

2054th meeting

Thursday, 5 May 1977, at 11.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR.2054

AGENDA ITEM 2

Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (E/5919, E/L.1763)

1. Mr. BERKOL (United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator) said that he wished to update the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (E/5919). He would do so on the basis of the findings of the joint FAO/WFP/UNDRO mission to Ethiopia and the consultations held with the UNDP Resident Representative at Addis Ababa.

2. There had been crop failures in four provinces of Ethiopia, notably in the north-eastern escarpment areas of Wollo and Tigre, although the immediate reaction of the Ethiopian Government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission had helped considerably to alleviate the situation for the time being. Mention should also be made of the progress achieved by the Commission with regard to preparedness to respond to emergency situations.

3. Because of the difficulty of obtaining reliable data on the number of people likely to require food assistance in the coming months, it was also impossible to make a reliable estimate of the quantity of relief grain needed. The general impression, shared by government officials, was that, although crop losses had occurred, the situation was not comparable in severity to the crisis of 1973 and 1974. Nevertheless, a serious situation would undoubtedly arise in certain parts of the region before the next harvest in October, so that the "food-for-work" projects for soil conservation and reforestation implemented by the Government deserved the fullest support during that critical period.

4. Ethiopia's grain import requirements for 1977, both commercial and food aid, were estimated at 200,000 tons. Of those, 100,000 tons of wheat were scheduled as commercial imports and 53,000 tons of cereal were already committed as food aid. However, that left a shortfall of about 50,000 tons, and donors were earnestly requested to consider that need.

5. The import of food through the ports of Assab and Djibouti had been complicated not so much by the lack of port handling equipment as by the insufficiency of road transport. The existing fleet of trucks was not sufficient for the task of clearing from the ports and distributing the 200,000 tons of grain needed in 1977. The Government was currently short of 500 trucks, and it was recommended that it should plan to purchase approximately 450 trailer trucks each year in order to maintain a fleet suitable to its needs. In the light of the findings of the joint mission, his Office had on 18 March 1977 endorsed the Ethiopian

Government's request to the donor community for 150 trucks and four 3-ton mobile cranes. So far, one donor had offered 10 trucks, and he stressed that the remaining 140 trucks and the cranes were vital in order to improve the transport situation.

6. The situation in the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia depended largely on the outcome of the current "small rains". There were indications that they would be below normal; for example, workers building a road between Kobo and Lalibella had begun to request food payments instead of cash. In the Wollo and Tigre provinces, representatives of overseas agencies and government officials had expressed to the mission their growing concern about free relief food distributions, which they felt ran counter to efforts to promote the self-reliance of the population. The mission had emphasized the urgency of continuing development activities, such as terracing, soil conservation and afforestation, to fight the underlying causes of the drought.

7. It was to be hoped that, with the assistance of the international community, and given time and stability so that the longer-term measures could take effect, the Government of Ethiopia would be able steadily to improve the chronic food situation which had affected its northern areas for the past four years.

8. Mr. DOO KINGUÉ (Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme) recalled the measures of assistance to Ethiopia taken by the UNDP Governing Council at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions. At the latter session, the Governing Council had authorized the Administrator to approve projects for drought-related activities which might be requested by the Government of Ethiopia, up to an amount of \$2 million for the period ending 31 December 1976.

9. As of that date, UNDP expenditure under that authorization had amounted to \$1.6 million. Those resources had primarily been directed towards the provision of expertise and equipment aimed at reversing on a long-term basis the devastating effect of the drought, as well as shoring up those national institutions which were needed in the rehabilitation process. UNDP activities had included agricultural research, settlement assistance, public health assistance and the services of sanitary and water supply engineers.

10. In addition, in April 1975 the UNDP Administrator had approved a water supply project for an amount of \$1,266,000 and a rural roads project for an amount of \$1,793,000, both financed through the United Nations Capital Development Fund. Part of the equipment for the first of those projects had been delivered, and the remainder would arrive in Ethiopia in the next two months.

It was anticipated that operations under the rural road project would terminate in June 1977. The Administrator had just received from the Ethiopian Government another request for assistance from the United Nations Capital Development Fund in relation to the new situation in the country, and the request was being examined.

11. Because Ethiopia was one of the less developed countries and a drought-stricken country, it had been given for 1977-1981 an indicative planning figure of \$42 million, which represented an increase of over 100 per cent compared to the previous figure. Ethiopia had also recently been granted, as a less developed country, a special UNDP allocation from which the Government had set aside \$109,000 for agricultural and economic rehabilitation in those provinces hardest hit by the drought.

12. The UNDP Regional Representative, in addition to acting as the representative in Ethiopia of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and of the Executive Director of WFP, had within the past year also assumed the task of co-ordinating the implementation of other donor aid programmes. For that purpose, monthly meetings were being held under his auspices with the representatives of donor institutions, regular communications were maintained with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and information was disseminated on the effects of the drought. Those activities enhanced the effectiveness of the assistance, ensured that it was provided to the areas most in need, and permitted a flow of information between donor institutions and the Government, whose requirements and policies were thus conveyed to those institutions on a regular basis.

13 Mr. ADUGNA (Ethiopia) said that the drought in Ethiopia had been more severe than the one which had affected all the Sahelian countries, in terms of loss of human lives and livestock and of soil erosion and exhaustion, and that long-range recovery and rehabilitation efforts would be required, for which substantial funds would have to be allocated. The cost of combating the effects of natural disasters such as those facing the Sahelian countries and Ethiopia far exceeded the meagre resources of many developing countries. Thus, despite its sincere desire to solve its problems on its own, the Government of Ethiopia had been obliged to seek the support and assistance of the international community, for whose co-operation it was grateful.

14. It was currently estimated that 1.5 million people needed relief assistance for periods ranging from six months to one year, and that their needs could be met in part with the 50,000 tons of grain committed and the 18,000 tons already delivered. Ethiopia was still awaiting donor response for the remaining 50,000 tons of cereals. The logistic problems of delivering the grain to the population requiring relief assistance were considerable, and very expensive to solve. For that reason, and because the task would be even more difficult during the "big rains", an appeal had been made for the donation of a fleet of trucks, but so far the aid received had fallen far short of requirements. It would be recalled that the Ethiopian delegation had already alerted donors and the United Nations system to that problem at the thirty-first session of

the General Assembly and at the sixtieth session of the Economic and Social Council.

15. If relief work was to be effective, it had to be followed by an efficient rehabilitation programme, but the persistent pressure of emergency assistance was diverting much of the national resources from recovery work. The UNDP technical assistance with regard to settlements, and the assistance provided by the United Nations Capital Development Fund, had therefore been very useful in putting into practice the United Nations resolutions concerning rehabilitation work. UNICEF co-operation in the field of health services, the provision of drinking water and the education of nomads at the settlement sites had also been invaluable.

16. The Government of Ethiopia, for its part, had carried out settlement projects for the nomads who had been victims of the drought, had taken soil and water conservation measures, had undertaken road construction and reforestation and was developing the country's irrigation potential. It had also set up an early warning system and worked out a strategy for an emergency food reserve with the assistance of the United Nations system and bilateral donors.

17. In the early days of the drought the Government then in power in Ethiopia had not sought aid from abroad. All the assistance given at that time had been the result of international pressure. Information on the drought in the Sahel had been more readily available and for that reason the Office for Sahelian Relief Operations of FAO and the United Nations Sahelian Office had been established, whereas no similar organization had been established for the countries of East Africa. In view of the long-term needs of rehabilitation, perhaps it would be worth while to consider the possibility of using the existing machinery to provide services for other African countries which, like Ethiopia, might be devastated by drought. If recourse was had to those offices, along with UNDP, for co-operation in the recovery and rehabilitation of the areas of Africa affected by the drought, satisfactory results could be achieved.

18. He appealed to the international community to co-operate with his country in accelerating rehabilitation measures so that they would proceed at a pace commensurate with the needs of the population. The Government of Ethiopia, for its part, would do everything in its power to eliminate the effects of an antiquated system of land tenure and persistent drought and to ensure the satisfaction of at least the basic requirements of its population.

19. Mr. MOHAMMED (Bangladesh) said that the situation which Ethiopia was experiencing epitomized the fate of the majority of areas in the world which were disaster-prone. In those areas, adverse climatic conditions at the harvest time, a flood, or any other natural disaster created emergency conditions which jeopardized the development efforts of the Governments. The subsistence economies of those areas did not have the requisite absorptive capacity to enable them to meet situations of that kind. UNDRO had done commendable work in concentrating its assistance on the humanitarian aspects of the problem in the areas devastated by drought. Accordingly, his delegation fully supported the continuation of the efforts of UNDRO to assist Ethiopia

and advocated strengthening its activities and the activities of other development aid bodies such as UNDP and UNICEF in their respective spheres of competence.

20. Mr. MADEY (Yugoslavia) said that the fact that Yugoslavia was one of the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1763, entitled "Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia", was indicative of the importance which it attached to that question and its desire to respond to the appeal to the international community and to the donor countries to increase the assistance they were providing to Ethiopia to mitigate the effects of a problem which had been continuing for four years. It was to be hoped that the international community would respond fully to that appeal. Yugoslavia maintained friendly relations with Ethiopia and was promoting co-operation in various fields, including assistance in solving the problem which the Council was now considering. He hoped that the Council would adopt draft resolution E/L.1763 which was before it. On behalf of the sponsors, and in order to dispel any confusion with respect to some paragraphs of that draft resolution, he said that the sponsors interpreted operative paragraph 1 and the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI) in the light of section X of that resolution, which dealt with emergency measures.

21. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said that Poland traditionally supported measures to assist African countries in raising the level of living of their populations. The situation in Ethiopia required all the attention and help that the international community could give it. His delegation supported draft resolution E/L.1763, particularly the paragraphs calling for the adoption of short-term and long-term measures. It was satisfied with the criteria for assistance to Ethiopia which had been adopted by the organizations within the United Nations, particularly UNDRO, FAO, UNDP and UNICEF, and it hoped that those organizations would continue to act with speed and efficiency. Poland intended to give greater impetus to its economic relations with Ethiopia, including assistance; it hoped that the Council would adopt draft resolution E/L.1763 by consensus and would ensure its early implementation.

22. Mr. MAINA (Kenya), introducing draft resolution E/L.1763 on behalf of the sponsors, said that the statements of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa of UNDP and Mr. Adugna, the representative of Ethiopia, had highlighted the seriousness of the situation confronting the people and Government of Ethiopia, which should be a matter of concern to the entire international community. That situation had been further aggravated by a poor harvest in the provinces which traditionally exported grain. It was those considerations that had prompted the formulation of draft resolution E/L.1763, which required no further explanation. In operative paragraph 1 the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and other organizations were requested to continue and intensify their assistance to Ethiopia in its relief and rehabilitation effort in their respective areas of competence; the sponsors of the draft resolution wished to take the opportunity to express to those bodies their appreciation of the commendable work which they had been doing to mitigate the seriousness of the situation in Ethiopia.

23. In paragraph 2 the sponsors of the draft resolution had deemed it appropriate to ask Member States and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to increase their assistance, for the battle was far from won. The sponsors appealed to the generosity of those who had contributed to that noble cause and asked those who had not done so to consider the possibility of granting assistance so as to put an end to the serious situation in Ethiopia. As was noted in the Secretary-General's report (E/5919), Ethiopia's estimated import requirements included 200,000 tons of grain, and 150 trucks, 15 forklifts, three cranes of 5-15 tons for port handling and five large storage sheds were also required. Donations in kind or in cash would be welcome.

24. Since the problem was not a temporary one, the sponsors had felt it necessary to include operative paragraph 3, with a view to the Council's continuing to consider the question. In order to acknowledge the efforts made by UNDP in that connexion, he proposed that the following new preambular paragraph should be added after the fourth preambular paragraph:

"Having also heard the report of the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa on the assistance being provided by UNDP to the Government of Ethiopia in relation to its relief and rehabilitation programmes in the drought-stricken areas of the country".

25. He announced that Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Rwanda had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

26. Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) pledged Jamaica's solidarity with and support of the Government and people of Ethiopia and announced that her delegation was joining the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1763.

27. Mr. KOSSEV (Bulgaria) said that the report of the Secretary-General (E/5919) and the statements which the Council had heard left no room for doubt that the situation in the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia continued to be a precarious one. For that reason his delegation felt that both bilateral and multilateral assistance to Ethiopia should be continued. His Government viewed with sympathy the efforts being made by Ethiopia to overcome the situation. On two occasions it had provided assistance to the fraternal people of Ethiopia and had given 157 tons of food-stuffs, including special food for children, and medicines. Bulgarian doctors were working in Ethiopia helping the Ethiopian people in their efforts to combat the effects of the drought. Bulgaria had intensified its economic and technical co-operation with Ethiopia and the two countries had entered into bilateral agreements in those fields. For those reasons his delegation, like others, hoped that draft resolution E/L.1763 would be adopted by consensus.

28. Mr. NEUHOFF (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his Government, as had been stated on earlier occasions, was fully aware of the need to take emergency relief and rehabilitation measures to assist the drought-stricken areas. Therefore, in the period from 1973 to 1976 the Federal Republic of Germany had provided humanitarian assistance to a value of DM 57 million from both

official funds and humanitarian institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany.

29. Mr. OULD SID'AHMED (Mauritania) said that Mauritania belonged to a region which had also been suffering for long years from a devastating drought whose effects were felt in all sectors of the country's economy, for which reason it could appreciate the immensity of the problems besetting Ethiopia and it hoped that the international community would realize the seriousness and urgency of the situation. His delegation wished to join in sponsoring draft resolution E/L.1763.

30. Mr. AMIRDZHANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he supported draft resolution E/L.1763. The progressive economic and social changes taking place in Ethiopia and the efforts of the Ethiopian Government to eliminate the effects of the drought evoked a sympathetic response in the Soviet Union. His country provided substantial assistance to countries which were victims of natural disasters and had intensified its equitable co-operation with Ethiopia, with due respect for national sovereignty, in order to accelerate Ethiopia's economic, technical and cultural progress and strengthen its economy.

31. Mr. PARSI (Iran) said his delegation was concerned about the seriousness of the situation which had prevailed for four years in Ethiopia. His Government, aware of the difficulty of that situation, had been one of the first to assist Ethiopia, whose people and Government were to be congratulated on their efforts to solve the problem. His delegation felt that the international community should provide more assistance to Ethiopia to help it cope with its desperate situation, and therefore hoped that draft resolution E/L.1763 would be adopted by consensus.

32. Mr. ALFONSO MARTINEZ (Cuba) said that his country, which reacted to the situation in the sister country of Ethiopia as though it were itself involved, was fully aware of the Ethiopian Government's efforts to overcome that situation. As at previous sessions, Cuba associated itself with other delegations in order to assist Ethiopia and in the current instance supported draft resolution E/L.1763 and wished to be added to the list of sponsors.

33. Mr. DUMAS (France) said that his country, like other countries of the European Economic Community, had sent food aid to Ethiopia. His delegation associated itself with the expressions of solidarity with the Ethiopian people.

34. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to adopt draft resolution E/L.1763, as revised by the representative of Kenya, without a vote.

Draft resolution E/L.1763, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 2047 (LXII)).

35. Mr. ADUGNA (Ethiopia) thanked delegations for their expressions of solidarity with the Ethiopian people and expressed his country's gratitude to the United Nations system for the assistance it had provided. He also expressed his satisfaction at the unanimous adoption of draft resolution E/L.1763.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Regional cartographic conferences (E/5906, E/5918, E/L.1758, E/L.1760-1762)

36. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that his delegation had studied carefully the report of the Secretary-General on international co-operation in cartography (E/5906), prepared in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1839 (LVI), embodying the decision to convene the First United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas at Panama in March 1976.

37. The results of that Conference had been encouraging, not only because 38 countries had attended, but also because of the progress made in the consideration of items which were vitally important to the development process, especially physical planning and other matters that could enable the American countries to take further steps towards the implementation of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI)), particularly such aspects thereof as the exercise by States of permanent sovereignty over their natural resources. The items considered by the Conference, from cadastral mapping to remote sensing by satellite, constituted specific aspects of that process.

38. The work involved had to be carried out in a painstaking and continuous manner, and required constant stimulation by Governments and the support of all the technical and economic means of the United Nations system. Consequently, another Latin American meeting should be held so that that region would be able to contribute to the progress of cartography throughout the world and accelerate the transfer of technology in that area.

39. He was privileged to introduce, on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, the United States of America and Venezuela, a draft resolution (E/L.1758), entitled "Convening of a Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas", in which the Secretary-General was requested to make the necessary arrangements to convene the Conference at Mexico City during the first half of 1979. The draft resolution also requested the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations of the First Cartographic Conference, held at Panama, which entailed such important and necessary activities as hydrographic charting, photogrammetry, cadastral mapping, remote sensing and satellite imagery and remote sensing information transfer. His delegation considered that all those measures would undoubtedly help to strengthen the technical position of the countries concerned with regard to matters dealt with in other bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, such as the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, activities concerning population, the environment and human settlements, and technical services relating to the evaluation of natural resources.

40. Draft resolution E/L.1758 also expressed the Council's appreciation of the generous offer of Mexico to act as host to the Conference and to extend full co-operation in that regard.

41. Lastly, he pointed out that in operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution E/L.1758 the reference to General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 should be replaced by a reference to resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976, which superseded the earlier resolution.

42. Mr. HANNAH (New Zealand) said that his delegation had the privilege to introduce, on behalf of Bangladesh, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, draft resolution E/L.1760, entitled "Convening of the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific". He was glad that Canada and Iran had joined the list of sponsors.

43. New Zealand had for many years attached considerable importance to its participation, together with the other countries of Asia and the Pacific, in the work of the United Nations cartographic conferences held in that region. The valuable results of those meetings were evident from the report of the Secretary-General on the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East (E/5918). Accordingly, New Zealand was pleased to offer to act as host to the Ninth Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, to be held early in 1980.

44. The draft resolution did not require extensive comment. Operative paragraph 1 would have the Council approve the recommendation of the Eighth Conference that the name of future regional conferences should be brought into line with the new title of the region, i.e. that the words Asia and the Far East should be replaced by Asia and the Pacific. In operative paragraph 2 the Secretary-General was requested to make the necessary arrangements to convene the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in New Zealand in February 1980. The timing recommended by the Eighth Conference reflected consultations between the New Zealand authorities and the Secretariat and also took account of the proposal to convene the Second Regional Conference for the Americas in the first half of 1979. He pointed out that in operative paragraph 2 the reference to General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 should be replaced by a reference to resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976, which superseded the earlier resolution. In operative paragraph 3 the Secretary-General was requested to take measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, held at Bangkok from 17 to 28 January 1977, including a further meeting of the Group of Experts on Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting. His delegation was happy to note that according to document E/L.1762 on financial implications, the meeting of a small group of experts at Headquarters would not entail any additional expenditure.

45. Lastly, his delegation commended draft resolution E/L.1760 to the Council for adoption and expressed its support for draft resolution E/L.1758 introduced by the representative of Ecuador.

46. Mr. LOPEZ BASSOLS (Mexico) thanked the representative of Ecuador for his kind words and said that Mexico had recently been the site of various international

conferences and meetings, such as meetings of the Working Group on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the World Conference of the International Women's Year and the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries. Mexico also had the technical infrastructure for planning, co-ordination and production of an inventory of the country's natural, human and economic resources and considered that the study, recording and dissemination of information on those resources should create a new awareness of the development possibilities for each region and thus identify the needs, means, solutions and goals to pave the way for collective progress. The basic task of the Commission for the Study of the National Territory (CETERNAL) was the compilation of the inventory of Mexico's resources. In order to carry out that task, it was doing studies on human resources, resources in infrastructure and installations, natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, and topographical relief surveys with a view to compiling basic information for sectoral and regional planning and, subsequently, over-all national planning.

47. Mexico was sure that the countries seeking to emerge from under-development would need adequate planning for population activities as the underlying basis for their development effort. But without a real knowledge of their resources it would not be feasible to put economic development theories into practice with any guarantee of success. For those reasons, the Government of Mexico had offered, at the Panama Conference, to host the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas for two weeks during the first half of 1979, at a date to be decided in the future, after consultations with the Secretariat and the delegations planning to attend.

48. Having the necessary facilities at Mexico City, and having the technical infrastructure of CETERNAL as well as extensive regional experience in the field, the Government of Mexico was looking forward confidently to acting as host to the Second Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas.

49. His delegation felt that it would have been desirable for the Council to have before it the final document adopted at the Panama Conference,¹ since that document contained a summary of the plenary meetings and those of the four committees and the resolutions adopted, and bore eloquent testimony to the collective scientific work accomplished. His delegation also wished to congratulate Mr. Chris Christopher, Chief of the Cartography Section, who had served as Executive Secretary of that Conference, and hoped that it would be possible to have the benefit of his advice and experience in the organization of the next regional conference.

50. Mr. NAKAMURA (Japan) said that his country recognized the importance of cartography in the formulation of development plans and, in keeping with that position, had participated positively in the Eighth Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East.

51. His delegation wished to express its appreciation to the Government of New Zealand for offering to act as host

¹ L/CONF.67/3.

to the next conference for the ESCAP region, and hoped that that Conference would not only provide a forum for the exchange of information and techniques, but also consider concrete measures for regional and international co-operation at the intergovernmental level. His delegation had decided to join the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1760.

52. Mr. DUMAS (France) said that his country had always taken an interest in cartographic activities and had participated in them through the National Cartographic Institute in Paris. The French delegation supported draft resolutions E/L.1758 and E/L.1760.

53. Miss TYERMAN (Canada) said that the Canadian delegations that had attended the First United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held at Panama in 1976, and the Eighth Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, held at Bangkok in 1977, were pleased with the work of the Conferences.

54. In her delegation's view, those regional conferences provided a unique opportunity for the exchange of technical information, which was facilitated by the quality of their organization and the high calibre of the working papers submitted by delegations. They also enabled experts on the subject to exchange knowledge and experience with their counterparts from all over the world and to discuss, formally and informally, the latest developments in geodesy, mapping and surveying. Such exchanges could be of particular benefit to developing countries, which, like Canada, needed to survey and map large areas with limited resources.

55. Her delegation hoped that the Council would adopt the two draft resolutions under consideration (E/L.1758 and E/L.1760) by consensus.

56. Mr. RIEMER (United States of America) stressed the usefulness of regional cartographic conferences for all countries, and particularly for the developing countries, in view of the exchange of technical information they promoted, and he thanked the delegations of Mexico and New Zealand for their Governments' offers to act as host to forthcoming conferences.

57. Mr. WU Hsiao-ta (China) said that since China had not been represented at the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, the resolutions adopted by that Conference were not binding on China and that, should those resolutions be put to a vote at the current session of the Council, the Chinese delegation would not take part in the voting.

58. At the Council's fifty-sixth session, the delegation of China had stated that the presence of the Chiang Kai-shek clique, claiming to represent China, at the first six Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Far East, had been illegal and invalid. On that occasion the delegation of China had also said that the Sixth Regional Cartographic Conference had improperly recommended the establishment of a so-called "South China Sea Hydrographic Commission" and had included the Nansha Islands, belonging to China, and the adjoining sea areas in the hydrographic plan of the Commission. On numerous

occasions, the Chinese Government had stated that the Nansha Islands, as well as the Hsisha, Tungsha and Chungsha Islands, had always been Chinese territory and that the People's Republic of China had indisputable sovereignty over those islands and adjoining sea areas. The Chinese delegation had asked the competent authorities to take action to put an end to the hydrographic plan in question and to prevent similar cases from arising in the future, and it now reiterated that position.

59. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolutions E/L.1758 and E/L.1760, as orally revised by the representatives of Ecuador and New Zealand respectively, without a vote.

Draft resolution E/L.1758, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 2048 (LXII)).

Draft resolution E/L.1760, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 2049 (LXII)).

60. Mr. AMIRDZHANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation reserved the right to revert, in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, to the question of the financial implications of the resolutions just adopted by the Council. In his delegation's opinion, expenditure on conferences financed from the regular budget should be reduced to a minimum. Where possible the necessary funds should be obtained by economizing and by cutting down or discontinuing other programmes.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Transport questions (E/5916, TD/B/AC.20/6)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5962 AND ADD.1)

61. Mr. DOWNES-THOMAS (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the French text of paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods", recommended by the Economic Committee in paragraph 11 of its report (E/5962) would be corrected so that it conformed to the English version.

62. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution and draft decisions A, B and C recommended by the Economic Committee in its report (E/5962) without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 2050 (LXII)).

Draft decisions A, B and C were adopted (decisions 213 (LXII), para. 2, 218 (LXII) and 219 (LXI)).

AGENDA ITEM 8

Population questions (E/5913)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5961)

63. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft

resolutions I, II and III and draft decisions A and B recommended by the Economic Committee in paragraph 14 of its report (E/5961), without a vote.

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 2051 (LXII)).

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 2052 (LXII)).

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 2053 (LXII)).

Draft decisions A and B were adopted (decisions 221 (LXII) and 222 (LXII)).

AGENDA ITEM 9

Statistical questions (E/5910)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5960 AND CORR.1)

64. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft

resolutions I and II and draft decisions A and B recommended by the Economic Committee in paragraph 13 of its report (E/5960 and Corr.1), without a vote.

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 2054 (LXII)).

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 2055 (LXII)).

Draft decisions A and B were adopted (decisions 220 (LXII) and 213 (LXII), para. 1 (e)).

65. The PRESIDENT said that, as recommended by the Economic Committee in paragraph 11 of its report, the question of the date of the twentieth session of the Statistical Commission could be considered at the sixty-third session of the Council, within the context of its consideration of the biennial calendar of conferences.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

2055th meeting

Wednesday, 11 May 1977, at 11.25 a.m.

President: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR.2055

AGENDA ITEM 15

Elections (E/L.1741, E/L.1747 and Corr.1, E/L.1748, E/L.1749 and Add.1 and 2, E/L.1750-1753)

1. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take the elections in the order in which the bodies concerned were listed in the annotations to item 15 in the provisional agenda for the sixty-second session (E/5917), beginning with the Statistical Commission.

STATISTICAL COMMISSION (E/L.1747 AND CORR.1)

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect eight members of the Statistical Commission for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1978.

3. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out the following list of candidates: for two of the three seats allotted to African States: Ethiopia and Tunisia; for the seat allotted to Latin American States: Jamaica; for the three seats allotted to Western European and other States: Canada, Spain and the United States of America; for the seat allotted to Eastern European States: the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

4. The PRESIDENT suggested that those countries should be elected by acclamation, with the understanding that the third African seat would be filled at a later time.

Canada, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Spain, Tunisia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America were elected members of the Statistical Commission by acclamation.

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5. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect nine members of the Population Commission for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1978.

6. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out the following list of candidates: for the two seats allotted to African States: Egypt and Malawi; for the two seats allotted to Asian States: India and Japan; for the two seats allotted to Latin American States: Barbados and Panama; for the two seats allotted to Western European and other States: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America; for the seat allotted to Eastern European States: the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

7. The PRESIDENT suggested that those countries should be elected by acclamation.

Barbados, Egypt, India, Japan, Malawi, Panama, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were elected members of the Population Commission by acclamation.