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Expression of sympathy to Argentina and Chile on the occasion of the earthquake affecting their territories

1. The PRESIDENT expressed the sympathy of the Economic and Social Council to Argentina and Chile on the occasion of the earthquake affecting their territories.

AGENDA ITEM 2

General discussion of international economic and social policy (*continued*) (E/4942, E/4984, chap. III; E/5004, E/5005, E/5007, E/5009, E/5010, E/5016, E/C.2/726)

2. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Observer for Chile), speaking under rule 75 of the rules of procedure, thanked the Council for its expression of sympathy to his country, and said that the people of his country had for centuries been accustomed to struggle against the forces of nature, and that struggle had reinforced their determination to attain the goal of full national development.

3. Previous discussions of international economic and social policy in the Council had tended either to ignore or merely to gloss over the true facts of the present world situation, particularly those affecting the developing countries. Those facts had been clearly brought out in United Nations documents and in statements made to the Council by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and by the executive heads of the specialized agencies. The debate in the Council was to some extent artificial, since it did not touch upon the crux of the problem of under-development, and did not appreciate its urgency or its scope. In his

statement to the Council (1773rd meeting), the Secretary-General had called for a re-establishment of priorities in face of the difficult conditions prevailing in some of the developing countries, and had drawn attention to the fact that in the developed world a sum equivalent to the total annual income of all the developing countries was being expended on armaments. The Director-General of the International Labour Office (1776th meeting) had pointed out that poverty and unemployment in the developing countries had increased alarmingly in the 1960s and had said that unemployment and under-employment would have a particularly harmful effect on the younger generation. The Director-General of FAO (1775th meeting) had observed that the situation in many regions was stagnant or regressive, and that, if present tendencies continued, the prospects for the world food situation could only be described as depressing.

4. The facts recorded in the 1970 *Report on the World Social Situation* (E/CN.5/456/Rev.1) confirmed that discouraging picture. For example, the mortality rate of developing countries was double that of developed countries and life expectancy was correspondingly low. In the combined regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America there was a total of 700 million illiterates, a figure which included 40 per cent of the female population. In Latin America there were some 70 million people without proper housing, and in Asia and the Far East some 150 million. The figures regularly published by FAO revealed terrible deficiencies in calories, and above all in proteins, in the diet of the peoples of those countries. Under-employment and unemployment had reached such proportions that it was estimated that 50 per cent of the population of the developing countries lacked remunerative employment; in the coming decade, 250 million additional jobs would be required.

5. Such social conditions, which were in flagrant contrast with those prevailing in industrialized countries, had their logical concomitant in equally serious economic conditions. The growing economic gulf between the northern and southern countries, evidence of which had been available in United Nations documents for over twenty years, had resulted in the fact that the GNP of some "affluent" countries amounted to \$3,500 *per capita* per year, while that in numerous developing countries was less than \$100. Thus the developed countries, with only 20 per cent of the world's population, accumulated 80 per cent of the world's GNP.

6. In the face of those economic facts, he felt justified in asserting that the way in which the Council was undertaking its examination of the economic and social situation was totally out of touch with reality. The Council's approach took no account of changing ideas among peoples

of the third world and of their growing demands not only upon their own Governments but upon the international community as a whole. The Council would have to confront new developments which would have important repercussions on the world economy and on the future of the developing countries, such as the approaching end of the war in Viet-Nam, the possible conclusion of disarmament agreements and the probable entry of the United Kingdom and the Nordic countries into EEC. Some of the documents produced by the Secretariat contributed to an atmosphere of unreality in their disregard of facts and in their use of a terminology which could be described as archaic. Such problems as that of economic dependence were not even touched upon nor did the documents reflect the historic confrontation within the United Nations between the developed and the developing countries. Those situations required a new and bold approach on the part of the international community, taking into account all existing and possible future factors.

7. He considered that the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade adopted by the General Assembly was merely a starting point, and that it needed to be broadened as soon as possible. At present there was no sign that the Strategy was being carried out; on the contrary, there seemed to be a movement in the opposite direction, as evidenced by protectionist policies, stagnation in financial aid and a substantial reduction of the share of the developing countries in world trade.

8. The developing countries themselves should adopt a new approach in their internal policies; they should accelerate the modernization of their social, economic and political structures and should endeavour to change the relationship with developed countries by which they had hitherto been assigned the role of servants of the interests of the great Powers. Unless the very nature of the system of international relationships was reformed, the result would be stagnation and violence.

9. The industrialized countries, for their part, should strive to change the existing international division of labour and the division of the world into two levels of wealth. The aim should be international co-operation based on justice and equality and on freedom for each country to determine its own destiny.

10. With regard to measures for the improvement of the organization of the work of the Council (agenda item 17), he believed that that body had had a fundamental role assigned to it under the United Nations Charter. It was not the fault of the developing countries that the Council had failed to perform that role. The major countries had abandoned the Council more than fifteen years earlier and had given most of their development assistance through other channels, ignoring the crucial problems of trade and industrialization. He did not agree with the French representative (1775th meeting) that the Council's role had been progressively weakened by the appearance of new bodies such as UNCTAD and UNIDO. On the contrary, those bodies had been created to fill a gap in the Council's activities that had been apparent for many years and they

were performing a fundamental role. He shared the views expressed by the Brazilian representative (1776th meeting) and by representatives of other developing countries on that question; the Council should be enlarged to provide proper representation of all interests.

11. He was opposed to the creation of a committee on science and technology, which he felt would trespass on the field of the General Assembly and weaken the activities of UNCTAD. The review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the Development Strategy should be centred in the General Assembly and carried out by the various organs of the United Nations. The role of UNCTAD in the appraisal was essential, since the matters within its competence were central to the whole Strategy. He was surprised that the Secretary-General's report on a system of over-all review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy (E/5040) had completely disregarded the role of UNCTAD in the formulation of the Strategy and that it laid unwarranted stress on the obligations of the developing countries as compared to those of the developed countries.

12. His delegation was in favour of a revitalization of the Council, provided that that did not detract from the efficiency of instruments that his country considered vital for the developing countries. The efficiency of a body serving development depended on its potential as an instrument for negotiation and on its ability to inspire Governments to express their political will. He urged the economic leaders of the world to show their willingness to use the Council to take decisions on the great world problems of unemployment, inflation, economic development and disarmament. The Council could, for example, propose specific measures for removing the tariff and other barriers against the products of the developing countries, improving the terms of financial assistance and giving the developing countries a share in the management of shipping. It could suggest that the developing countries should be given help to develop their technology, that efficient co-ordination should be established between the Council and the specialized agencies, and that contributions to UNDP should be doubled. If such steps could be taken, he was sure that all developing countries would applaud them as a recognition of the Council's fundamental responsibilities under the Charter and would be ready to co-operate to the full in the great task of achieving the Charter's objectives.

13. Mr. RAHI (Director-General, Universal Postal Union) said that his Organization was participating in the Second Development Decade in slightly different circumstances from those of other specialized agencies. UPU had been practising bilateral technical assistance for more than half a century but had only been part of the UNDP system since 1963.

14. UPU had benefited from a number of technical assistance projects provided by UNDP, but its share had been small compared with the real needs of the developing countries in connexion with their postal service.

15. He paid a tribute to the United Nations, and in particular to UNDP, for having created a new and more

realistic approach in the public sector and a desire to acquire new techniques. That new approach was vital for the postal service, which was rightly considered a world network and an international public service which should maintain the highest standards.

16. A new body entitled the Consultative Council for Postal Studies had been set up within UPU ten years previously, with the task of solving problems of mechanization in the industrialized countries. Its object was to enable those countries to pool their research activities and to find technical methods to cope with their postal traffic. It had soon become apparent that the Consultative Council needed to devote particular attention to the developing countries and to give them the benefit of technical advances made in the developed countries. It had accordingly altered its work programme and had in 1966 initiated studies on problems of modernizing the postal operations of the newly independent countries. Those studies had resulted in the publication of a survey on the management of postal services and in the formulation of a plan for postal development which had introduced the concept of programming and had tackled problems connected with the appraisal of resources and the establishment of priority programmes.

17. His Organization had defined four objectives for development in the postal services: one post office per area of twenty to forty square kilometres, or per 3,000 to 6,000 inhabitants the distribution of priority mail the day after posting, within a radius of 500 kilometres; a gradual increase in the percentage of parcels sent by air mail to 30 per cent of the total; and an increase in the financial services provided by the post office to bring the assets of those services up to 5 to 10 per cent of the gross domestic product. Special efforts would be made to assist the least developed among the developing countries and their special geographical, social and economic needs would be taken into account in establishing postal services.

18. A further study was being carried out to determine a minimum standard of service in order to make it possible for a realistic programme of action to be carried out. The Union had also undertaken a study on possible technical developments in postal services in emerging countries in the next two decades.

19. In conformity with the general strategy and directives of the United Nations, UPU had worked out a schedule of appraisal which provided for the constant study of statistics on the various sectors of the postal services up to the year 1974, leading to an appraisal of progress in 1975, at the half-way mark, and the working out of special measures for the benefit of the countries where postal development was least satisfactory. UPU was also collaborating with the United Nations in formulating indicators which would make for a better appraisal of the progress made by postal administrations during the Second Development Decade.

20. UPU had appealed to countries to collaborate with it in the appraisal of individual postal projects. It was also taking steps to collaborate more closely with regional organizations on multinational postal projects. It considered that such projects were the most efficient and

economic way to train staff to ensure the good management of the postal services. The creation of qualified staff was most important at a time when the management of postal services was changing its traditional pattern and becoming more like that of industrial or commercial concerns.

21. UPU had already started its work of appraisal of every kind of technical assistance, such as expert missions, training courses and seminars. It was aware of the effort required of every postal administration in the way of preparation, planning and programming, and had held three seminars on that theme in 1970. In short, UPU was making every effort to assess the progress made and where necessary to propose ways of reducing, if not eliminating, the obstacles due to lack of resources.

22. He hoped that his account of the special role of the postal service and its direct repercussions on the economic life of all countries would lead responsible authorities to pay more attention to its needs and to consider it an essential part of the national infrastructure indispensable to cultural, economic and social development. He hoped that States members of UPU would help it to accomplish its task.

23. Dr. CANDAU (Director-General, World Health Organization) said that in the past the emphasis in socio-economic development had been more on the economic than on the social aspect; reference had been mainly to poor countries and development had been interpreted chiefly as the raising of the GNP *per capita*. Now, however, more attention was being paid to social considerations, and it was being realized that economic growth and social well-being did not necessarily go hand in hand. In fact, recent history had suggested that it was important to invest in the social sector if manpower was to be harnessed for economic development.

24. The development of strong health services providing nation-wide coverage was essential for any country that wished to raise the level of health of its people. In many countries, however, lack of co-ordination of such services, lack of funds and lack of staff were hampering that development. Lack of staff was the most difficult problem, since the increasing specialization and diversification of medicine required larger numbers of health workers. Specialists in information science, social and economic planning, management and other fields now had to be included in health administrations.

25. Health could not be attained without the control of disease, and for that control to be effective many factors, including social and economic factors, had to be taken into account. Changes in the environment brought about by science and technology were now added to the additional environmental hazards to health. Fortunately the world now had the fundamental technology to make great progress in all priority areas. In view of the great social benefits of investment in a nation's health, he hoped that Governments and international agencies would not invoke economic constraints as an excuse for not applying that technology to the full.

26. WHO, with its decentralized structure and its emphasis on meeting actual country needs, could respond effectively and efficiently to the challenge of the Second Development Decade. It had recently been taking steps to improve the managerial aspects of its technical assistance programme by trying to ensure that projects were properly related to the national health administrations in the countries concerned. Before projects were formulated, a systems analysis was carried out covering the general policy of the country, the health problems relevant to its development, the health resources available and the efficiency of existing services. WHO had now produced a manual for the formulation of health projects which had been successfully tested in real life situations, and was now studying how best to promote that methodology, first within the Organization and eventually at the national level. The next step might be to consider the desirability of pooling the expertise available within the United Nations system. WHO would be willing to contribute to a joint approach to the formulation of development projects. It felt that the aim should be not only to improve national project management but also to discover what factors affected multilateral and bilateral assistance projects, in view of the vital need to concert all aid in any one sector as well as between sectors.

27. The systems approach to project formulation and project study was, however, only a quick means of alleviating present shortcomings in the system. What was really needed was a drastic improvement in over-all socio-economic planning, including health. In that context WHO had launched a research programme in health planning as an integral part of socio-economic policy in countries with widely differing conditions.

28. There was an urgent need for research to be undertaken by the United Nations system in the field of measurements for social development. The lack of knowledge in that area had no doubt contributed to the difficulties of promoting multi-sectoral projects.

29. Another difficulty was the slowness of many health benefits to become apparent, so that it was difficult to determine quantifiable relationships between operational outputs and the health of a population, or to assess the impact of health on other sectors, such as housing or education.

30. A number of indicators had been chosen for the Second Development Decade referring either to health status, for example infant mortality, or to service status, for example the ratio of physicians to population. An attempt would also be made in operational programmes to identify sets of indicators of more direct relevance to the Second Development Decade, as had been done, for example, in the Americas where a quadrennial forecasting system helped countries to measure the necessary inputs and outputs of the health sector. A considerable research effort was being made to establish productivity indicators that would give a truer picture than that provided by such data as the physician/population ratio. The systems analysis approach could, of course, assist countries in monitoring and reviewing development activities. WHO was conducting training courses for senior national public health administrators in

the planning and management of development programmes with a view to the rapid transfer of such knowledge to developing countries.

31. The fifth general programme of work adopted by the twenty-fourth World Health Assembly for the period 1973 to 1977¹ referred to the importance of targets as indicators and to the study which WHO was to make, in the framework of the Second Development Decade, of the problems involved in their determination, with a view to assisting countries in that respect and to achieving regional and global target-setting as soon as possible. WHO was engaged, through training and research, in improving the continuous review of its own activities.

32. The more effective use of information relevant to the Decade should enable his Organization to work more constructively with other bodies in the United Nations system. It was necessary to plan ahead over a long period and to consider the changes to be made, bearing in mind that those changes would take place in a dynamic social and technical environment.

33. The Council's co-ordinating role could be enhanced if the Council was thoroughly aware of what the individual members of the system were doing. It might be useful in future sessions to concentrate the discussion on perhaps two specialized agencies. The Council could thus, over a period of five years, have a useful series of discussions on the work of all the agencies. Any past misunderstandings had, in his view, been the result of a certain failure of communication rather than of a conflict of objectives, and a deepening of the Council's discussions would help to avoid them in the future.

34. The PRESIDENT said that he hoped representatives would bear in mind the constructive proposals of the Director-General of WHO when they came to discuss agenda item 17 on measures to improve the organization of the work of the Council.

35. Mr. RAZAFINDRABE (Madagascar) said that the statement of the Executive Secretary of ECA (1777th meeting) had shown that, while much remained to be done, there was reason to hope that the aims of the Second Development Decade would be achieved in two thirds of the countries of Africa.

36. His country appreciated the international co-operation being offered in its development and welcomed the existence of the African, Malagasy and Mauritian Common Organization and the association of eighteen African States and Madagascar with EEC. Those forms of co-operation had helped the African countries to face the difficult task of economic and social development.

37. The past decade had been for his country a time of confrontation with the harsh realities of national and international life. While there had been some national egotism and international rivalry, his country had been able to appreciate the benefits of intergovernmental, multilateral and international co-operation. There was a reassuring

¹ WHA24.58 of 20 May 1971.

awareness among the population of the importance of development and of the Government's determination to achieve economic and social progress. His country's confidence in itself and in international co-operation must not be destroyed.

38. One of the problems of the African countries was the existence side by side of traditional and modern structures. The great efforts that had been made, particularly in the economic and trade sectors, to modernize the traditional structures were widely diffused and therefore difficult to assess. Efforts to train people in rural areas in rational cultivation methods, which were costly and less spectacular than were industrial efforts, could nevertheless make an effective contribution to development.

39. If the transition from a pre-industrial to an industrial world raised certain problems, the appearance of new ideas related to the post-industrial world had gravely disquieting effects. While efforts were being made to raise the level of living of the population in rural areas above the subsistence level, industries in urban areas had begun to create the same problems that the developed countries had experienced in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The "consumer civilization" was being questioned in certain circles even before it had been attained. All those problems would be likely to grow during the present decade.

40. Food production raised an increasingly grave problem. With the improvement of the standard of living, rice consumption had increased. Production of rice had been doubled during the First United Nations Development Decade through more efficient cultivation methods and by bringing new areas under cultivation, but such action was costly. With the increased population and higher *per capita* demand, it would be necessary to double production once again by 1985. His country would also have to face problems in connexion with food crop production.

41. Thought would have to be given to the means of transporting products from production to consumption areas. An arterial road system was being constructed with international and multilateral assistance, but the construction of secondary roads was also important. The efforts of the community in that respect were promising and did much to promote economic development, but even greater efforts were needed.

42. It was essential that his country's export earnings of primary agricultural products should be increased. His delegation reiterated its request for the establishment of a world market organization in which ways and means could be found to ensure equitable and remunerative prices and outlets for such products. His country's frequent call for the establishment of a new trade order, in which it would not suffer from the harsh application of the law of supply and demand, had remained unanswered and the resolutions adopted in UNCTAD on the subject had not been applied. His delegation would continue to draw attention to the need for international measures to stabilize prices at remunerative levels and to provide outlets. Existing commodity agreements must be maintained and new agreements promoted.

43. The possibility of establishing a market organization for the agricultural products of developing countries, as had been done for those of developed countries, might one day be accepted. The necessary technical means could be found if the political will existed. While awaiting the establishment of such an organization, the African countries must defend what trade advantages they had. They were not yet in a position to stand up to uncontrolled competition and the few trade opportunities they had in the developed countries were indispensable to them.

44. The social sector was extremely important in his country's development. Every effort had been made during the past ten years to maintain or adapt the social benefits that had existed before 1960. The task had been difficult because of the weakness of the economy. Medical attention and primary, secondary and university education were all provided free. Since his country's development policy centred on the human being, freedom not only from want but also from disease and ignorance was considered fundamental. More must be done in those directions despite the great cost; bilateral, multilateral and international assistance was urgently needed.

45. While the action taken so far was beginning to bear fruit, his country had no illusions about the results achieved. It was necessary to create new employment opportunities, particularly for young people in urban areas who had been taken out of a subsistence economy and given some education.

46. His country, which had been in process of industrialization for more than ten years, had hoped to be able to produce enough processed products to take the place of imports, but such imports had, in fact, increased. Moreover, it had not been possible to export any of the country's production, as it had all been needed for home consumption.

47. Ways and means must be found to enable nationals of the country to participate in the formation of capital and in the management and direction of industrial, commercial and other enterprises. Education and training were needed for the purpose.

48. In conclusion, he said that he would have liked to see some figures and statistics in the *World Economic Survey, 1969-1970* (E/4942) to show the success achieved in his country's development plan, 1964-1968, which had been almost fully realized and in some sectors exceeded.

49. Mr. MILL (Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union), said that the second World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications (Space Conference), at present meeting in Geneva, was one of the most important conferences organized by ITU during the past twenty-five years. It was being conducted in an atmosphere of co-operation and with the firm resolve to obtain results in conformity with the relevant resolutions of United Nations organs on the peaceful uses of outer space. The Conference, whose purpose was to examine, revise and complete the administrative and technical provisions of the radio regulations in force, would mark a turning point in every area of human activity. New provisions that it would

adopt for application to radio services having recourse to space techniques would assist both manned spacecraft and the radio astronomy service.

50. The objective was to ensure efficient use of the radio spectrum. International regulations acceptable to all would have to be drawn up in order to guarantee that all existing and future space services could function efficiently and in satisfactory conditions. Some of those services required special attention because of their future fundamental importance to world economic and social development. That was true of satellite broadcasting and its educational uses, of satellites for the exploration of the earth's resources and of satellites designed to assist the mobile services and facilitate transport, which was a basic factor in development. The Space Conference would take account of the requirements of space research, radio astronomy and amateur radio.

51. Steps would be taken to ensure that countries or regions stricken by natural disasters no longer remained isolated for long periods. The Space Conference had before it a draft recommendation relating to the use of space radio communication systems in the event of natural disasters, epidemics, famines and similar emergencies.

52. The legitimate needs of the various users were being taken into consideration by the Space Conference and would be satisfied as far as possible. While it was difficult to reconcile conflicting requirements, the Conference would ensure that the maximum number of transmissions were made available, the aim being to make the best possible use, for the benefit of mankind as a whole, of the frequency spectrum and the geostationary orbit.

53. Because of the natural limitations to the development of transmissions, thorough technical studies would have to be carried out with a view to making optimum use of radio systems. The International Radio Consultative Committee of ITU had been conducting such studies since 1959 with regard to the use of outer space. The report on a special meeting of that Committee earlier in 1971 had proved extremely useful for the work of the Space Conference, which would be followed by other conferences dealing, for example, with frequency planning and the establishment of appropriate regulations for certain services making use of satellites.

54. Technique in terrestrial telecommunication media was developing at a comparable rate to that of space telecommunications, as was shown by the steady and spectacular increase in submarine cable links, the use of circular waveguides and the rediffusion by wire of sound and television broadcast programmes. ITU was interested in the economic aspects of all those advanced techniques and had undertaken comparative studies of the new systems and those already in operation. Those studies were of special value in helping the new or developing countries to assess the advantages of the different systems.

55. The developing countries would thus continue to benefit directly from scientific and technological progress in that they would be able to introduce the most appropriate up-to-date media. The contribution of ITU to human progress would be made more effective by the

participation of technicians from the developing countries and he hoped such co-operation would be strengthened in the present decade.

56. Modern civilization demanded that both the specialist and the public should be widely informed of technical progress, particularly in such rapidly developing sectors as telecommunications. ITU had therefore decided to organize the first world telecommunication exhibition, which had taken place while the Space Conference had been in session. The exhibition had been organized for the benefit both of specialists and of young people and the most recent and diverse audio-visual media had been exhibited, lectures had been given by outstanding specialists and the first festival of telecommunication films had been held. The United Nations Information Centres, the UNDP resident representatives and the Office of Public Information at United Nations Headquarters and the Information Service at the Geneva Office had given valuable help in organizing the exhibition.

57. The medium-capacity computer that would be installed in ITU at the beginning of 1973 had been chosen partly because of its compatibility with equipment used by other organizations of the United Nations system and by States members of ITU. His Organization was keenly aware of the need for inter-agency co-operation in data processing and looked forward to exchanging statistical, documentary and management data in a form directly usable by computer, particularly on magnetic tape, as it had been doing with certain member States in the radio data sector. It would also conduct such exchanges with regional organizations interested in telecommunications. It welcomed the creation of the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems and Related Activities and the drawing up by that Board of a short list of priority tasks to be tackled rapidly before there could be too much duplication of effort. That would require fairly extensive standardization of certain basic aspects of the systems used. His Organization hoped the work would enable data of all kinds to be exchanged efficiently and economically, not only among the organizations but between organizations and their members, as a means of facilitating more extensive use of data processing techniques in the developing countries.

58. The major part of ITU's activities was concerned with economic and social development. The term "telecommunications" covered a wide range of services, the most important being public telecommunications, which contributed greatly to economic expansion and social progress and could accelerate development if the necessity for every country to have an appropriate public telecommunication network was recognized. There was no sphere of activity that would not benefit immediately from the existence of such a network capable not only of providing telephone and telegraphic communications but also of handling telex and facsimile or data transmission. Such networks should precede rather than follow national development and be given the highest priority.

59. Unfortunately, such priority was not always given and there was often no telecommunication administration representative in the national planning body. He appealed

to the Governments of all new and developing countries to accord telecommunications the attention they deserved. By doing so, they would be able to contribute effectively towards the realization of their hopes for the Second Development Decade.

60. In fulfilling its role in technical co-operation, ITU would do its best to expand its activities, but the varying requirements of countries and their national imperatives and priorities, all of which depended on a multiplicity of technical, geographic, economic, political and social considerations and raised complex and varied problems.

61. The development of the telecommunication network of a country or region was vitally important, not only because telecommunications were a basic component of the infrastructure but because they were an essential factor in the creation of favourable conditions for the development of all other sectors of a country's national and international life and in the maintenance and steady improvement of such development. The responsible authorities were becoming increasingly aware that deficiencies in the telecommunication network were serious handicaps to the development of all other sectors of activity. He had found among the leaders of many countries a growing recognition of the truth that telecommunications acted as a catalyst in over-all development.

62. It was therefore advisable to make comprehensive surveys without delay and to determine what deficiencies there were. Such surveys must be based on pre-investment studies of the kind already undertaken at the regional level for Africa, Asia and Latin America. It was hoped to continue such studies at the national level and it would be useful to extend them substantially with a view to helping countries to make precise estimates of their requirements and possibly to arrive at planned and co-ordinated action in other fields. The co-operation of the planning authority, which had the most important voice in the setting of priorities, would be required.

63. It was his Organization's aim to help the developing countries to take over responsibility for their own development as soon as possible. National staff must be trained to enable those countries to proceed smoothly to the setting up of their telecommunication systems. In view of the pace of modern technological progress, the further training of engineers and technicians was of the utmost importance and staff training as a whole called for special care and attention. The training of local staff, including teachers and instructors, was the most important form of aid his Organization could offer on a continuing basis to developing countries. In providing such help it would be possible to create a favourable climate between the industrially developed countries and the developing countries. Such international technical co-operation had been of great help to the developing countries and had led to world-wide technological progress and a climate of mutual understanding.

64. A new and bold approach to technical assistance in the telecommunications sector would be needed during the Second Development Decade. All available forces should be mobilized towards the establishment or development of

national telecommunications industries, and that effort should be supported by a free exchange of scientific and technical data on a multilateral basis. Investment would have to be intensified and a substantial part of the resulting profits used to promote development and maintain it at the desired level. The natural resources of the earth could thus be used more rationally, completely, profitably and equitably.

65. In many of their applications telecommunications ignored geographical frontiers and political barriers and offered possibilities for international co-operation and understanding that could not lightly be dismissed. The setting up of regional networks, the granting of fellowships and the organization of seminars in that sector would bring widespread benefits.

66. Assistance to the developing countries could be increased and there could be even closer co-operation than at present among all the United Nations specialized agencies. He was convinced that the time was approaching when all their objectives would be much more closely integrated. In working out and applying a world-wide development strategy, ITU hoped to increase its aid substantially and thus to be able to respond more adequately to the requirements of country programming. In that connexion, he drew attention to the excellent relations his Organization enjoyed both with the United Nations and with the other specialized agencies and with the regional economic commissions. He would make every effort to ensure that ITU made a full and effective contribution to the common tasks ahead.

67. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) said that, despite the statement in chapter IV of the Secretary-General's report "Review of salient features of the world economy, 1970-1971" (E/5036/Add.3) that economic growth had proceeded quite vigorously in the developing countries in 1970, there was general dissatisfaction with economic performance and widespread unemployment in many of those countries. Moreover, economic development had aggravated many of their social problems. His Government was making vigorous efforts to eliminate the underlying causes of Ghana's great economic and social problems. Excessive urbanization, for example, was being countered by a well-planned rural development programme that would bring amenities to the villages. Ghana was grateful for the bilateral and multilateral assistance it had received. The problems in developing countries were enormous and called for a greater measure of international understanding and co-operation. The developing countries themselves provided by far the greater part of the resources needed for their development, as indeed they should. It was difficult, however, to mobilize world opinion on issues which were not purely economic. The Governments of developed countries should seek the support of their people for effective international economic policies with the same zeal as they displayed in connexion with national security.

68. The scope for collective action on social problems by the international community was often more limited than in the case of economic problems, but some international action was necessary. Ghana participated actively in various

international organizations concerned with social issues. Some social problems, such as racial discrimination, whose solution depended largely on concerted international action, remained unsolved mainly because influential developed countries were reluctant to implement the decisive resolutions and recommendations which alone could solve them. The international community should beware of the danger of evading such difficult issues and concentrating on lesser problems which, though important, should be viewed in their proper perspective. History had shown that economic development could solve at least in part some social problems, such as that of population. His Government had established a Family Planning Board, but was aware of its limitations.

69. Many of the social problems of the 1970s were due partly to unbalanced development. The efforts of Governments, the specialized agencies and international organizations had greatly reduced infant mortality, increased the expectation of life and improved educational facilities, yet those improvements themselves created the further problem of more people with greater expectations. The exploitation of workers which had occurred in many developed countries in the early stages of their development was no longer possible on a similar scale because workers were now organized to defend their rights, which their Governments upheld in domestic legislation and in international commitments.

70. The importance of the Second Development Decade therefore lay in the attempt to evolve a balanced plan for economic and social development. The rate of economic achievement must be measured not only against that of earlier decades but also against the improvement or deterioration in the social situation. If, however, the present inflation in many developed countries continued without adequate measures to minimize its effect on developing countries, and if the developed countries continued to regard the problems of developing countries as of residual importance, the objectives of the International Development Strategy would not be achieved. The reports of the regional economic commissions indicated that, even if the objectives of the Decade were achieved in aggregate figures, the situation in some developing countries might still be worse at the end of the Decade than at the beginning. It was clear that the various economic sectors would require different treatment in different regions and even in different countries of the same region.

71. At its first meeting, in February 1971, the Conference of Ministers of ECA had adopted resolution 218 (X), on Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s, indicating the course African countries should follow to achieve the objectives laid down for the Second Development Decade, and requesting the Executive Secretary of ECA to initiate consultations with regional bodies and other United Nations organizations with a view to the establishment of an appraisal and evaluation machinery (see E/4997 (vol. I), part III). It was therefore too early to attempt a detailed appraisal of the attainment of those objectives or to discuss the details of the appraisal machinery without taking into account the views of the African Ministers, the result of the work done in ECA and the appraisals which would be made

at the third session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

72. There were many ways of making the Council more effective as the main United Nations body responsible for economic and social affairs. One way had been suggested by the Director-General of WHO. Ghana was in favour of enlarging the Council to make it more representative. He hoped, however, that the enlarged Council would not attempt to undo what had already been done. For example, it could improve its own methods of work and those of the CPC, whose work was sometimes duplicated by the ACC. Organizations such as UNCTAD and UNIDO had already established themselves as representative bodies doing work which no other representative United Nations body could attempt to re-examine in detail. No useful purpose would be served by trying to alter fundamentally the procedures now used by the Council for dealing with the reports of those organizations, or to establish subsidiary bodies to duplicate some or all of their work.

73. The Council could discharge its obligations under the Charter by recognizing necessity and adopting efficient, practical methods to inspire and co-ordinate work in the economic and social fields. It had reached a turning point but was not in decline, any more than the Security Council could be said to be in decline because negotiations on major international security issues were taking place outside it. There was much the Economic and Social Council could do immediately to assert its role under the Charter. It could unequivocally advocate a realistic plan to alleviate the debt-servicing burden of developing countries, in some of which debt servicing absorbed over a quarter of their export earnings. It could call for the re-examination of the present system of SDRs before the next round of allocations, with a view to determining whether that system of increasing international liquidity did not also offer a means for increasing the flow of development assistance. The generalized system of preferences recently agreed upon under the auspices of UNCTAD was a practical measure for increasing exports of manufactures and semi-manufactures from developing countries. The Council might examine the various offers objectively, drawing attention to their advantages and disadvantages. For over a decade, Ghana had unsuccessfully tried to obtain an international agreement on cocoa, which accounted for some 60 per cent of its export earnings. In 1970 the average unit price of cocoa had fallen by 25 per cent. The Council should again emphasize the importance of implementing UNCTAD recommendations on commodities, especially as opinion about the sanctity of market forces seemed to have changed recently in some quarters.

74. Mr. GHORRA (Lebanon) agreed with the Director of UNESOB (1777th meeting) that it would be unrealistic to speak of development in the Middle East without reference to the conflict there; the economic and social problems of that region could not be considered in isolation from the political problems. Israel's constant attacks on its Arab neighbours impeded their progress and development. While Israel maintained its presence in the occupied Arab territories and refused to co-operate with the United Nations in

the search for a just peace, the Arab countries had to devote increasing resources and manpower to defence purposes. Since those countries needed all their resources to improve economic and social conditions, their economies must be freed from the burden of war. The objectives of the Charter and of the Second Development Decade would be better served if the United Nations could establish a just peace, without which there could be no significant development in the Middle East, a development which would bring economic benefits to the whole world. It was disheartening to know that there had been little increase in food production in the developing countries of Africa and the Near East and that *per capita* food production had in fact declined. That information was all the more disheartening when related to the fact that the rate of armaments production in some developing countries was increasing more rapidly than in developed countries, to the detriment of development. The performance of the Arab countries in achieving the targets of the Second Development Decade would depend on how soon the United Nations could establish peace in the Middle East and on the measure and quality of international assistance given to that region.

75. If UNESOB was to play an effective role in the Middle East's development during the Second Development Decade, its resources and potential must be expanded. The establishment of a fully-fledged economic commission for the Middle East had for twenty-five years been prevented by political considerations. It was now imperative for the purposes of the Second Development Decade to strengthen and widen UNESOB. It was also necessary to establish machinery for effective co-ordination of the work of the regional offices of specialized agencies to ensure that better use was made of available resources and to avoid the duplication and overlapping of functions. The system of regional advisers had proved most useful and was an economical way of filling gaps in regional assistance arrangements. It should therefore be expanded, especially in such fields as human environment, transport, tourism, petroleum and public administration. The related system of United Nations development assistance teams could also make an important contribution to the assessment of development problems and progress in Middle Eastern countries and ensure an integrated approach to development. Such teams would be useful in the southern part of the region, especially in Yemen, South Yemen and possibly some of the Gulf States.

76. Lebanon was in favour of enlarging the Council to make it more representative of United Nations membership and to enhance its role and authority as the United Nations organ under the General Assembly primarily concerned with economic, social, cultural and humanitarian questions. At its present session, the Council should make recommendations to the General Assembly on institutional arrangements for the co-ordination of work connected with the application of science and technology to development problems and on the establishment of a system for the review and appraisal of progress in the Second Development Decade.

77. The cardinal problem for the developing countries during the Decade would be finance. He had been glad to hear that France and the United Kingdom intended to accelerate their assistance to developing countries and that the United States would channel a larger share of its assistance through the United Nations and other international agencies. References were often made to the vast resources which disarmament could make available for development. He suggested that, pending agreement on general disarmament, a partial, voluntary system of disarmament might be instituted to divert a small fraction of the funds spent on armaments to international co-operation and development. Such a system would have effects that would benefit developed and developing countries alike.

78. The Council should be concerned with all economic, social and humanitarian issues. He had intended to raise the question of Pakistani refugees, which the Council would normally have dealt with from a purely humanitarian standpoint under the provisions of Article 62 of the Charter. Out of deference to the delegations concerned and to the President's statement on the subject, he would refrain from doing so at the present stage, but would present his delegation's views at a more appropriate time.

79. Another problem of social and humanitarian importance to which the United Nations had never given sufficient consideration was that of the prisoners of war in Viet-Nam. The whole question of the war in Viet-Nam had eluded the United Nations, but apart from its political aspects it had a humanitarian aspect which was the proper concern of the Council. Every effort should be made to alleviate the sufferings of both North Viet-Nameese and United States prisoners of war. The three General Assembly resolutions concerning respect for human rights in armed conflicts, 2674 (XXV), 2676 (XXV) and 2677 (XXV), were of a general nature, but in reinforcing the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949² they applied to prisoners of war in Viet-Nam as much as to those of any other war. Out of purely humanitarian considerations, Lebanon would welcome an opportunity to act as host for a certain period of time to a number of North Viet-Nameese and United States prisoners of war, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2676 (XXV), should the two parties to the conflict in Viet-Nam reach an agreement on the exchange and repatriation of their prisoners of war, especially the seriously wounded and seriously sick. The two parties could then, either directly or through appointed third Powers, make the necessary arrangements with the Lebanese Government to give effect to their agreement. He hoped that the negotiations in Paris would be successful.

80. Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America) said that he had been deeply moved by the humanitarian sentiments expressed by the representative of Lebanon and asked him to convey the United States Government's profound gratitude to the Lebanese Government for its generous offer to help the prisoners of war. His Government

² See United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75 (1950), No. 972.

welcomed all efforts to secure the internment in a neutral country of prisoners of war, and called upon the Government and people of North Viet-Nam to agree to a proposal for action of that kind, clearly envisaged in the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949, articles 109-111.

81. Mr. WIELAND ALZAMORA (Peru) said there was a manifest contradiction between the objectives of the Second Development Decade and the absence of the conditions necessary for their attainment. The current inflation in developed countries, the chronic monetary crises, the deterioration in the terms of trade and the trend towards increasing protectionism all adversely affected the economies of the developing countries. The preamble to the International Development Strategy placed the main responsibility for development on the developing countries themselves, with assistance from the international community. The international community, however, consisted of countries many of which pursued policies which in effect cancelled out the benefits of international assistance. References to international co-operation had little meaning when the countries concerned pursued such policies. The national development of developing countries was an international problem and its solution would therefore require changes in the pattern of international economic relations. The International Development Strategy was not designed to effect major changes and its implementation was not legally binding on the developed countries; it fixed no quantitative targets for them and imposed unequal burdens on developed and developing countries. New elements, such as non-reciprocal preferences, would have to become an integral part of the structure of international economic relations. It was important to identify the factors likely to hinder development during the Second Development Decade. The reviews and appraisals of progress should not be purely technical studies, but should also reveal the political will of the countries concerned, as reflected in their policies. The developing countries had to carry out radical agrarian and other reforms while labouring under a heavy burden of foreign debt, which the developed countries had not had to bear in the early stages of their development. They also had to meet an increasing demand for goods and services from a rapidly expanding population.

82. The Peruvian Government was trying to carry out a programme of integrated mobilization of development resources to create an egalitarian social order modelled neither on the capitalist nor on the communist system, nor on something half-way between. Its aim was to create a society taking into account on the one hand the need for planned economic organization to safeguard material welfare and social justice, and on the other respect for human values and the rights of the individual. Each country should find the form of economic and social development best suited to its needs rather than adopt certain fixed patterns of development. International economic co-operation should always make allowances for the inequality between developed and developing countries. It should not be viewed as an opportunity for exerting political or other pressure on beneficiary countries.

83. Although it would be appropriate to provide for reviews and appraisals of progress made in the Second Development Decade, in accordance with UNCTAD practice, detailed guidelines and a clear definition of aims would be needed. The General Assembly might therefore be in a better position to take a decision in the matter. The enlargement of the Economic and Social Council might provide the developing countries with more adequate representation on it, and thus give fresh impetus to its efforts in new fields of activity. The Council should not confine its activities to co-ordination, but should make an effective substantive contribution to the attainment of the objectives set forth in Article 55 of the Charter. Institutional arrangements for co-ordination in the field of the application of science and technology to development should be decided upon only after due consideration in a forum where the countries concerned were more fully represented. The matter should therefore be referred to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session. No institutional changes or restructuring of organizations could take the place of the requisite changes in the political will of those with the power to create conditions favourable to the advancement of the developing countries.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.