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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
(Twenty-seventh Meeting of the Fourth Session).

Lake Success, New York
Saturday, 22 March 1947 at 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

The PRESIDENT:	SIR RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR
Mr. Kaminsky	Byelorussian SSR
Mr. Smith	Canada
Dr. Chang	China
Mr. Santa Cruz	Chile
Mr. Perez Cisneros	Cuba
Mr. Papánek	Czechoslovakia
Mr. Royer	France
Mr. Hakim	Lebanon
Mr. van Kleffens	Netherlands
Mr. Kirpalani	India
Mr. Reid	New Zealand
Mr. Moe	Norway
Mr. Arca Parro	Peru
Mr. Turhan	Turkey
Mr. Morozov	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. Mayhew	United Kingdom
Mr. Stinebower	United States of America
Mr. Stolk	Venezuela

The PRESIDENT: The Council is in session.

I would like to apologize first for the few remarks that I wish to make at this sitting of the Council session. We are, we hope, at the end of our labours, and time is pressing. Other Councils of the United Nations are expected to meet early next week. While I have no desire at all to curtail discussion or debate in this Council, and while that is far from my intentions, I hope my colleagues will recognize that in dealing with the various questions that are now before this Council at this meeting, it may

not be altogether undesirable to deal with them in an expeditious manner, without losing the weight of arguments which my colleagues will wish to advance on any of these subjects. I am sure that they will consider this, as the Chair has, so as to enable the Council to complete its proceedings very early next week.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

The first item on the agenda is the Assembly Resolution on Housing and Town Planning which was passed at the last session of the General Assembly. Since then, this subject has been under consideration by several Commissions which this Council has set up. The Social Commission has made a detailed recommendation on this subject; the Economic and Employment Commission has dealt with it and has suggested that the Secretariat may make various studies in regard to this problem and place them for the consideration of the Commission before future sessions of the Economic and Employment Commission; the Population Commission has also considered this subject as having a bearing, particularly in regard to trends of population movements and housing accommodations; and last but not least, the Commission on the Status of Women considered that it has some very valuable remarks to make on this subject.

The importance of the subject is also established by the fact that two delegations have submitted resolutions on the subject, the delegation of the United States and the delegation of France. I think they are all agreed that a unit shall be established in the Secretariat with reference to professional and other points that are required in regard to housing. The cost of that personnel is given in a paper which the Secretariat has put forward, an annual cost of approximately \$30,000, and for the broken period of this financial year, \$24,600. The main difference, as I see it, between the United States Draft Resolution and the French Draft Resolution is that the

French Draft Resolution believes that the time has come for considering seriously the question of an international conference of experts on this subject.

I would like the Council to take this as the basis for our discussion and to offer their remarks with reference to these resolutions, apart from the general remarks that may be offered on housing problems.

MR. ROYER (France) (Interpretation from French): Mr. President, bearing your observations in mind, I will be very brief. I will explain the reasons which moved the French delegation to table the resolution which is presented to the Council. I wish to remind the Members of the Council that the French delegation had taken the initiative of raising this particular problem before the last Assembly. The French delegation has also shown extreme interest in the development of this question. We feel very strongly that this problem should have a quick solution and that two of the main problems which might be considered are the problems of reconstruction and housing. Therefore, you can well understand how happy the French delegation was when it saw the resolution of the General Assembly dated 14 December 1946.

We also noted with great care the recommendations which had been formulated by the various commissions which concerned themselves with this problem.

If, in our resolution, we did not mention the Commission on the Status of Women, we did so purely through inadvertence. It was not from lack of courtesy or gallantry.

As you noticed, Mr. President, the difference in our position from that taken by the representative of the United States is that we are somewhat more optimistic in the convening of the Conference. We also feel that this Conference should be made up primarily of technicians. In this respect, we do agree with the delegation of the United States when they state that the Conference should not be taken lightly, but should be convened after considerable technical preparation has taken place; after necessary documents have been gathered; after adequate information has been circulated, and after certain work has been done on national levels concerning the comparative studies of manufacturing standards and so on.

What we are most interestedⁱⁿ is to have a Conference not dealing with general discussions, but dealing with concrete resolutions, concrete measures in order to find the possibility of putting the solutions into realistic practice. Therefore, this is why we suggest in our resolution that the Conference be convened as soon as materially possible.

We also thought, as we indicated in our resolution, that in consultation with you, the place and the time could be set for the Conference, and invitations sent to various Members of the United Nations, certain non-Members of the United Nations, and certain international organizations which are also concerned with this problem.

The resolution of the United States deals with certain measures which could be taken prior to the Conference, and we agree generally with the resolution of the United States on that particular point. We think, as a matter of fact, Mr. President, that it would not be too difficult to combine the two texts. We feel that paragraph 1 and paragraph 3 of the United States text are quite acceptable. However, we would like to say that as far as paragraph 3 is concerned, it might be helpful to add an additional paragraph authorizing the Secretary-General to hire personnel on a temporary basis.

Insofar as paragraph 2 is concerned, we have no objections to the substance of this paragraph, but we feel that we should be very careful in avoiding any possible misunderstanding in the future. We feel that it should be very clearly indicated that the provisions which are provided in that paragraph are to cover a transitory period, which is between the time this Council convened and the time the Conference will meet. We also feel that the form the Organization should take should not be prejudged ahead of time. We feel that the form and the frame of the Organization can only be adequately specified and defined by a conference of technicians on town planning and housing. They are the only ones who can really do a satisfactory job on that particular problem.

In connection with this last remark, I would like to remind you that there exists a precedent, when the Trade and Employment Commission decided to ask the Secretary-General to take certain administrative measures and to establish a temporary office in the Secretariat, which could be integrated eventually into the Commission in accordance with the Charter of the Trade and Employment Commission. I believe that we could adopt here somewhat the same procedure, that the Secretary-General could hire personnel on a temporary basis until such time as the international

conference could determine ^{for} itself the frame and the form that the organization should take in order to deal with all the questions with which it has to deal. This temporary personnel would be part of a temporary office, which could be established either in the United Nations Secretariat or in the Social Commission, and would prepare the conference and would make certain recommendations.

You did speak at one time, Mr. President, of credit which would be necessary in order to hire the necessary experts. I would not like to go into detail right now; however, I would like to point out that the Social Commission was authorized to issue an offset obligation, but we feel that the provision which was authorized did not answer the request of the Social Commission. We feel that the Commission should have an opportunity to establish a more extensive publication, which could be circulated more widely.

Concerning the temporary office and the temporary personnel that would be hired, all this personnel, as well as the documents that might have been gathered ^{and} the archives that might have been worked out could be eventually integrated into the service concerned or into the Secretariat of the United Nations.

Mr. President, these are briefly the views which we had concerning town planning and housing. Specifically, we felt that the convening of the conference should not be delayed, and that it should meet as soon as materially possible; and, finally, that the French delegation thought that agreement with the United States delegation was quite possible and that the two delegations could submit a common text for the approval of the Council.

MR. STINEBOWER (United States): The remarks of the French representative Mr. President, have made it possible for me to be very brief indeed.

We welcome all that he said and agree very fully with his statement that there are very few gaps to be bridged between these two documents, and we are sure that they can be done with ease.

We did believe, and still do, that before the Council approves the calling of a conference on this subject, the Secretary-General should submit to the Social Commission a more or less detailed proposal as to the objectives, scope, and composition of this conference. That stems from both / the importance of the subject and from a belief on conferences in general, that we should have a fairly clear idea of the kind of a conference we are authorizing and what its scope is, before we pass a resolution in the Council authorizing the calling of a specific conference at a specific date.

On the basis of the proposals which the Secretary-General would lay before the Social Commission, that Commission, in collaboration with the Economic and Employment Commission, would then, in our view, submit recommendations specifically to the Council as to what further action should be taken. In that manner, we think we would better ensure a successful and a productive conference, and that the Council would be placed in a better position to judge the value of the conference before authorizing a project that will involve not only the allocation of a considerable sum of money but also the expenditure of a good deal of time and energy on the part of the experts who will attend the conference. Incidentally, those are experts who, for that purpose, will have to be taken away from very urgent housing tasks in their own countries. Therefore, it is important that a very thorough ground work be laid for this conference.

I agree with my French colleague that we can agree in principle here, and very quickly, in a drafting committee ^{to} resolve small points of

difference. We feel a good deal of recognition should be paid--perhaps more than we did in our own draft, and we are prepared to make slight amendments--to take account of the responsibilities of existing specialized agencies who are already in the field and have responsibilities connected with housing and town and country planning.

As to the unit to be set up in the Secretariat, we do feel that the term "housing and town planning service" seems to imply a great deal more of a unit in the Secretariat or is called for or is intended. As we see it, it would do largely a coordinating and collecting job and would not be an initiating body. It should take due account of work that is going on in other specialized agencies.

There is only one point on which I might have a considerable disagreement with the implications of the French representative's remarks, but it is, fortunately, a point which we do not have to resolve at this session anyway. I could meet the thought he has in mind by agreeing immediately to the deletion of the words "on a permanent basis" from paragraph 2 of my draft.

I should say, in all frankness, however, for the future discussion, that the United States Government has a considerable doubt as to the desirability of establishing a separate international agency dealing with housing and town planning. I understood that to be the implication of some of the remarks of the French representative, but, as I say, that is something that would have to be decided in connection with preparation for the conference and at the conference itself and, in no way interferes with our reaching quick agreement on the steps that have to be taken right now.

MR. MAYHEW (United Kingdom): Mr President, it certainly seems that there is not much difference of view between the two resolutions. We, for the United Kingdom, welcome this proposal very warmly, that arrangements should be made within the Secretariat for the study of housing problems and for the publication of a review of information relating to rural and urban housing and town and country planning. The precise method by which these arrangements are made, we feel, is the responsibility of the Secretary-General, and we have not any particular, concrete proposal to make in that connection.

I agree with the doubts expressed by our United States colleague relating to the necessity of setting up a permanent international agency in this connection, but certainly this is a matter which we could discuss further in committee.

My Government welcome warmly the proposal for holding a world-wide housing conference. In Britain we have gained very valuable experience since the war in our planned housing program and we should hope to make a useful contribution to the conference from the technological and other points of view.

We agree with our French and United States colleagues about the necessity of very thorough preparation for this conference if it is to be a success, and we assume -- as everyone seems to be agreed, I think -- that this conference could not therefore be held effectively in the current year. This being so, we hope that the Secretary-General will report back to the Council on his proposed agenda and his proposed representation at the conference before actually summoning this conference.

But the main point of my remarks is to emphasize that the United Kingdom Government warmly welcome this initiative and that we are quite sure that a satisfactory resolution of the two resolutions can be achieved in committee.

MR. WILSON (Vice-Chairman, Social Commission): Mr. President, on behalf of the Social Commission, I would like to make a few remarks because the Social Commission attaches the utmost importance to some assistance being given to the proper housing of the people of the world.

It seems to me there is nothing very conflicting in the proposals contained in the French and the United States resolutions and that if either was passed, or if they were amalgamated -- which would be better -- it would be satisfactory to the Social Commission.

The Social Commission has recommended that a housing and town planning service be set up within the Division of Social Affairs, and I would like to emphasize that they did not expect or wish that it should be a large organization; only large enough for the very important tasks which it would have to do. The word "service" was placed in there because it was meant to show that we did not wish a new division or a new office of some sort to be set up, but that certain people within the Division of Social Affairs should be given this task of presenting the documents and information on housing. The Commission itself felt that it was of the utmost importance that all the information that could be obtained from countries which have undertaken large-scale housing projects should be obtained and that it should be published from time to time, and they suggest that a housing review be published by the service division.

They also suggested that this service division should draft a declaration of principles upon which they place a great deal of importance. They think that the United Nations, as such, should declare itself on the need for better types of housing throughout the world.

With regard to this proposed international conference of experts, it was suggested that this service should go into the matter and, if it could be called before 1 January 1948, they should make the necessary arrangements. They felt, however, that if it was not possible to hold a conference during 1947, there should be smaller conferences to which representatives of devastated countries and others in particular need of better housing should be invited to attend, together with experts from those countries where the need was not so great but where they had been successful in providing good housing for their people.

They also emphasized the necessity of the fullest possible cooperation with specialized agencies --

The PRESIDENT: I am sorry to interrupt, Mr. Wilson, but we may assume that this Council has studied the very thorough recommendations contained in the Social Commission's Report, and this has also been reproduced in a Secretariat paper, which is a further reminder to the Council Members of these valuable suggestions.

MR. WILSON (Vice-Chairman, Social Commission): I was finishing, in any case, but if that is to be presumed, that is all right. I just wanted to make sure that the views of the Social Commission were given to the Council.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of UNESCO desires to make a few remarks. Will he please come to the right-hand side of the Table.

(Mr. Jean Thomas, the representative of UNESCO, took a seat at the Council Table.)

MR. THOMAS (UNESCO) (Interpretation from French): Mr. President, in the course of the meeting of the Social Commission, a representative of UNESCO has already had an opportunity of stating the interest which his Organization took in the question of town planning. In the Preparatory Commission's projects which were approved by UNESCO, it was stated that collaboration should be extended to the International Federation of Town Planning and that, in the first part of 1947, highly qualified experts would be convened to report back to UNESCO so that a working plan could be defined in 1948.

UNESCO wishes simply to remind the Council that it has already extended its collaboration to the Social Commission and the United Nations. In order to accomplish the work which is to be done, as has been stated by the representatives of the United States and of France, UNESCO believes that such collaboration is quite possible.

I should also like to remind the Council that there are other specialized agencies, in addition to UNESCO, such as the ILO, which are directly concerned with this question of town planning.

This is why, Mr. President, in connection with the possible creation of a service by this Council, a service connected with town planning, I would like to state, in the name of my organization, UNESCO, and in the name of other specialized organizations, that the work which is to be done would be primarily the work of collaboration and liaison.

Mr. President, this is all I had to say at this time, and I wish to thank you for giving me the floor.

MR. VAN KLEFFENS (Netherlands): Mr. President, the Netherlands Government are aware that the serious problems with which the Netherlands are confronted in their attempts to make up for the arrears in regard to housing apply equally to other countries which have been hit by the war. We therefore consider it to be of great importance that the international contacts in this sphere be strengthened

We fully recognize the useful work carried out in this field by the League of Nations and the International Labour Office, but we think that the problems of the present time are so much greater and more difficult to solve that special measures in the field of housing and town planning are necessary. Since many of the problems are more or less the same in various groups of countries, international co-operation to obviate duplication of work and to lead to more efficient building of houses is necessary.

The representative from New Zealand said, at the meeting of the Social Commission, that he considered the convening of an international conference a premature step, but that, in a spirit of co-operation, he would vote for the Rapporteur's proposal for such a conference. The representative from my country voted against it, certainly not because he lacked a sense of co-operation, but his view being that at this stage the problem should be dealt with by regional conferences.

We believe that conference on a universal basis would not be as conducive in this field to attaining the purpose, as regional conferences meeting at a suitable place of various groups of countries selected chiefly on account of climatological reasons. Basic differences exist between groups of countries as regards their housing system, according to whether they are in the tropical, the sub-tropical, the temperate, or the cold zone, and we feel that a conference on a universal basis would be hampered too much by generalities.

Should, however, the Council decide that^a/general conference on a universal basis will be held, my Government hope that the conference will give every attention to the organization of work in this field on a regional basis. Although we are, by no means, in favour of regionalism in all respects, we believe, Mr. President, that the housing problem as a whole would benefit from such a decentralization and that serious consideration should therefore be given to this question.

I wish to add that it was decided recently to establish in Holland a national building center, which will be a permanent exhibition, giving at the same time objective information concerning building materials, building systems, labour efficiency, etc. It will be established at Rotterdam, a city which was, as you know, very seriously damaged by war. I mention this because it occurred to us that the Secretariat of the United Nations might wish to consider whether this center could not be used, and perhaps developed, to serve international purposes, so that it could make a contribution for the benefit of all countries, at any rate in the temperate zone.

For the reasons I have given, Mr. President, we shall vote for the American Draft Resolution, with the reservations with regard to point 3, which result from the remarks I have just made, and we should like to feel free to refer to them if and when the matter comes up again for discussion in the Social Commission.

MR. ROYER (France) (Interpretation from French): Mr. President, it is not my desire to prolong the debate. However, I would like to answer as briefly as possible the few observations which have been made.

First of all, I wish to thank the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom for supporting the initiative which we have proposed. Certainly, the contributions of these two countries will be very definitely felt if a technical conference on town planning and housing is convened. In so far as the form of international advice is concerned, we did not take any definite stand in our Resolution. The French position is generally well known, and we consider that the work to be done is not only a work of liaison and co-ordination but that certain technical work will have to be carried out and specialists' studies will have to be carried out in the organization which is to be established. Yet, as far as the French delegation is concerned, it did not solve the question definitely, and if it had an objection to a part of the Draft Resolution proposed by the United States, this objection disappeared when the representative of the United States suggested deleting the words "on a permanent basis", which gave us the understanding, before these words were deleted, that the situation was being pre-judged. Therefore, we are not going to raise the problem in the Committee, as was feared by the representative of the United Kingdom.

We very much feel that the technical conference is the only one that can successfully solve the problem and can take a real decision. In other words, we would all retain our own positions and, to use an English expression, I would say that we all "agree to disagree".

Concerning the composition of the conference, the Chairman of the Social Commission has correctly stated that there were two ideas which were of great interest in that particular Report. The first one was to convene a conference on a universal level, and if that was not possible, then the conference would be convened on a regional level. According to the English text, this conference is to be convened prior to January 1948, and according to the French text, it is to be convened prior to February 1948. There is a slight conflict between the dates, which will have to be resolved.

The representative of the Netherlands said that he was in favour of the second solution. We are not far from sharing the view which has been expressed by the representative of the Netherlands. However, we feel that certain difficulties do exist. We feel that if we were to limit the use of experts to those who come from devastated areas, we would certainly lose very helpful support from experts who may come from countries which have not suffered during the war. We are not staunch universalists. We are not pleading that Eskimos expert in the construction of igloos be invited to give advice on the construction of houses and town planning in the tropical zone. However, we do feel that we would miss the support of experts who come from areas which have not been devastated by the war, if we are to limit the conference to experts from devastated areas only. We feel that the field of the conference should be widened and that all experts should be invited.

These are the two observations, Mr. President, that I wish to make. I should simply add that I think that agreement can be reached very easily and that a resolution can be submitted which will be accepted by all.

MR. MOE (Norway): Mr. President, the Norwegian delegation is in favour of the establishment of a Housing Section in the Secretariat, because we consider this question of housing as a very important one. The Norwegian delegation is going to vote in favour of the United States Resolution, but we would also like to support the suggestions made by the representative of the Netherlands. We consider his suggestions as having a very great practical value, and we would like to support the idea that the representative of the Netherlands has put forward.

My second point is that this is really a question where it is necessary to have some concentration of effort because, as we all know, this is not a question that has not been studied or has not been dealt with before. I have called the attention of the Members of the Council to the fact that a non-governmental organization, the International Federation of Town Planning, has done and is doing a very valuable work in this field. I take it for granted that a new section on housing in the Secretariat will establish very close relations with the International Federation of Town Planning, in order to avoid duplication of effort. But then, we heard today from the representative of UNESCO that UNESCO is already studying the housing problem and intends or has--as far as I understand it--already decided to call an international conference on this question, while we here today in the Economic and Social Council are discussing whether we should call an international conference.

I think this is a bad example of the lack of cooperation and coordination in our international work. I draw attention of the Committee on Cooperation to this fact. I would very much like that something be added to the United States Resolution, stressing the importance of avoiding duplication of effort in this field and stressing the need for close collaboration and cooperation.

The PRESIDENT: Since there is no difference in principle, and since the delegations concerned hope to put a redraft before the Committee of the Council, this matter will now be referred to the Committee of the Council, and I hope that the redraft will be presented for speedy consideration of the Council.

The next item is the Assembly Resolution on Expert Advice to Member Governments.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON EXPERT ADVICE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

Members will recollect that in various reports of commissions that we had before us, in addition to the General Assembly Resolution on the subject, recommendations have been made for placing expert advice at the disposal of all Member Governments making requests to that effect. I need not refer in detail to the Members of these various commissions. The Social Commission had made a recommendation on this subject, and in fact a draft resolution will be coming before this Council for its consideration; so has the Population Commission and so has the Economic and Employment Commission. The Secretariat itself has suggested that this matter of giving expert advice, apart from the specific recommendations of the Commissions concerned, may be considered by the Coordination Committee which exists at the Secretariat level now, and which has to take into consideration the duties of various specialized agencies in this matter, and the programme of work that those specialized agencies have chalked out for themselves.

It was suggested to the Economic and Social Council that it ask the Coordination Committee to consider a report on this subject at its next session. Meanwhile, a number of delegations led by Venezuela, I understand, had suggested a resolution on this subject. I now call upon the representative of Venezuela.

(During the above remarks, Dr. Chang, representative of China, left the table and was replaced by Dr. Wu; Mr. Royer, representative of France, left the table and was replaced by Mr. Boris; Mr. Malik, representative of Lebanon, arrived and replaced Mr. Hakim at the Council table; Mr. Mayhew, representative of the United Kingdom, left the table and was replaced by Mr. Phillips; Mr. Stolk, representative of Venezuela, left the table and was replaced by Mr. Zuloaga.)

MR. ZULOAGA (Venezuela): Mr. President, with reference to your opening remarks today, I must apologize because I am afraid that I will take at least ten minutes of the time of the Council. On the other hand, as the President has remarked, up until now, the Venezuelan delegation has taken very little time in this discussion. As newcomers, we have been keeping ourselves in the sidelines, receiving technical advice from the other Member Governments, and particularly from the Chair.

Although we consider that the purpose of this resolution makes it one of the most important items of the agenda, we do not regret the delay in discussing it. We are glad that this matter is being discussed after the reports of both the Social Commission and the Economic and Employment Commission. We have heard many warnings in this Council about the danger of activities of different bodies or commissions overlapping each other. With regard to the provision of expert advice, however, overlapping is not only unavoidable, but it might be desirable. The reports of both Commissions call for the provision of expert advice in their own fields.

Social problems and particularly the problem of low standards of living can only be solved by remedying the economic conditions from ^{which} they are derived. For these reasons we are afraid that the hope we recently heard expressed of a world in which economists will be extinct, cannot be answered in the near future.

On the other hand, it is clear that one-sided concentration on economic development does not necessarily result in an improvement in the standard of living.

The representatives of under-developed or undeveloped countries know this very well. As a typical example, I shall mention a mining city in South America. I need not name the country nor the mineral exploited there, nor even

whether that mineral is liquid or solid. Many of my colleagues here might think I am speaking of a particular town they know in their own country.

Mr. President, the mines in this town have been developed by the most modern technical methods. The original exploration was carried on with the aid of the last word in geo-physical instruments. The mines used the most modern and efficient machinery. The cost of production is low and the amount of mineral extracted is high. But in that mining town of approximately 50,000 inhabitants, there are no sewers and there is no water system. There are rivers not too far away and there is even a lake, but no aqueduct has been built. For this reason, those of the inhabitants who are not working in the mines must use much of their time and energy in carrying water from sources miles away. Each inhabitant is his own water carrier. This is a particularly shocking example, but unfortunately, we all know that it is not an isolated one.

If the people of the under-developed countries are to receive full benefits from economic development, their social problems must be attacked at the same time. They need expert advice in public health and sanitation; nutrition; in overcoming illiteracy; in housing and town planning as well as in industrialization and modernization of their agricultural methods. The economists and sociologists must work together.

The Venezuelan delegation believes firmly that the most immediate and practical means which the United Nations can use to facilitate the economic development and social progress of the under-developed countries is by furnishing expert advice and assistance. The General Assembly pointed the way in its Resolution of December 14, 1946, which was originally presented by the delegation of Lebanon. The last paragraph of this Resolution

states that: "The Assembly decides to refer to the Economic and Social Council for study the question of providing effective ways and means for furnishing in cooperation with the specialized agencies, expert advice in the economic, social and cultural fields to Member Governments who desire this assistance."

The draft resolution, which we have presented jointly with the delegations of Cuba, Chile, India, Lebanon, and Peru, endeavours to implement the Resolution of the General Assembly,

The Economic and Social Council, as we know, is a coordinating and policy-making body. Our decisions, taken in the most democratic manner by a simple majority vote, are not mandatory. If Member Governments do not follow the policies we decide upon, the prestige of this body and of the United Nations will suffer. This resolution we have introduced, however, does not lay down a policy which the Member Governments must either accept or reject. It gives the Secretariat, in collaboration with the specialized agencies, the task of collecting information and creating machinery which will implement one of the most important articles of the Charter, the promise to promote higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development. It gives the Member Governments the opportunity to take advantage of this machinery, in accordance with their own judgment of their own needs,

The Indian representative recalled to us in one of his very learned interventions that in highly developed countries, full employment can be obtained through full production. We all know however that periods of full production and employment are interrupted by economic crises, during which we have what is called ~~excess~~ production accompanied by underconsumption. During these periods, we see famine in some sections of the world, while in others the so-called excess production of food products is burned or dumped into the sea. We believe that the development of the so-called colonial and semi-colonial areas of the world--I am speaking in the economic sense-- and the improvement of their intolerable living conditions will open vast new markets, which will enable the highly industrialized powers to avoid a recurrence of this shocking phenomenon.

One prerequisite for the development of these regions is access to technical ~~know~~ know and expert advice.

We agree with the Soviet delegation declaration that the help given to under-developed countries "should not result in political or other advantages to countries which are furnishing assistance." We also agree with the Canadian representative's rephrasing of this statement. He said, "No narrow or exclusive advantages should result to the countries furnishing assistance." We agree with this rephrasing, because we firmly believe that the development and improvement of the standard of living of the under-developed countries will bring real advantages to all the countries of the world.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we wish to answer, maybe in advance, the objections which some of our colleagues in this Council may raise concerning expenditures which will be entailed by the creation of the new services within the Secretariat. We feel that a small, compact section or unit gathering information and preparing a sort of catalogue of technical personnel need not be too expensive. Initial advisory operations would necessarily be on a modest scale and would expand to the extent that their success proves their value to the Member Governments. We believe that money spent on such a unit will be one of the best investments for the Members of the United Nations. It can be one of the first United Nations enterprises to bring concrete results, which will encourage the peoples of the world and build up the prestige of the United Nations.

MR. KIRPALANI (India): Mr. President, I shall be very brief indeed.

The activity contemplated in the resolution, which six delegations have sponsored, is not ambitious; it need not be costly and it should not be difficult to set up in the Secretariat as a unit or a section so far as the personnel is concerned. As my colleague from Venezuela has pointed out, what we contemplate now is an initial step. We contemplate that the Secretariat should prepare a catalogue of experts available in various fields, a catalogue of research and technical facilities that may be available with specialized agencies or with private bodies. It is not the intention of our resolution that at present there should be set up an activity for imbibing within the Secretariat expert knowledge in various fields. The resolution does not contemplate that we take this first step and stop there. It does not stop further expansion, enjoining of more comprehensive plans in good time. The activity is not confined to the industrial field, although it is likely that most of the countries who have low standards of living will take advantage of experts in the industrial field first.

We laid the greatest emphasis on teams of experts being made available. That might sound a rather tall order, but may I, sir, draw the attention of the Council to a very valuable paper in the Report of the FAO Preparatory Commission on world food proposals -- it is on page 66, appended. It shows how UNRRA carried out exactly the kind of work which we contemplate now. At the request of the countries, the unit or section in the Secretariat will give information about experts available in any Member countries whatsoever, so that Governments who have got their problems could get in touch directly with the experts and, if possible, through the good offices of the Secretariat.

The expenditure on the activities, so far as the Secretariat is concerned, should be very small. As I contemplate the matter, a senior officer with two deputies and six or seven assistants, ought to be able to carry out the work of codification very effectively indeed.

Now, there may be two possible technical criticisms of the resolution. The resolution talks of the setting up of a section within the Secretariat. It is not the intention of the sponsors of the resolution to restrict the discretion of the Secretary-General as to the type of organization that he should set up. It could be a unit; or the Secretary-General may wish to set up a section; he may wish to set up a division; or he may wish to set up a department in the course of time. What we contemplate is something small and compact.

Then in paragraph 3 there is a suggestion that when teams of experts have studied the local problems within certain countries, they would advise the Governments concerned as to the practical solutions they recommend, and maybe also at the same time inform the other Governments concerned, who might be able to help in solving those problems. If it is so desired, and if it is felt that such action by experts in sending ^{advice} to other countries concerned, which the experts think might help in solving the problems of particular countries -- if such a step is going to embarrass other countries, we will not insist on it.

It will be for the countries to whom such experts send their advice to say which other governments the experts should approach for help and for coordination of activities, so as to resolve their problems.

One great advantage of this expert advice which Member countries of the United Nations may be able to obtain through this cataloging service would be that the countries themselves will very quickly start their own extension services within their countries. I lay great emphasis on that point.

Many of our countries, sir, have long-range programmes for setting up large-scale industries, but we feel that a great deal can be done in setting up small industries. Even in the United States, which is a country of giant organizations and large industries, the backbone of the country is the small business.

If I may refer once again for a brief moment to this Appendix D on page 66 of the FAO Report, a very cursory glance at the types of industries that can be started at a very modest expenditure through this expert service should convince the Members of the Council of the tremendous help that this kind of service which the resolution contemplates can give to countries like India, like Venezuela, like Chile, like Lebanon. In the small catalog of industries mentioned here, it refers to rice milling plants, vegetable oil processing plants, pig iron smelters, brick kilns, cement plants, sulphuric acid plants, ammonium sulphate plants, small power and light plants, grain storage bins, and so on -- all the industries which a large country such as mine, which has by and large not a high standard of living, does require and requires to be set up immediately.

MR. PEREZ-CISNEROS (Cuba): Mr. President, I think it would be very difficult to add any new element to the remarks which have been made by the representatives of Venezuela and of India, who have so well underlined the problem which we think is confronting the under-developed and undeveloped countries, and who have given such a detailed analysis of the proposal which is now under consideration.

At the same time, Mr. President, we do not believe that the delegations in this Council will disagree with the idea which is behind this proposal and which we hope will receive unanimous approval.

Mr. President, in order to expedite the work of the Council, and in view of the time factor, I should like to suggest that this question be referred to the corresponding committee of the Council, where all delegations, including ours, will have an opportunity to give to it due consideration.

MR. MOROZOV (USSR) (Second interpretation; original in Russian): Mr. President, I have no objection to having a discussion on this proposal in the committee. However, in view of the discussion which will take place in the committee, I feel that it is most important that we bear in mind the decision which we took in the very beginning of the Economic and Social Council, which is, specifically, that whenever any proposal is discussed which has budgetary aspects, the necessary estimates be provided by the Secretariat concerning possible expenditures,

Therefore, Mr. President, I request that at the time this problem is discussed in the committee, these estimates be provided by the Secretariat.

MR. PHILLIPS (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I shall be very brief as other speakers have been very brief. I just wanted to intervene on behalf of my Government to welcome very warmly indeed this resolution and to express our sympathy and great interest in the problems put forward by the Venezuelan delegation.

The statement which followed by the Indian delegation cleared up a number of points on the text that were in our minds, and we should feel very content to see this referred right away to the Drafting Committee with the general blessing of the Council.

MR. ARCA PARRO (Peru): Mr. President, I regret that I do not agree with my good friend, the representative of Cuba, who has asked that this proposal should be referred to our Economic Commission. I think we have before us a proposal the nature of which practically everyone around this table is agreed upon; at least, so far I have not heard any objection at all, except the remark as to the presentation of budgetary estimates. If that is so, I think that it is useless in any way to postpone the approval of this proposal for even one day, inasmuch as no one has objected.

I think we are right in not objecting to this proposal, for the simple reason that the principles involved derive from the Charter. In a number of provisions of the Charter we can find the grounds on which this proposal has been built up. What is the use of having an organization like the United Nations if--

The PRESIDENT: May I intervene. As I understood the proposal of the Cuban representative when he suggested that this matter may be referred to the Committee, it should be taken for granted that the general principle underlying the resolution was accepted, but that the Committee would consider carefully in what form^{the}/effect should be given to the principle. And in suggesting the formulation of that form, we would take into account the budgetary sanctions required. At that stage the Secretariat will have ready a statement of the budgetary or financial implications of the proposal of the Venezuelan and other representatives.

MR. ARCA PARRO (Peru): I accept your ruling, Mr. President, but I thought such a procedure was not so indispensable, as long as there was no objection to this proposal.

The PRESIDENT: In any case, the resolution has to be carefully considered from the point of view of drafting, at least.

MR. ARCA PARRO (Peru): May I speak on the substance of it?

The PRESIDENT: Certainly.

MR. ARCA PARRO (Peru): Well, as one of the sponsors of this Resolution, of course I am supposed to support it; no question about it. But I should like to underline the fact that this is really a very weak attempt, from our point of view, to do something effective along the lines of changing the economic trends of the so-called undeveloped or under-developed countries,--and I use such phrases, so called, because we do not agree, really, that is the proper term. We will have to look for some other term to express the real meaning of the economic situation of those countries. But let us leave aside that question for another time.

Even if the budgetary expenses or estimates were shown to be high, I would not think they could be so high if we consider them within the general budget of the United Nations. I do not know exactly what the amount is, but something over 20 million dollars or 25 million dollars, I think. What is the percentage of that budget that we could spend, that we must spend, in order to implement a proposal of this type? If the justification of this proposal, as it has been so eloquently made by my colleague from Venezuela, and clarified in some aspects by my colleague from India, is taken into consideration, we have to come to the conclusion that this proposal will affect for the good, two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations. But somebody might say, unfortunately, those two-thirds are not the ones who contribute the higher proportion to the budget. That is all right.

But why is it that we do not contribute more? It is not because we would not like to contribute more; it is because our economies are so weak that we cannot afford to make larger contributions. If our economy develops, we will be willing to contribute to the expenses of the United Nations under a higher quota. So, it is just a temporary trouble that we may face from that point of view. I do not think anybody will raise such a question, because we are not so narrow-minded as to think that when we associate with a number of larger countries in a common effort that we have to be tied up to the amount we contribute. No. Coming here in accordance with the principles of the Charter, with equal rights to discuss and to decide on world problems, we think our role is not just to make up a quorum for the sessions of the Council. I think we have to express our ideas very clearly, very openly. We think that is the only way that the problems of the world may be solved. Otherwise, I think our presence here would be useless.

I do not think that it is the opinion of anyone around this table or, in general, the opinion of the United Nations that some countries, because of the fact that their quota is small, should not ask for the implementation or the actual use of the principles of the Charter. I am sure there is no such feeling. I am sure that our colleague from the Soviet Union, in asking the amount that would be involved in putting into effect this Resolution, has in mind only to keep in line with certain recommendations that came from the Secretary-General at the beginning of our session.

Mr. Mc Neil, from the United Kingdom, I remember very well, stated that we have to bear in mind the expense involved in any proposal but we have to bear in mind also the aim and the importance of the service that we want and that we are trying to establish. That is the case. Even if the United Nations is short of money at this time, we have the means to do it.

Even the smaller countries will be willing to make a higher contribution, I am sure, if they are going to see something practical coming out of the Organization. On the other hand, if the smaller countries are not going to realize anything practical, what is the benefit of sitting around this table? Of course, in considering the expenses to be contributed to the United Nations, we have to remember that besides what we contribute, no matter how small that may be, our Governments have to spend an extra amount to send delegations here, to have an office and headquarters here, and to attend to all the business of the United Nations. So, out of that investment, we have to see the outcome of that investment that our countries are making.

In proposing this Resolution, we, as I said at the beginning, are beginning to take necessary steps to develop our aims. It is useless to go into that again. The representative of India has already gone into that question. We must have a clear knowledge of the economic picture of the world, as to the means by which new trends could be developed. We do not believe, and I do not think anybody around this table would admit that a new crisis could develop because the world is producing too much and there is no market for it. No. That is an absolutely fallacious economic theory. Nobody around this table can deny the fact that the greater part of the population of the world is under-consumed. There are no means for the greater part of the population of the world to consume what they are supposed to consume, and what they have a right to consume. In promoting the development of the so-called undeveloped countries, what we want is to give to this large population of the world a better standard of living as a consequence of higher salaries and the possibility of higher purchasing power.

If we could raise, as we expect to do, the economic and social standards in those countries, of course, these countries will have larger industries and consequently will benefit from the greater possibilities of marketing what they produce. Because the time will come, no matter how big the domestic market is in any country, what that country is able to produce under a highly specialized system and by mass production will not be consumed within that one country. Therefore, we have to remember that we need wider international trade.

This Resolution is just one that is part of a number of other resolutions that have been passed without objection. Therefore, I am not surprised that there is no objection to this.

So, according to your ruling, Mr. President, I just want to stress that so far this Resolution has not met with any objection and I hope that it will be approved without objection.

Thank you.

MR. BORIS (France) (Interpretation from French): Mr. President, we were convinced in advance of the interest and importance of organizing the technical advice to Members of the United Nations on a practical basis. If we had not been convinced from the beginning, the arguments which were put forward by the representative of Venezuela and the representative of India would have convinced us of this interest and importance.

On the means which are suggested in the resolution which has been submitted to the Council, the French delegation agrees. We would have had a few observations to make on certain points of the resolution. However, the representative of India answered these questions before we made our observations.

The French delegation would also have had a few suggestions which it would have liked to be added to the resolution, but it keeps in mind the fact that the time of the Council is running short, and it will follow the example which has been given by the representative of Cuba by reserving its right to present these suggestions in the Committee.

MR. MALIK (Lebanon): Mr. President, I have the honour to support Document E/23⁴ with which my delegation is associated. We are only asking the Secretariat to help us when we ask for such help. There is an argument from the realities of the world situation and the situation in which the United Nations finds itself which we must take into account.

The argument is that the United Nations objectively is not ready to render such assistance on a large and effective scale; that it lacks the machinery and the means to do so. This is a very real argument. We must not blind ourselves before it.

It is for this reason that I think that for a long time to come nations will continue resorting to bilateral arrangements with other nations so far as aid and assistance are concerned. I would give an example of this.

We have, ourselves, asked for help from the Secretariat as early as six months ago. We named definite experts whom we wanted in my country. So far we have received no assistance. Therefore, Mr. President, we cannot be blamed if ⁱⁿ the meantime, and until such machinery is effected, we resort to bilateral arrangements which are mutually satisfactory. But we must keep in mind that in spite of all this, there are provisions in the Charter which make it necessary for the United Nations to provide for such assistance to its Members when they ask for it, and we must also not forget that too exclusive dependence of any one country on the more-developed countries would certainly in time endanger the political and economic independence of their country.

For these reasons, Mr. President, the whole idea of this resolution is that it is the United Nations as such, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, that arranges and supplies the required assistance to its Member Governments.

I would like, in concluding, to make one more remark on the quality of this assistance. Unless the offered assistance is of the best available and as excellent as any Member Nation as such can provide, and unless it is absolutely disinterested, there will arise a competition between what the United Nations would offer and what several other Member nations would offer, and the Member Governments would then have to not/resort to the help of the United Nations. I want to stress this point of excellence and disinterestedness. The United Nations, in offering help, must offer to its Members the most excellent and the most disinterested assistance possible.

For all these reasons, Mr. President I take great honour in supporting the resolution embodied in document E/324.

MR. STINEBOWER (United States): Mr. President, like some of the other speakers who have preceded me, I shall reserve all of the detailed comments for the meeting of the Committee to which this will be referred.

I simply want to take this occasion to say two things. The United States delegation very warmly supports the resolution in general. We have some comments to make about the method of organization, or rather the precision that the present resolution has about the method of organizing the work in the Council. We shall have a few comments to make about reserving to the specialized agencies the functions/which they now are equipped to carry out and a few comments also to make about some standards which the United Nations may take the lead in formulating as to the terms on which expert advice may be made available. Those I shall

reserve for the Committee.

The PRESIDENT: The principle of the resolution, I take it, is accepted by the Council. It will now be referred to the appropriate committee.

The Council will now adjourn and meet at 10:00 a. m. on Monday morning to resume the consideration of the other items on the agenda now before the Council--at 10:00 a. m. on Monday morning, not 11:00 a. m.

(The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm)