



CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 12:	
Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters IV and V) (continued).....	241

Chairman: Mr. Jiří NOSEK (Czechoslovakia).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Nuñez (Costa Rica), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters IV and V) (A/2686, A/C.3/573, A/C.3/L.432, A/C.3/L.433 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.3/L.434, A/C.3/L.435, A/C.3/L.436) (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mrs. CISELET (Belgium) said that her delegation attached great importance to the programme of concerted action in the social field approved by the Economic and Social Council at the sixteenth session (Council resolution 496 (XVI)). In the implementation of the programme, which had to be co-ordinated with national plans, special importance had to be given to the under-developed countries. Social development had to keep pace with economic development; the experience Europe had acquired in that respect might be useful to the under-developed countries.

2. Belgium was grateful to the United Nations Children's Fund for its distribution of milk to mothers and children in the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi under the anti-kwashiorkor programme. The Belgian Government had matched the UNICEF contribution as part of a ten-year plan to increase protein production and consumption in the Congo. From January 1955, it would continue the plan without UNICEF aid.

3. It was gratifying to note from paragraph 227 of the Executive Board's report (E/ICEF/276) that UNICEF funds were expended to the best advantage. The Secretary-General's efforts to co-ordinate the work of the Technical Assistance Administration, the specialized agencies and UNICEF were also praiseworthy.

4. The activities of UNICEF had been carried on chiefly in the under-developed countries and that tendency had been accentuated in 1954. The geographical distribution of UNICEF aid and the allocation of funds between the different types of aid were justified by the needs of the assisted countries. While the value of UNICEF aid in emergencies should not be underestimated, the long-term programme for children was perhaps even more to be commended.

5. It was encouraging that government matching of UNICEF aid had amounted to 157 per cent of UNICEF allocations from the inception of the Fund to the end of 1953. Belgium hoped that contributions to UNICEF would continue to increase and had therefore joined in sponsoring the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/L.433.

6. With regard to the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its ninth session (E/2606),¹ it was disturbing to note that drug addiction and illicit traffic were increasing. The need for strict application of international agreements and controls was obvious and for that reason Belgium fully endorsed resolution 548 B (XVIII) of the Economic and Social Council.

7. Belgium attached particular importance to Council resolution 548 I (XVIII), and was happy to note that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had decided to give high priority to a study of drug addiction. The close co-operation between the Secretary-General, the World Health Organization and Governments carrying out inquiries would certainly be fruitful.

8. At the eighteenth session of the Economic and Social Council, the Belgian delegation had supported the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that more extensive laboratory facilities should be made available for research by the Secretariat chemists. In view of the fact that installation expenses would be less at Geneva than in New York, and that the laboratory should be in the same place as the Division of Narcotic Drugs, which was being transferred to Geneva, Belgium would support the three-Power draft resolution on that subject (A/C.3/L.432).

9. The Belgian delegation was glad to pay a tribute to the Commission on the Status of Women, which would be necessary so long as there was discrimination as between men and women anywhere. Its excellent work, far from being purely theoretical, had a practical influence on Governments and on non-governmental organizations throughout the world.

10. For the moment the Belgian delegation would confine its observations to two questions: protection of mother and child and employment of part-time workers and older workers. The first question, however, lay more within the scope of the International Labour Organization, WHO or UNICEF than within that of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Council had acted wisely in requesting the Commission to defer consideration of it until the results of the Social Commission's study on the subject were known (Council resolution 547 M (XVIII)).

11. Employment of part-time workers and older workers was a matter of particular interest to certain countries, and the Belgian delegation agreed with the Council's decision that the study of the problem should

¹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 8.

be pursued in collaboration with ILO (Council resolution 547 L (XVIII)).

12. U MAUNG MAUNG SOE (Burma) welcomed the special consideration that was being given to under-developed countries in the implementation of the programmes of concerted practical action in the social field.

13. In Burma the social services had developed before the war according to local needs and circumstances, and the measures taken had more often been palliatives than cures. Since then the Ministry of National Planning had launched various national social welfare programmes. In the reconstruction programmes, economic development and social development had been given equal importance, and special bodies had been created to promote physical, spiritual and mental regeneration.

14. The Burmese Government had invited the United Nations social services mission to make a survey of social facilities, resources and problems and to formulate recommendations for developing social services. It had also set up a Social and Economic Board and attached a Social Planning Commission to the Ministry of National Planning. Welfare work had not been left entirely to the Government, however, and as a result of the first Burma Conference of Social Work, a Council of Social Services had been established.

15. The scope of the work of UNICEF and the increasing support it was obtaining from Governments were most encouraging. In spite of commitments for reconstruction of its war-ravaged land, the Burmese Government had contributed £20,000 to UNICEF in 1954 and had pledged a similar amount for 1955. It was heartening that the contributions of Asian nations had increased by 600 per cent, and that such a small proportion of the available funds was devoted to administrative and similar costs.

16. Burma supported the United States representative's appeal for closer co-ordination of the work of UNICEF and the specialized agencies with the social welfare programmes of the United Nations.

17. The highest priority was being given to the improvement of the health of the Burmese people, with the help of international personnel under the auspices of the Directorate of Health Services. Child mortality was high in Burma and health needs were such that the Burmese Government would support any proposal to put the health programme on a permanent basis.

18. Women in Burma enjoyed the highest privileges that women could share with men anywhere. The Burmese Constitution guaranteed equality of all citizens and Burma had signed the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (General Assembly resolution 640 (VII), annex). In the same spirit it would continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

19. Mr. DE MEIRA PENNA (Brazil) stated that his Government was particularly interested in the recognition and enforcement abroad of maintenance obligations. It had been represented on the Committee of Experts and had co-sponsored the text adopted as General Assembly resolution 734 (VIII). It agreed with the committee of experts that the convention on the recovery abroad of claims for maintenance could provide a solution for the problem and thought that the convention on the enforcement abroad of maintenance orders could serve as a guide for the preparation of

bilateral treaties or national legislation. The Brazilian Government had replied negatively to the Secretary-General's inquiry as to the possibility of convening a conference of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of the draft convention on the recovery abroad of claims for maintenance. Such a conference did not seem justified in current circumstances, but, if it were convened, Brazil would wish to be represented by an observer.

20. As Brazil felt the migratory movements of population within its borders, it was particularly interested in that problem and hoped that the Population Commission would pay the necessary attention to studies on internal migration.

21. Brazil had shown its interest in the right of peoples and nations to self-determination when its representative had stated at the tenth session of the Commission on Human Rights that many of the rights defined in the draft covenants could not be fully attained unless the right to self-determination were recognized. It supported the United States representative's remarks at the 588th meeting with regard to the applicability of that right not only to Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories but also to many countries of Europe and Asia. The work of the Commission on Human Rights with regard to self-determination was complicated and the Economic and Social Council had acted wisely in referring the question back to it for further study.

22. Discussion and decisions on self-determination were closely linked with the provisions of the draft covenants. The idea that the Commission on Human Rights might be called upon, at a later date, to prepare a draft protocol, annexed to the covenants, to embody the relevant operative provisions, would go beyond what the Commission had already proposed in so far as the defence of the right of self-determination was concerned.

23. Brazil's interest in and admiration for the work of UNICEF in Latin America had prompted it to co-sponsor the draft resolution on UNICEF (A/C.3/L.433), which it hoped would be unanimously adopted.

24. Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) pointed out that the Third Committee had studied the question of concerted action in the social field at the previous session of the General Assembly in the light of the *Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation* (E/CN.5/267/Rev.1),² which had been rightly described as an important development in post-war social history. World public opinion was now in a position to appreciate the efforts made by the United Nations to implement the provisions of the Charter and of the draft covenants on human rights and to improve living conditions.

25. Chapter IV, section II, of the Council's report (A/2686)³ gave a very encouraging picture of the way the United Nations Children's Fund was dealing with situations in all parts of the world where children were suffering as the result of war and natural disasters. As a member of the Executive Board she had had an opportunity to observe the work done by UNICEF, through its excellent administration, to improve the lot of children in under-developed countries and to give emergency aid to countries stricken by natural disasters. The generosity of donor countries was most impressive, as was that of the recipient countries,

² United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1952.IV.11.

³ Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 3.

which made matching contributions despite their difficult circumstances.

26. Among the many praiseworthy agencies with which UNICEF was particularly concerned, special note should be taken of the International Children's Centre, which the French Government had established in the Château de Longchamp, where medico-social research and educational programmes were being carried out, and of the efforts made by UNICEF to improve professional training in maternity and child welfare by means of scholarships. The training of professional staff was given a very important place in Greece, where special schools of all kinds, such as nurses training and visiting nurses schools, maternity staff training schools and schools for social workers, were in operation.

27. Three programmes were being carried out in Greece with the assistance of UNICEF and in co-operation with the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; they were for milk conservation, rehabilitation of handicapped children and the welfare of mothers and new-born children in rural areas. A drainage plan, affecting fifty-four villages, was also being studied. Special financing for the plans had been arranged by the Greek Government and the Parliament had enacted special legislation on the subject. The Greek people would never forget the assistance received from UNICEF in the crucial years 1948 to 1951. It was an excellent example of international solidarity.

28. Greece welcomed the General Assembly's decision in resolution 734 (VIII) and the Economic and Social Council's decisions with regard to the possibility of establishing uniform legislation in Member States on the recognition and enforcement abroad of maintenance obligations.

29. With regard to international drug control, Greece had participated in and had contributed to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Her delegation welcomed the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.3/573) on the establishment of a United Nations narcotics laboratory and would vote for the draft resolution on the subject (A/C.3/L.432).

30. She did not intend to re-open the debate on the recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination, on which her delegation had expressed its views during the debate on the covenants on human rights, but she felt it necessary to refer to the matter for two reasons. First, she wished to explain that in her delegation's opinion it was most regrettable that the Economic and Social Council had used delaying tactics in postponing any decision on the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination and in sending its draft resolution F⁴ back to the Commission for further consideration. Secondly, she wished to express her deep and sincere satisfaction at the assurances given by the United States representative during her notable—and duly noted—statement at the 588th meeting. She was convinced that not only the Governments represented on the Committee but also and particularly the peoples in whose behalf those Governments spoke and acted had taken note with deep appreciation of the continuing devotion of the

United States of America to the principle of self-determination of peoples.

31. The United States representative had mentioned her Government's recent signing of the Pacific Charter at Manila as evidence of the support which the United States of America proposed to give to the principle of self-determination and the right of every people to be governed according to its wishes and by the institutions of its choice. Those categorical statements were most welcome to the Greek delegation, particularly since, on the initiative of the Greek Government, the General Assembly was shortly to embark on the discussion of a question which coincided perfectly with the United States policy as Mrs. Lord had reaffirmed it. In that way, the Government of the great Republic of the United States of America would have an excellent opportunity of refuting the arguments of those who doubted the absolute sincerity of its liberal and democratic affirmations.

32. The Greek Government had been among the first to sign and ratify the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (General Assembly resolution 640 (VII), annex) and it was adapting its legislation and its civil code accordingly. It was to be hoped that Governments would give their views on measures with regard to the nationality of married women, in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 547 D (XVIII), and that the Secretariat would publish the relevant data. As to the question of equal pay for equal work, progress was being made in Greece by means of collective contracts, and employers and women's organizations were studying the matter closely, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour. The recommendations in Council resolution 547 K (XVIII) on educational opportunities for women were praiseworthy; her country particularly appreciated them because it had long since instituted free compulsory education, and made no distinction as to sex as regards the teaching staff. The number of female pupils in secondary schools and institutes of higher education in Greece had recently increased considerably. The Ministry of Education had launched a widespread campaign of adult education in accordance with the recommendations of UNESCO and the department of the Ministry in charge of that subject was headed by a woman. In respect of the work of UNESCO on methods of disseminating education, she wished to mention the role of the museum in education. In September 1954 UNESCO had taken the initiative in convening a seminar on that subject at Athens, which had produced good results and in which many women archeologists, curators and teachers had participated.

33. Finally, she hoped that at its next session the Social Commission would give careful consideration to the question of maternity and child welfare and the problems of working mothers, with a view to submitting the results of its work to the Commission on the Status of Women.

34. Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) remarked that the work of UNICEF and of all who contributed to it in any way was highly to be commended. The decision to make it a permanent agency had been wise; he would support any effort to expand its activities. He had been glad to note that nine-tenths of UNICEF assistance had gone to under-developed countries. He strongly supported the Executive Board's policy of finding effective methods to co-ordinate the assistance of UNICEF more effectively with village life and of giv-

⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 7*, annex IV.

ing a type of assistance which Governments could develop into long-range programmes of their own. Due consideration should be given to the particularities of any given area. He proposed that, when the Committee took note of the Council's report (A/2686), a special reference should be made to the achievements of UNICEF. He would support the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.433) on UNICEF.

35. He welcomed resolution 511 (XVI) by which the Economic and Social Council had amended its resolution 496 (XVI) to include in its recommendations on concerted action in the social field a reference to the improvement of health, education and social welfare in the Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, as suggested by General Assembly resolution 732 (VIII), but drew attention to the requests made by the Assembly in paragraphs 4 (a) and 4 (b) of the operative part of that resolution that further action should be considered and to paragraph 2, suggesting that the special needs of the under-developed countries should be borne in mind.

36. The United States representative, in stating that her country, in accordance with its traditions and the Charter of the United Nations, supported the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, had greatly heartened him. However, she could not have been referring to him when she stated that the right of self-determination related not only to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, but also to what she had called the vast new Communist empire, because in all the debates on the subject in the Third Committee he had consistently taken the stand that the right was a fundamental human right for all and had never related it to any specific part of the world. Any impression of a lack of balance had been created precisely by the administering Powers, which had adduced arguments about specific cases.

37. The Economic and Social Council's virtual rejection of the two draft resolutions on the subject proposed by the Commission on Human Rights had been disturbing. The Council's attention should be drawn to the need for the General Assembly to consider and adopt recommendations on the subject at its following session. The Commission itself had referred to the question as a matter of immediate concern. The Council's reasons for returning the draft resolutions to the Commission were somewhat flimsy. It had pointed out that the recommendations were not exhaustive and that various delegations had expressed opinions on their substance. No recommendations could ever be exhaustive, but the Commission had certainly discussed those particular recommendations as thoroughly as possible. A more normal procedure would have been for the Economic and Social Council to consider the Commission's recommendations, remedy any omissions and transmit its conclusions to the General Assembly, drawing the Assembly's attention to its conclusions. Any member of the Council or Commission who had further views to express could have done so in the Third Committee. The time to do so would have been precisely when the Commission still had the item on its agenda, since the Commission could have benefited from the comments made by the General Assembly, especially since most members of the Assembly were not members of the Commission.

38. The further argument for rejection of the draft resolutions was still weaker. It appeared that the Council had considered the recommendations more thor-

oughly than the Commission had, so that they were even more ready for presentation to the General Assembly. If any views needed special emphasis, simply to send the Commission the records of the debate in the Council and in the Social Committee was not enough, since the Council's rejection of the draft resolutions would itself weigh heavily with the Commission.

39. Consequently, the Third Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should at the current session request the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights to prepare draft resolutions and recommendations on the subject for the Assembly's tenth session. It was true that the Commission had already been requested by the Council to study the matter further (Council resolution 545 G (XVIII)), but the Council's attention might well be drawn to the Assembly's interest by a draft resolution such as that proposed by the Afghan delegation (A/C.3/L.435), any suggestions for the improvement of which he would willingly accept.

40. He had appreciated the Netherlands representative's view that economic development had to be accompanied by social and cultural development, although he would be inclined to lay more stress than she had on the cultural aspect. The need for the preservation of cultural patterns should always be borne in mind. In conducting such programmes particular attention should be given to the proper co-ordination of the work of the specialized agencies from the outset, particularly since their participation was likely to increase considerably in the near future.

41. Mrs. ELLIOT (United Kingdom), referring to chapter V, section IX, of the Council's report (A/2686), said that the concept of slavery was repugnant to all the Members of the United Nations. The dignity and worth of the human person could not be preserved or developed in a condition of slavery. The United Kingdom was proud to be the home of the Anti-Slavery Society, which had combated all forms of servitude for over 130 years and deserved much of the credit for the fact that "chattel" slavery had disappeared from most parts of the world. Nevertheless, vestiges of it remained and such other forms of servitude as debt bondage, serfdom and abuse of traditional practices relating to the treatment of women and children were even more widespread. The report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Forced Labour (E/2431)⁵, which would be discussed later by the Third Committee, dealt with another form of slavery which had grown up in recent times.

42. Measures for the abolition of slavery on an international scale had been taken throughout the nineteenth century and the navies of several countries had played a leading part in the suppression of the slave-trade. The most important landmark of the campaign in modern times had been the International Slavery Convention of 1926, which had attempted for the first time to define the various forms of slavery and had laid down the obligations of States to suppress slavery within their borders and to co-operate with other countries to that end. The first important step in combating slavery was to ensure that the Convention was effectively implemented in as many countries as possible. Although there had recently been some further accessions to it,

⁵ Joint United Nations and International Labour Organisation document. *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 13*, and No. 36 in the *Studies and Reports (New Series) of the International Labour Office*.

many countries, including some in which slavery or servitude were known to exist, had not yet acceded; it was to be hoped that the Governments of all Member States, at least, would soon do so.

43. The Convention was the best statement of the minimum standards acceptable to States in 1926. In the light of subsequent progress, some countries felt that the time had come to draft a supplementary convention and the Economic and Social Council had studied the matter at its seventeenth session. The United Kingdom delegation had submitted a draft supplementary convention (E/2540/Add.4), which took into account the views of Governments and the expert advice of the Anti-Slavery Society, and the Council had decided (resolution 525 B (XVII)) to submit the draft to Governments for comment and to consider the matter further at its nineteenth session. She hoped that comments and suggestions on the draft would be submitted to the Secretary-General. One of the difficulties in taking action on the problem was the lack of adequate and accurate information. An *ad hoc* committee set up for the purpose had produced valuable data, but its report had been weakened by the failure of its members to reach agreement; subsequent documents prepared by the Secretariat had also been useful, but owing to the political implications it was hardly expedient to ask the Secretariat to draft a final report. The United Kingdom delegation to the Economic and Social Council had therefore proposed that a rapporteur should be appointed to prepare a report on slavery for the nineteenth session. Such a report would greatly assist the Council in its consideration of the draft supplementary convention and might suggest further courses of action.

44. Mr. NOON (Pakistan) thought that UNICEF was not given the publicity it deserved. Its great humanitarian programme, directly affecting millions of children and their mothers, should have all the assistance and support that Member States could provide. Seventy-eight countries had been helped by over 200 UNICEF programmes. The General Assembly's decision to continue UNICEF for an indefinite period was an essential condition of any child health programme and of the training projects so necessary to underdeveloped countries. It was to be hoped that administrative costs would be kept at a low level and that co-ordination between UNICEF and the specialized agencies would become even closer.

45. With regard to narcotics control, the Pakistan delegation was disturbed by the increase in addiction and illicit traffic. That was an international problem and should be solved by international action. Accordingly, a single convention was better than multilateral instruments. The 1953 Protocol (E/NT/8)⁶ was a step in the right direction. The use of drugs for medical purposes should not be ignored and the best course was to eliminate drugs which could not be so used and to prevent medical drugs from being diverted into illicit channels.

46. The Committee was not called upon to take a decision on chapter V, section II of the Council's report (A/2686), but his delegation wished to make it clear that it unequivocally supported any measure designed to implement the right of self-determination.

47. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that the Economic and Social Council's disregard of the General

Assembly's directives concerning international respect for the right of self-determination was yet another example of its arbitrary action where the question of self-determination was concerned. The General Assembly should at least have been informed of the reasons why the Council had considered the draft resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights unsatisfactory.

48. Together with some other representatives, he had prepared a draft resolution⁷ along the lines of the text just introduced by the Afghan representative and he hoped that it would be possible to combine the two drafts. Their common purpose was to prevent any further delay in implementation of the Commission's resolutions. The fact that an article on self-determination was included in both draft covenants was not enough; the article would remain a dead letter unless additional measures were taken.

49. Questions relating to the implementation of the right of self-determination should be raised by constitutional means, such as direct contact with the States concerned or the submission of draft resolutions in the United Nations. Only in that way could understanding be reached. In many cases, which should be brought to the United Nations, colonial peoples were not only deprived of control over the natural wealth of land where their ancestors had lived as free men, but were being slaughtered, displaced and expropriated under measures sanctioned by a foreign administration. Some peoples were threatened with genocide; thousands were being driven from their homes and whole settlements were being wiped out. The Committee should not blindly accept the Council's arbitrary decision, but should take world events into account, so that, if any disaster were to befall a colonial Power, the Committee would at least have uttered a warning and shown that it was aware of the fact that no human rights could be implemented on an international level if some human beings were mistreated and deprived of their freedom. Artificial rationalization of positions was out of place in the discussion of a question relating to the humane treatment of fellow men; and freedom was not the monopoly of Member States.

50. Mr. TSAO (China), speaking under rule 116 of the rules of procedure, said that the USSR representative had raised two matters affecting his delegation at the 588th meeting: the question of the representation of China and that of the illicit traffic in narcotics by the Communist régime in China. The Committee was not competent, under rule 99 of the rules of procedure, to discuss any items other than those assigned to it by the General Committee. To introduce a political question into the Third Committee's discussions was unwarranted and out of order.

51. A few facts concerning recent events would substantiate his delegation's earlier statement on the illicit traffic in narcotics by the Chinese Communists. The Permanent Central Opium Board had reported to the Economic and Social Council in 1952 that it had been informed that 500 tons of opium from Jehol had been offered for sale by the "Government of the People's Republic of China". The Board had written to the "Ministry of Foreign Affairs" of that "Government" on 6 November 1951 asking for information on the origin of the opium and other particulars, but had received no reply.

52. In its annual report for 1951, submitted in pursuance of the 1951 Convention, the Government of China

⁶ *United Nations Opium Conference, Protocol and Final Act, signed at New York, 23 June 1953*. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1953.XI.6.

⁷ Subsequently issued as document A/C.3/L.437.

had reported that Communist Chinese expenditures for military activities and the secret service had been largely financed by the sale of opium, the annual receipts totalling as much as \$250 million. About \$24 million of the first instalment of a \$300 million loan from the USSR in 1950 had been represented by opium taken from Manchuria by the USSR authorities.

53. The report of the ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2606) embodied a summary description of the illicit traffic in the Far East, in which it stated that 10,000 acres in Honan and Hopeh were used for poppy-growing, about one million ounces of heroin were produced in Kwangtung, a factory in Szechuan produced 300 pounds of heroin daily and there was another factory near Peiping.

54. The situation was serious, not only on account of the quantities of narcotic drugs involved, but also because the illicit traffic had become a policy of the Communist régime.

55. He pointed out in conclusion that the discussion of the activities of the Chinese Communist régime in the narcotics field did not call for uneasiness on the part of the Soviet representative, whose intervention in that regard could only expose the unusual relationship between the Soviet Government and the Chinese Communist régime.

56. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) replied that he would not engage in polemics with the previous speaker, who represented no one. The documents to which he had referred were valueless. But it was time that an end was put to slanders against the Chinese people in the absence of their genuine representatives. In connexion with the subject of narcotic drugs, raised by the United States delegation at a previous meeting, it was well known what harm and hardships had been imposed on the Chinese people by the forcible import of such drugs for more than a century. The situation had altered radically from the very moment of the installation of the Central People's

Government of the People's Republic of China. A special law had been enacted on 24 November 1950 strictly prohibiting opium-smoking and it was being strictly enforced. On 1 November 1950 the Ministry of Health had published an order on the control, possession and use of narcotic drugs. In a statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China circulated to all Member States in May 1952 at the request of the USSR delegation (E/2233)*, the Foreign Minister protested most strongly against such slanders as that advanced by the United States delegation in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

57. In reply to questions from Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) about the absence of a Spanish translation of the report of the UNICEF Executive Board (E/ICEF/276), Mr. VAKIL (Secretary of the Committee) explained that the Chairman had already informed the Committee that that document was not part of the Third Committee's documentation but had been circulated in limited quantities purely for information. It would be translated into the working languages in due course along with the other documentation for the Economic and Social Council; for the time being it existed only in English.

58. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) said that, while he usually insisted that the full documentation should be circulated in Spanish, in accordance with the rules of procedure, he thought that in that particular case technical reasons might have prevented the early translation of the document. The absence of a Spanish text should not deter the Spanish-speaking delegations from taking part in the discussion in that particular instance.

59. The CHAIRMAN requested that draft resolutions be submitted before noon on 24 November 1954.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

* See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fourteenth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 19.