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Chairman : Mrs. Ana FIGUEROA (Chile).

**Assistance to flood victims in northern Italy
(A/C.3/L.156) (*continued*)**

1. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) drew the Committee's attention to the tragic situation in northern Italy caused by serious floods. He emphasised that the United Nations, and in particular the Third Committee, could not remain indifferent to that human problem. The assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund would be of special value. The draft resolution which he had submitted in regard to the matter (A/C.3/L.156) did not entail any additional expenditure for the organs to which it appealed, and they were invited to help the victims only within the limits of their capacity.

2. In accordance with the suggestions of various delegations, he proposed that in the second paragraph of the draft resolution the words "clothing and housing of women and children" should be replaced by the words "clothing, housing and medical services needed by children and women", so as to stress the importance of the technical assistance required.

3. Mr. KAYSER (France) thanked the representative of Uruguay for raising the question and proposing a concrete solution.

4. He supported the draft resolution and stressed its urgency. He approved the additional words proposed by the Uruguayan representative. He was glad that the United Nations could thus manifest its sympathy towards a country which had unfortunately not yet been able to join the Organization.

5. Mr. YU TSUNE-CHI (China) supported the Uruguayan draft resolution in the name of humanity. Italy seemed to him to deserve particular esteem and sympathy and he too regretted that it was not yet a Member of the Organization.

6. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) proposed that, in view of the human character of the draft resolution, it should be adopted without procedural delay.

7. Mr. ORTIZ LINARES (Bolivia) also supported the draft resolution. Assistance to Italy was a duty not only for the Latin countries but for all the United Nations; it was wise, in the interests of peace, to help each country to maintain its economic stability.

8. Mr. DEDIJER (Yugoslavia), Mr. JIMENEZ LOPEZ (Colombia) and Mr. ROIG (Cuba) supported the draft resolution.

9. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution submitted by Uruguay (A/C.3/L.156), the revised text of which read as follows:

ASSISTANCE TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN NORTHERN ITALY

"The Third Committee of the General Assembly,

"Taking into account the extent and seriousness of the damage to life and property suffered by the people of northern Italy as a result of the floods which are still continuing,

"Considering the need to come to the aid of those people and the urgency of such aid, particularly in regard to the feeding, clothing, housing and medical services needed by children and women in the present circumstances,

"Resolves to request the Chairman of the Third Committee, in consultation with the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, to take steps to call the attention of all the United Nations organs concerned with social welfare to his situation and urge them to furnish immediate assistance to the people of Italy suffering from the present floods."

The draft resolution (A/C.3/L.156) was adopted unanimously¹.

¹ This text, which is not a General Assembly resolution, does not appear in the volume containing the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth session.

**Report of the Economic and Social Council
(chapter IV) (A/1884, A/C.3/L.154, A/C.3/
L.155) (continued)**

[Item 11]*

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

10. Mr. PAMONTJAK (Indonesia) said his country took a special interest in social questions such as the equality of the sexes, the advisory social welfare services, housing, and town and country planning. His country regularly submitted reports on narcotic drugs and co-operated scrupulously with the United Nations. For the 23,500,000 Indonesian children who received its assistance, UNICEF had great importance. It had not only achieved concrete results but had done more than any other organ of the United Nations to promote friendship, co-operation and goodwill between peoples. His Government scrupulously respected the agreement it had concluded with UNICEF on 6 April 1950; in addition to its regular contribution it had given the Children's Fund \$US 100,000 in 1950 and a like sum in 1951.

11. He then enumerated the feeding, health, and maternal and child welfare programmes undertaken by the Indonesian Government in co-operation with UNICEF, to a total value of nearly \$US 2 million. He thanked UNICEF, WHO and the United Nations for the equipment, medical staff and scholarships which those organizations had placed at his country's disposal. He particularly stressed the importance of the campaign against yaws and tuberculosis. His Government's contribution to health programmes had, he said, sometimes exceeded that of UNICEF.

12. In conclusion, he asked all governments and charitable organizations to contribute to UNICEF as generously as possible.

13. Mr. Altaf HUSAIN (Pakistan) deeply regretted that the deliberations of the United Nations on social questions were made somewhat unreal by the fact that in the existing state of world tension the major Powers were devoting their resources to destructive rather than merciful ends.

14. The Pakistan delegation, however, appreciated the work so far done by the Council and the specialized agencies, particularly UNICEF, in social welfare.

15. Concerning chapter IV, section 1, of the report, he said that his delegation admired the work of the Social Commission but regretted its preoccupation with theoretical activities. He agreed with other delegations that the allocations for practical social welfare work should be increased. He proposed that in future each of the chapters of the Economic and Social Council's report should close with a summary of the theoretical and practical social activities of the Organization, so as to give delegations a precise idea of the progress made.

16. His delegation stressed the study of environment in relation to the training of social workers, particularly

in under-developed countries. It recommended the establishment by the Social Commission of a model training centre for social workers in an under-developed area such as Asia, so that social workers in that area might be trained with due regard to the importance of environment.

17. Turning to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, he observed that though Pakistan had already applied some of its provisions, the same could not be said of all other States and particularly of the major Powers; only eleven countries, none of them major Powers, had signed the Convention.

18. Pakistan, like Greece, was particularly interested in housing and town and country planning, and would like to see the Organization take the initiative in setting up a centre for practical research in this field also.

19. Paying a tribute to the work of UNICEF, he noted with satisfaction that emergency programmes had given way to long-term activities for the assistance of under-developed countries, where the work of UNICEF was promoting child welfare. He was also glad to see that the greater part of the UNICEF resources was subscribed by countries that benefited least from its assistance. It was both right and reassuring that countries which in the past had drawn vast resources from their colonies should be repaying their debt in voluntary contributions to the recently emancipated States. But the "reverse traffic" was only a trickle so far and he hoped that it would increase.

20. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) noted with regret that none of the six Arab States which were Members of the United Nations had been able to participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council at its thirteenth session.

21. The fact that Saudi Arabia had not yet thought fit to apply for a seat on the Council should not be regarded as evidence that it lacked interest in economic and social work. Far from being a mere spectator of such efforts by other countries, Saudi Arabia had, under the enlightened guidance of its sovereign, done important social welfare work in accordance with the principles of charity and mutual aid on which Islamic law was based. Under the zaka system of voluntary contribution, as old as Islam itself, the poor and sick received the food, clothing and medical care they required.

22. While the Western countries were constantly seeking out new methods in social welfare, the Islamic countries were endeavouring to improve their well-tried traditional institutions, which had already enabled the solution of problems more or less similar to those which were arising.

23. The studies carried out by the commissions of the Economic and Social Council dealing with social questions were too technical and too narrow to provide any solution for the great social problems of the day. The work of such an organ as UNICEF, for instance, no matter how praiseworthy, was insignificant by

* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

comparison with the immense needs still to be met. In relation to the graver and vaster long-term problems that reflected the chronic poverty in which the greater part of mankind lived, the Council's work—as the President of the Economic and Social Council had most objectively stated in his introduction to the Council's report—had not gone and still did not go very far. On the other side it might be said that miracles could not be expected and that social progress was won by slow and laborious evolution.

24. Immediate practical results were nevertheless possible, and largely depended on the major Powers themselves. By helping to ease the existing international tension, those Powers could materially improve the lot of mankind. A gesture such as, for instance, the voluntary withdrawal of armed forces from the territory of sovereign countries, or greater encouragement or movements towards self-determination in Non-Self-Governing Territories would surely reduce the large amounts unnecessarily spent on keeping up military establishments, and correspondingly increase the resources available for improving economic and social conditions in those territories and in the world generally.

25. Mr. YU TSUNE-CHI (China) paid a tribute to the Economic and Social Council and its Social Commission for their constructive and balanced approach to the problems of social welfare. It was gratifying to note that the Social Commission had progressed from the stage of making studies to that of putting forward specific programmes, and also that the wide field of activities of the Social Commission had been excellently arranged in accordance with the directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

26. His delegation wished to stress two programmes as being of special importance: first, that of advisory social welfare services, and secondly, that of community welfare centres.

27. The advisory social welfare services programme constituted one of the most effective means for the progressive implementation of the Economic and Social Council's recommendations in the social field. He was pleased to note that during 1950, requests from 25 governments for expert advice in that field had been implemented, that 184 fellowships have been awarded, that a second social welfare seminar had been in the Middle East for States and that a regional Far Eastern conference had been organized for the care of physically handicapped children. While some misgivings might be entertained as to the effectiveness of seminars or conferences in consideration of their cost, he felt that the direct supply of expert advice and technical assistance and the granting of fellowships had proved to be the most effective means for the advancement of social progress. In that connexion, he was glad to note that the Secretary-General had included in the 1952 budget the same amount as had been appropriated for 1951 for activities under General Assembly resolution 418 (V) and had recommended that additional technical assistance activities, undertaken for the benefit of under-developed countries in the field of social welfare, should be considered under the expanded programme of technical assistance.

28. The second programme on which he wished to comment, that of community welfare centres, was, he understood, based on the conviction that international assistance could only be made really effective and could only produce lasting results in raising standards of living if members of local communities, both urban and rural, learned the possibilities of self-help. The experience acquired by all countries in that field should be pooled for the general benefit and his delegation hoped that, following the recommendations contained in the Economic and Social Council's resolution 390 D (XIII), governments would furnish the Secretary-General with full information on the subject and that the specialized agencies would co-operate with the United Nations and with other organizations concerned in the development of such centres.

29. With reference to the implementation of programmes, he pointed out that while the Social Commission was responsible for working out specific schemes for the promotion of social progress, the Economic and Social Council should not only give guidance to the Commission in connexion with those programmes, but should also work out ways and means to enable governments to implement them. A closer link should, therefore, be established between the Council and the Social Commission.

30. Turning next to UNICEF, he said that his Government considered that organization to be one of the United Nations' most successful achievements. Contributions and other income received by UNICEF since its establishment, had totalled approximately \$US 160 million. During the past five years, more than fifty countries, including his own, had contributed to the children's Fund and more than sixty countries and territories had received the Fund's assistance. It would be recalled that when the organizations and terms of reference of UNICEF were under discussion by the Committee the previous year, two points had been emphasized: first, continued action to relieve the sufferings of children, particularly in under-developed countries and countries ravaged by war and other calamities and secondly, the devotion of a greater share of UNICEF resources to development of programmes outside Europe. As a result of that discussion, those two basic ideas had been embodied in General Assembly resolution 417 (V). He was glad to note that the new Executive Board of UNICEF had decided to use that part of the resolution as the criterion for assessing the relative needs of children in different parts of the world. As to the types of assistance, he agreed with the Executive Board that programmes should be limited to three broad fields: maternal and child welfare, child feeding, and emergency situations.

31. The Executive Board had adopted a target budget of \$US 30 million for the period 1 July 1951—30 July 1952. His delegation believed that the \$US 7,500,000 provided in the budget for Asia and the \$US 4 million for Latin America should be considered as minima. His delegation earnestly hoped that in future allocations the proposition embodied in that target budget would be followed.

32. His Government was most anxious that the work of UNICEF should continue without interruption, for it

had redounded to the credit of the United Nations. However, while the needs of children remained vast, the resources of UNICEF were very low. While in the past the United Nations had tried to meet the continuing needs of children, it was now faced with different kinds of emergencies, such as the situation of the war victims in Korea and the Chinese refugee mothers and children in Hong Kong and Kowloon. While relief programmes for children in Korea were under way, relief programmes for Chinese refugee mothers and children had still to be worked out. The Chinese Government, although grappling with extreme financial difficulties, had managed to contribute to UNICEF an amount equivalent to \$US 25,000, which it nevertheless realized was a small amount compared with the immensity of the need. But its moral support of UNICEF's work of combating hunger and disease among children was in no way limited. His delegation therefore sincerely hoped that countries which were prepared to support the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.155) would not fail to contribute generously to UNICEF.

33. The question of narcotic drugs was one to which the Chinese Government attached great importance, China having been for more than a century the victim of the opium scourge. It was therefore only natural that China should have been among the first to propose the international control of opium production. As early as 1947 the Chinese delegation had taken the initiative in an attempt to limit the production of opium to purely medical and scientific needs, and was accordingly pleased to note that as result of the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Principal Opium-producing Countries at Ankara in 1949, and the meetings of the Joint Committee of the Principal Opium-producing and of the Opium-manufacturing Countries at Geneva and New York in 1950, that principle had gradually been adopted.

34. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had worked out two schemes for the control of opium. The first was the Interim Agreement to limit the production of opium to medical and scientific needs, its main feature being the establishment of an international opium monopoly. To be effective, that scheme would require international inspection, but owing to certain difficulties the Commission had been unable to reach further agreement. The other project was the protocol adapting the 1931 Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs to the production of and trade in opium^a. The scheme aimed merely at the limitation of the stock of opium that any country might hold under the proposed protocol. Although it would operate *ex post facto*, that form of opium control had been considered more practicable.

35. Without taking a definite stand with regard to the two schemes, his Government wished to comment briefly on some of the difficulties encountered in finding a basis on which an interim agreement could be reached. One of the difficulties was that some countries were opposed to international inspection as being inconsis-

tent with the principle of national sovereignty and with the United Nations Charter. In the Chinese Government's opinion, however, inspection based on an international agreement freely entered into by a sovereign State could not be considered as being in any way detrimental to national sovereignty. Furthermore, by signing the United Nations Charter, Member States had already pledged themselves to do all in their power to achieve international co-operation. The question of inspection should not therefore present a serious difficulty.

36. Another basic issue was that of price of opium, to which the rules governing bargaining as laid down in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade should not apply, since opium, by reason of its dual nature, was a real danger to human beings throughout the world. It was sincerely to be hoped that some equitable price could be worked out by the joint effort of the opium-producing countries and the drug-manufacturing countries.

37. Concerning the offer for sale at Hong Kong of 500 tons of opium, mentioned in paragraphs 721 and 722 of the Council's report, he wished to state for the record that opium production was absolutely prohibited by the Chinese Government, whose laws and regulations on the subject had long been deposited with the Secretariat. It followed that that offer for sale by the Chinese communist régime must be regarded as illicit. According to information received by his Government there were 370 tons of opium, varying in morphine content from 6.3 to 12 per cent, in the cities of Tientsin, Canton and Hankow alone. In addition, approximately 4 tons of opium were being smuggled into Hong Kong every month from the Chinese mainland for distribution in the South China Sea and Pacific region.

38. While he did not intend to discuss that matter in the Third Committee, he would invite attention to the serious nature of the problem and point out that had an international monopoly existed and had international inspection been effected, those illicit offers by the Chinese communist régime would never have been made.

39. He wished to take the opportunity to join previous speakers in paying a tribute to Ambassador Hernán Santa Cruz, to whose able leadership the success of the Economic and Social Council's work had been largely due.

40. The CHAIRMAN noted that there were no further speakers on her list and, on the proposal of Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq), invited the Committee to suspend the general discussion and consider the French draft resolution (A/C.3/L.154).

DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY FRANCE (A/C.3/L.154)

41. Mr. KAYSER (France), introducing the French draft resolution, said that his delegation did not think it was enough, at the conclusion of the general discussion, to adopt a formal resolution noting the report of the Economic and Social Council. The time had come to state clearly that the Third Committee did not wish

^a See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Third Session, Part I, Resolutions*, No. 211 (III).

the social work of the United Nations to be slowed down and that the need was for more energetic action.

42. The French delegation thought that the Social Commission's programme was a rational one, but that it was not adequate. Thought should be given to expanding it progressively, particularly with regard to technical assistance to the under-developed countries.

43. Obviously the draft resolution created no conflict between the United Nations and the specialized agencies; it in no way advocated that the plans of the United Nations should overlap those of the specialized agencies.

44. The report on the world social situation would be an affair of major importance. His delegation hoped that the report would not be referred from one body to another and entangled in procedural squabbles but would receive prompt consideration and that the Social Commission would draw practical conclusions from it.

45. He hoped he had shown by his statement that the draft resolution, submitted by the delegation of France was not revolutionary even as regards procedure, and that it was not conservative inasmuch as it did not tend to retard the social activities of the United Nations but rather to speed them along well-known ways. The draft resolution seemed to him useful because it would afford those peoples who were awaiting the coming of social progress the hope of support for their efforts to share the freedom and welfare already enjoyed by certain others.

46. He was ready to accept amendments proposed by other delegations so far as they improved the text submitted by France.

47. Mr. PAVLOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wished to ask two questions. First, as no one yet knew what the contents of the report on the world social situation would be, he wondered how it was yet possible to speak of practical conclusions and a programme of action based on a document about which nothing definite was known.

48. Secondly, he asked which article of the Charter of the United Nations provided that the social policy of the United Nations should be determined by the Economic and Social Council and not by the General Assembly.

49. Mr. KAYSER (France), replying to the second question put by the representative of the USSR, cited Article 60 of the Charter, which placed the Economic and Social Council under the authority of the General Assembly. Under the French draft resolution the General Assembly would instruct the Economic and Social Council to issue directives to the Social Com-

mission, a procedure entirely in accordance with Article 60 of the Charter.

50. Replying to the first question raised by the representative of the USSR, he said he was quite aware that nobody could foresee the exact content of the report; but whatever that content might be, the report itself was a highly important innovation and the Social Committee should therefore accord it the attention it deserved. There was value in expressing the wish that practical conclusions should be drawn from the report for the guidance not only of the Social Commission but also of the authors of the report. In addition, the closer attention the authors paid to that wish, the more easily would the General Assembly be able to study the report.

51. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) considered that the arguments of the French representative regarding the method of studying the report on the world social situation were conclusive and his recommendation was useful.

52. Furthermore, he shared the French representative's view that the draft resolution conformed to Articles 55 and 60 of the United Nations Charter. He regretted, however, that the instructions given by the General Assembly to the Council under the draft resolution were not more explicit. He would prefer that the French delegation should await the outcome of the general discussion and hear the views of the various delegations on the work of the Social Commission, and then base upon them a more precise draft of the operative part of its proposal.

53. Mr. Altaf HUSAIN (Pakistan) considered that discussion on the French draft resolution should be postponed until the following day so that delegations might have time to examine and consider it.

54. Mr. GARCIA BAUER (Guatemala) remarked that the French draft resolution was by no means general but actually dealt only with one question. Even so, it raised controversial issues, and perhaps other delegations also had drafts to submit on the subject. For that reason he considered that the current debate, which, was not related to the general discussion, should be suspended.

55. He therefore approved the suggestion made by the representative of Pakistan, and proposed that the meeting should be adjourned.

56. The CHAIRMAN stated that the list of speakers for the general debate on chapter IV of the report of the Economic and Social Council would be closed on the following day, and that draft resolutions must be submitted at the latest by 10 a.m. on Friday, 23 November.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.