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President: Mr. Milan KLUSÁK
(Czechoslovakia).

Present:

Representatives of the following States, members of the Council: Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, France, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, 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, Venezuela.

Observers for the following Member States: Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The observer for the following non-member State: Switzerland.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

AGENDA ITEM 6

United Nations programme in public administration (concluded) (E/4296; E/L.1158 and Add.1)

1. Mr. AL-RIFAE (Kuwait) said that his delegation had noted with satisfaction the report of the meeting of experts on the United Nations programme in public administration (E/4296) and endorsed the conclusions of the experts. Since good administration was essential in all developing countries, speedy measures should be taken to train skilled personnel to replace inexperienced staff. The importance of public administration was now universally recognized and the developing countries were determined to solve the problems created and perpetuated by administrative incompetence. His delegation commended the efforts of the United Nations to improve the quality of administration in developing countries. It was heartening to learn that financial administration was to receive special attention and that measures were recommended to improve administration at the local level (E/4296, para. 14 (c) and (d)). Of still greater importance was the recommendation that the United Nations Public Administration Branch should identify the major components of the administrative aspect of planning and develop a programme of research, consultation and training which would help countries to

improve plan administration (*ibid.*, para. 31). In view of the slender resources of the developing countries, his delegation believed that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) could help by acceding to requests for assistance from such countries.

2. His delegation regretted that the experts, who recommended the creation of public administration units with established posts the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), did not make a like recommendation for the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut. The omission was paralleled in the report of the Secretary-General on the work programme of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields and its budgetary requirements for 1968 (E/4331/Add.19), which included a provision for public administration advisers for the three aforesaid regional commissions, but not for the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut. His delegation viewed that omission with grave concern and called upon the Secretary-General to include in his budget estimates for 1968 a provision for creating a public administration unit in the Beirut Office. The creation of such a unit had been recommended, moreover, by the reconnaissance mission which had visited the region in 1964.

3. In conclusion, he endorsed draft resolution E/L.1158.

4. Mr. BILLNER (Sweden) said that the necessity of good public administration for the proper use of resources, whether domestic or external, was becoming increasingly recognized. Indeed, assistance was pointless and national resources were wasted when efficient central and local administration was lacking. His delegation was therefore glad that the United Nations programme in public administration was being studied by the Council. His country was continuing to develop its programme for the training of public administrators in various countries. The needs of the developing countries in public administration varied; some countries simply required administrative reforms, while in others administrative structure had to be completely overhauled. United Nations technical assistance programmes could play a basic role in that context. In financial administration particularly, United Nations work was still limited and could be substantially developed. Execution of plans required efficient local administration, and there again the Organization's aid could be extremely useful.

5. In connexion with draft resolution E/L.1158, he expressed his support for the conclusions of the meeting of experts. Of special importance was operative paragraph 2, proposing that public administration should be accorded a priority place in planning for the period following the United Nations Development

Decade. Such priority would facilitate the planning and execution of policies during the period in question. Operative paragraph 5, which invited the Governing Council of UNDP to give sympathetic consideration to requests for assistance from developing countries in public administration, was useful because the number of such requests was likely to increase as time went on.

6. His delegation would support the Secretary-General's proposal to raise the Public Administration Branch to the status of a division. The division must, of course, have sufficient staff. It would also be desirable for the Organization to seek the co-operation of the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in the technical assistance sphere. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research could make a most useful contribution in the training of administrative personnel and in the evaluation of assistance.

7. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that draft resolution E/L.1158 would receive unanimous support.

8. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation, which had closely studied the conclusions of the meeting of experts, considered the United Nations programme in public administration to be of great importance for the developing countries, since its purpose was to assist them in strengthening their public administration apparatus. In that connexion, he endorsed the measures taken under the programme to train national administrative personnel, an excellent example being provided by the public administration institute set up in the United Arab Republic. The institute gave academic courses and organized practical training for civil servants, conducted studies on public administration in general and provided advisory services to the national administrations of countries in the region. Similar institutes existed in other countries as well, for example, Somalia and Guinea.

9. His delegation could not, however, accept the view that public administration was a key sector of development in the Third World. In saying that public administration programmes should have top priority among United Nations programmes, the experts' report contradicted earlier decisions of the Economic and Social Council. In the Council's view, technical assistance must be aimed at solving the basic problems of the developing countries, and particularly the problem of industrialization. At the second session of the Governing Council of UNDP, the USSR delegation had remarked that a number of senior Secretariat officials had sought to divert the developing countries from essential matters and direct their attention towards public administration. The USSR delegation had also stated that those in charge of the Public Administration Branch had been organizing courses with the help of a certain group of countries representing one particular administrative system, and, as a result, links had automatically been formed between the participants and the countries in question. In his delegation's view, the practice was an example of discrimination against the socialist countries. Those countries, and the USSR in particular, had gained considerable experience in economic planning and other important sectors of direct interest to the developing countries. Discrimination was also apparent from a study of the

facts given in the report of the meeting of experts. It could be seen that of the 1,253 experts employed under the regular programme of technical assistance on 1 January 1965, only eighteen had been from the USSR, as against ninety-three from the United Kingdom and 180 from the United States. The same situation prevailed, in the matter of fellowships; of a total of 2,797 administration fellowships granted between 1950 and 1965, the USSR, Czechoslovakia and the Ukrainian SSR had received only one fellow each, whereas the United Kingdom, France and the United States had received 330, 223 and 420 respectively. There had been promises that the situation would be changed, but no tangible results had so far ensued.

10. Even before the programme had started, the USSR had expressed its doubts about the advisability and legal basis of OPEX (Programme for the provision of operational, executive and administrative personnel); it was a programme which presupposed interference by foreign experts in the administration of States. Those doubts would seem to have been justified: OPEX officials took advantage of their position by giving advice which served the interests of Governments other than those they were working for. In the view of the USSR delegation, such behaviour was incompatible with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. Moreover, OPEX was not really viable. In those circumstances, it would be preferable to use resources and efforts, not to send foreign experts to countries but to train national personnel. There again, the experience acquired by the USSR could be of use to the developing countries.

11. His delegation was of the view that, although the programme in public administration was important, it should be contained within proper limits and should not be given unwarranted priority. Regrettably, draft resolution E/L.1158 exaggerated the importance of public administration. It was to be wondered, when the sponsors said, in operative paragraph 2, that public administration should be accorded a priority place in planning for the period following the United Nations Development Decade, whether they meant the other United Nations programmes to take second place. Even if that was not their intention, it would be better not to give that impression. Operative paragraph 2 was unclear on another point also: as some non-governmental organizations were unreliable, to say the least, it would be advisable to specify with which organizations collaboration was envisaged. The words "comprehensive programme of assistance", in operative paragraph 1, also needed clarification, or the word "comprehensive" was imprecise, and a better term should be found.

12. It was to be wondered why the Secretary-General was requested, in operative paragraph 4, to give "urgent consideration" to the means of effectively implementing General Assembly resolution 723 (VIII). Many years had gone by since the eighth session and he failed to see why the matter had become urgent. There also, a wording should be found which would provide for an improvement of the programmes without undue haste.

13. The draft resolution seemed rather one-sided: it laid such emphasis on public administration that the leaders of the developing countries might receive

the erroneous impression that good administration was the key to all their problems. The fourth preambular paragraph should mention "national" public administrators so as not to give the impression that foreign experts could replace local staff. In addition, the text should take account of the fact that the sovereignty of the countries concerned should be respected in the preparation and execution of the programmes. He had no wording to suggest, but it should emphasize that assistance must be provided in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

14. If his comments were taken into consideration, he would be willing to reconsider draft resolution E/L.1158. He could not, however, support it in its present form.

15. Mr. CHADHA (India) said that he had read with interest the report of the meeting of experts on the United Nations programme in public administration, which focused attention on the importance attached to public administration as "an essential vehicle for formulating and implementing policies and plans". As the experts had rightly pointed out, "development involves not just economic and social change, but the transformation of whole societies, and public administration should be viewed as an essential instrument for managing and implementing that process of transformation" (E/4296, paras. 8 and 9).

16. The basic problem to be overcome in public administration was the gap between planning and implementation, which called for far-reaching changes in procedure and new administrative standards. Before commenting on the work done by the meeting of experts, he wished to emphasize the importance of management and administration in development plans. Whatever the project, it was important not only to determine what measures it called for but also to establish the administrative machinery for carrying them out, if tangible results were to be achieved. Secondly, deficiencies in implementation often arose from weaknesses in planning. That was particularly so in the case of detailed administrative and operational plans: unless they had proper instructions, those who were responsible in administering the plans were unable to do what was required of them. Thirdly, in addition to the over-all plan, a great deal of planning had to be done by the enterprise or the department concerned with a specific development programme; the quality of the implementation depended to a great extent on such planning, which should therefore receive the closest attention. Every programme and every project called for a high degree of collaboration among the different agencies concerned (delivery of supplies, co-ordination of activities, etc.). Only then could investment produce the desired results.

17. It was clear from what he had just said that planning and administration were closely interrelated, and that public administration programmes must be accorded a high priority in the over-all plans for economic and social development. The experts had rightly emphasized that point, and the United Nations could play an important role in supplying the developing countries with the assistance they needed. India had set up an Administrative Reforms Commission, which had undertaken a comprehensive study of the administrative reforms required. As soon as the Government

received the Commission's report, it would consider the changes that should be made in both the structure and the operation of the administrative system.

18. He was glad to note that the experts had placed emphasis on the role of local government in national development. Difficulties often arose at the local level owing to defective administrative arrangements. The United Nations should therefore continue its work in the field of decentralization and local government.

19. Turning to the recommendations of the meeting of experts (E/4296, para. 114), he said that the most important was the recommendation that increased resources should be devoted to programmes in public administration. He strongly supported the idea of re-establishing a division of public administration headed by a director. The scope of the activities in that field was not commensurate with staff resources of the other resources available. He therefore welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General planned to re-establish the division, and fully approved of the earmarking of funds in the regular programme of technical assistance for public administration projects. The meeting of experts had pointed to the relationship between the present status of the Public Administration Branch of the Secretariat and the decline in country projects financed from technical assistance funds. He therefore hoped that the proposed changes would lead to an expansion of the technical assistance programmes.

20. It was clear that the examination undertaken by the meeting of experts had been extremely useful, both in highlighting those programmes and in producing suggestions. The experts had felt that there would be periodic meetings to review the programmes of the United Nations system in the field of public administration. He shared that view.

21. Turning to draft resolution E/L.1158, of which India was one of the sponsors, he said that he had very little to add to the brilliant introduction which the representative of Canada made at the last meeting. Regarding the USSR representative's comment on the words "accorded a priority place in planning", in operative paragraph 2, he said that it would be easy to make a small change that would make the point clear and satisfy the USSR representative. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

22. Miss DEAS (United Kingdom) said that her delegation warmly welcomed the report of the meeting of experts. The report had correctly identified future priorities in the field of public administration; it had also demonstrated the need to improve the status and resources of the Secretariat unit concerned. She was glad to learn that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination was now providing for some staff increase and that the Public Administration Branch would soon retrieve its status as a division.

23. Commenting on various aspects of the report, she said that the United Kingdom delegation fully endorsed the priorities set out in paragraph 14. The United Kingdom's bilateral technical assistance programmes were based on the same considerations. She hoped that the newly established Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex would be able to co-operate in some projects, such as the

comparative study of the administrative aspects of development planning and plan implementation suggested in paragraph 35 of the report, and the training for senior officers discussed in paragraph 50 of the report. The suggestion made in that paragraph for the establishment of an international staff college could well be pursued; but, for the immediate future, training of the kind required might be provided in the existing institutions. In developing further courses, particular attention might be paid to the question of the level of participants and to the possibilities of organizing training courses at the regional centres. Paragraph 41 of the report enumerated suggestions for expanding the personnel management activities of the Public Administration Branch. In her opinion, priority should be given to the following activities: preparation of a catalogue of tested personnel practices and techniques that would be useful to developing countries; the exchange of manuals and publications on personnel procedures; the need for fostering the professionalism and integrity of the public service. The United Kingdom delegation also supported the proposal in paragraph 44 that countries should make a systematic inventory of the number of staff that would need training and upgrading over a period of years. In view of the staff shortages encountered by many developing countries, that work might itself provide a suitable basis for assistance by the Public Administration Branch. As to paragraph 62 dealing with the Branch's programme in decentralization and local government, the training of local government staff might be included among the problems for consideration. She had some slight reservations concerning recommendation (c) in paragraph 114 of the report. It was her view that the Secretary-General should recommend the priorities to be given to various requests for technical assistance funds on the basis of requests received. As the USSR representative had mentioned, it was that principle which had been upheld during the second session of the Governing Council of UNDP. She was therefore glad that paragraph 6 of the draft resolution was based on the second part of recommendation (c) rather than on the first part. She hoped that in organizing the future meetings of experts recommended in paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, account would be taken of all relevant factors (conference facilities, calendar space, etc.). She noted that the draft resolution required no further staff increases above those already proposed, but reserved her delegation's right to comment on those increases in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

24. She reaffirmed that the United Kingdom delegation fully supported the draft resolution.

25. Mr. MUZIK (Czechoslovakia) said that he welcomed the report of the meeting of experts but thought it a pity that it should be discussed before the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had submitted its conclusions. There were a few criticisms that he felt obliged to make concerning the Public Administration Branch. First of all, the programme which had been drawn up had been the work of the colonial Powers, and it had been implemented by them in the light of their own goals. Secondly, the programme was not closely enough related to economic and social development as a whole. Thirdly, as the

representative of the USSR had pointed out, the services of experts from the socialist countries, who had considerable experience in the field, had not been sought. As the implementation of the programmes for 1967 and 1968 would require greater assistance, he hoped that, as had been suggested, the socialist countries would be able to participate in them.

26. The Czechoslovak delegation had always stressed the importance of administrative planning. It therefore welcomed the draft resolution (E/L.1158), although it was not in favour of attaching excessive importance to public administration activities. It should be borne in mind that the specialized agencies and other independent bodies were best qualified to deal with certain specific aspects of those activities—for example, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in the case of the administrative aspects of industrial development. As he therefore thought that the new division should not be responsible for all such activities, he could not support the proposal in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution that "increased support" should be given to the work of the division. Moreover, like the representative of the USSR, he saw no need to "give urgent consideration to the most appropriate means of effectively implementing the provision in General Assembly resolution 723 (VIII)", as stated in operative paragraph 4. He also supported the Soviet representative's remarks concerning operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, and he thought that the concluding phase in operative paragraph 6, reading "and, if possible, to increase those reserves" was superfluous. In conclusion, he urged that special attention should be given in public administration programmes to the problem of training and said that he disapproved of the OPEX programme. By definition, public administration services were not exportable, and that was a principle which allowed of no exception.

27. Mr. YANGO (Philippines) said that he fully supported the draft resolution (E/L.1158), of which his delegation was a sponsor, as he firmly believed that public administration was an essential element of economic and social development. No matter how far reaching a country's development plans and programmes might be, their implementation and execution depended on that country's administrative system.

28. His country was interested in the strengthening of the programmes in public administration and attached special importance to the training of qualified personnel in different countries so that they would no longer have to rely on foreign experts and advisers.

29. He hoped that there would be a greater exchange of information concerning techniques and procedures, not only between the developed and developing countries but also among the developing countries themselves as they gradually acquired more experience. Perhaps some arrangement could be made within the United Nations system for promoting such exchanges.

30. Mr. LAVALLE (Guatemala) said that in his opinion—and previous speakers had agreed on that point—public administration played a key role in economic development.

31. The Advanced School of Public Administration that had been in operation in Costa Rica since 1954

provided a striking example of what could be accomplished in that regard. The school was one of a group of Central American agencies which had actively and effectively contributed to the economic development of the countries of the area. With assistance from the United Nations, the school had achieved excellent results not only in public administration in general, but also in the economic integration of Central America, and he was gratified by the tribute the experts had paid to it. He commended the experts for their excellent work, and said that he fully supported draft resolution E/L.1158.

32. Mr. COVACI (Romania) agreed that public administration must be given the priority it deserved but believed that the draft resolution under consideration did not indicate clearly enough the degree of priority to be accorded to public administration in relation to other fields of development. In his view, the intentions of the sponsors and the needs of the countries concerned might be better served if the words "a priority place" in operative paragraph 2 were replaced by the words "due attention".

33. His delegation also believed that the problem mentioned at the previous meeting by the representative of Dahomey must be taken into account: staff members and experts permanently or temporarily engaged in the public administration programme, both at Headquarters and in the secretariats of the regional economic commissions, should be recruited on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. The programme should take advantage of the experience of every country and assign an important place to the training of national personnel in the countries concerned.

34. Mr. NAVA CARRILLO (Venezuela) said that competent administrative staff was essential to economic and social development in every country, especially in so far as personnel administration and financial administration were concerned.

35. His delegation was prepared to support the draft resolution even though it was somewhat too general. It particularly favoured operative paragraph 2, which stressed the priority to be accorded to public administration and provided for the establishment of more detailed programmes in that field.

36. Mr. SAYAR (Iran) said that his delegation unreservedly supported the draft resolution, of which it had just become a sponsor. As the experience of his country had shown that economic development could be effective only if accompanied by an improvement in public administration, it had been endeavouring for some years to effect such an improvement.

37. He agreed with the Indian representative that technical assistance in public administration should be aimed at creating a skilled and sufficiently large administrative staff in the recipient countries.

38. Mr. BALLOU (Libya) said he had no doubt that the development countries needed more assistance in public administration. His country had frequently requested United Nations assistance in that field and had received it in the form of the services of experts assigned to train national staff for the various branches of government.

39. His delegation believed that the outposting of specialized staff to the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, in conformity with the provisions of operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, would be helpful to the developing countries, as would also the establishment of research services in the secretariats of the regional economic commissions.

40. His delegation fully supported the draft resolution before the Council.

41. Mr. WU (Secretariat) took the floor to answer the questions raised by several delegations.

42. The Mexican representative had requested information on the level of expenditure for regional and interregional programmes in public administration at the time when there had been a separate section for public administration in part V of the budget. In 1964 and 1965 the expenditure for those programmes had been more than a half million dollars each year, amounting to about half the funds provided for public administration under General Assembly resolution 723 (VIII). At present the priorities of the country programmes were determined by the Governments of the recipient countries, and those for regional and interregional programmes by the Secretary-General.

43. With regard to the statement concerning the financial implications of the draft resolution (E/L.1158/Add.1), the amount of \$24,820 indicated for the meeting of experts was, as the United States representative had assumed, intended to indicate the expenditure for the year during which a future meeting, if any, was held, and not for the year 1968. The "local level post" for each of the three regional economic commissions, concerning which the representative of Dahomey had requested clarification, would be a General Service post.

44. In reply to the Dahomean representative's other question, he said that the staff occupying the twelve professional posts currently assigned to the Public Administration Branch were distributed as follows: three from Asia and the Far East, one from Latin America, one from Africa, three from North America, three from Western Europe, and one from Eastern Europe. He hoped that the addition of three new posts in 1968 would make it possible to increase the proportion of regular staff from Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe, but pointed out that, in view of the small number of staff in the Branch and its large work programme, it was most important to fill the new posts as soon as possible. It was not always easy to recruit competent staff in the developing countries or in French-speaking countries, which themselves had great need for such staff. For example, the Secretariat had been unable until recently to recruit a staff member with French as his mother tongue who was very familiar with the French administrative system. The Public Administration Branch was, however, very anxious to recruit staff members from different countries, not so much to maintain the principle of geographical distribution in such a small unit, but rather to enable the unit to have different experience in administrative, economic, social and political systems. In addition to Headquarters staff, the Public Administration Branch also had to recruit experts for seminars

and interregional projects, and he assured the members of the Council that he would do his best to ensure the broadest possible geographical distribution in that field. With regard to the experts assigned to country projects, the Branch endeavoured to propose a wide choice of candidates for each post, as far as possible, but the final decision was made by the Governments of the recipient countries.

45. Several questions had been raised in connexion with table 5 of the report of the meeting of experts, which showed the distribution of fellowships by country of origin and host country (E/4296, p. 158). He explained that the table of fellowships for the 1950-1965 period consisted of two parts. One part related to the country or territory of origin; persons from territories which had been dependent at that time were included under the country which was then administering those territories. The other part, which showed 330, 223 and 420 fellowships for the United Kingdom, France and the United States, respectively, concerned country or territory of study, in other words, the host country.

46. Each expert sent to a country under OPEX acted as a civil servant of the recipient country and did not involve himself in any way with the policies of its Government. As table 2 of the report of the meeting of experts showed (*ibid.*, p. 79), out of seventy-six OPEX posts existing in 1965, only eight had been in public administration.

47. Without wishing to comment on the draft resolution, he drew the attention of the members of the Council to paragraph 114 (g) of the report of the meeting of experts which made it clear that while the experts had expressed the view that public administration was an important priority field which should not be neglected, they had never intended to regard it as the most important sector of development.

48. In conclusion, he thanked the members of the Council for their observations, which would be very useful to the Secretariat and would serve as a guide for its work in public administration.

49. Mr. TEVOEDJRE (Dahomey) said that, if the Secretariat really wished to meet the wishes of the Council by increasing the activities in the field of public administration, he was surprised to learn that the official whom it was proposed to recruit locally for each of the three regional economic commissions should be recruited at the general service level, in other words, that he would be nothing more than a clerk. He would be entirely against recruiting competent officials at that level, even if they were to enjoy more favourable treatment than their own country could offer them.

50. He was also extremely surprised to learn from Mr. Wu that the Secretariat found it difficult to recruit competent officials in the developing countries, including the French-speaking countries. Many of those countries, Senegal and Dahomey for instance, were quite able to provide competent officials to participate in the training of administrative cadres in the French-speaking countries. His country was prepared to assist the Secretary-General by supplying him immediately with the names of some ten experts who would be available for two or three years. He did not intend to let himself be influenced by Mr. Wu's state-

ment that the officials would have to be recruited urgently. On the contrary, that statement gave him reason to fear that the posts would be filled by officials who had already been informally chosen instead of by competent experts from the outside.

51. He also felt that, when officials were recruited in the developing countries, they should be given a sufficiently high grade to be able to carry out the duties for which they were competent.

52. Mr. WU (Secretariat) explained that the "local level" general service official to be recruited for each of the regional economic commissions was in fact a secretary who would work for the senior professional officer planned for each of the regional economic commissions and for the regional advisers. Regarding the professional posts in the regional commissions, he believed that both the Executive Secretary of ECLA and the Executive Secretary of ECAFE would choose an expert from their respective regions who would be appointed once the post had been approved.

53. At the request of the PRESIDENT, Mr. RANKIN (Canada) stated the views of the sponsors of the draft resolution on the proposed amendments.

54. He was glad that all the speakers welcomed the experts' report on which the draft resolution was based.

55. He was able to accept on behalf of the sponsors the proposal of the French delegation (1466th meeting) that, in the fifth preambular paragraph, the words "and the non-governmental organizations" should be inserted after the word "organizations", and the proposal of the representative of the USSR that in the fourth paragraph the word "national" should be inserted between the words "trained" and "public".

56. The representative of Dahomey had stressed the importance that should be attached to training in United Nations activities relating to public administration. That form of assistance was, in the view of the sponsors of the project, included in the "valuable contribution" mentioned in the fifth preambular paragraph, in which it would obviously be impossible to enumerate all the possible forms of assistance in the field of public administration. Dealing with another matter raised by the representative of Dahomey, he explained that the expression "qualified staff" in operative paragraph 4 referred not only to the technical qualifications of the personnel in question but also to their linguistic qualifications and their knowledge of the traditions and the various forms of government in the region concerned.

57. The delegations of the USSR and Czechoslovakia had voiced doubts about the words "priority place" in operative paragraph 2. In his view, that was mainly a question of semantics, since the words "priority place" did not necessarily mean "first place" in English. If necessary, that expression could be amended.

58. In operative paragraph 3 his delegation was prepared to replace the words "increased support" by the words "all necessary support" in order to meet the wishes of the Czechoslovak delegation. It was also prepared to accept the replacement in paragraph 4 of the word "urgent" by the word "immediate" or the

word "early". In paragraph 6 the words "and, if possible, to increase those reserves", which were redundant could be deleted, as the representative of Czechoslovakia had requested.

59. He hoped that the draft resolution, which was based on a report adopted unanimously by experts from every region of the world, would also be adopted unanimously by the Council.

60. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the representative of Canada for the amendments he had accepted but still objected to the words "comprehensive programme" in operative paragraph 1. In Russian, the text seemed to imply a really huge programme and, moreover, it seemed premature to define in any way the magnitude of a programme which had not yet been prepared.

61. Mr. RANKIN (Canada) agreed to delete the word "comprehensive".

62. Mr. PAOLINI (France) thought that, if the expression "priority place" was kept in operative paragraph 2, the provisions of that paragraph would have to be clarified, since only a person familiar with United Nations activities in the field of public administration could understand that the words merely meant to accord a priority place to the administrative aspects of planning and of certain other fundamental activities, such as agriculture, health, education, etc., and not to give public administration priority over

those fundamental activities. If the words "priority place" were kept, he therefore proposed that the beginning of paragraph 2 should be amended to read as follows: "Decides that, for the period following the United Nations Development Decade, the public administration aspects of the programmes should, within the context of development planning, be accorded a priority place and, to this end...".

63. Mr. TEVOEDJRE (Dahomey) was afraid that the suggestion made by the representative of France would lengthen the text unnecessarily and would at the same time introduce a new idea. He would rather see the words "priority place" replaced by the words "due attention" or by the words "an appropriate place".

64. Mr. RANKIN (Canada) agreed to replace the words "priority place" by the words "an appropriate place".

65. The PRESIDENT proposed that the members of the Council should, if they had no further observations to make, adopt unanimously draft resolution E/L.1158, as orally amended by its sponsors.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

66. The PRESIDENT said he was pleased to see that the report of the meeting of experts had been endorsed by the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

