



CONTENTS

	Page
Question of the representation of China	9
Agenda item 2:	
General discussion of international economic and social policy (<i>continued</i>)	
Speakers:	
Mr. Hoffman (UNDP)	9
Mr. Mulley (United Kingdom)	11
Mr. Mili (ITU)	14
Mr. Roullier (IMCO)	15

President: Mr. M. KLUSAK (Czechoslovakia).

Present:

Representatives of the following States: Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Guatemala, India, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

Observers for the following Member States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Chile, China, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Tunisia, United Arab Republic, Yugoslavia.

Observers for the following non-member States: Federal Republic of Germany, Holy See.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization.

Question of the representation of China

1. The PRESIDENT said that the representative of Romania had asked to speak on a procedural question.

2. Mr. MURGESCU (Romania) said that the provisional list of representatives to the forty-third session of the Council which had been circulated that morning had contained the names of certain individuals claiming to act in the capacity of Observers for China. In accordance with the position taken by his country's representative at all sessions of United Nations bodies, he wished to state that the only government qualified to represent China was the Central People's Government of the

People's Republic of China. Therefore, only representatives of that Government were entitled to represent China in the United Nations and its organs, including the Economic and Social Council. The restitution of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and its organs would not only be an act of justice but would also represent a realistic solution of the problem. Such an act would conform to the principle of the universality of the United Nations, to which Romania had always subscribed. Romania protested against the presence of representatives of Chiang Kai-shek at the Council's session as being unlawful.

3. Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (United States of America) said that the position of his Government on the question of the representation of China was well known and he would not therefore restate it. He would merely point out that it was not a question which came within the competence of the Economic and Social Council.

4. Mr. BUSNIAK (Czechoslovakia) said he wished to protest at the usurpation of the place rightly belonging to the representatives of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China. The so-called Observers for China did not in fact represent anyone and had no right to speak on behalf of any nation or State in the Council. It was his Government's firm conviction that the only person entitled to represent the Chinese people and speak on their behalf at the present session of the Council and at other meetings of international organizations would be a representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

5. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the position of his Government on the subject was well known. In its opinion, only the representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China could speak on behalf of the Chinese people in the United Nations and in any of its organs. His delegation shared the views expressed by the representatives of Romania and Czechoslovakia.

AGENDA ITEM 2

General discussion of international and social policy (E/4332, E/4343, E/4352 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/4353 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, E/4361, E/4362 and Corr.1, E/4363 and Add.1-2, E/4370, E/4378, E/4392, E/4396 and Add.1-3 and Add.1/Corr.1; E/CN.11/L.184, E/CN.11/L.185/Rev.1; E/CN.12/767, E/CN.12/768; E/CN.14/370, E/CN.14/397; E/ECE/656) (*continued*)

6. Mr. HOFFMAN (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that the Governing Coun-

cil of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had recently concluded its fourth semi-annual session, which had been the most constructive and productive in the history of the Programme. The latter continued to grow in size and effectiveness, while recent decisions taken by the Governing Council had given it increased flexibility in responding to requests for assistance.

7. He would like to refer to a number of issues raised in the Secretary-General's statement (1480th meeting) concerning progress during the United Nations Development Decade. The Secretary-General had stated that the relatively modest over-all growth targets set for the Decade were still not being met and that progress in certain critical sectors, namely industrialization, development planning and above all agriculture, had been particularly disappointing. He had noted a continuing shortfall in the resources being devoted to development and a continuing lack of harmony between international trade policies and global development needs. Finally, he had emphasized that the United Nations family itself had to develop a more integrated approach and tighter management for its own development operations.

8. The Secretary-General had also been able to report a number of encouraging trends, but the fact remained that although the global war on want was not being lost the position could at best be described as a stalemate. Such a situation was intolerable because of its tragic human consequences throughout the developing world and because a rapidly expanding world economy was as essential to the richer nations as it was to the poorer. It was also intolerable because it was unnecessary; the world's poorer countries possessed enormous untapped physical and human resources. Finally, such a situation was intolerable because it created global dangers, since, as statistics clearly showed, the lower the standard of living the higher the incidence of violent upheavals. The recent conflict in the Middle East and the frictions that threatened conflicts in many other areas were clearly related to the deep frustration of the peoples concerned.

9. The time therefore seemed to have come for a full and frank reappraisal of the entire development effort. The reappraisal which he had in mind was of a different nature from most of those undertaken in the past. Instead of evaluating what was being done to speed up development and considering how it could be done more effectively, it was necessary to ask why progress had been so much slower than it could and should have been.

10. Recent statements by officials and private citizens concerned with development in both the industrialized and the low-income countries indicated that a start had already been made on such a reappraisal. In fact, a large measure of agreement had now been reached on a number of key points.

11. Firstly, there was a growing realization that neither the richer nor the poorer countries had yet given global development the top priority which it deserved. It was true that the wealthier countries had provided the low-income nations with significant amounts of development assistance of many different kinds and that the low-income nations had used substantial and increasing

amounts of their own resources for the purpose of speeding up their own progress and had adopted an increasingly realistic view of the problems involved. It was also true that many effective development institutions, national and international, had been established, including those of the United Nations family. There had, however, been a counter-current of negative action which strongly indicated a lack of full commitment to the global war on want.

12. Since the start of the Development Decade, the industrialized countries had provided the low-income countries with development assistance to the total value of some \$40 thousand million, while the low-income countries had mobilized internal development capital in the amount of some \$125 thousand million. If, however, those sums were compared with the expenditure of \$850 thousand million by members of the United Nations on their armed forces during the same period, it would then be clear that peace-building development work had not been given top priority. It should also be noted that the wealthy nations were now devoting a smaller percentage of their gross national product to development assistance than they had done in 1960 and that domestic development investment by the poorer countries, considered as a percentage of their aggregate gross national product, had remained virtually stationary.

13. There were other facts to support the contention that development remained a step-child of the international community. For instance, the amounts of money made available for soft loans by the donor nations were steadily decreasing. Yet it was that type of loan that was essential to many of the developing countries, for their present burden of interest payments and debt amortization was so high that they were in fact receiving very little net aid at all.

14. Low-income countries had in many cases sought or accepted aid for projects of high prestige rather than projects of high productivity, quite apart from excessive amounts of military aid. Finally, though they were bearing a very heavy share of the costs of their own development, most of them could do more in that respect.

15. There was good reason to believe that, if the world had devoted more attention to peace-building development and less to military deterrence during the last six years, the resultant savings on arms expenditure might have been substantially larger than the additional development costs involved.

16. There were also signs of agreement on the spirit in which both the richer and the poorer nations had acted. The spirit of partnership between the richer and the poorer countries was often more honoured in word than in deed. Donor nations often acted as though they were providing large-scale charity and recipient nations as though they were charity cases, a situation which led to both sides making unwarranted and unrealistic demands upon each other and which promoted divisions where unity was essential. The one path to true partnership was for the richer and the poorer countries to recognize the indisputable fact that they had an absolutely equal stake in winning the war on global want and thus to accept their

equal, though differing, responsibility for making development activities successful.

17. Furthermore, while the spirit of partnership had been weak, the spirit of competition had sometimes been too strong. Aid-giving countries had at times vied among themselves in offering aid for projects that had, at best, only marginal value. Frequently, too, there had been competition between the developing countries for the lion's share of the available assistance.

18. There was also growing agreement that, even when competition had not been a major problem, there had been too much of a tendency to "go-it alone". The major donor countries had concerted their aid-giving policies and practices to only a limited degree. Co-ordination between bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes could also be much more extensive. Closer integration of aid-giving efforts would make it much easier for recipient countries to plan their development on a long-range, coherent basis. The same tendency had often been in evidence among the low-income countries themselves. There had been far too little regional development planning and far too few major development projects carried out on a regional basis. Progress was, however, now being made in that direction and UNDP was proud of its record in initiating and supporting important regional projects.

19. There was also an increasing feeling that too little attention had been paid to the general public in both the richer and the poorer countries. While there had been much understanding and effective support for the struggle against world poverty at the highest levels of government in both the industrialized and the developing countries, as well as among public servants of all ranks and private individuals of all backgrounds, that had not always been true of the legislatures responsible for voting development funds, of influential groups to which legislatures were responsive and, above all, of the broad masses of the general public. Hence, more effective public education activities were a substantive and not a peripheral need.

20. The United Nations had a critically important part to play in all the areas he had mentioned, and the Council had a special responsibility for assuring the effective mobilization and deployment of the unique development resources of the United Nations family. Those who administered aid programmes did not only need its policy guidance. They also needed its continued, active and determined help in giving peace-building development the absolute priority which it deserved in the national budget and the national efforts of every Member State.

21. In conclusion, he wished to stress the overwhelming need for substantial development progress in 1967, 1968 and 1969, the years during which the foundation for a spectacular new decade of development in the 1970s had to be laid. The UNDP, for instance, was now studying the needs of the developing countries for pre-investment projects and technical assistance, and there was every indication that the Secretary-General's forecast that the sum of \$350 million would be required in 1970 was not too high and might even be too low. It was his guess that in 1970 the low-income countries would require approx-

imately \$15 thousand million in net development assistance. He also estimated that the gross national product of the high-income countries would by then have increased to a level at which 1 per cent of that product would be sufficient to provide the total net aid needed by the poorer countries. The commitment of those added resources by the high-income countries and of equivalent resources by the low-income countries would represent the greatest possible investment in global peace and prosperity.

22. Mr. MULLEY (United Kingdom) said that the Development Decade had so far been only a partial success: the over-all growth rate for developing countries for which figures were available had been 4.6 per cent per year during the first half of the Decade, whereas a figure of at least 5 per cent had been aimed at. Although, for the time being, economic stagnation seemed to have been virtually eliminated, there were still countries where economic development was proceeding slowly or hesitantly, while in much of the developing world growth rates of income per head of the rapidly rising populations remained low. The flow of aid had increased rapidly up to 1961, but many countries had since increased their aid at a lesser rate than the growth of their national incomes. Some aid-giving countries had been handicapped by the over-riding necessity of restoring their own balance of payments. No means had yet been discovered of increasing the transfer of resources from developed to developing countries under those circumstances and that was a problem to which the developed countries had to find a solution. As the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom had said, his country was determined that, at the proper time, it would increase its assistance to the developing countries but, until its economic position was secure, it would be unable to do all that it would wish. Its aid target for the current year was \$574 million. Since 1945 it had provided about \$6,000 million in official aid. In fact, during recent years, it had provided about 8 per cent of the total aid flow as shown in the figures published by the Development Assistance Committee of OECD and about 12 per cent of the total flow of private capital to developing countries.

23. The terms of aid had received much attention in the United Nations and related organizations. Since the United Kingdom and some other donor countries had been unable to increase the volume of their aid in the current year, it was all the more important that its terms should be liberal. The United Kingdom had made a major effort to meet the needs of the developing countries. In 1966, 52 per cent of its aid had been disbursed as grants or in similar forms; 90 per cent of new loans had been on interest-free terms and 97 per cent of them had provided for deferment of capital repayments. A relatively low proportion of his country's aid was tied and it would welcome any agreed measures to alleviate the effects of aid-tying.

24. During the Decade there had been a proliferation of organizations, which did not necessarily involve an equivalent increase in the resources to be spent, although it did mean an increased burden of overhead expenses. There had also been a proliferation of conferences and documents.

25. Since the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the UNCTAD secretariat had established itself at Geneva and had gained useful experience in its methods of working. Many studies had been completed and there had been a growing professionalism in the meetings of UNCTAD's subsidiary bodies. As a result, many more people in governmental circles were thinking in exact and realistic terms about the problems of the developing countries and the relationship of those problems to the policies of the developed countries. Disagreement persisted on the solutions to some of those problems, but their clearer identification was a net gain. His country would co-operate in working for progress at the second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 1968.

26. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) had been established as an institution to which the developing countries could look with hope for help with their industrialization. It was most important that a well-defined work programme directed towards practical action should be established for the new organization. The first session of the new Industrial Development Board had unfortunately been disappointing but his delegation would do everything possible to help the new organization to find its feet, although it fully realized the difficulties which had to be overcome. Much would depend upon the establishment of close co-operation between UNIDO and UNDP. His country would do its best to contribute to the success of the Athens International Symposium on Industrial Development, which should concentrate its attention on practical technical problems.

27. The merged United Nations Development Programme had rendered great service in the field of training and pre-investment. Its expenditure in 1966 had been 29 per cent higher than in the previous year, making it possible to provide nearly 7,000 experts and 5,500 fellowships for developing countries. Those were substantial figures. Pledges to UNDP had risen steadily and its Administrator had set a high target for 1970. He ventured to suggest, however, that the procedures of UNDP and the executing agencies were still sometimes too slow so that large sums of money were tied up pending detailed agreement on projects with the recipient Governments.

28. On the investment side, pride could be taken in the achievements of the group of international financial organizations, including the relatively recent IDA, which had successfully spent all its funds and was currently in urgent need of replenishment. In view of the outstanding success and importance of IDA, his Government, despite current difficulties, hoped soon to make a substantial contribution to the replenishment of its funds. It was of the highest importance to achieve the replenishment soon and in a manner that would enable IDA to operate as effectively in the future as it had done in the past. His Government also had great confidence in the contribution to be made towards development by the regional development banks in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

29. With respect to the Kennedy Round of negotiations, his country had pursued four lines of action: it had made offers over the widest possible area of the tariffs and

kept exceptions to a minimum; it had offered maximum reductions in tariffs on tropical products; it had made reductions of more than 50 per cent in tariffs on a wide range of other items of special interest to developing countries; and had agreed to work towards implementing, in advance of the general time-table, the tariff cuts on items of particular interest to developing countries. While recognizing that much still remained to be done to remove barriers to the exports of the developing countries, the progress made in the Kennedy Round should not be under-estimated.

30. During the sixties, social development had, perhaps, tended to lag behind but a fresh impetus had been given to it by the reconstitution of the Social Commission as the Social Development Commission. His delegation regarded the social development work of the United Nations as being of the utmost importance, since the progress of industrialization would create an increasing number of social problems. If the worst excesses attendant on the industrialization of the countries developed in the nineteenth century were to be avoided, industrial and social development must go hand in hand.

31. The decisions taken at the thirty-ninth session of the Council and at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly marked a new stage in recognition of the importance of population control. It was one of the Council's main duties to ensure that the population problem was a central topic of international discussion and a focal point of international action. It might be useful if population were made a main item on the agenda of the Council for the following year, International Human Rights Year. It would be a good opportunity to take a searching look at the world population situation and the Organization's part in dealing with it. In the meanwhile, there was much the United Nations could do. His own Government had taken two decisive measures in that field during the past year. It had decided to make an annual grant-in-aid of £50,000 to the International Planned Parenthood Federation over the next five years to enable it to expand its activities. It had also decided to establish a Population Bureau in the United Kingdom with a view to building up the expert resources with which to help developing countries wishing to introduce family planning.

32. There was a close and obvious connexion between the problem of population and that of food and the Secretary-General in his opening statement had emphasized the importance of agenda item 13 concerning multilateral food aid. The prospect was grave, since the stocks of the world's great food-producing countries had run down. The United Kingdom was very conscious of the human suffering that that situation could cause, as now threatened, for example, in Bihar. The study in the progress report by the Secretary-General (E/4352 and Corr.1 and Add.1) was a valuable examination of the problem, particularly as it related food aid to the problem of economic development as a whole. It merited close examination and his delegation would have more detailed comments to make at the committee stage. The recently concluded Kennedy Round negotiations had led to new developments in regard to food aid. The basic features

of the Kennedy Round Food Aid Scheme had already been settled and the scheme would begin to operate in a few months' time. Detailed arrangements were being worked out at Rome. In that connexion, the Council should be careful to take no precipitate decision which might delay or prejudice the successful outcome of the International Wheat Conference, in view of the possibilities it offered for early large-scale help to countries facing acute food shortages. In that context, the study he had mentioned recommended concentration on the needs of the next two to three years rather than on those of the more distant future. Comparable issues were raised by the report on increasing the production and use of edible protein (E/4343) which was also before the Council. Again, his delegation would reserve its detailed comments for the committee stage and he would limit himself to expressing his appreciation of the impressive work done by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development.

33. Linked with the problems of population and food was the refugee problem, which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees worked tirelessly to alleviate with the limited funds at his disposal. New refugee problems had now arisen in the Middle East with which UNRWA was attempting to grapple. In that connexion, he wished to pay a tribute to UNICEF, which was always ready to rush emergency supplies to suffering children wherever they might be.

34. The past year had given encouragement to all concerned with United Nations action to promote human rights and his delegation hoped that the adoption of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination¹ would help to bring about a new atmosphere and a gradual solution of the difficulties. The International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights² had been recently completed. Although they were not perfect, they set standards which should be acceptable on a world-wide scale and lead to an improvement in the lot of many individuals. Those instruments represented the culmination of many years of effort and possibly signalled the opening of a new phase in which more direct action by the United Nations to protect human rights might become possible. The enlargement of the Commission on Human Rights had brought fresh energy and ideas to its work. The proposal to establish a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights commanded substantial support; he hoped that the understandable doubts still felt by some countries on the matter could be examined and dispelled at the next session of the General Assembly. His Government was confident that the past year's progress would be continued in 1968, International Year for Human Rights, and particularly at the International Conference on Human Rights to be held at Teheran.

35. All members would agree that the Council had a central role in international efforts to promote economic and social development. The character of that role had

been discussed at earlier sessions and, as a result, it was to be hoped that the Council would be in a stronger position to carry out the task of co-ordination in the economic and social field assigned to it by the United Nations Charter. That task, which had never been easy, was gaining in importance as the range and complexity of United Nations activities increased; it was the duty of Member States to ensure that the international programmes achieved their purpose, that they were being efficiently administered by the responsible institutions and that they were following the right order of priorities. It was proper to stress the responsibility of United Nations officials, from the Secretary-General downwards, for co-ordinating the United Nations system but it should not be forgotten that the Governments, by whose votes programmes and priorities were ultimately determined, also bore a heavy responsibility.

36. As the recipients of the economic and social programmes of the United Nations family of organizations, developing countries might be in the best position to offer constructive comments on the administration and co-ordination of those programmes. He hoped that, when the enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination met in New York in September 1967, it could concentrate on certain specific areas where improvements were felt to be necessary. The theme of the Council's work and of work in all its subsidiary bodies should be to make the maximum use of available resources in order to achieve practical results.

37. As his delegation had emphasized at earlier sessions, co-ordination at the level of the recipient country was of great importance. In that connexion, he welcomed the report of the Committee for Development Planning (E/4362 and Corr.1), which had recently met at Santiago, Chile. The Committee had made particularly relevant observations regarding the importance of public administration in developing countries in relation to implementation of aid programmes. His delegation would have some comments to make at the committee stage on the Secretary-General's report on co-ordination at the country level (E/4336).

38. The main lesson to be learnt from the past was that the establishment of new organizations had proceeded at a pace which could not be maintained. The proliferation of institutions had made the problems of co-ordination a main concern of the Council. The rights of the specialized agencies under their constitutions were recognized, but there was a danger that the international machinery for administering aid might become too slow, too cumbersome and too expensive in overheads. What was currently needed was better United Nations planning and closer co-ordination of the activities of the organizations in the United Nations system. The work being done by the Committee for Development Planning, together with its inter-agency counterpart under the ACC, was most encouraging.

39. Economic and social development was a task in which all countries had to participate, since it was in the interest of all of them that the living standards of the new nations should rise and their trade expand. Primary responsibility rested with the governments of the developing countries

¹ General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX).

² General Assembly resolution 2200 (XXI).

for the mobilization of their own resources; it was the role of international organizations and of donor governments to help them in their exercise of that responsibility. For the benefit of the world as a whole, it was essential to overcome the balance-of-payments crises which affected some leading developed countries and had the effect of curtailing their assistance to the developing countries as well as their own production. If the international community could find the answer to its problems, including population, the prospects for the 1970s would be hopeful. If it could not, the economic advance of both the developed and the developing countries would slow down with the prospect of an unhappy and discontented world. He was not pessimistic. The United Nations had had the courage to shoulder responsibility in the economic and social field where international responsibility had not previously been recognized, and its achievements in a relatively short time were not negligible. Moreover, it had created a new awareness of the problems. The high standards which it was desirable to achieve were, however, often in sharp contrast with the realities. It was the duty and the opportunity of Council members to help narrow that gap by the peaceful means of international understanding and negotiation.

40. Mr. MILI (Acting Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union) said that the report on the activities of the Union had been distributed as document E/4346. It was, as usual, accompanied by a report on telecommunication and the peaceful uses of outer space (E/4346/Add.1). Those reports proved—if proof were required—that ITU was actively participating in the development of the modern world. Further evidence was provided by the fact that newly-independent countries very soon expressed the desire to accede to the International Telecommunication Convention. Thus, the membership of the Union had increased from 129 in 1966 to the current figure of 133 and further accessions were expected before the end of the year. The Union's activities were continuing to expand. It was striking that, in many respects, its contemporary aim was identical with that of its founders namely, to extend the benefits of technical progress to the greatest possible number of human beings. A glance at the work of the Union and of the bodies which composed it showed the important part they were playing in international co-operation. Thus, the Aeronautical Conference, which had held a preparatory session in 1964, had been able, at its second session in 1966, to complete its work and sign a new plan for the allocation of wavelengths, modifying the plan established in 1959 to take account both of recent technical progress and the emergence of new countries. Moreover, the African Broadcasting Conference had been able to reconvene at Geneva on 19 September 1966 with the participation of delegations from sixty-seven member countries in the African and European broadcasting zones. With the help of modern data-processing methods, it had succeeded in establishing a rational medium-frequency allotment plan for the whole African region. Since the 1963 Conference had established allotment plans for very high and ultra-high frequencies, the medium-frequency allotment plan successfully completed the allocation of wavelengths for African broadcasting.

41. Of course, ITU, through its technical co-operation department, was giving more direct aid to new and developing countries. Its activities in that field were being harmoniously developed in co-operation with UNDP. During the past few years, the leaders of the new and developing countries had come to realize that the rapid expansion of their pool of telecommunication equipment was less important than the training of personnel to maintain and use the equipment they already possessed. That was a very welcome development but it was by no means easy to find the large number of skilled instructors required, particularly as the technically advanced countries were currently engaged in large-scale expansion programmes which reduced the number of specialists available. Difficulties were also encountered in placing fellows and in meeting the requests for aid of all kinds, but ITU, and especially its Administrative Council, were well aware of the importance of the problems and had taken various measures to overcome them. The reorganization and improvement of work methods in the technical co-operation department should make it possible to meet the ever-increasing and ever more varied requests from countries in which no real economic development and hence no improvement in the wellbeing of their peoples would be possible without the development of their telecommunication networks.

42. As the Secretary-General's message had pointed out, the international organizations and all the countries concerned would have to intensify their efforts if the first Development Decade was to achieve more satisfactory results than currently appeared likely. The Secretary-General had also suggested guidelines that might enable the second Development Decade to meet the needs of new and developing countries more fully than the first. The Union would certainly spare no effort to that end. All its component bodies had already intensified their activities in more direct association with the countries concerned, a procedure which had already produced very encouraging results.

43. The various technical bodies of the Union had all been active in the various telecommunication fields. The international consultative committees had given opinions and made recommendations, while the International Frequency Registration Board had carried out technical studies. In the future, information and advice would be made directly available to the national or international telecommunication services. The International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee was engaged in twenty-nine special studies and had set up working parties on technical assistance to prepare technical publications specifically intended for new and developing countries. The International Radio Consultative Committee had held its eleventh plenary assembly at Oslo in 1966 with the active participation of representatives from ninety-seven countries which were members of the Union. That figure alone showed the increasing interest in the work of that body. One of the most important of the technical subjects considered had been that of the adoption of a universal standard for colour television. Although it had not been possible to reach general agreement, the Consultative Committee's work on that subject had made it possible to clarify the situation at the

technical level. There was another field of particular importance in which the two Consultative Committees were co-operating—the preparation of an integrated plan for the establishment of a world telecommunication network. The existence of such a network would make possible not only international communications of good quality within continents but also intercontinental communications. Regional plans had already been established for Europe and the Mediterranean basin, for Africa, for Latin America and for Asia by the national technicians of those regions. The World Plan Commission would meet at Mexico City in November 1967 to combine those regional plans into a world plan. Such a plan was particularly necessary, as it had become a matter of urgency to integrate satellite telecommunications into a single world network. Although ITU did not wish to encroach on any other organization's province, it knew that it had an important part to play in the field of pure technology and in the search for uniform regulations. It had played that part with success for more than a century with respect to conventional communications and it would be regrettable if it were prevented from playing the same part, with the same success, in the field of satellite communications. The meeting of the World Plan Commission would thus be of particular importance in that it would offer an excellent opportunity for the assembled countries, representing all the regions of the world, to tackle a problem which could only be solved at a world-wide level if modern technology were to develop for the genuine good of humanity as a whole.

44. Mr. ROULLIER (Secretary-General, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization) said that, as in 1966, his organization's report (E/4334) had been presented in an abridged form and dealt only with the main points likely to be of interest to the Council. He would attempt to make it even clearer by confining himself to a few major topics, namely, the amendments to the IMCO Convention, fire safety measures on passenger ships and the new measures taken, or about to be taken, following the shipwreck of the *Torrey Canyon* in March 1967.

45. The IMCO Assembly had decided in 1964 to modify the composition of its Council and its Maritime Safety Committee. The amendments adopted were to be implemented in the current year. For the first time, all members of the IMCO Council would be elected by the Assembly and the membership would be raised from sixteen to eighteen. The new text laid down certain principles which the Assembly would have to observe in electing the Council. It provided for the election of Governments of States with the largest fleets or with the greatest interest in international seaborne trade. Moreover, all the major geographical regions of the world would have to be represented. In short, the democratic methods of election current in the other specialized agencies were thus about to be applied in IMCO, which would no longer be an exception in that respect.

46. In recent years, the attention of maritime countries had been too often drawn to serious fires which had broken out on passenger liners with heavy losses of life. The Maritime Safety Committee had held a special

meeting in 1966 to consider fire safety measures on older passenger ships. It had approved a series of amendments to the regulations in the 1960 Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea. In the future, older vessels would have to conform closely to the rules laid down in 1960 for new ships. At an extraordinary session, held at the end of November 1966, the IMCO Assembly had adopted the draft amendments which had been submitted by the Committee and which would become effective a year after they had been accepted by two-thirds of the Governments that were parties to the 1960 Convention. The Assembly had also adopted a resolution recommending Governments to take immediate action without awaiting the formal entry into force of those amendments. The Maritime Safety Committee had not limited itself to older vessels. During its session in February 1967, it had considered and adopted another series of amendments intended to simplify the requirements for new vessels and make them more stringent. The new regulations would be submitted to the IMCO Assembly in October 1967.

47. On 18 March 1967, a large tanker, the *Torrey Canyon*, had gone aground on the Seven Stones between the Scilly Isles and Land's End. Salvage operations having failed, the ship had finally broken into two and the United Kingdom Government had had to take measures to set the wreck on fire and to destroy as much as possible of its cargo. It was estimated that about half its cargo, some 60,000 tons of crude oil, had nevertheless been discharged into the sea. Though not harmful in itself in small quantities, crude oil in such enormous masses was likely to have disastrous consequences for the neighbouring coasts when built up into thick slicks by currents and winds. The oil leaking from the hull had, in fact, spread along about a hundred miles of the Cornish coast and, shortly afterwards, along the coasts of northern Brittany, destroying the marine flora and fauna and contaminating rocks and beaches.

48. It had never been thought possible that an accident could occur in such extraordinary circumstances, that a ship could be wrecked on rocks which were known to all mariners, shown on every chart and protected by a lightship and a whole series of fixed beacons. What had been feared, and was still feared, was that similar accidents could result from a collision between two vessels, perhaps at the entry to a major harbour or in an estuary but, in any event, in close proximity to a densely populated coast. There had been public pressure for general measures to make such an accident as unlikely as possible in the future, to ensure that means of rapidly destroying oil leakages after such an accident were readily available and to strengthen the obsolete provisions of the 1954/1962 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, to prevent the discharge at sea, whether intentionally or otherwise, by any vessel of spent engine oil and, in the case of tankers, tank washings.

49. Shortly after the shipwreck, the United Kingdom Government had requested an urgent meeting of the IMCO Council. Although the Council, which had met on 4 and 5 May 1967, had not wished to take any final decisions, it had arrived at conclusions which might be summarised as follows: certain sea lanes should be

assigned (or prohibited) to vessels carrying very large quantities of oil or other dangerous substances; such vessels could be guided from the land, when they were near the coast, particularly when they were approaching the entry to a harbour; international regulations should be drawn up establishing minimum standards of technical knowledge for the officers of such ships; the construction of vessels for carrying oil or dangerous cargoes or of very large ships should be subject to regulations designed to limit the risks of collision or grounding, and the discharge into the sea of a considerable portion of the cargo after collision or grounding. Such ships should have more effective means of reducing speed or increasing manoeuvrability in the event of danger. All questions of accident aside, the 1954/1962 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil should be reinforced by the inclusion of provisions regarding the detection of deliberate pollution and the International sanctions that might be taken in the event of proved violations. The joint investigation into methods of des-

troying surface oil without damage to marine flora and fauna should be accelerated. From the legal standpoint, a series of measures should be studied with respect to prosecution in the event of deliberate pollution, and to the joint or separate liability of the owner of the ship or the cargo for damage to third parties resulting from an accident such as that of the *Torrey Canyon*. Many of those measures would require close collaboration between IMCO and the United Nations and a number of specialized agencies. They would also require the co-operation of non-governmental organizations such as the Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses, the International Association of Ports and Harbours, and, in particular, the International Maritime Committee at Brussels. Those organizations had already declared that they were prepared to lend their full assistance in a work which was clearly of common interest.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.