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Chairman: Mr. Bohdan LEWANDOWSKI
(Poland).

AGENDA ITEM 84

The Cairo Declaration of Developing Countries (A/5162, A/C.2/L.650/Rev.1) (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF THE JOINT DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/C.2/L.650/REV.1) (continued)

1. Mr. KANO (Nigeria) warmly commended those countries which had sponsored the historic Cairo Declaration of Developing Countries (A/5162). The Declaration had the full support of his delegation, which attached particular importance to paragraph 6 of its preamble, to paragraphs 12, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of section I, to sections III and IV and to paragraphs 58 and 59 of section VII.

2. He supported the draft resolution which had been presented on the subject of the Declaration (A/C.2/L.650/Rev.1), but he would prefer to see the text of operative paragraph 2 replaced by the corresponding wording in the original version (A/C.2/L.650), as he doubted whether Member States which had not participated in the Cairo Conference on the Problems of Economic Development should be requested to "take appropriate action". Paragraph 2 of the draft appeared to go beyond what was called for in paragraphs 64 and 65 of the Declaration, which dealt with further co-operation.^{1/}

3. Mr. ANJARIA (India) said that India had participated in the Conference on the Problems of Economic Development, which was held at Cairo, and fully endorsed the Cairo Declaration. That conference had dealt with problems which were not exclusively the concern of its participants. The Declaration was addressed to a wider audience, consisting of all the developing and developed countries. It was not, however, a statement of demands on others, but rather an enunciation of principles which the developing countries themselves aimed to follow. Its general objective was the adoption of measures which might help to eliminate poverty in the world, a problem which would have to be solved by the United Nations.

Consequently, it did not reflect the exclusive approach of one particular group of countries. The provisions of the Declaration were fully in accord with, and also served to strengthen, some of the action already taken by the United Nations, particularly General Assembly resolution 1710 (XVI) on the United Nations Development Decade.

4. His delegation was pleased that both the Declaration and the draft resolution had proved to be so non-controversial and hoped that the latter would receive the Committee's full support. If some representatives preferred the original to the revised text of operative paragraph 2, his delegation would have no objection to the desired substitution.

5. Mr. TELL (Jordan) said that, as a developing nation, Jordan supported the draft resolution. Like certain other representatives, he preferred the original wording of operative paragraph 2, but he was prepared to accept the revised text. He hoped that, with a view to securing unanimous adoption of the draft, its sponsors would accept any amendments which might be suggested.

6. Mr. KIBRIA (Pakistan) whole-heartedly supported the principles enunciated in the Cairo Declaration, which was an important landmark in the history of mankind: it was the point at which the struggle of the new nations to secure political freedom had become the struggle to secure economic independence. Many countries which had not participated in the Cairo Conference had supported the Declaration and he particularly welcomed the balanced, moderate and practical attitude towards it which the New Zealand representative had shown at the 802nd meeting. The United Nations, as the conscience of mankind, could not ignore a document of such importance. By adopting the draft resolution, it would be taking cognizance of the Declaration and endorsing its principles. He hoped that the Committee would approve the draft resolution unanimously.

7. Mr. NYLANDER (Ghana) was gratified to note that all representatives who had spoken during the general debate had commented favourably on the Cairo Declaration. The draft resolution was an attempt to give concrete expression to the Declaration in the United Nations. No Member of the United Nations could conceivably object to the preamble, but he appreciated the reluctance of some delegations to support operative paragraph 2. He wished to point out, however, that the signatories of the Declaration were not calling on all countries to implement it in its entirety, but merely wished them to implement those parts to which they had no objection. He hoped, therefore, that the draft resolution would be approved unanimously.

8. Mr. VEJJAJIVA (Thailand) said that the participants in the Cairo Conference were to be congratulated on having produced an important, sensible and

^{1/} Reproduced in annex to document E/3682. See Official Documents of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 2.

straightforward Declaration. In stressing the importance of self-help, the Declaration was advocating a policy dear to the heart of Thailand. Equally important was the call to joint action by the developing countries themselves that appeared in paragraph 5 of the Declaration. Such action had already been taken prior to the Cairo Conference in various parts of the under-developed world. For example, the Association of Southeast Asia (ASA), comprising the Federation of Malaya, the Philippines and Thailand, had been established in 1960. Like the signatories of the Cairo Declaration, who had expressed their position in this regard in paragraph 58, Thailand attached considerable importance to international trade as a primary instrument for economic development. The recommendation set forth in paragraph 34, concerning the immediate implementation of the programme of action adopted by GATT, was highly sound and realistic. His delegation fully shared the apprehensions about regional economic grouping expressed in paragraph 37 of the Declaration and also the views expressed in paragraphs 57, 62, 68 and 69. It would vote in favour of the draft resolution which was before the Committee.

9. Mr. HASSAN (Iraq) said that the Cairo Declaration set forth the universally recognized problems of the developing countries and suggested guide-lines for their solution. The new States of the world had already gained their political independence; they had now to gain their economic independence. The former goal had been achieved by painful struggles; the latter should be achieved by peaceful co-operation. His delegation would support the draft resolution because

it invited all States to co-operate in implementing the principles of the Cairo Declaration.

10. Mr. BOLT (New Zealand) said that the representative of Pakistan had already made it clear that the New Zealand delegation whole-heartedly supported the principles of the Cairo Declaration. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously. The representatives of Nigeria and Jordan had pointed out that some aspects of the revised text might prevent its unanimous adoption. The New Zealand delegation joined them in hoping that the sponsors would reconsider the new wording and perhaps revert to the original text.

11. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) thought that the draft resolution could not possibly give rise to lengthy discussion or controversy. It merely took note of the Cairo Declaration and requested Member States to take appropriate action in keeping with the principles contained in the Declaration. The sponsors of the draft did not wish to revert to the original text (A/C.2/L.650). However, in order to meet any objections, they were quite prepared to accept any pertinent suggestions.

12. Mr. EL BANNA (United Arab Republic) stressed that paragraph 2 of the draft resolution contained nothing which could infringe the sovereign rights of Member States. All Member States were agreed on the principles of the Cairo Declaration; the insertion of the word "appropriate" before the word "action" would enable countries to bring their policies into line with those principles as they saw fit.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.