaps not essential for the United Nations itself to employ technical advisers; it would probably be better, from the financial viewpoint, to have recourse to private offices or bodies, especially in the highly specialized field of cartography.

40. Mr. WILLIAMS (United States of America) said that the United States had come to realize that its abundant natural resources were not inexhaustible, when considered in relation to the requirements of a highly industrialized country with a high standard of living and substantial exports. For some decades now the Government had been growing increasingly conscious of the need to avoid waste and utilize marginal resources. It was therefore in a position to understand the problems faced by other countries, whether developed or developing.

41. It was most interested in the work of the various United Nations agencies in that sphere, and was particularly impressed with the quality of the reports submitted to the Council under that agenda item. In the case of water resources, the need for co-ordination could not be exaggerated. The multiplicity of the programmes being carried out by the United Nations and allied international organizations, not to speak of bilateral programmes, increased the urgency of the co-ordination problem.

42. The United States Government attached great importance to the work on new methods of conserving, developing and applying water resources. The problems of the developed countries might be different from those of the developing countries, but they were equally important.

43. The United States Government fully supported the recommendation made by the Secretary-General in his note (E/3894/Rev. 1) that the Water Resources Development Centre should again become an integral part of the Resources and Transport Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at United Nations Headquarters, New York. It also approved the proposed terms of reference of the Centre. The ACC should be instructed to co-ordinate activities in the field of water resources with the co-operation of the Centre, and to report each year to the Council on those activities.

44. The United States Government believed, however, that the priority programme of co-ordinated action outlined in the Secretary-General's report called for more detailed surveys and for better co-ordination at regional level. It accordingly proposed that it should be

referred to the regional economic commissions, so that they could take the necessary action. His Government might also, at a later stage, wish to submit recommendations on further improving co-ordination in the utilization of water resources.

45. Paragraph 172 of the Secretary-General's report on new sources of energy (E/3903) contained a recommendation that research into solar energy and geothermal energy should continue. The United States Government fully supported that recommendation, and hoped that research into wind power would also continue, although the applications of that source of energy were more limited than in the case of the other two.

46. As to the Secretary-General's report on work being done in the field of non-agricultural resources, he noted that the United Nations had paid more attention in recent years to the development of non-agricultural resources with a view to utilizing them for economic and industrial development. He expressed the hope that that work would continue and would lead to a programme of action which would be of direct benefit to all the countries concerned.

47. With regard to the desalination of saline and brackish water, a scientific and technical mission from the Soviet Union had visited Washington in order to discuss the possibility of co-operation with American technical experts. The Soviet mission had been able to visit several

desalination plants in various states. After an exchange of views the two delegations had submitted recommendations to their Governments to the effect that both countries should carry out separate research into the desalination of water, particularly by means of nuclear energy, and that they should exchange scientific reports and organize symposiums on those questions. The scientific and technical information resulting from co-operation between the United States and the Soviet Union in that new field would be made available to the world. That meeting was an example of the bilateral research which could be carried out in connexion with the desalination of water and which could be of great significance for all work on water resources. He also noted that the United Nations had recently published a report entitled "Water Desalination in Developing Countries" (ST/ECA/82).² That very comprehensive report should be useful to all those who were making a general study of the problem.

48. The quality of United Nations work in natural resources was very encouraging and he hoped that growing attention would be paid in the future to the important problem of natural resources, which was of concern to all countries, whether already developed or not.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

² United Nations publication, Sales No. 64.II.B.5.