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Chairman: Mr. Hermod LANNUNG (Denmark).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (A/3154, A/C.3/L.598/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.600) (*continued*)

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON LONG-RANGE PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (A/C.3/L.599/REV.1)

1. Miss SOUTER (New Zealand) said that her delegation had not taken part in the general debate, which had been mainly concerned with the subject of community development, because it had agreed with the suggestion made by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs (754th meeting) that it was for the under-developed countries to make known their needs and interests in that regard. It had been impressive to hear so many delegations reporting on the substantial progress made with community development projects in their own countries, in order to make their experience available to others. The work done by New Zealand in that connexion was described in a country monograph in the United Nations Series on Community Organization and Development in 1954.¹

2. However, the progress that had been achieved did not eliminate the need for research and co-ordination. The New Zealand delegation was therefore prepared to support the revised seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1), which confirmed the interest of the United Nations in community development programmes. Since the Economic and Social Council had already made plans for United Nations action on a long-term basis, it was essential to preserve the Council's freedom of action to formulate a policy on the basis of the report that the Secretary-General had been asked to prepare. Accordingly, the New Zealand delegation was glad that the sponsors of the original draft had been able to accept the amendments submitted by France (A/C.3/L.601) and Canada (A/C.3/L.605).

3. She would be unable to vote for the Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.604) to paragraph 2 of the joint draft resolution, as it seemed to be inconsistent with paragraph 6 of Economic and Social Council resolution 627 (XXII), which reaffirmed the Council's previous re-

quest to the Secretary-General to give special attention in the second *Report on the World Social Situation* to the problems of peoples undergoing rapid transition, especially through urbanization.

4. Mr. DIAZ CASANUEVA (Chile) said that the sponsors of the revised seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1) were glad to be able to accept the Canadian amendment (A/C.3/L.605). He agreed also with the explanation given by the French representative (759th meeting) in reply to the Indian representative's question, to the effect that paragraph 4 (c) covered such measures as the development of co-operatives, vocational training and cottage industries with a view to increasing employment opportunities.

5. As the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs had said in his statement at the 754th meeting, the problem of co-ordination had by no means been solved. But methods of co-ordination must be based on a general view of the problem, and it was for the interested Governments to furnish detailed information on the various aspects of community development.

6. The sponsors of the seven-Power draft resolution could not accept the Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.603) to paragraph 4 (e); the text had been carefully formulated to take into account long-term programmes for raising standards of living throughout the world, and the special emphasis placed on newly constituted States, which had recently freed themselves from the colonial yoke and were mainly agricultural countries with a low standard of living, was consistent with the general terms of the draft resolution. The Syrian proposal would substitute an unduly general formula for a specific one. Moreover, if the Syrian representative had in mind the point that had been raised in connexion with article 11 of the draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/2573, annex I A), that States should be prevented from imposing assistance on others, that was irrelevant in the case under consideration, since the draft resolution related exclusively to assistance within the United Nations, which was never given unless the country concerned requested it. The purpose of the reference to newly constituted States was to take into account recent requests for technical assistance from the United Nations and the specialized agencies by countries such as Morocco and Tunisia. He therefore hoped that the Syrian representative would withdraw his amendment.

7. Mr. MUFTI (Syria), introducing his delegation's amendments (A/C.3/L.603 and A/C.3/L.604) to the seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1), said that the purpose of the Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.604) to paragraph 2 was to restore the words "of rural populations", which had appeared in the original text but had been deleted as a result of the acceptance of the French amendment (A/C.3/L.601). In the opinion of the Syrian delegation, that deletion removed an essential reminder of the links that existed

¹ *Development of Community Welfare Centres in New Zealand* (ST/SOA/Ser.O/19-ST/AA/Ser.D/19).

between community development and the raising of the standards of living of rural populations. The importance of that point had been amply demonstrated by the Under-Secretary in his statement to the Committee (754th meeting). Mr. de Seynes had said that he wished to lay stress on community development as an effective means of raising standards of living in the rural areas of economically under-developed countries, and had pointed out the importance of co-ordinating methods of rural development. One of the objectives of community development, he had said, was to reduce the gap that existed in material and technical matters between rural and urban populations; and with that end in view the United Nations and the specialized agencies directly concerned with various aspects of rural development had made available 400 experts to help in requesting countries to organize community development programmes. Finally, the Under-Secretary had stated that it was not yet known whether such programmes could be applied to urban as well as rural areas, for efforts had been concentrated mainly on rural areas, where the overwhelming bulk of the population of the under-developed countries was to be found.

8. Accordingly, the purpose of the Syrian amendment was to ensure that the emphasis which the Under-Secretary had rightly laid throughout his statement on the rural aspect of community development should be reflected in the draft resolution.

9. The Syrian delegation had proposed its amendment (A/C.3/L.603) to paragraph 4 (e) of the seven-Power draft because it felt that in its existing form that paragraph applied a double criterion. While the first part of the text dealt with the economic and social advancement of the under-developed countries, a well-established concept, the reference in paragraph 4 (e) to newly constituted States was undeniably political. The Syrian delegation felt that it would be unwise to create a new category of States within the United Nations; moreover, most of the newly constituted States might be regarded as under-developed countries, and there was no point in drawing distinctions between countries which had the same problems; many countries which were not newly constituted had much to gain from United Nations community development projects. Finally, the Syrian amendment stressed the point that the assistance given through international co-operation must be voluntarily accepted. It would not have the effect of preventing the under-developed countries from receiving such assistance, as United Nations policy was clearly committed in that regard.

10. Mr. BEAUFORT (Netherlands) said that his delegation had expressed its views on the question of community development in the Economic and Social Council,² and was in full agreement with the provisions of the revised seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1). The original draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599) had been improved by the acceptance of the French amendments (A/C.3/L.601); and the Netherlands delegation was glad also that the Canadian amendment (A/C.3/L.605) had been accepted, as it brought paragraph 4 into line with Economic and Social Council resolution 627 (XXII). However, he considered the Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.603) to paragraph 4 (e) unnecessary, since there was no need to fear that assistance would be given to States which did not desire it.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-second Session, 927th meeting.*

11. He was glad that the Czechoslovak delegation had accepted the six-Power amendments (A/C.3/L.602) to its draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598/Rev.1), and would be able to vote in favour of the revised text, in view of the importance the Netherlands had always attached to international cultural and scientific co-operation. He expressed the hope that the day would soon come when such co-operation would no longer be hampered by international tensions.

12. Miss RADIC (Yugoslavia) said that she would vote in favour of the seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1). It was to be hoped that practical recommendations on long-term community development programmes would be adopted with the same unanimity as that with which the idea of such programmes had been approved in the Committee. The original draft had been much improved by the various amendments; especially paragraph 2, which now covered urban as well as rural populations, an important point for countries undergoing rapid industrialization.

13. The Yugoslav delegation welcomed the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598/Rev.1), and appreciated the conciliatory attitude the Czechoslovak delegation had shown in accepting the six-Power amendments (A/C.3/L.602), which undoubtedly improved the text. She would vote in favour of the revised draft.

14. Finally, she pointed out that the Yugoslav delegation in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had voted in favour of the first paragraph of the draft resolution recognizing the justice of Afghanistan's claim that it should be included among the countries which might produce opium for export.³

15. Mr. PETRZELKA (Czechoslovakia) said that he would vote in favour of the revised seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1), as amended, and in favour of the Syrian amendments (A/C.3/L.603 and A/C.3/L.604). The draft resolution would be an important milestone in the progress of community development, as it would serve to unify the efforts of States to bring about better living conditions. Co-ordination and the exchange of experiences and of assistance in the practical execution of programmes would bring positive results. The community development programmes would be especially important for the under-developed countries.

16. Czechoslovakia had extensive experience in the field of community development; it hoped that the Economic and Social Council, with the co-operation of the specialized agencies, would be able to carry out its important task successfully.

17. Mr. TSURUOKA (Japan) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the revised seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1), which offered the Committee a welcome opportunity to demonstrate the international co-operation which was essential for the consolidation of peace.

18. The concept of community development was relatively new, but the facts with which it was concerned were as old as history. Japan had for many years been working to solve the problem of improving living conditions in rural areas and of narrowing the gap between rural and urban populations. The broad experience it had acquired and the physical stamina of the Japanese people would make Japanese experts particularly useful

³ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 8, para. 250.

for United Nations activities in the field of community development; the Japanese delegation hoped that the competent bodies would take those facts into consideration.

19. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) said that her country was deeply interested in the programme of concerted practical action in the social field, and was itself engaged on a community development programme of some importance. The efforts of the United Nations and of other organizations in that field and the programmes being carried out by Government were to be welcomed; however, no one could be satisfied with the progress so far achieved, either on the national or the international plane, and it might be as useful for the Committee to ponder the reasons for failure as to consider the causes of success. The Committee had not devoted sufficient time to the Council's report (A/3154) and to the activities of the specialized agencies concerned or of bodies such as the Commission on the Status of Women, only one aspect of which had been considered. Many delegations had said they found that regrettable, but it was not enough to express regret: the Committee should strive to find a solution.

20. Operative paragraph 1 of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1) commended the Council for its continuous attention to practical programmes for the integrated economic and social development of the under-developed countries; in point of fact, however, the Council had not given social activities the attention they deserved. The Council's decision that the Social Commission should meet only once every two years and its refusal to reconsider that decision or to envisage any extension of the Commission's membership showed a lack of recognition of the value of the Commission's work. If the Commission's membership were enlarged, and if it met every year, it might be able to give social questions adequate attention.

21. The programme of concerted practical action in the social field was a remarkable experiment designed to achieve some of the purposes of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter. Action under the programme was to be practical, concerted and integrated. Operative paragraph 4 (a) of the joint draft resolution stressed the integration of social and economic measures, but there was no indication of how that integration was to be achieved. The measures required could not be taken simultaneously, and it had to be recognized that, in practice, some measures must come before others. As had been pointed out in the Council's report (A/3154), one of the most significant advances in the under-developed countries lay not so much in the physical expansion of productive capacity as in the evolution of a social climate. The Social Commission and the Third Committee should have the time to study that tremendous evolution in relation to economic development.

22. Referring to paragraph 4 (b), she said that the proposed research work did not cover all the aspects of community development programmes which required study. It was difficult to see how such research could be carried out adequately, in any case, without country-by-country studies.

23. The problems arising out of the migration of rural populations to urban centres, referred to in paragraph 4 (d), were not confined to the under-developed countries. As long as living standards were low in rural areas and higher in the towns, the population would

migrate towards the latter. It was possible that the only solution lay in the mechanization of agriculture and the creation of rural industries.

24. In connexion with operative paragraph 4 (e), she stressed the need for assistance to the under-developed countries. In areas where people were poor, ignorant and weakened by disease, the impetus for progress must come from outside; she was not convinced that community development, which laid emphasis on self-help, could solve the problem. Although the United Nations programme of community development had been in operation for some time, the gap between the levels of development and standards of living of the under-developed and the industrialized countries was increasing, according to the Council's report. There were serious grounds, therefore, for doubting the effectiveness of the programme. Great efforts were being made in the economic field both by Governments and by the United Nations, but they would remain unfruitful unless similar efforts were made in the social field.

25. It had been a generous gesture on the part of the sponsors of the joint draft resolution to give particular emphasis to the needs of newly constituted States; she did not feel, however, that the needs of those States were any more pressing than those of other under-developed countries.

26. Throughout the community development programme, the need for co-ordination between the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the Technical Assistance Administration and Governments was stressed; but co-ordination was difficult to achieve even between the ministries of a single country, and experience had shown that the presence of experts from different specialized agencies did not always facilitate it. The only agency which had succeeded so far in the task of co-ordination was the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and the Social Commission might do well to consider the factors which had brought about the success of UNICEF where so many other efforts had failed. It was possible that a body similar to the UNICEF Programme Committee might be useful in the United Nations; but even if such a body was established, co-ordination would remain difficult so long as each specialized agency remained independent.

27. Mr. DIAZ CASANUEVA (Chile) said he was opposed to the Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.604) to operative paragraph 2 of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1) because it would restrict community development to rural areas. It was true that community development techniques had so far been applied mainly in rural areas, because they were the most populous and backward sections of the under-developed countries; but they could equally well be applied to other types of communities. It was particularly important that the draft resolution should raise no barrier to the application of such techniques to the new industrial communities which were growing up round new industries such as the petroleum, steel and cement industries.

28. Mr. HAMILTON (Australia) said that the revised joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1) was generally acceptable to his delegation, although it found the absence of any reference in the preamble to pertinent resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, particularly resolutions 585 C (XX) and 627 (XXII), somewhat surprising. The word "Comments", at the beginning of operative paragraph 1, might perhaps

be replaced by a more suitable expression; it was not appropriate for the General Assembly to commend the Council for activities it was carrying out as part of its normal programme, in compliance with General Assembly directives. The Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.604) to operative paragraph 2 raised difficulties. It had been clear from the views expressed by many delegations and from the statement made by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs at the 754th meeting that the community development concept might apply to urban areas also. That view had been endorsed by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories in its report to the General Assembly at its tenth session (A/2908,⁴ Part Two, para. 51). It might meet the views of most delegations if the words "in rural areas in particular" were added at the end of operative paragraph 2. He welcomed the inclusion of the Canadian amendment (A/C.3/L.605) in the joint draft resolution. It was not clear whether the integration referred to in paragraph 4 (a) was to be at the national or the international level; it would be advisable to specify the former, as the other sub-paragraphs covered international aspects. Paragraph 4 (e) might be better drafted; as it stood, it might be construed as excluding assistance to States which were not newly constituted. In any event, the words "newly constituted" were ambiguous, and it would be difficult to decide which States they covered. The Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.603) to paragraph 4 (e) did not improve matters, since it implied that any State which desired assistance was entitled to it. The best way out of the difficulty would be to delete the words "newly constituted"; all States would then be subject to the normal criteria for the granting of assistance. In paragraph 5, the words "in regional groups" might be deleted, as they might tie the hands of States, which should be left free to act in whatever groupings they chose.

29. Mr. PAZHAWAK (Afghanistan) said he supported the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598/Rev.1).

30. He also supported the revised joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1), although he felt that some drafting changes would be desirable. He agreed with the Australian representative that the word "Commends", in operative paragraph 1, should be replaced by a more neutral expression; and the word "Agrees", in paragraph 2, was also inappropriate. As the preamble began with the word "Noting", it was illogical for paragraph 3 to begin with the word "Notes". He supported the Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.604) to operative paragraph 2, but expressed the hope that the Syrian representative would be able to agree to the Australian representative's suggestion, which would make the amendment more generally acceptable. He was in favour of the Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.603) to paragraph 4 (e).

31. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) said that operative paragraph 2 of the original joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599) had stressed the importance of community development for raising the levels of living of rural populations. The new text (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1) and the statement made by the Chilean representative seemed to reveal a change of ideas; however, he felt that the views of the majority of the Committee coincided with his own. In order to meet the objections

some representatives had raised, he formally proposed that the words "in rural areas in particular", as suggested by the Australian representative, should be added at the end of operative paragraph 2.

32. By accepting the French amendment (A/C.3/L.601) to operative paragraph 4 (e), the sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1) had narrowed the scope of the paragraph. Paragraph 4 (e) of the original text had applied to all States, especially newly constituted States, whereas the new text provided for assistance to newly constituted States only.

33. Mr. ARKADEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he supported the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1) and the Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.604) as reworded.

34. Mrs. GERLEIN DE FONNEGRA (Colombia) proposed that the words "in particular" should be inserted before the words "to newly constituted States" in paragraph 4 (e) of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1). Assistance would then be available under the resolution to all States.

35. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) said that, as he could not support the Colombian proposal, he would press for a vote on his own amendment (A/C.3/L.603).

36. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) proposed that the words "Agrees with" in paragraph 2 of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1) should be replaced by "Approves of" and the word "Notes" in paragraph 3 by "Observes".

37. Mr. PAZHAWAK (Afghanistan) supported those amendments and proposed that the word "Commends" in paragraph 1 should be replaced by "Expresses its appreciation to".

The Afghan amendment to paragraph 1 was adopted.

38. After some discussion on the appropriateness of the words "Approves of" in paragraph 2, Mr. HAUCK (France) proposed that the word "Reconnait" used in the French text should be retained and that the Secretariat should be asked to supply a suitable translation into English and Spanish.

It was so decided.

39. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.604) calling for the addition of the words "in rural areas in particular" at the end of paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

The amendment was adopted by 60 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

40. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Philippine oral amendment replacing the word "Notes" in paragraph 3 by the word "Observes".

The amendment was adopted.

41. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.603) to paragraph 4 (e).

The amendment was rejected by 26 votes to 25, with 16 abstentions.

42. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Colombian oral amendment to the effect that the words "in particular" should be inserted before the words "to newly constituted States" in paragraph 4 (e) of the draft resolution.

The amendment was adopted by 46 votes to 3, with 17 abstentions.

⁴ Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Session, Supplement No. 6.

43. The CHAIRMAN put the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599/Rev.1), as amended, to the vote as a whole.

The draft resolution, as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 67 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

44. Mr. HAUCK (France) said that he had not voted for the Syrian amendment to paragraph 4 because his country was linked by close ties of friendship with several newly constituted States, such as Tunisia and Morocco, and a vote for the amendment might have been interpreted as hostile to their interests.

45. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) said that Syria felt even more friendship for those countries and was even more concerned for their welfare than France.

46. Mr. TSAO (China) expressed his appreciation of the intentions pursued by the sponsors of the joint draft resolution. While the text would be of no great practical value, he had voted for it because it did reflect the importance attached by the General Assembly to community development programmes as a method of promoting the development of under-developed countries.

47. Mr. PONCE (Ecuador) said that he had voted for the draft resolution because the principles laid down in it coincided exactly with his own Government's social policies.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION (A/C.3/L.598/REV.1)

48. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598/Rev.1).

49. Miss SOUTER (New Zealand) remarked that she would have been reluctant to see the Committee adopt a draft resolution calling for the establishment of new channels of cultural and scientific co-operation without having had an opportunity to consider the manner in which co-operation was taking place through existing machinery, particularly the specialized agencies. She was therefore pleased that the Czechoslovak representative had accepted the six-Power amendments (A/C.3/L.602), which were based on existing procedures. She would be able to vote for the revised text (A/C.3/L.598/Rev.1).

50. Mr. BAHADUR (Nepal) supported the revised draft resolution. Culture and education had no national and geographical frontiers. Small countries like Greece and Nepal, which were at the crossroads of Europe and Asia respectively, had been among the greatest carriers and creators of culture. The distinction between Eastern and Western cultures made in the Czechoslovak draft resolution was not in his view valid. The world's great religious faiths were one instance of the general interpenetration of culture, and the fact that two similar cultures could arise on opposite sides of the Atlantic was another. No line of demarcation could therefore properly be drawn between Eastern and Western culture.

51. Mr. MEZINCESCU (Romania) said that in his delegation's view the request made by Afghanistan that it should be included among the countries authorized to produce and export opium was fully justified. Afghanistan had for centuries produced and exported opium, which was of great importance to its economy, and it should not be discriminated against.

52. He warmly supported the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598/Rev.1). Cultural and scientific exchanges had always been a prerequisite of progress. Now that the means of communication had been so highly developed as virtually to abolish distance, cultural and scientific relations among peoples could be developed to a much greater extent. Such relations had been interrupted by the Second World War, and although they had since been resumed, they could and should be greatly expanded, especially since in the meantime a number of peoples with ancient and valuable cultures had attained their independence while others had undergone rapid cultural development.

53. Familiarity with the cultural values of other peoples was one of the best means of bringing about mutual understanding and respect, of which the modern world stood in great need. Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Charter mentioned international co-operation in solving international problems of a cultural character as one of the purposes of the United Nations. There could be no doubt that an increase in cultural, artistic and scientific exchanges among the various countries of the world would help to promote the other purposes of the United Nations, including its foremost purpose: the maintenance of peace.

54. The Romanian people maintained active scientific and cultural relations with a great many countries, and would welcome similar relations with other countries, even before diplomatic relations were established or resumed. Romania attached great importance to the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), of which it was a member; it felt, nevertheless, that a debate on international cultural and scientific co-operation in the General Assembly would serve both to promote such co-operation by means which were not at the disposal of UNESCO and to further that organization's own activities. He would therefore have supported the original text of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598), but he was also prepared to vote for the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598/Rev.1), although its scope had been somewhat restricted by the six-Power amendments (A/C.3/L.602).

55. Mr. TSAO (China) said that one of his objections to the Czechoslovak draft resolution—the fact that it cut across existing procedures—had been removed by the Czechoslovak representative's acceptance of the six-Power amendments (A/C.3/L.602). Nevertheless, the primary responsibility as regards international cultural and scientific co-operation rested with UNESCO, and he therefore felt that the draft resolution would lead to duplication and confusion of responsibility. He would therefore abstain.

56. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq), speaking on a point of order, said that since other Main Committees were continuing to work through the week, the Third Committee should follow their example and should devote a few additional meetings to the consideration of the draft International Covenants on Human Rights.

57. Mr. PAZHAWAK (Afghanistan) and Mr. MUFTI (Syria) supported that suggestion.

58. The CHAIRMAN said that the suggestion would be discussed after the Committee had completed its consideration of the Czechoslovak draft resolution.

59. Mr. BARODY (Saudi Arabia), referring to operative paragraph 1 of the revised Czechoslovak draft

resolution (A/C.3/L.598/Rev.1), said that the invitation to all States to spare no effort in trying to achieve the implementation of the peaceful objectives of promoting wider cultural and scientific international co-operation should be regarded, not as a pious hope, but as a matter for action. In realizing the intentions of that paragraph, the various media of information would be important; yet the United Nations had done little to evolve methods of making freedom of information a reality. The draft conventions on the subject had been shelved by the Economic and Social Council for nine years, and the differences of opinion that had been manifested in the General Assembly—differences relating mainly to the articles of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information⁵ concerning permissible restrictions and obscene literature—had never been settled. Attempts to draft a code of ethics with a view to preventing misinformation had also come to nought.

60. As a result of those failures, propaganda had become an important political weapon, and media of information were being systematically abused. If it wished to fulfil the objectives of the Czechoslovak draft resolution, the United Nations should resume its study

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Seventh Session, Annexes*, agenda item 29, document A/AC.42/7, annex.

of a convention on freedom of information, despite the Economic and Social Council's decision (Council resolution 574 C (XIX)) that consideration of the question should be postponed until the twelfth session of the General Assembly. Time was of the essence; every year international relations were being increasingly aggravated by hostile propaganda. Moreover, the propaganda methods of the more advanced countries were being copied by the under-developed countries. People throughout the world were becoming accustomed to admire unmannerly conduct; at the individual level that might be remedied by education, but at the international level it jeopardized relations among nations.

61. It was difficult to conceive of free cultural and scientific interchanges while nations were reviling one another by means of tendentious propaganda, and an international code of ethics based on the experience of national Press associations was urgently needed. The United Nations should therefore give adequate consideration to a convention and a code, designed not to restrict information but to impose some self-restraint and to prevent the abuse of freedom.

62. He would vote in favour of the revised Czechoslovak draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.