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*President: Mr. PÉREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela).*

## AGENDA ITEM 25

**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (E/4546, E/4547, E/4557 and Corr.1) (*continued*)**

1. Dr. CANDAU (World Health Organization) said that the position of WHO with respect to the implementation of the Declaration under consideration was clearly described in document E/4557, paragraphs 30-35. He drew particular attention to paragraph 34 and explained that the discussion in the World Health Assembly had related to the problem of malaria and smallpox eradication and diseases peculiar to Africa, such as sleeping sickness, which were transmitted by vectors. In accordance with the World Health Assembly's directives, he was endeavouring to see what could be done to protect not only the population of the territories concerned but also the population of neighbouring territories, since in the case of communicable diseases it was most important to know what was going on in adjacent areas. Accordingly, discussions were under way with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees concerning the possible establishment of a WHO programme in areas which had received refugees from Portuguese Territories and he was in touch with the Portuguese Government with a view to collecting information on the situation in the Territories under its administration. He would personally visit some of those Territories to determine what could be done to protect the population and the population of neighbouring countries from diseases which raised both health and economic problems for Africa. He would be glad to answer any questions which the Council might wish to ask.

2. Mr. ALI (International Labour Organisation) said that the statement made on the matter under consideration by the ILO's Director-General at the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) had been summarized in paragraphs 24 and 25 of document E/4557.

3. The ILO had always been willing to supplement and support political action decided on by the United Nations and was morally associated with the advancement of dependent peoples through the implementation of the relevant resolutions, such as those on colonialism, *apartheid* and Southern Rhodesia.

4. The fifty-second session of the International Labour Conference, held in June 1968, had considered a resolution on action to be taken along the lines advocated in General Assembly resolution 2311 (XXII). As the ILO's Resolutions Committee had not completed its consideration of the matter, the Conference, with the agreement of the sponsor, had unanimously decided to refer the entire matter to the ILO's Governing Body. The Governing Body had unanimously decided to include the question in the agenda of its next session, to be held in November. The Council would be informed of the action taken.

5. Mr. de SILVA (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the summary of the Director-General's statement at the joint meeting of ACC and CPC indicated the way in which UNESCO was implementing the Declaration. The policy of UNESCO, as defined by the General Conference and the Executive Board, was in complete accordance with General Assembly resolution 2311 (XXII). In 1965, in connexion with the admission of Portugal to UNESCO, the Executive Board had adopted a decision (70 EX/Decision 14) inviting the Director-General to carry out, with the authorization of the Portuguese Government, and with the aid either of qualified officials of the secretariat or of appropriate eminent persons, a study *in situ* of the current state of education in African Territories under Portuguese administration. It had further requested the Director-General not to give effect, pending the results of that study and their examination by the Board, to any invitations to Portugal by virtue of decisions of the General Conference or of the Executive Board and had asked him to bring the resolution to the attention of the Portuguese Government with a request that all the necessary facilities be granted within the Territories concerned for carrying out the study. In the ensuing correspondence between the UNESCO secretariat and the Portuguese Government, the latter had refused to participate in the execution of that decision. At its fourteenth session, therefore, the General Conference had adopted a resolution confirming the Executive Board's decision, and its resolution 20 authorized the Director-General to take the action described in that decision.

6. With respect to the suspension of assistance, the Director-General considered, therefore, that UNESCO's policy was in full conformity with General Assembly resolutions on the subject.

7. The Director-General had also emphasized, at the joint meeting of ACC and CPC, the possibility of

UNESCO action to awaken world public opinion to the matter under consideration and had pointed out that UNESCO had prepared and published in 1967, at the request of the United Nations Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, and with the authorization of its Executive Board, a study entitled *Apartheid: its Effects on Education, Science, Culture and Communication*.

8. There seemed, however, to be an inconsistency between operative paragraphs 4 and 6 of General Assembly resolution 2311 (XXII), since an agency could not help nationals within their countries without acting upon a government request. He looked forward to the discussions of the Council for guidance on ways and means to help further in implementing that resolution, which would be conveyed to the governing bodies of UNESCO.

9. Mr. NEHEMIAH (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the action taken by FAO on the matter under consideration had been described by its Director-General at the joint meetings of the ACC and CPC and was summarized in paragraphs 26 and 27 of document E/4557.

10. Giving examples of the aid provided by FAO, he said that in October 1964 it had approved emergency food assistance to the Government of Tanzania for the feeding of refugees from Mozambique. The World Food Programme had continued that assistance on the basis of a development scheme for the permanent settlement of the refugees, which had been approved in 1966, at a total cost of \$672,000. However, owing to an almost continuous influx of refugees into the area, food aid had been further extended in September 1966 to cover an additional 4,000 refugees under an expanded project at a cost of over \$200,000. In December 1966, FAO had similarly approved emergency food aid for Tanzania for six months to 6,000 refugees, who had moved into another part of Tanzania, at a total cost of over \$300,000. Aid had subsequently been increased as requirements had increased, and had resulted in a development project for settlement of refugees approved by the Executive Director of WFP at a total cost of over \$600,000. In 1967, FAO had also provided emergency food aid to the Government of Zambia to feed refugees from South and South West Africa, Mozambique, Angola and Rhodesia, and additional assistance had been provided by WFP in the settlement of those refugees. In March 1968, FAO had granted further emergency food aid for six months to additional Angolan refugees who had crossed into Zambia. Those figures illustrated FAO's desire to assist refugees from those Territories whenever the need arose, and the Director-General intended to keep their requirements in view.

11. With regard to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2311 (XXII) and relations with the Republic of South Africa, Portugal and Southern Rhodesia, he drew attention to paragraph 26 of document E/4557.

12. The Director-General shared the view expressed by some specialized agencies concerning an inconsistency between paragraph 4 of that resolution, which called on the agencies to refrain from giving any assistance to

Portugal, and paragraph 3 which requested them to assist in every possible way the peoples within the Territories under the control of Portugal.

13. FAO faced a problem with respect to the control of livestock diseases and crop pests, since the inhabitants of the Portuguese Territories could not be assisted without the active co-operation of the metropolitan Power. The Director-General would therefore be grateful for guidance from the Council on the way in which that problem could be tackled in the light of the directives contained in the resolution.

14. Mr. RIVET (World Meteorological Organization) said that the position of WMO on the implementation of the Declaration was described in paragraph 41 of document E/4557. The question had been examined by the Executive Committee at its twentieth session, held in June 1968, and no new developments had since occurred, except that in accordance with the directives given by that Committee the WMO bodies dealing with training had been requested to give priority to training of refugees.

15. Southern Rhodesia had a special position within WMO, as it had been admitted to membership in 1951 as one of the Territories grouped under "British Central African Territories". It was still a member Territory, and WMO had no official relations with the present Government. All communications concerning that Territory were addressed to the United Kingdom as the State responsible for applying the WMO Convention to the Territory.

16. During its deliberations the Executive Committee had given thorough consideration to the question and was anxious to take within its terms of reference all necessary action. It had requested the Secretary-General of WMO to report to it when further action could be required.

17. Mr. EDDY (Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization) drew attention to the summary of the statement made by the Secretary-General of IMCO at the joint meeting of ACC and CPC (E/4557, paragraph 42). On that occasion he had pointed out that Portugal was a signatory to certain international conventions of which IMCO was the depositary. If a conference had to be called for the revision of any of those conventions and he received no instructions to the contrary, he would feel obliged to invite all States parties to the convention in question.

18. Mr. COX (Sierra Leone) hoped that representatives of the specialized agencies which had not yet spoken would be able to describe what action they had taken to implement the Declaration.

19. Referring to the FAO representative's observations on General Assembly resolution 2311 (XXII), he said that there was no contradiction between its operative paragraphs 3 and 4. There was a clear distinction between "people struggling for their liberation from colonial rule", who should receive assistance from the specialized agencies and international institutions, and the governing authorities of the Territories concerned, who should not.

20. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) supported the views expressed by the representative of Sierra Leone concerning the participation of other specialized agencies in the discussion. It was vital that the Council should have as much information as possible on the implementation of the Declaration.

21. Mr. CONSOLO (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) said that, pursuant to the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-first session, the Secretary-General had consulted the President of the International Bank on the matter of withholding financial assistance from Portugal and South Africa. In the course of those consultations, in the early part of 1967, briefs had been exchanged between the Legal Counsel of the United Nations and the General Counsel of the International Bank. The Legal Counsel of the United Nations had argued that the Bank should take certain actions under the General Assembly resolutions in question and the Bank's General Counsel had shown that, under the terms of its Articles of Agreement, the Bank was not free to comply with such requests. The Executive Directors of the Bank, who were responsible for the interpretation of the Articles of Agreement, had, after careful consideration of all the arguments advanced, endorsed the positions of the Bank's General Counsel.

22. Despite that legal position which prevented the Bank from complying with the General Assembly resolutions in question, its President, in a letter of 18 August 1967, had given a firm assurance to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the United Nations organs concerned of the Bank's earnest desire to co-operate with the United Nations by all legitimate means and, to the extent consistent with its Articles of Agreement, to avoid any action that might run counter to the purposes of the United Nations.

23. The Secretary-General, in his reply of 23 August 1967, had welcomed that assurance and had said that the President's letter would be transmitted to the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration.

24. The Bank's position had been confirmed in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, during the debate preceding the adoption of resolution 2311 (XXII), which had been formally notified to the Bank and had been brought to the attention of its Executive Directors.

25. On 30 April 1968, the Secretary-General had written to the President of the Bank in connexion with the inclusion of an item relating to General Assembly resolution 2311 (XXII) in the Council's agenda and had enquired what steps had been taken or were envisaged by the Bank in respect of the resolution. On 10 May 1968, the President had replied that the resolution did not call for any action that the Bank could take within the sphere of its activities. In fact, with regard to operative paragraph 3, the Bank provided financial assistance only to member States or with the guarantee of member States. With regard to operative paragraph 4, the position presented by the Bank's General Counsel and endorsed by its Executive Directors remained unchanged.

26. The present President of the Bank fully confirmed the views expressed by the former President in his letter of 18 August 1967.

27. Mr. WILLIAMS (International Monetary Fund) said that General Assembly resolution 2311 (XXII) had been brought to the attention of IMF's Board of Executive Directors shortly after its adoption by the General Assembly and before its formal transmittal to the Fund. Earlier General Assembly resolutions on the same subject and relevant to the Fund's work had also been brought to the attention of its Executive Directors.

28. The Board of Governors, which met annually, had delegated to the Board of Executive Directors, which was in continuous session, responsibility for dealing with the Fund's day-to-day work. The Executive Directors who made up the Board had been appointed or elected by all the members of the Fund, and each Director, when voting, cast as a unit the number of votes pertaining to all the countries which appointed or elected him. The Executive Directors were responsible for the Fund's general operations, and the Fund's staff and management conducted its ordinary business under their direction.

29. The Fund's competent organs were therefore fully aware of those resolutions and, in their relevant decisions, would at all times be guided by and act in accordance with the purposes and provisions of the Fund's Articles of Agreement and the relevant provisions of its agreement with the United Nations.

30. Mr. LEWIS (International Civil Aviation Organization) said that ICAO's position on the matter under consideration was clearly described in paragraph 36 of document E/4557. ICAO was prepared to implement the decisions on training if the need arose.

31. Mr. SADRY (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that the FAO representative had already described joint FAO/UNHCR activities to help refugees meet their food requirements in all the areas in question. The statement made by the High Commissioner at the joint meetings of ACC and CPC had been summarized in paragraph 43 of document E/4557 and he would certainly refer to the matter under consideration when he submitted his report to the Council under agenda item 21.

32. Mr. COX (Sierra Leone) asked whether the World Bank contemplated granting financial assistance to South Africa and Portugal while they continued their policies of colonial domination.

33. Mr. CONSOLO (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) said that the Bank's relationship with its individual members was confidential and could not be discussed with other Governments outside meetings of the Board. A departure from that principle in respect of two particular countries could invite a discussion on the Board's relations with other countries and thereby seriously impair its ability to operate effectively.



34. Mr. EKONDY-AKALA (Congo, Brazzaville) expressed dissatisfaction with the World Bank representative's reply. He looked forward to hearing statements from representatives of specialized agencies who had been absent from the meeting.

35. The PRESIDENT said that discussion of the item would be resumed at a later date.

#### AGENDA ITEM 12

Question of convening an international conference on problems of the human environment (E/4466/Add.1, E/4553; E/L.1226) (*resumed from the 1548th meeting*)

36. Mr. ÅSTRÖM (Sweden), introducing the five-Power draft resolution (E/L.1226), said that the Council's discussion had revealed a widespread desire for the United Nations to deal with problems of the human environment. Considerable support had been shown for convening a conference, the main purpose of which would be to alert Governments and public opinion to the importance of the question. A special note of urgency had been brought into the discussions by developing countries; they wished to avoid the errors committed by developed countries and felt that a study of the problems would reveal the need to help the developing countries plan their cities and rural communities. The sponsors would have liked to recommend the General Assembly to convene a conference, but had decided, in the light of the discussion, merely to indicate the Council's view that such a conference would serve a useful purpose. It would not be purely technical, but would provide a meeting ground for specialists, administrators and political representatives. It might last for about three weeks and its cost would not be exorbitant.

37. The first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution described the problem and indicated some of the causes of the deterioration in the quality of the human environment. The draft resolution then went on to emphasize the Council's concern with effects on the condition of man and the urgent need for action to "eliminate the impairment of the human environment". It asked the General Assembly to take into consideration the views expressed on the subject at the Council's current session and the results of the conference on the biosphere organized by UNESCO, and to ensure that detailed and careful preparations were made for the conference.

38. Mr. RENBORG (Observer for the Council of Europe), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the Council of Europe had been actively concerned with problems of the human environment for many years. Part of the organization's work programme was concerned with man's physical environment and resources, the aim being to ensure that Europe's natural resources and biological heritage were properly managed and not misused, so that Europeans might enjoy a balanced and wholesome physical environment. In that connexion, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe had recently approved a Declaration of Principles of

Air Pollution Control, and a European Water Charter had been promulgated.

39. His organization was preparing for a European conservation year in 1970, during which it was proposed to convene a European conservation conference. The conference would last a week and would be attended by scientists and technical experts and by representatives of political and professional groups concerned with problems of environment. The purpose of the conference would be to make both policy-makers and the general public aware of those problems. It was expected that the main conclusions of the discussions would be summed up in a declaration formulating an ecological approach to environment conservation. The proposed United Nations conference would be wider in scope than the one planned by the Council of Europe, both geographically and otherwise, but both projects had similar aims. His organization would follow the progress of the United Nations project with great interest and was ready to assist in any way possible.

40. Mr. EKONDY-AKALA (Congo, Brazzaville) drew attention to the title of the draft resolution. He felt that the problems of the "human environment" were less urgent for the developing countries than the problems of "man and his environment", which involved the question of aid.

41. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said that the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution should indicate the causes of the "effects", and he therefore proposed the insertion of the words "of this" between the words "effects" and "on". He had some misgivings about operative paragraphs 1 and 2; the terms of the draft resolution should not imply that the only way of dealing with the problems was a conference. Whatever solution was adopted, careful preparation would certainly be necessary. Subject to those reservations, he would support the draft resolution.

42. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that in view of the importance of the matter it was essential that any resolution adopted by the Council should be as accurate and sensible as possible. It was also desirable that the Council should take a unanimous decision on the matter. Unfortunately, the United Kingdom delegation was unable to support the draft resolution as it stood because it went too far in the direction of prejudging any decision the General Assembly might take on the matter. The United Kingdom delegation, together with some others, was therefore submitting some amendments, which would be circulated at the next meeting.<sup>1</sup> The delegation of the Philippines, in particular, might find that those amendments went a considerable way towards meeting its wishes.

43. Mr. CLAMOUNGOU (Chad) said that there was some truth in the contention of the representative of the Congo (Brazzaville) that for the developing countries the problem of the human environment was of secondary importance. It might be as well, however, if the developing countries took steps to forestall the pernicious conse-

<sup>1</sup> See E/L.1227, subsequently distributed.

quences of development experienced by the industrialized countries. He hoped, therefore, that the delegation of the Congo (Brazzaville) would be able to join the delegation of Chad in supporting the draft resolution.

44. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) said that like all countries in an intermediate stage of development, Argentina included both highly developed and under-developed areas. The ills referred to in the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution were already apparent in the developed areas and must be prevented from spreading to those as yet under-developed. It was with that idea in mind that Argentina had co-sponsored the draft resolution.

45. As to the amendment suggested by the representative of the Congo (Brazzaville), the purpose of the draft resolution, like that of all United Nations activities, was to improve the human condition. That purpose was implicit in the title proposed by the sponsors.

46. The United Kingdom delegation's contention that the draft resolution prejudged any decision the General Assembly might take was perhaps attributable to the fact that the English and Spanish texts of the last preambular paragraph did not correspond. It was clearly stated in the Spanish text that a conference would be only one of the ways of serving the purposes outlined in the penultimate preambular paragraph. In any case, operative paragraph 1 made it clear that the decision on the desirability of a conference rested with the General Assembly.

47. Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) said that his delegation could support the five-Power draft resolution. All countries were liable to be affected by impairment of the human environment. Many developing countries, for instance, were faced with the problem of erosion. With a view to enabling the Council to take a unanimous decision on the matter, however, his delegation wished to propose some amendments to the five-Power text. First, the title should be amended to read: "Question of the impairment of human environments". To put the word "environment" in the plural would indicate that the resolution was not concerned with a single environment but with different conditions in various countries throughout the world. Secondly, in operative paragraph 1, the words "the desirability of convening" should be replaced by the words "study the possible convening of". That would take account of the comments made by the representative of the Philippines. Thirdly, in order to make it clear what the Council intended in speaking of a conference, the words "such preparations" in operative paragraph 2 should be replaced by the words "the above-mentioned study", and operative paragraph 2.A (a) should be amended to read: "a work programme for such a conference designed in such a way as effectively to attract the attention of Governments and to make world public opinion aware of the importance of the matter."

48. Finally, it should be noted that in the last preambular paragraph there was a decided discrepancy between the French and Spanish texts on the one hand and the English text on the other.

49. Mr. STANOVNIK (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe) said that the Council might wish, before taking a decision on the draft resolution, to consider the activities already under way in ECE. European countries had long been aware of the problems of the human environment, and such matters as urban and rural planning, water and air pollution, and ash and waste disposal had been discussed by the various committees of the Commission. In 1966, the Commission had decided, in its resolution 5 (XXII), that there should be a meeting of governmental experts on problems relating to the environment and its influence on society and on the development of the national economy. At the Commission's request, the Executive Secretary had asked Governments for their suggestions on specific questions which might usefully be dealt with at the meeting and had submitted a report on the matter to the Commission at its twenty-third session (E/ECE/6/75 and Add.1). Having studied that report, the Commission had decided that the meeting of government experts should be held in Czechoslovakia in 1970 and should be preceded, in February 1969, by a preparatory group. The Commission hoped that the meeting would concentrate on the specific question of the economic implications of environmental problems and the relevant policy recommendations.

50. Mr. GREGH (France) said that, as its representative had made clear at the 1547th meeting, the French delegation agreed that a thorough study should be made of the ways and means of remedying the ills referred to in the five-Power proposal. That text however, prejudged the question of convening a conference. Without considerable amendments, therefore, his delegation would be unable to support the proposal. It seemed inconsistent to submit a proposal for a conference to the General Assembly and at the same time to make provision for very detailed preparations for that conference. Logically, the Council should have noted the problems arising in the matter and requested the Secretary-General to undertake the studies envisaged in operative paragraph 2.A.

51. He hoped that the amendments to be submitted by the United Kingdom delegation would enable the French delegation to vote in favour of the text. A draft resolution on a subject as broad as the human environment should be supported by all, or at least the great majority of, the members of the Council.

52. Mr. EKONDY-AKALA (Congo, Brazzaville), referring to the statements made by the representatives of Argentina and Chad, said that his delegation agreed with the substance of the draft resolution. There was, however, no question of problems of air or water pollution in under-developed countries. Such problems would arise only when those countries became developed. The developing countries would, however, wish to express their views at the conference proposed in the draft resolution and it was for that reason that he had proposed that the subject of the conference should be "man and his environment". What the developing countries wanted was to link the problem of human environment with that of assistance.

53. Mr. BENLER (Turkey), noting that the French, Philippine and United Kingdom representatives had apparently questioned whether a conference was the best way of dealing with the matter, said that scientists and technologists interested in problems of the human environment should be given an opportunity of meeting and exchanging views on the subject. The sponsors of the draft resolution had emphasized that any conference should be preceded by careful preparations, taking particularly into consideration the concern expressed, among others, by the representative of the Philippines. The comments of the representative of the Congo (Brazzaville) concerning the needs of the developing countries were understandable. The term "human environment" had however, become traditional in the United Nations and it therefore seemed unnecessary to alter the title. Provision could be made in the conference's terms of reference to ensure that attention was paid to the questions mentioned by the representative of the Congo (Brazzaville). The amendment to the title proposed by the Belgian representative could be accepted.

54. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) asked whether the title of the draft resolution should not correspond exactly with the title of the agenda item.

55. Mr. KASSUM (Secretary of the Council) said that although the substance of agenda items could not, of course, be changed, the Council was perfectly free to change the wording.

56. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) suggested that further discussion should be deferred until the next meeting when the Council would have received the amendments being proposed by the United Kingdom delegation. In the light of those amendments, and of the suggestions made at the current meeting, the sponsors would be in a position to decide whether they should revise their proposal.

57. The PRESIDENT suggested that further attempts should be made, before the next meeting, to produce a text acceptable to the Council as a whole. If that proved impossible, the amendments being proposed by the United Kingdom and those suggested at the current meeting would be examined by the Council at its next meeting.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.