



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Tuesday, 25 July 1972
at 3.25 p.m.

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

President: Mr. SZARKA (Hungary)

AGENDA ITEM 2

General discussion of international economic and social policy (continued) (E/L.1500/Rev.2, E/L.1501, E/L.1506, E/L.1507, E/L.1509, E/L.1510, E/L.1511, E/L.1513)

1. Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America) recalled that at the previous meeting his delegation had suggested that draft resolutions E/L.1500/Rev.2 and E/L.1501 should be referred to the Economic Committee, a suggestion which had aroused some controversy. To clarify the position, he proposed officially the following draft decision, the terms of which had been carefully weighed:

"Considering the lengthy debate which has already taken place in the Council on draft resolutions E/L.1500/Rev.2 and E/L.1501, and with the aim of securing the adoption of decisions by the Council on these questions at its current session, the Council decides that these two draft resolutions and the amendments thereto should be referred to the Economic Committee for its consideration and for the Committee to prepare recommendations for action by the Council."

2. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would regard the proposed text as approved.

It was so decided.

3. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) wished to explain at once his position on the various amendments proposed to his draft resolution (E/L.1500/Rev.2). He had already given his views on several of them. Some of them he would agree to incorporate in his text; others he would not oppose, and would state his views on them at the appropriate time and place. However, there were two which he would oppose strongly since they distorted the purpose and the meaning of his draft. The first was the amendment submitted by the United Kingdom (E/L.1510), which virtually excluded from the study the international impact of multinational corporations. If that amendment was maintained, he would place before the Economic Committee copious documentation fully illustrating the impact of the activities of those corporations on international relations. The second amendment came from the Japanese delegation, but had not yet been distributed. It would have the Council acknowledge the beneficial effect of multinational corporations on the economic and social development of the third world. If that

amendment was maintained, he would submit to the Economic Committee the text of a new paragraph which he had not originally wished to incorporate in his text, noting the concern caused to Governments, the press, the universities and the trade unions by the activities of certain multinational corporations and their interference in the domestic affairs of certain countries. The Chilean delegation had tried to make its draft resolution as non-partisan as possible. The effect of the Japanese amendment would be to start the debate off again and to give it a polemical character which the Chilean delegation had tried to avoid.

4. Mr. FRAZÃO (Brazil), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Economic Committee, assured the Chilean representative that he would place the item at the top of the agenda for the Committee's next meeting. He would not allow the reopening of a general debate in the Committee, would limit the time accorded to speakers, and would make every effort to put the draft resolution and its amendments to the vote quickly. He urged the sponsors of the amendments not to upset the balanced text which had been worked out.

5. Mr. OGISO (Japan) said that he had not intended to speak, but after the Chilean representative's statement he was obliged to introduce his amendment in order to explain its purpose and avoid any misunderstanding.

6. His delegation was in favour of a complete and objective study of the activities of multinational corporations, provided the study brought out the positive as well as the negative aspects, for the contribution of private investment to the economic development of the third world must not be ignored. The Japanese delegation proposed therefore that a new paragraph¹ should be added to the preamble, between the fourth and fifth paragraphs. He read out the text, which his delegation had tried to make flexible.

7. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, said that a decision had been taken to refer the matter to the Economic Committee and the plenary Council should abide by that decision. He therefore urged those delegations which wished to speak on it to postpone their statements to the next meeting of the Economic Committee, it being understood that on that occasion they would each be entitled to bring up all the problems they thought should be dealt with.

¹ An amendment distributed as document E/L.1513.

8. Mr. McCARTHY (United Kingdom) and Mr. FRAZÃO (Brazil) supported the point of order made by the representative of the Soviet Union.

9. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said he had certainly not wished to re-open the substantive debate in plenary meeting. He had commented on the Japanese amendment because he thought it was an official proposal and wanted the Chilean opinion of the amendment to be reported in the summary record of the plenary Council.

10. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) said his delegation considered that the Council had the right to adopt resolutions in plenary meeting on items on its agenda, and if a vote had been taken on referring draft resolutions E/L.1500/Rev.2 and E/L.1501 to the Economic Committee, the Tunisian delegation would have abstained.

11. Draft resolution E/L.1506, of which the representatives of Malaysia and Tunisia were the co-sponsors, concerned two items on the agenda, items 2 and 7, the latter being regional co-operation. The sponsors were not trying to confuse the two items; they had simply sought to improve the Council's methods of work by making the regional commissions and the specialized agencies participate more actively in the general debate. The arrangement whereby the representatives of each regional commission or specialized agency came to report to the Council on the past year's activities of the body concerned was a drag on the work of the plenary council; the proper place for such statements was the Co-ordination Committee. The general debate ought to provide an over-all view, while at the same time bringing out specific points and, in that respect, the debate on multinational corporations had been very useful.

12. In operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the words "if necessary" should be added between "including" and the "IBRD and the IMF", since the Bank and the Fund made their reports to the resumed session of the Council. It was only proper to associate those two agencies with the Council's deliberations, since they were in a good position to assist it in its examination of the world economic and social situation. In paragraph 3, he drew attention to the words "whenever possible"; the point was not to invite the representatives of the regional commissions to come specially to the summer sessions at United Nations expense, but simply to call upon them if they were on the spot. On the other hand, paragraph 4 (b) was designed to ensure the regular presence of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions at the joint meetings of the CPC and the ACC, since at present they attended those meetings occasionally but had no regular contact with the Bureau or the ACC.

13. He did not think his resolution should cause any difficulty. If, for lack of time or reasons of convenience, the President thought it should be referred to the Co-ordination Committee, the Tunisian and Malaysian delegations would have no objection, but they would not accept the implementation of a resolution or a procedural provision as grounds for such action.

14. In conclusion, he re-emphasized that the aim of the draft resolution was to improve the Council's work, and

said that his delegation would submit other proposals of the same kind as part of the reform process started some years previously. They would in particular involve certain changes in regard to the Bureau and the Council's sessions, to be followed possibly by new reforms relating to the sessions of the General Assembly.

15. The PRESIDENT said that if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to refer the draft resolution submitted by Malaysia and Tunisia (E/L.1506) to the Co-ordination Committee for detailed examination.

It was so decided.

16. Mr. MUÑOZ LEDO (Observer for Mexico) fully agreed that the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions should be associated with the Council's substantive discussions, and welcomed the decision to refer the draft resolution to the Co-ordination Committee. However, he wished to refer to a suggestion he had made to the Malaysian delegation in direct relation to the draft resolution on review and appraisal now before the Economic Committee (E/AC.6/L.473). There was no trace of that suggestion in the draft resolution that had just been introduced, though the omission was no doubt unintentional. Mexico would therefore submit to the Co-ordination Committee an amendment asking the Secretary-General to take steps to ensure that the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of UNESOB participated in the meetings of the Committee on Review and Appraisal, whose role was essential to the success of the Second Development Decade.

Miss Lim (Malaysia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

17. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) said that the delegations of Tunisia and Malaysia were ready to consider any amendment submitted to the Co-ordination Committee. The Mexican proposal seemed to him a reasonable one that might well be accepted.

EXPLOITATION OF LABOUR THROUGH ILLICIT AND CLANDESTINE TRAFFICKING: QUESTION RAISED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA

18. The PRESIDENT called upon the representative of Kenya, who wished to raise another topic under agenda item 2.

19. Mr. ODERO-JOWI (Kenya) said he wished to bring before the Council a matter which had come to his personal attention through the English-language press, particularly the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Times*, and the *International Herald Tribune* of 19 July 1972. The papers reported that hundreds of Africans had been recruited in Mali, the Ivory Coast and Senegal to work in Europe. They had been promised employment, food and lodgings, in return for which they had had to sign a contract whereby their employer kept their first five months' wages. The unfortunate people, carrying tourist passports, were sent via Tunis

to Rome, whence they were carried in sealed lorries to the north of Italy, and then to Paris.

20. Such practices could not but recall the days of the slave trade when Africans had been mere chattels to be sold and bartered on the world market. Times had changed, however, and Africans were now able to make themselves heard and to demand justice. That was his purpose in bringing the matter to the attention of the United Nations and, through the United Nations, to the attention of the whole world.

21. He appealed to the countries of origin, transit and destination of the traffic to see that those responsible were actively tracked down, brought to justice and severely punished, and that the victims were released from bondage and compensated.

22. His delegation was not blaming any particular country. On the contrary, it wished to thank the Italian and French authorities and police, which had reacted immediately and begun an energetic hunt for the culprits. He also wished to thank the press of those two countries, and the world press in general, for the contribution it had made, by its reports and by its attitude, to the protection of freedom and human rights. The Council should take note with gratitude.

23. He asked the ILO, which had a whole series of conventions and recommendations relating to forced labour – particularly Conventions 21, 96 and 105 – to take action to ensure that those texts were respected and that workers were informed of their rights so that they would be better able to resist exploitation.

24. The main causes of that sad affair were poverty, unemployment and ignorance, and he was grateful to Pakistan and the United States of America for having submitted to the Economic Committee a draft resolution on those problems (E/AC.6/L.474). In the last analysis, it was against poverty, shamelessly exploited by persons greedy for profit, that war had to be waged. Since the deep-seated reason for the traffic in question was under-development – and one of the essential functions of the Council was precisely to try to abolish under-development – it was appropriate to bring the question to the attention of the Council, which should take an unequivocal stand requesting the ILO to investigate the affair and if need be to report thereon to the General Assembly. That was an area in which the Council and the ILO could act vigorously and in close co-operation.

25. Mr. ROUGÉ (France) said he was sure that the members of the Council would realize that France was in no way responsible for the unhappy affair of which the Kenyan representative had just spoken. His Government was making efforts to improve the conditions of immigrant workers, in close liaison with their countries of origin, and he was certain that steps would be rapidly taken to eliminate such practices, which were crimes under French law.

26. Mr. SMOQUINA (Italy) emphasized how much the events referred to had shocked Italian public opinion and

the Italian authorities. He thanked the representative of Kenya for his kind words concerning the Italian police, which had been the first to discover the traffic and had taken immediate action. He was able to assure the Kenyan delegation and the Council that the Italian authorities had already taken vigorous steps to track down and arrest the culprits.

27. His country had felt the affair all the more deeply in that it had itself experienced a similar tragedy. In post-war Europe, a clandestine organization had been engaged in transporting workers from the south to the north of Italy and to neighbouring countries. The traffic had been carried out across the mountains in the depth of winter, and there had been many casualties.

28. His delegation would associate itself with any measure the Council might take to put an end to such trafficking.

29. Mr. HAMID (Observer for the Sudan) said that, both as a man and as an African, he shared the feelings of the representative of Kenya. He endorsed the appeal to the international community as well as the idea of having recourse to the ILO.

30. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said it was appropriate that at a moment when the Council was considering international economic and social policy, it should be dealing with an affair which proved that the exploitation of man by man continued to a degree which sometimes made it akin to slavery, as had been revealed by a study undertaken by the Council some 20 years before on the continued existence of slavery.²

31. To the deep-seated causes of the affair – mass poverty, unemployment and ignorance – mentioned by the representative of Kenya, he would add the persistence of racial discrimination. Consequently, the request for action should be addressed by the Council not only to the ILO but also to the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

32. His delegation was ready to support any draft decision which the representative of Kenya might put forward on the topic.

33. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) said that his country had been astounded to learn that workers sent to Europe were passing through Tunisia on tourist passports. Tunisia had a considerable tourist trade and it was very difficult to distinguish, among the many tourist activities, those which might constitute trafficking in manpower.

34. In his view, the problem brought up by the Kenyan representative had two aspects. There was in the first place an economic aspect, since the origin of the traffic in question was to be found in the poverty and unemployment which was endemic in many African countries. In the Co-ordination Committee, the delegations of Kenya and Tunisia had urged (451st meeting) that the report of the

² *Suppression of Slavery* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1951.XIV.2).

ILO should be considered in depth in 1973 at the same time as the UNESCO report, particular attention being given to labour and unemployment problems. There was also the human aspect; those who took advantage of the credulity of their victims to exploit their wretchedness by dangling before their eyes the prospect of employment, should be hunted down relentlessly and punished.

35. Mr. KUMI (Ghana) said that the affair proved that the international organizations had to remain alert to what was happening in the world.

36. His delegation regarded the traffic which had been brought to light as a flagrant violation of fundamental human rights; it called for justice and was ready to support any measure to reaffirm the dignity and worth of the human person.

37. Mr. KULAGA (Poland) shared the horror and indignation of the Kenyan representative and assured him of Poland's solidarity in the struggle against discrimination and practices which were unacceptable in the twentieth century. As Chairman of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights, he wished to emphasize that the affair under consideration was of very topical interest to the Commission, which at that session had decided to call for a study on discrimination against Africans throughout the world.³ In the case which had been brought to light, incidentally, the practices were not only discriminatory; they bordered on genocide. His delegation requested, therefore, that radical measures should be taken forthwith to put a complete end to them and to punish the guilty parties.

38. Mr. McCARTHY (United Kingdom) said that the practices which had been uncovered involved both slavery and discrimination and came within the terms of reference of the Commission on Human Rights. He therefore supported the Chilean proposal as well as the suggestions by the representative of Kenya.

39. Mr. RAZAFINDRABE (Madagascar) shared the indignation of the speakers who had preceded him and likewise considered that an appeal should be made to the Commission on Human Rights and to the ILO, which was primarily concerned with the problem.

40. Mr. PATHMARAJAH (Ceylon) said that the measures which the Council adopted in the case under discussion would be proof of its vitality. The item should be included in the agenda for the 188th session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, which should be invited to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council at its next session. His delegation was ready to support any proposal by the representative of Kenya along those lines.

41. Mr. WANG Tzu-chuan (China) associated himself with the delegations which had expressed their indignation and had urged that the crimes which had been uncovered should be severely punished. His delegation was ready to support any concrete decisions and measures which might be taken and any appeal addressed to the ILO and to the Commission on Human Rights. It hoped that the countries involved would be able to take the energetic steps needed.

42. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) shared the indignation expressed by the speakers who had preceded him and endorsed the measures advocated. He agreed with the representative of Poland that the affair came close to genocide, and in that connexion he deplored the fact that no country had yet lifted its voice to denounce genocide as such, which was rife in Africa.

43. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that delegations were unanimous in condemning the form of slave trade which the representative of Kenya had brought to the Council's attention and pointed out that activities akin to slavery were the aftermath of colonialism. He hoped that the Council and the United Nations would tirelessly condemn all vestiges of colonialism in the world.

44. Mr. TARCICI (Observer for Yemen) said that the situation which had just been brought to the Council's attention was a result of the gulf separating the poor countries from the rich ones. The ILO, UNCTAD, the Commission on Human Rights and the Council itself should act to put an end to practices of that kind. His country would support any initiative taken to that effect, in the Council and elsewhere.

45. Mr. von STEDINGK (International Labour Organisation) said that, although he had not yet received instructions from his organization, he could assure the Council that the ILO would help to find out the facts with regard to the practices described by the representative of Kenya. In particular, he was sure that the ILO would respond favourably if the Council asked it to carry out a study of those practices. The ILO was currently preparing a study on migrations in Africa and it might be able to consider the situation mentioned by the representative of Kenya in connexion with that study.

Mr. Szarka (Hungary) resumed the Chair.

46. Mr. NISHIZAKI (Japan), expressing his country's aversion for slavery in all its forms, thanked the representative of the ILO for the assurances he had just given, pending a formal commitment by his organization.

47. Mr. ROUGÉ (France) informed the Council that at the fifty-seventh session of the International Labour Conference France had supported a draft resolution concerning conditions and equality of treatment of migrant workers, submitted by Mr. Fassina, representing the Italian workers.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/5113)*, chap. XIII, resolution 2 (XXVIII).

48. In that text, which had been the basis of a Conference resolution, the Conference, after noting that Governments and trade unions had condemned "the black market in migrant labour", invited the Governing Body of the International Labour Office

"To place the question of migrant workers on the agenda of the 58th (1973) Session of the Conference;

"To convene, if deemed appropriate, and with a view to a more thorough preparation of the examination of the whole question, a study meeting before the next session of the Conference, i.e. at the end of 1972 or in early 1973;

"To urge all governments, trade unions and employers' organisations to take [...] measures [...] to combat and reduce [...] the black market in subcontracting of labour [...]."

49. If a draft resolution was submitted to the Economic and Social Council on the subject of the practices described by the representative of Kenya, it might be advisable to take account in that text of the resolution he had just quoted.

50. Mr. FRAZÃO (Brazil) said that the facts reported by the representative of Kenya would produce a stir in Brazil all the greater because of the fact that his country was close to Africa in its traditions and way of life. His delegation would associate itself with any initiative which the representative of Kenya might take.

51. Mr. SINGH (Malaysia), Mr. ALZAMORA TRAVERSO (Peru), Mr. CHOUERI (Lebanon), Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America), Mr. AMINA (Niger) and Mr. TANNER (Finland), together with Mr. NAIK (Observer for Pakistan), Mr. SUCRE (Observer for Venezuela) and Mr. KOENTARSO (Observer for Indonesia) also expressed their indignation at the practices reported by the representative of Kenya and said they were ready to support any initiative which might be taken to put an end to them.

52. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia), having noted that delegations were unanimous in condemning the facts reported by the representative of Kenya, suggested that an *ad hoc* working group under the chairmanship of Miss Lim (Malaysia) and composed of the representatives of Brazil, Finland, Kenya and Poland should be set up to prepare a draft resolution for submission to the Council.

53. Mr. ODERO-JOWI (Kenya) agreed with that suggestion, but added that the Secretariat should assist the working group by making available to it a staff member familiar with the United Nations recommendations and resolutions having a bearing on the matter.

54. The PRESIDENT, after stating that the Secretariat should have little difficulty in meeting the request of the Kenyan representative, invited the Council to accept the suggestion made by the representative of Tunisia.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Disaster relief co-ordination

DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED "MEASURES TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE NATURAL DISASTER IN THE PHILIPPINES" (E/L.1508)

55. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft resolution E/L.1508 entitled "Measures to be taken following the natural disaster in the Philippines".

56. Mr. BERKÖL (Disaster Relief Co-ordinator), outlining the initial steps he had taken following the disaster which had just struck the Philippines, said that as far back as the end of June, the Office of the Co-ordinator had contacted the League of Red Cross Societies. After various consultations, he had concluded that the Philippine Government did not at that time need external assistance, since it was particularly well prepared to deal with disasters of that type because of its excellent preventive measures.

57. Unfortunately, the situation had deteriorated greatly in mid-July, and he had considered it advisable to take action in accordance with his mandate. He had suggested to the Secretary-General that he should place at the disposal of the Philippine Government the sum of \$20,000 - the maximum he was authorized to disburse in such a situation. He had then requested the UNDP resident representative, who acted as co-ordinating agent in cases of disaster, to keep him informed of the situation. On 19 July, the resident representative had submitted his first report, which bore witness to the seriousness of the disaster: some 700,000 people had been rendered homeless and 1.5 million hectares of cultivated land had been flooded, the rice crop being particularly affected. The Philippine Government had then expressed its desire for all possible efforts from the United Nations. On 24 July, a further report had spoken of 1 million people homeless and damage amounting to \$150 million: from that point onwards, there had been a need not only for emergency measures, but also for medium-term and long-term measures, particularly in the agricultural sector. The resident representative had stated in his report that the local authorities, the Philippine Red Cross and other organizations were working hard, and that from the outset the United States Government had made very great efforts to assist the victims. It had, in particular, sent to Manila a large number of helicopters as well as water purification equipment and electricity generators.

58. The Philippine Red Cross had just issued an urgent general appeal for assistance; that was the first occasion on which it had itself been unable to cope with a situation of that nature - a fact which bore witness to the extent of the disaster. He himself had immediately contacted the United Nations agencies concerned and had already addressed an appeal to 18 donor countries; he had also contacted a number of non-governmental organizations. While awaiting replies from the traditional donor countries, he had asked the UNDP resident representative to inform him of the

specific needs of the country, in order to determine what could most usefully be sent and to avoid duplication.

59. So far, to the best of his knowledge, the United States had donated \$25,000 and considerable logistic support; Australia had sent \$20,000, which had been used in part for the purchase of 1,000 crates of condensed milk; Japan had given \$20,000 and the United Kingdom had donated medical supplies and transported them to the Philippines; the Federal Republic of Germany had donated DM 74,000 to the Philippine Red Cross; France had made a contribution equivalent to 23,000 Philippine pesos and was proposing to take other measures; and Switzerland had donated 100,000 Swiss francs. In addition, the Secretary-General had sent \$20,000 and UNICEF \$100,000; WFP had sent food supplies, and the World Council of Churches had donated \$10,000. That was the first occasion on which the Office had been called upon to perform its functions – at a time when its staffing was not yet complete. It nevertheless hoped to do useful work, as a result of the assistance and generosity of many Governments.

60. Mr. NAIK (Observer for Pakistan), introducing draft resolution E/L.1508 on behalf of the sponsors, noted with regret that it was often the poorest countries which were affected by the greatest disasters. That was why the United Nations was called on to play a vital role, not only in providing emergency assistance, but also in the work of rehabilitation which necessarily followed a disaster. It was in that spirit that a Relief Co-ordinator had been appointed. In the present instance, there was an urgent need for the United Nations to mobilize all its resources to provide effective assistance for the Philippines, and the draft resolution constituted a response to that need. The sponsors were pleased to learn that many countries had promised their assistance, and that the Co-ordinator was maintaining permanent contact with the Philippine Government, the agencies concerned, and donor countries.

61. Since the Secretary-General's financial possibilities were limited, it was essential to use the resources of organizations such as UNICEF, WHO and WFP, as provided for in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution. In that connexion, he pointed out that WHO had been omitted by mistake from the list of organizations mentioned in that paragraph; the words "and the World Health Organization" should be included after the words "the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization". Obviously, international assistance could not be restricted to assistance of an emergency nature. In view of the extent of the disaster, a concerted rehabilitation programme was necessary, and for that reason the final operative paragraph contained a request to UNDP.

62. Since the draft resolution was of a purely humanitarian and urgent character, the sponsors hoped that the Council would not consider it necessary to refer it to one of the committees but would take a decision on it forthwith.

63. Miss LIM (Malaysia) said that her delegation, in joining the sponsors of a draft resolution expressing the feeling of solidarity which existed in the Council, had wished to express her country's sympathy for the Philip-

pine people. It had been pleased to note that the Co-ordinator had contacted the various agencies concerned and that many Governments had responded generously to the appeal addressed to them.

64. Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America) agreed that, in view of the urgency of the situation, it was essential to act promptly; the Council should take a decision immediately, in plenary meeting.

65. The United States delegation wished to express to the Government and people of the Philippines its deep sorrow at the disaster which had befallen them and its desire to help them, not only in the immediate future, but also on a medium-term and long-term basis. The United States Government had already taken a number of measures; it had for example sent 30 helicopters and \$375,000 in cash, while a United States naval base was manufacturing, locally, 10,000 high-protein biscuits a day in order to supplement the food ration of the victims.

66. Mr. SANCHEZ (Chile), Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand), Mr. FERNAND-LAURENT (France), Mr. WANG Tzu-chuan (China), Miss FAROUK (Tunisia), Mr. KOENTARSO (Observer for Indonesia), Mr. PATHMARAJAH (Ceylon), Mr. NISHIZAKI (Japan), Mr. KUMI (Ghana), Mr. HAMID (Observer for the Sudan), Mr. SMOQUINA (Italy), Mr. ANTEQUERA (Observer for Spain), Mr. SALEH ASHTAL (Observer for the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen), Mr. CARANICAS (Greece), and Mr. OSANYA-NYYNEQUE (Kenya) expressed their sincere condolences to the Government and people of the Philippines. They congratulated the Co-ordinator on the valuable initiatives which he had taken and hoped that the Council would decide to adopt the draft resolution at the current meeting.

67. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) said that his Government would shortly announce its decisions concerning the assistance which New Zealand would be giving to the Philippines.

68. Mr. FERNAND-LAURENT (France) said he would like to make two observations concerning operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution.

69. Firstly, he suggested that the words "in conjunction with the Co-ordinator" should be inserted between the words "meeting" and "assistance requests from the Government of the Philippines". Since the Co-ordinator was assisting the organizations providing help, it was essential that the latter should in turn assist him by keeping him informed of the situation and consulting him.

70. Secondly, the French delegation wished to point out that it interpreted the words "to devote the largest possible volume of resources" as meaning that the organizations mentioned should provide generous assistance to the Philippine Government, without however drawing unduly on their resources. Another disaster could occur in a few months, and the resources for coming to the rescue must be nursed carefully.

71. Apart from those two points, his delegation considered the draft resolution excellent and would vote in favour of it.

72. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) supported the observations made by the French representative. The proposed amendment would help to reinforce the action taken by the Co-ordinator, who must be given the maximum possible administrative and other means of assistance in performing his important duties.

73. Mr. PATHMARAJAH (Ceylon), speaking as a sponsor of the draft resolution, accepted the suggestion made by the French representative. The proposed amendment would assist the Office of the Co-ordinator in playing its part more effectively as a link in the provision of assistance.

74. Mr. NISHIZAKI (Japan) said that his country had decided to donate to the Philippine Government the sum of \$20,000 to assist it in its rehabilitation efforts. His delegation accepted the amendment proposed by the French representative to draft resolution E/L.1508 and reiterated the hope that the text would be adopted promptly and unanimously.

75. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said he wished to make an observation concerning the list of organizations which, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, would be asked to meet assistance requests from the Government of the Philippines. Some of those organizations could give the Philippines immediate assistance; others could, at a later stage, participate in the work of reconstruction which would be necessary. But what contribution could be made by organizations such as IAEA and UNCTAD? The Council would be well advised to examine the list more closely, since in the future it would probably constitute a model for the Co-ordinator. By making unnecessary reference to certain organizations, there was the danger of complicating the work of the Co-ordinator, who did not have a very large staff at his disposal.

76. He supported the views expressed by the French representative concerning the words "to devote the largest possible volume of resources" in the same paragraph. There had been 17 major disasters in 1970, and as many again in 1971. The Co-ordinator might well be called upon to deal with a new serious situation in a month's time. That being so, the specialized agencies should not devote all the resources available to them to assistance to the Philippines since, in the event of a new disaster, the victims would have to rely solely on bilateral assistance.

77. Mr. ODERO-JOWI (Kenya) said that his delegation would like to join the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1508.

78. Mr. NAIK (Observer for Pakistan) said that his delegation, one of the sponsors of the draft resolution, supported the request made by the Kenyan delegation. It also accepted the amendment proposed by the French delegation.

79. With regard to the observation made by the Greek representative, he wished to point out that the organizations mentioned in the draft resolution were already listed in Council resolution 1611 (LI), adopted in July 1971

following disasters in Colombia and Chile. The sponsors had merely based their text on the model they had found in that resolution.

80. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said he was not entirely satisfied by the reply given by the observer for Pakistan and hoped that the Council would clarify the points he had just mentioned. However, he did not expect an immediate reply.

81. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should adopt draft resolution E/L.1508.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

82. Mr. VERCELES (Observer for the Philippines) said he wished to thank those delegations which had sponsored the resolution and, in particular the Pakistan delegation which had introduced it. Among the sponsors were many delegations from Asian countries — a fact which confirmed the solidarity which those countries displayed in cases of disaster. He also thanked the countries which had responded to the appeals for assistance by the Government of the Philippines, in particular the United States of America, Japan, Australia, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Switzerland. He also thanked the Council as a whole for having speedily adopted a resolution which would help to save many lives.

83. He assured the members of the Council that his country did not request external assistance when it could itself cope with the consequences of a disaster. However, in the current year the extent of the damage was exceptional. By way of example, he quoted the *International Herald Tribune* of 24 July 1972, which reported that 171 people had died on the island of Luzon, and *Newsweek* of 31 July 1972, which stated that the damage caused to crops and goods amounted to \$300 million and that the number of people killed throughout the country was at least 200.

84. Finally, he said he would convey to the Government and people of the Philippines the sympathy expressed by the members of the Council and assured them that the Philippine Government and people would be grateful to the Council for the spontaneous decision it had just taken.

REPORT OF THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (E/5194)

85. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report of the Co-ordination Committee concerning agenda item 12 (E/5194) and pointed out that paragraph 4 of the report contained a draft decision which the Co-ordination Committee recommended for adoption by the Council.

86. He proposed that the Council should adopt without a vote the draft decision contained in the Committee's report.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 7 p.m.