

not only in the implementation process, but also in decision making in respect of all major national undertakings. Consequently, Algerian youth played a full part in the country's economic development effort, and particularly in the conduct of the agrarian revolution, in efforts to achieve African unity, and in the literacy campaign. At the international level, Algerian youth supported the youth of countries which were struggling for their total liberation and participated effectively in all meetings of progressive youth. It was only by making use of the abilities of youth, through a continuous dialogue, that developing countries would be able to avert the crises which had afflicted Western societies.

88. Mr. ACEVEDO MORGÁ (Mexico) wished to propose a revision to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061, subject to the approval of the other sponsors, whom he had not had time to consult. He proposed that the following phrase should be added at the end of operative paragraph 1: "and the conclusions of the Seminar

on Youth and Human Rights that took place at San Remo, Italy, contained in document A/C.3/L.2052;"

89. Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) thanked the representative of Mexico for having proposed that mention should be made in the draft resolution to that seminar, to which Italy attached great importance.

90. The CHAIRMAN observed that the Committee had heard 53 speakers on the world social situation of youth. Six delegations had been unable to speak; if they so wished, they could do so on Monday, 19 November, either before or after consideration of draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2061 and A/C.3/L.2062.

91. To ensure that consideration of that agenda item was concluded by Monday evening, amendments to those two drafts should be submitted by noon on Monday, 19 November.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

2031st meeting

Monday, 19 November 1973, at 10.40 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.2031

AGENDA ITEM 62

World social situation of youth: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/9003 and Corr.1, chap. XXI, sect. A.8; A/9119 and Corr.1, A/C.3/L.2052, A/C.3/L.2061-2063, E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/CN.5/486/Summary and Corr.1)

1. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) said that the importance of youth in the development of societies and the attention which the Committee should accord to the social situation of youth was evident from the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2037 (XX)—the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples—and the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 1752 (LIV), which reaffirmed the inalienable right of youth to employment, education, shelter, health, care and the fulfilment of other social and cultural needs.

2. Since his delegation was not a member of the Commission for Social Development or of the Economic and Social Council and had not taken part in the work which had resulted in the report on youth submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-third session (E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/CN.5/486/Summary and Corr.1), it wished to comment on the situation of Cuban youth and on the Cuban youth movement and its past and current participation in the building of a new society in Cuba. Through its sacrifices, Cuban youth had made it possible for the Revolution to triumph and now played an important role in Cuba's economic development. The Cuban Revolution had always been one of the most "youthful" political movements in contemporary history, both because of its achievements and aspirations and because

of the methods employed. The young people of three different generations, who had finally succeeded in 1959 in changing the old economic and social order, were now the political leaders of the country. Through the Young Communist League, those who had reached adolescence since 1959 were now participating not only in the immediate task of bringing about the rapid development of the country, but also in the decision-making process by which development plans were implemented.

3. Cuban youth had never lacked the education or practical experience necessary to carry out such vital tasks. Their victorious struggle to cast off the political, social and economic strait jacket in which they had been bound had been inspired by the revolutionary theories of Martí and Lenin and the neo-colonialism imposed on Cuba by the United States as a result of United States military intervention at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, with its inevitable corollaries of hunger, illiteracy, racial discrimination and political corruption, had moulded their anti-imperialist convictions. When the Revolution had triumphed, youth had enthusiastically embarked on the tasks of production, study and defence, encouraged by the ideals of the Cuban youth movement, which had been established in 1962. Imperialist aggression had continued to take its toll of Cuban martyrs through the Playa Girón aggression, the counter-revolutionary struggle financed by the United States and the assassination of young teachers taking part in literacy campaigns in rural areas. The campaign to eradicate illiteracy in Cuba would not have been possible without the participation of young people. Young workers had also given vital support to the fishing, transport and sugar industries. In view of such participation and such great efforts, it was not hard to

understand the importance of the role played by youth in Cuba's development process. In fact, as Ché Guevara had stated, youth was the foundation of the Revolution. Hence the efforts made by the Revolution to give youth all the opportunities Cuba's development could provide with regard to education, health, sports and cultural activities. To carry out its tasks, Cuban youth had evolved its own organization, which now had more than 131,000 members and was based on the principle of combining study with work in the struggle against imperialism, exploitation, racial discrimination and colonialism. It was in that internationalist context that Cuban youth had expressed its solidarity with the young people of Chile, who were now the victims of the usurpation of power by the military in that country.

4. The fact that his country had succeeded in overthrowing a system of class division and exploitation did not, however, mean that the problems of youth had been completely solved. At its most recent Congress, the Cuban youth movement had analysed the difficulties which still had to be overcome. Some of those difficulties, such as the shortage of teachers and basic educational facilities, could be attributed both to the great increase in the number of students and to Cuba's low level of economic development. Others, however, could be attributed to the influence of the past on a small minority of young people and to the fact that it had not yet been possible to neutralize certain backward-looking family influences. Nevertheless, the Revolution had reason to be proud of its youth, which was now definitely committed to building a more just society for all.

5. With regard to the documents before the Committee, his delegation was of the opinion, that, although the report of the Secretary-General on youth would be very useful for further studies on the topic, it had many short-comings, as regards concept and approach. The documents prepared by the United Nations on such an important topic must not be ambiguous or raise false hopes; for with such characteristics they could, in the long run, be counter-productive. In future work, great care should be taken over the wording used and the ideas put forward, but that had not been the case with some parts of the report. In fact, he wondered whether it was really practical to produce such a report on the basis of so few replies to the questionnaire which had been circulated. In paragraph 7, particular stress was laid on the difficulty in satisfying the aspirations of youth due to the high rate of population growth and the few employment opportunities available, particularly in developing countries. Only much further on did the report refer to the need for changes in social structures, which was crucial to the solution of the problems of most countries in which youth experienced the frustrations described in the report. Moreover, in other paragraphs of that report, no distinction was made between socialist industrialized countries and market-economy industrialized countries, although the concerns felt in such countries with regard to youth were bound to differ radically. He hoped that those comments and criticisms would be useful in the preparation of future studies on youth.

6. Mrs. KARPENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the problems of youth were problems of education, of unemployment and of protecting young people from the evils of war, racism, colo-

onialism, violence and corruption. Her delegation was deeply convinced that those problems could not be solved without radical socio-economic changes. Furthermore, the task of educating young people was one for individual States, and not for international organizations.

7. The Soviet State provided its young men and women with all necessary conditions for education, work and leisure. The benefits of the Byelorussian SSR's educational system, which were enjoyed by 127,000 students, were free to all, and secondary education was compulsory. The educational process was designed to provide both theoretical and vocational training, to inculcate in young people a high sense of civic duty and give them broad political horizons. An extensive network of higher and technical educational establishments enabled each young person to take up the occupation he preferred. Over the preceding decade, the number of students in the Republic had doubled. Currently one in three scientific workers was under 30 years of age. Deputies aged 30 or less constituted 28.2 per cent of those elected to local organs of power.

8. Under the Soviet system, there was no possibility of conflict between the generations. The ideals of the great October Socialist Revolution were dear to all generations among the Soviet people. Public ownership of the means of production promoted a sense of community, a spirit of collectivism and a readiness to assist one's neighbour. While in many capitalist countries violence and sex distracted the minds of young people from acute social problems, the most valued virtues in the Byelorussian SSR were those of friendship, humanity, solidarity and internationalism. Books, gramophone records and theatre tickets were very inexpensive. There were more than 32,000 amateur theatrical groups in the Republic which were capable of professional levels of performance.

9. Soviet young people had a sense of solidarity with the young working people of capitalist countries fighting against unemployment, against the suppression of the rights of young workers and students and against the arbitrary rule of Fascist reactionary forces attempting to stamp out the aspirations of young working people. They also felt a bond of solidarity with the progressive young people of Asia, Africa and Latin America struggling against imperialism and colonialism and seeking national independence and progress.

10. On the basis of its position of principle concerning the question of youth, her delegation would support the adoption of any decisions which would promote the interests of the rising generation.

11. Mr. NASSER-ZIAYEE (Afghanistan) said that one of the characteristic features of the world social and political scene was the emergence of youth as a tremendous force, as a result of the scientific and technological revolution which mankind had experienced. It was therefore important to recognize the function of youth in world affairs and to allow them to participate in the development of societies. To that end, countries must concentrate on the education of their youth. That was all the more urgent for developing countries, which had high rates of illiteracy. Moreover, education programmes for youth should contain explicit references to colonialism, exploitation and alien domination as the major causes of under-development in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Curricula should stress the idea of

human equality and emphasize the dangers of racism and racial discrimination. It was also necessary to ensure that the efforts of the United Nations to eliminate colonialism and alien domination were not overlooked by the youth of today. To that end, a link should be established between the United Nations and youth organizations. The United Nations and UNESCO might co-ordinate their efforts to establish such a link.

12. Afghanistan attached great importance to the education of its people. Primary education was compulsory, and primary, secondary and higher education were all free of charge. Moreover, Afghanistan encouraged the maximum participation of young people in the affairs of the country and believed that such participation would eliminate many of their problems. One of Afghanistan's principal aims was to provide positive and genuine conditions for the moral and material development of its youth.

13. His delegation would have preferred a single draft resolution on the item under consideration, sponsored by a large number of delegations; but unfortunately that had not been possible. With regard to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062, it was of the opinion that, although the classical form of Western colonialism was gradually dying out, alien domination of certain peoples and territories was continuing. The legitimacy of the struggle of peoples under alien domination to achieve their right to self-determination was recognized in a large number of United Nations resolutions and other international instruments. That concept was, for example, embodied in General Assembly resolution 2633 (XXV) and, since the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, it had been incorporated in eight other General Assembly resolutions. In addition, the Fourth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers in September 1973, had accepted and incorporated that concept into its economic and political declarations. Consequently, it would be inconsistent, and a serious omission, if a draft resolution proposed by a number of non-aligned countries which were Members of the United Nations did not refer to the youth of territories under alien domination. His delegation therefore suggested that the words "and alien domination" should be added after the word "colonial" in operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062. If that suggestion was not acceptable to the sponsors, his delegation would propose it as a formal amendment.

14. Miss LOPEZ (Venezuela) said that her country was keenly interested in the measures the United Nations was taking for the benefit of youth in an attempt to find the best possible way of developing their potential for their own good and that of the societies to which they belonged. Her country believed that if youth was properly appreciated, it would form the fundamental basis of the future of society and its development.

15. Since 52 per cent of Venezuela's population was under 20 years of age, it attached great importance to the problems of youth and programmes for youth. In 1972, the Ministry for Youth, Science and Culture had been established and had undertaken intensive and continuing action for the development of programmes designed to make all sectors of national life aware of the need to implement the plans urgently required by youth. The dialogue established between the various sectors would enable youth to take part in the planning,

implementation and review of national policies in that field. Since Venezuela was now entering the first phase of a broad and ambitious programme, it needed information concerning the experience of other countries. It had already shown its interest in that topic in other United Nations bodies, such as the Commission for Social Development and the Executive Board of UNICEF, and it was firmly committed to the implementation of the principles of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples.

16. At the third session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), in April 1973, Venezuela had sponsored a resolution on youth which entrusted OAS with tasks similar to those being carried out on a world-wide scale. Moreover, the purpose of the resolution was similar to that of Economic and Social Council resolution 1752 (LIV). In that connexion, her delegation was glad to note that draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061 and, in particular, the programmes proposed in operative paragraph 2, were similar to those being carried out in her country. Her delegation supported that draft resolution and the instructions it gave to United Nations bodies and the Secretary-General for the continuing consideration of problems of youth. Finally, her delegation supported the conclusions and objectives adopted at the Seminar on Youth and Human Rights, held at San Remo (see A/C.3/L.2052).

17. Mr. AUSTIN (Guyana) said that, in an age of profound economic, social and political change, the world situation of youth should be a matter of the greatest importance to developed and developing countries alike, because the vast numbers of young people throughout the world were the repository of hope. It was stated in the report of the Secretary-General that, by 1980, 60 per cent of the world's youth would be found in developing countries. It was therefore unnecessary to point out the importance of youth to the development programmes of most of those countries. If the youth of developing countries could be given the proper orientation and social education, there was every chance that the problem of development could be successfully solved. All countries must realize that the youth of the present day had acquired a new awareness which had enabled them to see that society must become more just. They had also realized that unstructured growth could bring about irreparable social, political and environmental harm. His delegation therefore believed that if the important link between youth and development was established, peaceful development might be ensured.

18. In Guyana, more than half the population was less than 25 years old. Thus, a large measure of Guyana's wealth resided in its youth. It would therefore welcome any United Nations initiative to ensure the active participation of youth in the social, economic and political life of developing countries. In that connexion, his delegation was glad that one of the objectives of the International Development Strategy was to ensure the full participation of youth in its implementation. In accordance with its social and political philosophy, the Government of Guyana was training young people to make an effective and lasting contribution to the development of the country. The Guyana Youth Corps was training young people to participate in various sectors of the economy. One very important sector in

which they could, and did, make a significant contribution was that of agricultural co-operatives.

19. Thus, the importance of the social role which youth must play in the advancement of the social goals of developing countries could not be denied. A new kind of education must therefore be made available. To that end, the idea of a United Nations university was a good one, because at such an institution young people might learn to be free from narrow-minded nationalism and recognize the futility of racial prejudice and ethnocentricity. The teaching of respect for other societies would increase awareness of the interdependence of the world. It would, for example, be realized that hunger in Asia and drought in Africa were cause for concern throughout the world.

20. He pointed out that the instrument through which youth should play the significant role of rebuilding the world, namely, the United Nations, was not considered by most young people as effective as it should be. Because youth was the repository of hope, the United Nations must be the means whereby such hopes could be fulfilled. Youth must realize that, despite its shortcomings, the United Nations was the most important organization for the development of the developing countries and that it was the only genuine instrument for peace, without which there could be no development.

21. Miss AL-MULLA (Kuwait) said that Kuwait was a young country, with the ambition of the young, and had acknowledged the role of youth in its development. Because of the drive of its youth, it had been able to build a sound administrative and economic infrastructure. Kuwait's experience had shown that youth should be offered the role it deserved in shaping the internal structure of the country and that alienation led only to unavoidable conflicts between youth and the establishment. Thus, neglect was the worst enemy of youth because it bred the germs of discontent and spread explosive tension. Moreover, patronage of youth also led to ill feeling. In Kuwait, however, young people played a major role in education, the economy, planning, politics and domestic and foreign policy making. Their independence had led to their willingness to participate, and such participation had been totally successful.

22. Although the report of the Secretary-General on youth was not a scientific study, and some of the methods used in drafting it could be questioned, her delegation was of the opinion that certain sections of the report did shed some light on the current situation of youth. In addition, her delegation supported draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2061 and A/C.3/L.2062. It suggested, however, with regard to operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061, that when the Commission on Human Rights considered the question of the advisability of an international document on the fundamental rights and responsibilities of youth, national and international youth organizations should be invited to put forward their views on that matter. In that connexion, her delegation noted that paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report of the Secretary-General on youth stated that a recent international conference of youth had called for the reformulation of legal provisions on the rights and responsibilities of youth.

23. With regard to operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062, her delegation wondered how

young people could affirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter when they often saw their elders violating or at least ignoring them. Perhaps a better way of furthering the ideals of peace and mutual respect among peoples would be to invite all States Members of the United Nations to reaffirm their faith in the principles of the Charter and to invite youth to take part in the implementation of those principles.

24. Her delegation welcomed any progress which might be made towards the establishment of the United Nations University and it hoped that a large number of young people would participate in the university council and in the decision-making process. It was also looking forward to the progress report concerning the extent of increased employment and mobility of young people in the United Nations, which, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3024 (XXVII), was to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly not later than at its thirtieth session.

25. Mrs. KINYANJUI (Kenya) thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs for her introduction (2026th meeting) of the Secretary-General's report on youth, which contained conclusions and proposals for action which her delegation welcomed. Kenya supported the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples.

26. Before colonialism and the civilizing missions, the "generation gap" had been unknown to African societies. As a result of colonial education, the African countries had a surplus of youth trained for white-collar jobs. The civilizing missions had uprooted youth from their traditional morals and beliefs without offering anything better in the way of moral education. The independent African countries were rebuilding their societies by reviving those traditions and morals, which were the corner-stone of their societies, and by adopting modern ways of life which were in keeping with the general structure of the African way of life.

27. Africa was also concerned about the youth of the African territories still under colonial domination and appealed to the world community to help the youth of those territories by all possible means, including educational scholarships, training facilities and employment.

28. The Kenya nation was being planned and built on the basis of traditional African cultures and skills. The educational system was being revised in order to take account of the needs of the country as a whole. The President of Kenya had repeatedly emphasized that the nation's destiny depended on the ability of the young people to nourish and revive the spirit of man and develop their own talents and those of people put under their charge. He had appealed to the youth who flocked to the urban areas in search of jobs to go back to the land where they could be gainfully employed. Kenya had established a National Youth Service where young people were taught self-discipline, self-reliance and respect for other people. They were also trained in different skills and provided with education.

29. Kenya was well aware that the youth of today were the leaders of tomorrow and was doing everything possible to provide education and employment facilities for the young people.

30. Miss FAROUK (Tunisia) said that some changes needed to be made in draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062, which was co-sponsored by her delegation. Operative paragraph 4 should begin with the words: "*Reaffirms* the importance for the administering Powers . . .". In operative paragraph 5 (a), the word "employment" should appear after the word "training", instead of at the end of the subparagraph. In paragraph 5 (b), the words "if applicable" should be added after the words "national development plans", in order to meet the request of delegations representing countries that did not have national development plans.

31. In the view of her delegation, a long-range programme for the benefit of youth, at the national and international levels, should have the following objectives: to facilitate the transition to adulthood and the assumption of responsibilities, and to promote vertical and horizontal communication between generations and between young people of different kinds. It would be good if the expression "young Portuguese" were not synonymous with the expression "young racist", but merely meant "a young person" who did his best to meet the challenge of a quickly changing world.

32. Although her delegation took note with interest of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/CN.5/486/Summary and Corr.1), it would have preferred it to place greater emphasis on international action designed to respond better to the challenge of the modern world. The report provided both a source and a confirmation of typical data; her delegation would have preferred to find in it some bolder and more innovative proposals.

33. She wished to outline briefly her Government's main concerns with respect to the question before the Committee. At the national level, her Government and national organizations had always paid attention to the needs and aspirations of youth, evaluating results obtained, the short-comings noted, the lessons to be learned, the approaches and measures to be adopted. It must not be forgotten that in some of the developing countries there was an imbalance between economic and demographic growth, as had been quite rightly noted in the report of the Secretary-General.

34. Her Government emphasized vocational training and had revised the educational system in order to provide more practical training aimed at preparing youth for a career or a job. It also attached great importance to family planning; it had established an office of family planning and population and a project for the inclusion of relevant subjects in educational curricula, and was utilizing audiovisual aids in order to reach the masses. Her Government was also concerned with the question of emigration, which currently absorbed the surplus labour force.

35. At the international level, she drew attention to the first African youth festival, which had been held in Tunis from 15 to 22 July 1973 and which had been attended by 3,000 representatives from 32 African countries and the liberation movements. At the inauguration, on 15 July, President Habib Bourguiba had expressed his faith in the latent strength of youth and stressed the need to orient that force in a positive and creative manner, in order that it might assume its share of the sacrifices and responsibilities for the national struggle for human improvement and dignity. In that

connexion, it was essential to train personnel in the field of health, education, economics and agriculture.

36. With regard to the participation of young people in international affairs, the second alternative suggested in paragraph 191 of the report of the Secretary-General seemed to be the most desirable, namely, to seek the involvement of youth through the specialized agencies' promotion of various kinds of international action by youth.

37. Her delegation would have no difficulty in voting for draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061. It seemed to her that the amendments submitted by Cameroon in document A/C.3/L.2063 were unnecessary in view of the submission by her delegation and others of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062, which was intended to complement draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061 and which covered the point raised by the Cameroonian amendment. In preparing draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062, the sponsors had tried to anticipate any possible objections. She therefore hoped that the Committee would adopt it unanimously.

38. The CHAIRMAN thought that the Committee could now focus its attention on draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2061 and A/C.3/L.2062. Amendments had been submitted by the United States¹ and Trinidad and Tobago¹ to the former, and by Afghanistan¹ and Cameroon (A/C.3/L.2063) to the latter.

39. Mrs. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) announced that the delegations of Argentina, the Congo, Guinea, the Libyan Arab Republic and Oman had asked to be added to the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062.

40. Mr. SHAFQAT (Pakistan) said his delegation had refrained from participating in the general debate because it had felt it might be more pertinent to combine its general comments with its views on the specific draft resolutions.

41. His delegation had studied with interest the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on youth and had listened with attention to the comments made during the general debate. It should indeed be a function of the United Nations to steer the young of the world towards a cosmopolitan ideal. Nevertheless, it would be a mistake to regard the youth of the world as a homogeneous group waiting as a whole to be told what to do. Oversimplification of issues must be avoided.

42. The United Nations should begin to define in concrete and practical terms only those programmes which could be implemented, taking into account the existing diversity among young people. It was his delegation's belief in youth's ability to embark on basic reforms of their societies that had led it to co-sponsor draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061.

43. The youth of Pakistan had only recently played a significant role in generating genuine consciousness in the minds of the less literate people in their society concerning the inability of feudal attitudes to enable the country to move towards enlightenment and progress. The youth of Pakistan had made a great contribution to the restoration of democratic institutions in his country. His Government had laid new emphasis on the expansion of educational institutions with the over-all objective of accelerating development, particularly in the economic and social fields.

¹ Texts subsequently circulated as documents A/C.3/L.2065, A/C.3/L.2066 and A/C.3/L.2067, respectively.

44. His delegation would be prepared to support any constructive amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061, introduced by the representative of Romania on behalf of several delegations, including his own. It would also be prepared to vote in favour of any other draft resolution aimed at improving the world social situation of youth. Draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062 sought to spotlight the cruel and inhuman impediments confronting the youth of certain regions and areas, particularly Africa, where they were subjected to the pernicious policies of colonialism, racism and *apartheid*. His delegation welcomed its introduction and would support it in its present form.

45. Mrs. PICKER (United States of America) reiterated her delegation's concern over the world situation of youth and said that her delegation had not participated in the general debate because it had had the opportunity to speak extensively on the subject in other United Nations bodies, such as the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council. It felt that the countries that were not represented on those bodies should have the opportunity to express themselves fully in the Third Committee.

46. Her Government shared the concern of other delegations about the accessibility to youth of education, employment, and fundamental rights, as well as the responsibilities of youth in national development.

47. Her delegation congratulated Romania on taking the leadership on the item and was hopeful that the United States would be able fully to support draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061. She therefore wished to propose certain amendments which would not change the essence of the draft but would make it more acceptable to her Government.

48. In the first place, she proposed that in operative paragraph 3, the words "with youth organizations" should be replaced by the words "with youth and youth organizations". In the opinion of her delegation, the youth the Committee was concerned about was not necessarily organized; furthermore, some youth organizations that claimed to speak for youth *per se* were actually speaking for only a small minority of articulate people.

49. Secondly, operative paragraph 5 should be changed to read:

"Requests the competent and concerned organs of the system of the United Nations to give continued attention to the organization of appropriate actions on the major problems of concern for the young generation".

Her delegation agreed that it was important for the United Nations system to continue to be concerned with the problems of youth, but questioned the emphasis in operative paragraph 5 of the draft on regional and international meetings and on the role of international organizations. The emphasis should be on national meetings of youth so that youth might concern itself with its own country's development. Her delegation was also concerned about the fact that international organizations did not necessarily speak for youth *per se*.

50. Operative paragraph 7 should be amended to read:

"Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with Governments, the specialized agencies, and

non-governmental organizations, to assemble data on the situation of youth in such areas as education, health, and employment, and to prepare a report designed to facilitate planning especially for developing countries that would be made available to the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal, and to submit the report to the thirty-first General Assembly through the Commission for Social Development."

Her Government proposed the amendment because, as it stood, paragraph 7 seemed to emphasize additional comprehensive reports by the Secretariat. Her delegation agreed with those of New Zealand, Greece and others that it was time to focus on specifics. Her delegation was suggesting that the appropriate data should be transmitted to the Commission for Social Development, the Committee on Review and Appraisal and the Committee for Development Planning because those bodies had more time to deliberate on the item and were the ones which were most concerned with development in the United Nations.

51. She hoped the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061 would not find it too difficult to incorporate her delegation's amendments in their text.

52. Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago) said her delegation had studied with interest the report of the Secretary-General on youth and the draft resolutions that were before the Committee. Although it was reluctant to introduce any further dimensions to the question of youth, it did wish briefly to review an aspect that had not yet been touched upon in the Committee or in the report of the Secretary-General.

53. It had been a combination of social and economic imbalances rather than merely political ones which had set off the youth revolution of the 1960s. That revolution, moreover, had had a direct psychological link with the movement for the equality of men and women. Neither youth nor women had been given the opportunity to play a positive role in enacting legislation directly concerned with their political, economic and social interests and needs. Young people, like women, also found it necessary either to accept underemployment or to join the ranks of the unemployed.

54. Young people were further denied the stabilizing influence of the home, in view of the thrust of women on the job market. The responsibility for maintaining respect for basic human rights had been shifted to the State; yet the institutional set-up that operated and directed the social, economic and political machinery was still based on the concept that young people and women were incapable of leadership or even participation because of their lack of experience. Thus, State action in the fields of health, education, drug addiction, training and responsibility had become compartmentalized, and no attention was given to synthesizing those questions with the family structures of societies.

55. It was in that area of the Secretary-General's report, particularly part one, chapter II, dealing with youth and the nation, that her delegation found the conclusions were not substantiated by the replies given by the youth of the 14 countries selected for the survey. Those conclusions, or rather assumptions, should be considered with some reservation, as, according to the report itself, they were based on "admittedly slim evidence" and were representative of "trends in North

America and Western Europe" (see E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1, para. 143).

56. Since the youth problem had manifested itself, her country had been caught up in the spiral of the aspirations and desires of the young population with regard to employment, education, health facilities and other aspects. Her Government had set up a National Task Force on Youth two years earlier; special attention was given to the youth of the rural areas. In its recommendations to the Government, the Task Force had recognized that what was needed most was a proper challenge, guidance and motivation for young people.

57. Her delegation found it difficult to accept operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061, which asked for an international document on the fundamental rights and responsibilities of youth in the contemporary world. While it appreciated the ultimate objectives of the paragraph, it believed that it was too ambitious and idealistic. The idea was self-defeating because the concept of a global youth view had not yet been determined.

58. In an effort to arrive at a mutual accommodation with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061, her delegation had been attempting to find a different orientation, other than an international document, that would be more in line with the view expressed in paragraph 189 of the report of the Secretary-General. She therefore proposed the following amendments.

The third preambular paragraph should be reworded to read:

"Noting that the Secretary-General's report recognizes that youth, an integral part of society, has particular problems and that it is more affected by the impact of inequities in national and international economic and social development,"

Operative paragraph 2 (b) should be reworded to read:

"To formulate, where necessary, and to improve health policies and programmes which will ensure young people taking advantage and benefiting from the increasing information relating to communicable diseases, narcotic drugs and population programmes;"

The beginning of operative paragraph 6 should be reworded to read:

"Requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Social Development to study the possibility of redefining an international policy concerning the involvement of youth at the national and international levels and in accordance with the commitment of the United Nations system to develop more concerted action in the youth field . . ."

The rest of the paragraph should be retained.

59. Her delegation had no comment on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062, which it was prepared to support. Nor had it any comment to make on the Cameroonian amendments contained in document A/C.3/L.2063.

60. Mr. SADOU (Cameroon) said that, in submitting its amendments (A/C.3/L.2063) to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061, his delegation had wished to give special emphasis to the problems of young people in southern Africa. His delegation hoped that, within the context of action taken for the benefit of young people, the United

Nations would find a special place for assistance to the young people of southern Africa in the field of education and training.

61. Mr. VAN OVEN (Netherlands) said that, generally speaking, his delegation felt that the draft resolutions before the Committee would serve very little purpose. What had been the effect of the "solemn appeal" contained in General Assembly resolution 3023 (XXVII), of the recommendation referred to in paragraph 15 of the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations submitted at the twenty-seventh session,² or of the view expressed in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3022 (XXVII)? In connexion with that last point, he noted with interest that the International Student Movement for the United Nations had severely criticized the proposed charter of the United Nations University, and wondered to what extent that Movement's suggestions for amending the charter would be taken into consideration.

62. His delegation could not understand what was meant by the words "basic individual, social and economic needs, in particular with regard to . . . participation in national, regional and international development" in the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061. In connexion with the sixth preambular paragraph of that draft resolution, he wondered how it was possible to "secure" the responsibilities of youth. As for operative paragraph 2 (a), surely development was an aspect of life. His delegation shared the views expressed by the United States delegation concerning operative paragraph 3, and would therefore support the United States amendment.

63. His delegation had strong reservations about the proposal for an instrument or document establishing the rights and responsibilities of youth. He agreed with the view expressed in the Secretary-General's report that youth was an integrated part of society and felt that it was inappropriate to prepare a document relating specifically to young people. Indeed, that kind of document might widen the gap between young people and the rest of society.

64. Draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062 was at least more concrete, and his delegation attached particular importance to operative paragraph 5. However, he wished to know how the sponsors expected young people to "affirm their faith" in the Charter as provided for in operative paragraph 3. He hoped that that paragraph did not constitute an attempt to reintroduce surreptitiously the idea of a "baby Charter". His delegation wished to stress that it interpreted the phrase "all appropriate means" in operative paragraph 4 strictly in the light of the phrase "in conformity with the Charter".

65. The CHAIRMAN announced that Thailand had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061.

66. Mrs. MARICO (Mali) said that the amendments proposed by the Cameroonian delegation were very relevant and that, as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061, her delegation would have no difficulty in accepting them.

67. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) associated his delegation with views expressed on the vital role young people could and should play in achieving national objectives

² A/8743.

and the goals set out in the Charter. However, young people were held back, at the national level, by insufficient resources for development, by low levels of political development, by foreign interference or occupation and by racism. In addition, the role of youth was restricted by the current international atmosphere, by inadequate co-operation on the part of some of the developed countries that were preventing young people from playing their role fully, and by the aggressive policies of certain Powers with regard to Africa and other parts of the world.

68. His delegation felt that the two draft resolutions before the Committee complemented each other, and would vote in favour of both of them. However, he had a few suggestions to make which he hoped would be taken into account by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061. Firstly, the words "and international" should be added after the word "national" at the end of the title of the draft resolution. In the fourth preambular paragraph, the phrase "basic individual, social and economic needs" should be expanded to read "basic national and individual", social and economic needs". The words "and its role is fully effected" should be added at the end of the sixth preambular paragraph. Finally, the reference to the Commission on Human Rights in operative paragraph 6 should be replaced by a reference to the Commission for Social Development, since the latter body was currently engaged in considering the advisability of an international document on the role of youth in development.

69. Mr. GRAEFRAETH (German Democratic Republic) observed that many speakers had referred to the Tenth Festival of Youth and Students, held earlier in the year, and that such an important event should be mentioned in the draft resolution. Consequently, his delegation wished to propose a new preambular paragraph, to follow the sixth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061, which would read:

"*Convinced* that international festivals such as the Tenth Festival of Youth and Students, held in Berlin in July 1973, can contribute to mutual understanding and the promotion of the ideas of peace and friendship among the youth of all nations,".³

70. Mr. FØNS BUHL (Denmark) reiterated that it was essential to stress the importance of treating youth as an integrated part of society and to promote the active participation of young people in the decision-making process. It was also important to stress concrete measures in the field of employment, educational opportunities and so on. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061. However, in connexion with operative paragraph 6, his delegation was hesitant about accepting the idea of a debate on the advisability of an international document of the kind mentioned, especially since the International Covenants on Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination already existed. He understood that the sponsors of the draft resolution had already agreed that the reference in paragraph 6 to the Commission on Human Rights should be replaced by a reference to the Commission for Social Development. His delegation wished to propose that the following

words should be added after the words "contemporary world" in paragraph 6:

"taking into consideration, *inter alia*, relevant provisions contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and also taking account of recommendations submitted by the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Youth to the Secretary-General and opinions expressed by interested non-governmental organizations,".

The paragraph would then continue as worded in the draft. He pointed out that the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution contained a reference to Economic and Social Council resolution 1752 (LIV), which had emphasized the importance of the decision to convene the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group.

71. Mr. HUMAM (Democratic Yemen) said that, since he had attended the Tenth Festival of Youth and Students in Berlin and was aware of the efforts made at that Festival to promote peace and friendship, he strongly supported the proposal of the German Democratic Republic to add another paragraph in the preambular part of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061.

72. Miss LEE (Singapore) said that her delegation considered the proposals for action contained in operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061 to be particularly important because, as the report of the Secretary-General had noted, young people aspired to personal, social and occupational achievements and there was no subject of greater interest and concern to young people today than careers and jobs. Thus, the solution to the problems involved in selecting, obtaining and exercising an occupation was crucial to the successful integration of youth in society. In order to meet the needs and aspirations of youth, Governments should not only stress education and training for careers and jobs, but also relate educational policies and training programmes to economic development, which would also generate employment opportunities for youth. In addition, educational programmes must pay due regard to intellectual, spiritual, cultural and moral values, so that young people might have a balanced and comprehensive education.

73. With regard to the health needs of youth, her delegation felt that plans to provide such services should include family planning and counselling about drug abuse.

74. Her delegation considered that draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062 was complementary to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061, of which her delegation was a sponsor. It therefore had no difficulty in supporting draft resolution A/C.3/L.2062.

75. Mrs. CHIMOMBE (Lesotho) said that her delegation supported draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2061 and A/C.3/L.2062, and the amendments submitted by the delegation of Cameroon in document A/C.3/L.2063 because Lesotho was also adversely affected by the situation in southern Africa. For example, Lesotho's schools were now being flooded with refugees from South Africa and it was becoming increasingly difficult to provide educational opportunities for all. Her delegation therefore hoped that the Cameroonian amendments would be adopted.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

³ Subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.2068.