



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 29th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BRODODININGRAT (Indonesia)

later: Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan)

later: Ms. ERIKSSON (Sweden)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.2/40/L.27 and L.28)

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.27

1. Mr. ROSELLO (Spain), said that draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.27 on the promotion of movements of persons and world tourism for development, which he was introducing on behalf of the sponsors, reflected concerns with regard to implementation of the Manila Declaration on world tourism and the Acapulco Document as well as support for the new approach of the World Tourism Organization, which considered tourism as one additional element in the broader phenomenon of the movements of persons in general. In view of the socio-economic importance of establishing an appropriate infrastructure for travellers, it was to be hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.28

2. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.28 on international economic security, said that it addressed the need for a stable international economic environment in order to solve development problems and achieve socio-economic progress in all areas. The draft resolution took into account discussions in the Economic and Social Council as well as proposals made by developing and other countries during consultations. Although not all countries dealt with economic problems in the same way, effort should be made to establish points of agreement where possible, so that the economic bodies of the United Nations might be used in the common interest of all States to achieve the goal of international economic security. He hoped that future consultations on the draft resolution would be held in a constructive spirit and that general agreement could be achieved.

Draft resolutions A/C.2/40/L.14, L.15 and L.17

3. The CHAIRMAN announced that Gambia had joined in sponsoring draft resolutions A/C.2/40/L.14, L.15 and L.17.

AGENDA ITEM 84: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)

(f) ENVIRONMENT (continued) (A/C.2/40/L.16)

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Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.16

4. The CHAIRMAN announced that Cuba and the Gambia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.16.

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.24

5. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Gambia and India had joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.24.

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.25

6. Mr. GAJENTAAN (Netherlands), introducing on behalf of the sponsors draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.25 entitled "Co-ordination of human settlements programmes within the United Nations system", said that the Secretary-General's report concerning the co-ordination of human settlements programmes within the United Nations system (A/40/689), although a commendable effort, was not fully satisfactory and resolution 8/13 of the Commission on Human Settlements remained valid. The draft resolution therefore requested the Secretary-General to hold further consultations on the matter.

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.29

7. Mr. WIJewardane (Sri Lanka), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.29 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH), on behalf of the sponsors, which have been joined by Rwanda and Uganda, said that Canada had also expressed an interest in adding its name to the list of sponsors provided that an amendment that it wished to propose could be accommodated. To that end, consultations would be held with the other sponsors as soon as possible.

8. The International Year, which had stemmed from a proposal made in 1980 by the Prime Minister of his country, was not meant to be a purely symbolic exercise. One quarter of the world's population, in developed as well as developing countries, did not have adequate shelter and lived in an unhealthy environment, which had a major impact on other socio-economic indicators. It was therefore important for countries which had not yet done so to draw up plans and programmes of action for the Year and to establish national focal points to co-ordinate its activities.

9. His own country was very actively involved in a massive programme, which included a very large housing component, to revitalize all aspects of rural life, and had further demonstrated its commitment to the realization of the Year's goal by pledging a contribution of \$1 million towards its programmes. In fact, the Year was unique in that the voluntary contributions had come primarily from the developing countries.

10. The draft resolution was sponsored by States from all regions of the world and it was to be hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

11. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Gambia had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.23

12. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Gambia had joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/40/L.23.

AGENDA ITEM 86: TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/40/173, 672, 788)

13. Mr. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that in 1984 the General Assembly had not been able to agree on long-term financial arrangements for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and had requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on its future. Introducing that report (A/40/788), he said that the Secretary-General was convinced that UNITAR could play an effective role, in keeping with its mandate, to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations. In order to solve the Institute's financial difficulties measures would be required to strengthen its programmes and activities. The Secretary-General therefore proposed the reorientation of the Institute's programmes and activities in 1986, after which long-term financial arrangements might be considered. Subject to the views of Member States, the Secretary-General would invite the Executive Director of the Institute to draw up a medium-term integrated research and training programme and would put into place as quickly as possible the new arrangements concerning the Institute's personnel.

14. As explained in the report, the option most likely to result in the Institute's rejuvenation was concentration of research activities on policy issues concerning the United Nations. Such research would complement the work of the Secretariat and reflect the interests of Member States. In future, the Institute's training activities would be more closely related to its research programmes and would continue to focus on enhancing the knowledge and experience of diplomats and national officials in multilateral co-operation. There would also be a more dynamic approach to the staffing of the Institute, whereby a small core staff would interact with a larger rotating staff, drawn from international organizations, Member States and academic institutions. The Secretary-General was not proposing any change in the current institutional position of UNITAR, although the development of closer co-operation between UNITAR and the United Nations University should be explored. Measures were being reviewed to reduce the Institute's operational and administrative costs in order to concentrate resources on its substantive programmes. The Secretary-General had recommended that the Assembly should make available to UNITAR in 1986 the unused portion of the grant of \$1.5 million provided to UNITAR in 1985. If that recommendation was accepted by the General Assembly, then UNITAR should be able, by mobilizing anticipated voluntary contributions, to proceed in the direction proposed by the report. The work done by the Institute in 1986 should provide enough information for the Secretary-General to submit proposals on the future of the Institute to the forty-first session of the General Assembly.

15. The Executive Director of the Institute was present and would be happy to respond to any queries that members might have.

16. Mr. Birido (Sudan) took the Chair.

17. Mr. McBARNETTE (Trinidad and Tobago) said it was regrettable that the Secretary-General's report, which was to provide the basis for the Institute's future programmes and funding arrangements, had arrived too late to allow for thorough discussion and consultation by interested Governments. The Secretary-General had proposed that the Institute should have a small core staff and a larger rotating staff, consisting of four groups of persons. However, the details of how those groups were to be constituted were perplexing, and it might be asked whether such a system was operationally feasible. Additionally, a major deficiency of the proposal was that it depended on the goodwill of the developed countries, since, given the present economic circumstances, the developing countries would find it difficult to provide specialists. The Institute would therefore be unable to benefit from differences in perspectives and approaches which were crucial to its work. The Institute's output, if it was to be utilized by the developing countries, must be characterized by professional excellence and academic objectivity.

18. According to the report, it was also important to maintain effective links between the Institute and other United Nations institutions, in particular the United Nations University. However, the Secretary-General had not specified what types of institutional links were envisaged.

19. The report had unfortunately skirted the question of the Institute's long-term financing. His delegation was of the view that there was still time for closer scrutiny and clarification of that matter and even for a re-examination of the proposals to keep intact the concept of voluntary contributions which had been found acceptable in 1984.

20. His country considered that the training and research efforts of UNITAR were extremely useful, and hoped that good sense would prevail to ensure the Institute's survival in a manner that would not impair its autonomy.

21. Mr. TALL (Mali) said his Government appreciated the work done by UNITAR and supported the Secretary-General's efforts to find a solution to the problem. He requested information on the specific position taken by the Board of Trustees on the problem of long-term financing, and asked if it would be possible to make an immediate budgetary allocation of \$10,000 to \$15,000 to keep the Institute out of the current impasse.

22. Mr. DMITRIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation shared the views of the Secretary-General regarding the need to cut the administrative expenditure of the Institute, which had grown considerably, and to strengthen control over the Institute's implementation of its mandate. Unless order were established in those areas, it would be impossible to solve the Institute's problems, and no financial investments would be of any use.

23. According to the report of the Secretary-General on UNITAR (A/40/788), half of the \$1.5 million which the General Assembly had granted UNITAR in its resolution 39/177 had not been used. That showed that the Institute's request for funding in 1984 had been unjustifiably high and had represented a conscious attempt to

(Mr. Dmitriev, USSR)

mislead delegations in their consideration, at the Assembly's thirty-ninth session, of the financial situation of UNITAR. The Secretary-General's proposal that the unused portion of the \$1.5 million grant should be made available to UNITAR in 1986 was absolutely unacceptable, and was a direct violation of Assembly resolution 39/177 in which the Assembly decided to grant UNITAR up to \$1.5 million, and only for its 1985 programme. The unused portion of the grant should therefore be returned to Member States in accordance with the financial rules.

24. In analysing the Institute's budget for 1985, the Soviet Union found it unacceptable that considerable funds were used for outside expertise (\$US 122,900), staff travel (\$US 101,700) and hospitality (\$US 32,500). Approximately 30 per cent of the Institute's 1985 budget had been allocated for administrative purposes, 19 per cent for the Division of Training and only 10 per cent for the Division of Research. With a view to the more rational use of the Institute's budget, the Soviet Union proposed that delegations should consider the creation of a mechanism for establishing strict control over the spending of the financial resources provided by donor countries. The Soviet Union also proposed that the administration of UNITAR should prepare, by the next session of the Board of Trustees in February 1986, information about the savings which might result if the Institute were transferred to Vienna and its division in Geneva were closed. Such measures could substantially improve the financial situation of UNITAR and release additional resources for research programmes of general interest to all delegations.

25. For years, the administration of UNITAR had avoided the question of accepting a Soviet candidate for the post of Deputy Director of the Division of Research. The long absence of Soviet specialists on the UNITAR staff did not further the development of business-like and mutually advantageous relations between the Institute and scientific organizations in the Soviet Union.

26. The activities of UNITAR should be radically improved and the universal nature of its work should be guaranteed, taking into account the interests of all Member States. The continuing tendency to limit the Institute's research work and to favour the disproportionate growth of its training programmes, was transforming UNITAR into an educational organization, in violation of its mandate and leading to increasing duplication of the work of other international organizations, in particular the United Nations University. The principle task of UNITAR should be to enhance the effectiveness of international co-operation in "the maintenance of peace and security and the promotion of economic and social development". The themes of its research and training programmes should include such issues as the maintenance of peace and international security; ending the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, on Earth and not allowing it to spread to outer space; the development of equitable and mutually advantageous co-operation among all States, and the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis.

27. The Soviet Union took an active part in the work of the Institute, contributed to the voluntary fund of UNITAR and carried out joint projects with the Institute. Unfortunately, several projects which had been drawn up by prominent Soviet specialists had not been duly reflected in the two-year programme of UNITAR, which, apparently, had been the result of inefficient planning on the part of UNITAR.

28. Mr. JONCK (Denmark), speaking on behalf of Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, said that it was their proposal at the thirty-ninth session of the Assembly which had led to the preparation of the consultant's report on which the Secretary-General's proposals were based. The widespread concern of States about the role and effectiveness of UNITAR demonstrated that the Institute's purpose was still well justified. It could not be denied, however, that UNITAR had not performed its functions to the satisfaction of Member States, and the decline in voluntary contributions most likely reflected that fact. For years, the problems of UNITAR had been avoided through the adoption of temporary measures; at the same time, voluntary contributions to the Institute had dwindled, thereby exacerbating its difficulties.

29. The Nordic countries were prepared to consider seriously the Secretary-General's proposal on the future of UNITAR, and hoped that it would gain sufficient support to permit the establishment of a more stable and lasting financial basis for the Institute. However, neither the report of the Senior Consultant nor the report of the Secretary-General provided answers to all the questions regarding the future of UNITAR. If UNITAR was to continue its work, its research activities should be taken more seriously by the United Nations Secretariat and member States, UNITAR should be capable of attracting highly qualified personnel and a restructured UNITAR should attract increased contributions from donor countries. The Senior Consultant and the Secretary-General had not given due consideration to those important prerequisites, and their proposals did not provide much evidence that they would lead to a more cost-effective Institute.

30. There were two crucial areas in which the Secretary-General did not follow the recommendations of the Senior Consultant. First, the Secretary-General did not address the fundamental question of the long-term financing arrangement for UNITAR. Although a transfer to 1986 of the unused portion of the General Assembly's grant for 1985 could solve the Institute's budgetary problems in 1986, it would in all likelihood find itself in new financial difficulties in 1987. If a stable and predictable financial basis were not ensured, one of the conditions for the restructuring proposal would not be fulfilled. In that connection, a concentration of the Institute's resources on substantive programmes should not be achieved simply by allowing the United Nations to take greater responsibility for the Institute's financial and administrative functions. Second, the Senior Consultant's proposal that the Institute should be linked in an interdependent way to the United Nations University should be given further consideration.

31. It would be interesting to have an assessment of the contributions that activities carried out in different institutional contexts could bring to the generally shared objective of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations. The training activities of the Institute, which generally had a good record, were similar to the technical-assistance activities provided elsewhere in the United Nations system, and it would be interesting to have an assessment of the benefits and disadvantages of integrating them into the work of the Department of Technical Co-operation or splitting up the activities in technical assistance financed by voluntary contributions and staff education financed through the regular budget, for example within the framework of the Division of Administration and Finance.

(Mr. Jonck, Denmark)

32. The Nordic countries wondered whether such alternative ways of continuing the useful functions of UNITAR would not in the end prove to be the most effective way of proceeding. They called upon the Secretary-General to give further consideration to alternative ways of continuing the Institute's useful functions and to consult with interested Member States with a view to submitting to the General Assembly at its forty-first session proposals which would provide a lasting solution to the role of UNITAR and its financial basis. They had previously stated their readiness to consider the financing of an effective UNITAR through the regular budget of the United Nations and therefore requested the Secretary-General to include in his financial proposals more specific ideas for a reduction of the administrative and operational costs of a restructured UNITAR.

33. Mr. Brotodiningrat (Indonesia) resumed the Chair.

34. Ms. COURSON (France) said that, of the three solutions which had been proposed by the Senior Consultant with regard to future of UNITAR, her delegation believed that the third solution was the only acceptable one. The Institute's role in the United Nations system was to improve the effectiveness of the Organization, and it should therefore be used for studying, analysing and considering the Organization's evolution, activities and practices.

35. With regard to the Institute's relations with the United Nations University, her Government saw no need to create any institutional mechanism to establish greater co-operation between them. However, such co-operation should go beyond the purely formal exchange of information by their respective boards of directors.

36. The Secretary-General's arrangements for more active participation of senior staff of the United Nations in the elaboration of the Institute's programmes and priorities was a step in the right direction, since maximum use should be made of the provisions of the UNITAR Statute without resorting to institutional restructuring. That example should also be followed by the institutions of the United Nations system to which UNITAR could be of service. For example, interested organizations could regularly seek the assistance of UNITAR in the elaboration of training and research programmes. Such co-operation with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system was part of the UNITAR Statute.

37. In paragraph 18 of his report, the Secretary-General emphasized the importance of the training function of the Institute. The principle activities of UNITAR should deal with the "training of trainers" and with administration, a specialty which was sadly lacking in most developing countries. Such activities should be developed in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme. UNITAR could profit from joint ventures with other organizations both within and outside the United Nations system. Her Government commended the development of co-operation between the Institute and various French institutions.

38. The recommendation of the Senior Consultant regarding the four categories of personnel for the Institute was very interesting, because it would combine sobriety in spending, owing to the small core staff, with the wealth of intellectual contributions which would be provided by persons with diverse outlooks, education and experience.

(Ms. Courson, France)

39. Her delegation took note with satisfaction of the Secretary-General's intention of exploring ways of reducing the operational and administrative costs of UNITAR so that resources could be concentrated on the Institute's programmes. In that regard, it wished to have more information about how the United Nations might take fuller responsibility in order to alleviate the budget of the Institute. That proposal could not be discussed without detailed information on the possible implications of such an approach for the United Nations budget and for the content of the various elements of the programmes which would be affected.

40. The Executive Director of UNITAR had, in 1985, used only half of the grant which the General Assembly had allocated to the Institute in 1984. With regard to the remainder, France could not take any decision of principle until it was assured that those funds would be used in the best possible way and that a strict financial policy would be applied.

41. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan) said that the Second Committee, while devoting a considerable amount of time to considering the question of financing UNITAR, had ignored more important and substantive aspects of the Institute's work. In his report (A/40/788), the Secretary-General seemed to have considered the report of the Senior Consultant in an objective manner, and to have selected the right answers in organizational or administrative terms. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General's report was incomplete because it did not deal adequately with the long-term funding of the Institute. The intention behind General Assembly resolution 39/177 had been to resolve all questions regarding the Institute at the Assembly's fortieth session on the basis of the "comprehensive study" on UNITAR. However, in view of the absence of clear recommendations with regard to funding, it was doubtful that any far-reaching decisions on the future of UNITAR could be taken by the Assembly at the present juncture.

42. The future of the Institute should be considered together with financing problems. A correct approach to resolving the problem of financing would be, first, to consider the mandate of the Institute and its continuing validity; second, to examine the Institute's work programme; and, third, to consider the best ways and means of fulfilling its mandate through organizational support, which included the question of funding. In paragraph 13 of his report, the Secretary-General stated that more advantage should be taken in future of the provisions of article II, paragraph 3, of the UNITAR Statute, and that he was making appropriate arrangements for more active participation of senior United Nations staff in the elaboration of the Institute's programmes and priorities. Pakistan accepted the suggestion that UNITAR should be composed of a small core staff with a larger rotating staff, and agreed with the proposals regarding the Institute's organizational aspects, with the exception of the institutional links with the United Nations University. Such agreement, including ways and means of reducing the cost of the functioning of the Board of Trustees could also be reflected in a decision by the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

43. The Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNITAR had referred to the need for the United Nations, in accordance with the UNITAR Statute, to take a fuller responsibility for the financial and administrative functions of UNITAR, and

(Mr. Fareed, Pakistan)

that was something which Pakistan had advocated since 1982. Perhaps the financial health of the Institute was so precarious because the United Nations had failed to adopt that view in the past.

44. It was important that the Institute's financial problems should be dealt with promptly. The recommendation to allocate the unused balance of the \$1.5 million granted by the General Assembly for use in 1986 was a practical one, but it should be pointed out that that balance had been accumulated only because pressure not to utilize the entire amount had been brought to bear on the Board of Trustees. The Committee had not yet been presented with a budget for the Institute for 1986; however, it was known that a major donor country did not intend to make any voluntary contributions to the Institute, and it seemed unlikely that the UNITAR budget could be balanced from other voluntary contributions and the unused balance from 1985. The problem was further complicated by the fact that, according to paragraph 23 of the Secretary-General's report, the Executive Director of UNITAR would include in the 1986 budget an amount of \$100,000 as the first instalment towards the reimbursement of the advance of \$886,000 approved by the General Assembly in resolution 38/177.

45. Perhaps 1986 might be regarded as a transitional year period during which the Institute could develop a new system of staffing and administration. However, if the rotating staff was to be established, his delegation would request that a director of research and a supervisory staff should be appointed. The only solution to the Institute's financial problems was the establishment of a reserve fund, whose size could be correspondingly reduced if overall funding requirements could eventually be reduced by administrative measures. His delegation therefore supported the Secretary-General's proposals, together with the establishment of a reserve fund in two stages: initially, the fund might be established in the amount of \$5-7 million for an experimental period of two years; final action would then be taken in 1988-1989, as the success of the experiment warranted. However, it was to be hoped that the Executive Director would soon submit a programme of work and budget estimates for 1986 so that the General Assembly could take appropriate action. In conclusion, he wished to announce that his Government had decided to double its voluntary contribution to UNITAR in 1986.

46. Mr. STARACE JANFOLLA (Italy) said that the senior consultant's report displayed imagination and sensitivity in its search for solutions to the Institute's problems.

47. UNITAR must continue to exist, and its management encouraged in their efforts to make the Institute responsive to its mandate, while incurring savings wherever possible, and to institute innovative measures. His delegation welcomed the Institute's response to several of the suggestions contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/40/788), and hoped that they would be put into practice on an experimental basis and would prove valuable. UNITAR should integrate its research and training activities in a manner that would enable research activities to regain their past standard of excellence.

(Mr. Starace Janfolla, Italy)

48. His delegation looked forward to receiving information about the implementation of the proposals for reducing operational costs, and believed that a determined reduction of costs would encourage Member States to increase their voluntary contributions so that the Institute would not again require financing from the regular budget.

49. Mr. STEBELSKI (Poland) said that the training and research programmes of UNITAR and the special meetings it had organized, in which a number of Poles had participated, had been of great use. His delegation therefore could not agree to the closing down of the Institute, or to its transformation into a unit attached to the Office of the Secretary-General, which was not consistent with the voluntary nature of UNITAR. Moreover, his delegation firmly opposed any solution that would burden the regular budget of the United Nations further. Consequently, the restructuring of UNITAR with alternative institutional arrangements constituted the most appropriate solution to the Institute's problems.

50. His delegation hoped that the proposed arrangements would strengthen the Institute's research activities, which had been substantially curtailed in recent years for financial reasons. With regard to staffing arrangements, his delegation endorsed all efforts to decrease administrative expenditures and therefore welcomed the proposal to establish a small core staff, with a larger rotating staff financed from voluntary contributions and recruited on the basis of equitable geographical representation. Countries which were unable to support UNITAR with contributions in cash might be able to provide contributions in the form of expertise and scientific research data.

51. Mr. BAMBA (Ivory Coast) said that his delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on UNITAR and agreed with most of its conclusions. However, the proposals regarding prospective financial arrangements might ultimately worsen the financial situation of UNITAR. The best solution would be to create a reserve fund of \$15 million to be constituted in two instalments: if the interest from that fund was used to finance UNITAR activities, the Institute's resources would thus be self-renewing. Further information about that subject and the views of the Board of Trustees thereon should be made known. At the same time, however, such a solution could not replace voluntary contributions but should be considered as constituting a supplement to them.

52. Mr. BROLSMA (Netherlands) said that the main objective of UNITAR remained valid. The Institute's training activities had met expectations, but, unfortunately, its research efforts had increasingly pointed up a gap between what was needed and what was being done. The financing of reports on academics' pet subjects and the holding of seminars did not necessarily enhance the relevance or effectiveness of the United Nations. The Institute's critical financial position had been caused in part by dissatisfaction with such activities and in part by domestic budgetary constraints which affected the ability of Member States to make voluntary contributions.

53. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal for more active participation of senior staff in the elaboration of programmes and priorities and the drawing up of an integrated research and training programme covering a period

(Mr. Brolsma, Netherlands)

of three to four years. It also welcomed the suggestions to prepare proposals for long-term funding, to experiment with a system of a rotating staff and to integrate research and training functions: the views of the rotating staff should be taken into account with regard to the research and training programme, as views from outside the Organization would render it more effective in influencing positions taken in the outside world. It was to be hoped that the Secretary-General would present detailed proposals on all those subjects as soon as possible, since there was a close relationship between the willingness of Member States to provide UNITAR with long-term support and the quality of the proposals made to them. If submitted to the next meeting of the Board of Trustees, in February 1986, the proposals might be discussed thoroughly at the forty-first session of the General Assembly.

54. Mr. CUI Tiankai (China) said that UNITAR had done much useful work, but that its activities had been hampered in recent years by an overlapping with the work of other United Nations organs and a lack of financial resources. Unfortunately, the Second Committee's efforts to increase support for UNITAR had not led to a consensus with regard to the Institute's long-term financing. His delegation welcomed the confirmation in the Secretary-General's report of the Institute's significance and achievements and hoped it would be taken into consideration by the Committee, and major donor countries in particular.

55. The parties concerned must seek a solution to the problems confronting UNITAR in a spirit of co-operation and realism. The Institute's efficiency should be enhanced by readjusting the emphasis and priorities of its activities, bearing in mind the Institute's aims. In addition, countries that were in a position to do so should contribute as much as they could to the financing of UNITAR activities. Given currently existing financial constraints, the Institute might choose to spend the contributions received on project formulation, stressing practical results in order to make the most effective use of limited resources. Lastly, practical and effective means must be found to strengthen co-ordination and co-operation between UNITAR and other United Nations agencies; increased complementarity of activities would enhance the overall efficiency of all concerned.

56. Mr. ELFORGANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that UNITAR had been effective in organizing seminars for new representatives to the United Nations and contributing to the solution of important problems in international law, economic development, the North-South dialogue, the establishment of a new international economic order and the training of local personnel. In recent years, however, its activities had been limited by financial difficulties. One of the main reasons for the fall in contributions from the developing countries was the use by certain developed countries of coercive economic measures against them, which had adversely affected their ability to contribute to international organizations. His delegation therefore supported the idea that the Institute's budget should be covered in whole or in part from the regular budget.

57. Ms. BROWN (Jamaica) said her delegation continued to believe in UNITAR's unique contribution to an understanding of the issues involved in the maintenance of peace and security and economic and social development. That contribution was of particular relevance to the Second Committee, since it was directed at those representatives of Governments who had responsibility for promoting economic

(Ms. Brown, Jamaica)

development through negotiation and co-operation. Moreover, the fact that UNITAR was training trainers resulted in a multiplier effect of particular significance for the development of developing countries.

58. Her delegation shared the concern of previous speakers with regard to UNITAR's serious financial difficulties. The proposal to effect changes in the Institute and enhance the implementation of its programmes with little financial strain was innovative, but might have adverse implications for the autonomy of its research. Mid-career officials, whether from the Secretariat or member countries, remained very much within the system to which they would eventually return, a fact which might diminish rather than enhance the quality of their work at UNITAR. Moreover, the fact that most such officials provided by Member States would be from developed countries having adequate staffing and financial resources to permit such secondment might affect the orientation and balance of the research. Similarly, only a predictable source of funding, i.e. the regular budget of the United Nations, could create an environment optimally suited for independent research and analysis.

59. Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt) said that Egypt attached great importance to UNITAR and its essential work in the field of research and training. It was disheartening that many training courses, in particular, had been cancelled or curtailed in recent years because of financial difficulties. In that connection, he supported the view expressed by the representative of Pakistan that pressure had been brought to bear on some members of the Board of Trustees not to spend the entire \$1.5 million granted by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

60. His delegation fully agreed that the mandate of UNITAR continued to be essential to the functioning of the Organization, and that the third option set out in the Secretary-General's report was the most likely to result in the Institute's rejuvenation. However, the modalities that had been proposed for implementing that option raised some questions.

61. The arrangements being made for more active participation by senior United Nations staff would, it seemed, give rise to overlap with the work of the Board of Trustees. If the Trustees appeared to be carrying out their task inadequately, perhaps their number or the number of their annual meetings should be reduced. Also, the work of the departments from which mid-career United Nations officials were to be seconded to the Institute might, assuming they were not over-staffed, suffer as a result. It might be more effective for them to conduct their research in their own departments and submit copies to UNITAR for discussion by the Board of Trustees. In addition, he endorsed the remarks made by the representatives of Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica regarding the participation of mid-career officials seconded by Member States. While it had been suggested that their services might be financed by UNITAR, in which case officials from the developing countries could be part of the rotating staff, the Institute's resources could more usefully be spent on training new diplomats from developing countries who could ultimately serve both their own countries and the United Nations. The third category of rotating staff, senior academics paid out of the UNITAR budget, might be more

(Mr. Shaaban, Egypt)

effectively used to lecture in seminars. In short, a permanent core staff would cost less than the aggregate cost of recruiting the rotating staff, given that the core staff represented only 11 posts.

62. The Institute's training programmes for young diplomats and officials from developing countries should be continued and expanded, and training should in fact take precedence over research. His delegation welcomed the suggestion to reduce operational and administrative costs, but would go even further, and suggest that the United Nations should bear the Institute's administrative and staffing costs so that the bulk of voluntary contributions might go for substantive programmes. It was important that additional resources should be mobilized for the Institute, and he urged all donor countries to honour their pledges and increase their contributions.

63. Mr. KAWASHIMA (Japan) said that resolutions on the funding of UNITAR should be adopted by consensus: the waning interest in making contributions which had resulted in voting on the subject had undermined the Institute's financial stability. The low level of contributions also stemmed partly from insufficient understanding of the Institute's activities, and that was due to a lack of clarity in the definition of its role and activities.

64. Of the three options for the Institute's future, his delegation found the third the most realistic. UNITAR could survive only by restructuring its administrative costs and areas of activity, and his delegation welcomed the proposed establishment, on an experimental basis, of a small core staff and a larger rotating staff. The Institute should focus on a priority area of its activities, and his delegation, which had always emphasized the importance of the training function, therefore endorsed paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's report. It also agreed that ways should be found to promote closer relations between the Institute and the United Nations University.

65. His Government could not support any use of the regular budget for operational activities. The Institute should continue to ensure that its activities attracted increased support from member countries; for its part, his Government would continue to support UNITAR.

66. Ms. GOETSCH (Austria) said that Austria had traditionally supported UNITAR and found its research activities and publications useful, especially in the field of international law. Her Government was therefore concerned over the present difficult situation of UNITAR, but other budget priorities had prevented it increasing its regular contribution. Indeed, the question of donors' budgetary priorities might be part of UNITAR's real problem, in that the Institute had no constituency which really needed it as, for example, the World Health Organization was needed.

67. While her delegation agreed that continuous funding through the regular United Nations budget could not continue, it was not reconciled to dismantling UNITAR, unless that should be the consensus in the Committee. The proposals for the Institute's future were not particularly helpful, with the possible exception of the third option, because they did not really address the fundamental problem of

(Ms. Goetsch, Austria)

the chronic lack of funds. Perhaps another attempt could be made, for example from non-governmental sources, to find the relatively minor sums required. The Institute could also make an effort to work more cost-efficiently and package its activities more attractively.

68. Mr. EKANWY (Cameroon) said that UNITAR had been stifled in the past few years, despite the efforts of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Director to improve its activities, by an excessive preoccupation with curbing on its budget and professional staff. The Institute needed financial stability, and its unique role in the United Nations system could not be fostered without precise and long-term financial commitments, which it was up to Member States to provide.

69. While he could not subscribe to the comments that questioned UNITAR's primary responsibility and its effectiveness and levelled unwarranted criticism at it, he welcomed the Secretary-General's willingness to reduce the operating and administrative costs and concentrate resources on substantive programmes, and his recommendation that the unused portion of the General Assembly grant should be made available to UNITAR in 1986. However, those methods alone could not solve UNITAR's long-term problems. He reiterated his delegation's view, expressed at the thirty-ninth session, that the only realistic solution would be to take account of the three proposals approved by the Executive Director and the Board of Trustees, that a reserve fund of \$15 million, a replenishment system with a target revised periodically and an endowment fund of at least \$50 million should be established.

70. Mr. LAZAREVIC (Yugoslavia) said that the research carried out by UNITAR contributed to a better understanding of the changes in the world, of the role of the United Nations and international organizations, and of multilateralism as an essential component of international relations. Of the three options suggested in the Secretary-General's report the third was the most attractive. However, he shared the fears expressed by previous speakers regarding the likely composition of the group of mid-career officials; UNITAR must therefore be provided with the financial resources to ensure that persons from the developing, especially the least developed, countries, would have an equal opportunity to participate in the rotating staff.

71. He supported the proposals by the Secretary-General to reduce the Institute's administrative and operating expenses. Priority should be placed on the substantive programme of work, which should be limited to the most important issues of concern to the international community, especially the developing countries. Should it not prove possible to solve UNITAR's problems using the approaches suggested by the Secretary-General, his delegation would support a decision to provide interim support from the regular budget.

72. Mr. HADID (Algeria) said that the special kind of support that UNITAR was called upon to give the United Nations in research and training could not be reduced simply to a quantification of financial data. The fact that UNITAR had been able to save half of the previous allocation granted to it by the General Assembly last year demonstrated the responsibility and professionalism with which it was managed. Algeria had decided to make a contribution of \$10,000 to the Institute's activities, and would support its activities and management during 1986.

(Mr. Hadid, Algeria)

73. His delegation supported the third option for the future of UNITAR. An integration of training and research programmes would enhance the Institute's effectiveness, and one branch should not be developed to the detriment of the other.

74. The Board of Trustees of the Institute was playing a positive role and should be strengthened and maintained. Any attempt to belittle the role and status of the Institute's management might be counter-productive, for example, by depriving the Institute of representation on the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination when the Executive Director had stressed the need to increase dialogue and co-operation between UNITAR and the Secretariat as well as the specialized agencies.

75. The Executive Director had stressed that the Institute's administrative expenditures should be absorbed by the regular budget. Unfortunately, the Secretary-General's report did not tackle directly the critical issue of UNITAR's financing. He hoped that, during the transitional year, voluntary contributions would, in the light of the positive atmosphere in which the discussions were taking place and the constructive recommendations made in the Secretary-General's report, be made to support and strengthen UNITAR as it faced the task of restructuring and streamlining to make it more reliable.

76. Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium) said that UNITAR had been described to the Committee as necessary to the proper functioning of the United Nations system, and its rejuvenation as requiring the United Nations to assume greater administrative and budgetary responsibility for its activities. However, while the Institute performed useful training work, excessive importance should not be attached to research, and its capacity should not be overloaded in an area where duplication of work occurred.

77. The conclusions in the Secretary-General's report gave only a partial idea of what was at stake. His delegation supported the third option outlined in the report, especially the idea of having closer links between UNITAR and the United Nations University. The same method of voluntary extrabudgetary financing should be used for UNITAR as for the University, and the possibility of combining those two institutions should not be discarded. His Government, which had always contributed generously to UNITAR, could not agree to having funds from the regular budget being allocated to activities that were not in keeping with the financial obligations deriving from the United Nations Charter.

78. The suggestion of a core staff and a revolving staff, was, at first sight, attractive, since it would not unduly burden the United Nations budget or the budget of other institutions of the system. On an exceptional basis, it would be acceptable for the unused portion of the General Assembly grant to be made available to UNITAR in the coming year. In the longer term, financing from voluntary contributions would no doubt be forthcoming, provided UNITAR's usefulness was more generally recognized.

79. Mr. SCHNELLE (Federal Republic of Germany) said that if the support expressed by so many delegations were matched by action, the perennial problem of UNITAR's financial viability would be resolved. His Government, whose conviction that the

(Mr. Schnelle, Federal Republic
of Germany)

training activities, in particular, were serving a useful purpose had made it the second largest contributor to UNITAR in recent years, considered that more countries should contribute according to their capacity.

80. The financial aspects of the Institute's future had not been covered in the Secretary-General's report. He reserved his delegation's position on the details in the report, and expressed its regret further that such an important document had not been made available in sufficient time for serious consideration of all its aspects.

81. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America) said the inadequacy of voluntary contributions to UNITAR in recent years might indicate a lack of confidence on the part of donors in the efficacy of its programmes. The United States had become increasingly concerned with the quality of the Institute's work, particularly that of its research arm.

82. The Institute should be funded through voluntary contributions, and whatever form the ultimate proposals for its future might take, the United States would continue to oppose any attempt to fund it, or to meet any of its expenses, from the regular budget.

83. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that his country approached the item under consideration in the light both of its basic principles in support of the United Nations and of the mixed experience of UNITAR in recent years. While the efforts made to revitalize the Institute were praiseworthy, the Committee was not being allowed sufficient time to consider the crucially important report of the Secretary-General on the item. Canada, having supported General Assembly resolution 39/177, was disappointed that, instead of a clearly-defined set of options, the Committee had before it only a single recommendation, and one that postponed decisions for at least one more year. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General's report contained a number of imaginative ideas, particularly in its third option, which the Secretary-General proposed should be retained on an experimental basis for at least a year. However, the proposal as presented begged the basic question of financing on which the future of the Institute depended.

84. The second option, the establishment of a perspective studies and analysis unit directly attached to the Office of the Secretary-General to take over the research function of UNITAR, was not acceptable, since it would clearly make the Institute dependent on regular budgetary resources. Any such proposal required examination in the light of the importance of ensuring independence and objectivity.

85. The first option, the closing down of the Institute, had not been properly enunciated or adequately explored. Other bodies and agencies within the United Nations system where the training and research functions of UNITAR could be undertaken in a more efficient and cost-effective manner should be thoroughly investigated. The transfer of the research function to the United Nations University or to the World Institute of Development Economics Research and the incorporation of the training function into the programmes of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development or UNDP should receive careful study.

(Mr. Lee, Canada)

86. His delegation regretfully accepted the fact that efforts must continue for one more year and that further reflection was required. The further report of the Secretary-General that would be necessary must spell out alternatives and must elaborate on the third option and variants of the first.

87. The meeting was suspended at 6.40 p.m. and resumed at 7.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/40/3, 173, 184, 185, 202, 203, 220, 235, 276, 303, 305, 321, 327, 330, 340, 342, 347, 366, 374, 384, 401, 407, 458, 459, 476, 477, 489, 495, 525, 534, 544, 545, 582, 640, 672, 708, 762; A/C.2/40/2 and 5; A/C.2/40/L.7)

(c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/40/15, vols. I-II, 596, 717, 798, 815; A/C.2/40/L.8 and L.9)

(e) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued) (A/40/39, 579 and Corr.1, 581, 656 and Add.1)

(j) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE 1980s FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/826 and 827)

(m) IMMEDIATE MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/597 and Corr.1)

(n) NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/548)

(o) DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/511 and Corr.1, 637)

88. Mr. KAMALUDDIN (Afghanistan) said that the serious deterioration in the terms of trade for the developing countries and in their balance-of-payments situation was a direct result of the retrogressive trade policies pursued by the capitalist countries, including increased protectionism, the proliferation of non-tariff barriers, violations of the rules of the international trading system, and resort to bilateralism and sectoralization. The capacity of the developing countries to export manufactured and semi-manufactured goods must be improved by granting financial facilities, increasing market accessibility and eliminating protectionism and all other coercive and restrictive measures.

89. The capitalist countries should review existing trade legislation, anti-dumping regulations and countervailing duties, as they had agreed at the sixth session of UNCTAD. Only if the principles of generalized, non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory preferences were fully observed could the Generalized System of Preferences effectively promote the exports of developing countries. His delegation welcomed the recommendation on the Global System of Trade Preferences adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 held at New Delhi in July 1985.

(Mr. Kamaluddin, Afghanistan)

90. Because of the adverse effects of the current economic crisis, economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was more than ever essential in order to promote the rational and effective use of their resources, the restructuring of international economic relations and the establishment of the new international economic order. Such co-operation would also, of course, help to strengthen their solidarity and collective self-reliance, secure their economic independence and reduce their vulnerability to the adverse effects of the crisis.

91. His delegation supported the Declaration on Collective Self-Reliance among Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries adopted by the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as the recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee, held in Djakarta in August 1985, particularly its call for the accelerated implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action. The recent decision to hold the next meeting of that Committee at a high level would help give more concrete expression to ECDC.

92. Although the Substantial New Programme of Action had been intended to promote the self-sustaining economic development of the least developed countries, they were now faced with a growing deficit in their balance of payments, stagnation in production, a shortfall in food production and an increasing decline in their per capita income. The mid-term global review of progress towards the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action had adopted a number of conclusions and recommendations on various important issues. Implementation of the Programme in the first half of the 1980s had been painfully slow and, since donor countries had not fully implemented their commitments, no real progress had been made. While only a substantial increase in official development assistance would enable the Programme to reach its goals, most donor countries had not yet reached the target of 0.15 per cent of GNP, and all should endeavour to do so by the end of 1985. The flow of official development assistance to the least developed countries should be doubled, as had been urged at the sixth session of UNCTAD, and all outstanding loans converted into grants. Unfortunately, the United States still reserved its position on the recommendations relating to aid targets and on the Common Fund for Commodities.

93. The principles of equality, non-discrimination and justice were not observed in the distribution of aid by capitalist donor countries, which favoured certain of the least developed countries on the basis of their own political interests, and had failed to meet their responsibilities towards those countries whose socio-economic development policies differed with those interests. Afghanistan had suffered from such unfair treatment when, in 1983, it had submitted specific proposals for 48 priority projects. Regrettably, only a number of friendly countries had been prepared to assist those projects. If such a situation continued into the second half of the decade, there was little hope of achieving the objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action. Assistance from donor countries should either be distributed in a non-discriminatory manner or paid into a special fund accessible to all of the least developed countries on the basis of need.

94. Ms. Eriksson (Sweden) took the Chair.

95. Mr. FIELD (United Kingdom) said that one encouraging element in the overall situation was the growing convergence of views on the need to tackle international economic problems on many different fronts. As the Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis had said, that concern was now rather widely shared and important policy shifts had been made in the right direction. The question of growth was fundamental. While it was a key to development, it was important to remember that growth at any price created more problems than it solved. The situation at the beginning of the 1980s of high inflation in developed countries, falling investment and a dangerously over-exposed banking system, which had provided no basis for sustained growth, had been much improved. The efforts of many developed countries to establish growth on a non-inflationary basis and the adjustment efforts made by the developing countries were establishing the foundations on which growth might be renewed. For many developing countries adjustment had been made at great cost, but the opportunities that it had opened up should not be underestimated.

96. In constructing a scenario for the future, care should be taken to avoid an analysis of the 1960s and early 1970s that was too positive or one of the late 1970s and the 1980s that was too negative. While the high growth rates of the 1960s might not be achievable, a 3 per cent growth rate in the industrialized countries would have a beneficial effect on the developing countries and the world economy as a whole. For the developed countries, that would require the maintenance of a stable monetary environment, the provision of adequate concessional resources, both multilaterally and bilaterally, and a productive approach to the evolution of the international financial institutions. At the same time, the developing countries would have to adopt policies to stimulate domestic saving and local enterprise and to discourage capital flight.

97. While most members of the Committee agreed on the above points, there were other matters on which there sometimes appeared to be a greater divergence of views, such as the role of private investment. In all the developing countries the bulk of investment came from domestic saving and, unless it could be encouraged and put to good use at home, much would be wasted or seek alternative outlets elsewhere. Foreign investment, whether from commercial bankers or businessmen, should also continue to be encouraged.

98. The interdependence of North and South in the area of trade, which occupied a pre-eminent place as the driving force of economic growth, had been emphasized by many delegations. In 1984, trade between the OECD countries and the developing countries had increased by 8.5 per cent over 1983, and the developing countries had had a trade surplus of some \$45 billion with the OECD countries. Seventy per cent of exports from developing countries had gone to the developed Western countries, 20 per cent to other developing countries and some 3 per cent to the countries of Eastern Europe. Those figures indicated the closeness of the bond linking North and South.

99. Some critical but constructive statements had been made about the functioning of the world trading system. Not all delegations had spoken kindly about their trade relations with the members of OECD, but all had confirmed how essential the

(Mr. Field, United Kingdom)

free trade system was to them. Many had mentioned the importance of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations and the need for such negotiations to be approached with a broader view of what the world trading system required if it was to function well for another 30 or 40 years. The problem was a complex one, given that the number of countries involved in world trade was nearly five times greater than in 1949, the volume of trade had expanded many times faster than that and new technologies, processes and products were making their appearance with increasing speed. The members of the European Economic Community were nevertheless pledged to work for an expansion of trade and to continue to grant preferential treatment to developing countries, as provided for in part IV of GATT.

100. While issues falling within the GATT framework would become of increasing concern, it would not be simply a matter of dealing with protectionism in its traditional form since trading relationships were being affected by a number of powerful developments. They included: the decline in manufacturing capacity in the industrialized countries; the rise in the output of manufactured goods in developing countries; the emergence of new producers of commodities; technological and social change; and the explosive growth of service- and information-based industries in the industrialized countries. The challenges involved posed great problems for developed and developing countries alike, but the consequences of failure were difficult to contemplate.

101. The CHAIRMAN announced that the delegations of Brazil, the Congo and India had asked to address the Committee on the second cluster of items under agenda item 84. The Observer for the European Economic Community had also asked to make some points of clarification. Those requests had been made after the established deadline. However, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to grant them.

102. It was so decided.

103. Mr. GAYAMA (Congo) said that economic and social development, as it was well to remember in the fortieth anniversary year of the founding of the United Nations, was a key goal of the Charter. It was therefore gratifying that the Economic and Social Council at its most recent session had given priority to the critical situation in Africa. His Government welcomed that and other international action, such as General Assembly resolution 39/29 and the Priority Five-Year Programme of the OAU, and had recently adopted a programme of structural adjustment in harmony with them.

104. However, many of the concepts developed by the United Nations, such as that of a new international economic order, together with the efforts of UNCTAD to implement it, had been rendered powerless in many respects by the opposing action of the capitalist monopolies. That had also been the case with the transfer of technology to developing countries. Immense resources were being devoted not to development and life but to regression and crisis.

105. His delegation was convinced, nevertheless, that science and technology could be devoted to the welfare of all and for development in particular. The Congo had very close ties with the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for

(Mr. Gayama, Congo)

Development, and a series of meetings was to be held in Brazzaville in 1986 to examine such matters as the impact of tropical forest ecosystems on developing countries. Furthermore, the Congo was determined, in the present years of crisis for Africa, to participate in any preventive measures to counter the threats to the continent's future. The Congo was thus currently hosting a conference of African trade ministers, whose objectives included the stimulation of inter-African trade and the establishment of an African federation of chambers of commerce.

106. Multilateral co-operation, which was essential if the challenges facing mankind were to be met, was at present in crisis because of the anachronistic attitudes of certain countries and their transnational corporations. Now that high oil prices could no longer be blamed for the crisis, they claimed that recovery for the developing countries would inevitably follow renewed growth in developed countries. However, their protectionist policies were preventing the developing countries from receiving a fair return on their exports. Reform of the currency system was also necessary, and a conference should be convened for the purpose under the auspices of the United Nations.

107. Solidarity had been shown by the international community with regard to the acute problems facing Africa, but short-term projects (of which most bilateral assistance consisted) did not deal with the root causes. They could only be tackled by structural reforms intended to render the countries concerned self-sufficient, and such reforms required efforts by the developing countries' partners to ensure their solvability and credibility. The lack of such a community of effort had led to the debt problem. It was encouraging, however, that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were beginning to rethink their attitudes to the question.

108. There were ways other than orthodox economic approaches by which developing countries could be helped to help themselves. The structural adjustment programme introduced by his own Government as part of its 1980-1986 Plan was one such, and was designed to preserve economic stability, maintain the country's creditworthiness and continue to work towards its development objectives. The Congo was also concerned that its own development should form part of a collective effort of subregional and international co-operation as set out in the Lagos Plan of Action. To that end, the financial and technical assistance of the international community was essential. A special session of the General Assembly convened in 1986 to consider the African crisis would provide an opportunity to consider such matters, including transport and communications, and in addition allow a thorough examination of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, three quarters of which were in Africa. The special session might also consider Africa's debt problem, the funding of development plans and solutions for food and health problems.

109. Mrs. LAURENT (European Economic Community) said she wished to correct a few erroneous views that appeared to be current about the Community. For example, the Community was the leading importer of foodstuffs, and its imports of agricultural and food products from the developing countries, which had more than doubled between 1976 and 1984, made up half of its total imports of such products and almost 44 per cent of developing countries' exports of them. Furthermore, the

(Mrs. Laurent)

STABEX system provided the countries of the Lomé Convention with compensation for any deficit in their export income from agricultural products, and its extension to the least developed countries not party to that Convention was under way. Moreover, the Community was ready to seek, within the existing GATT framework, improvements in all aspects of trade in agricultural products. With regard to trade in general, in 1984 the Community's total imports from developing countries had been \$107 billion, and its trade deficit with those countries had been \$11 billion, almost double that of the preceding year. The Community also took more than a quarter - as much as 30 per cent in the case of textiles and footwear - of the developing countries' total exports of manufactured products.

110. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Nicaragua had been using the Committee to attack the United States and its trading policies with Nicaragua on the grounds that the United States trade embargo and other economic measures violated the United Nations Charter, the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), the United States/Nicaragua friendship, commerce and navigation treaty and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

111. In order to correct that gross misrepresentation of the facts, he would point out that there was no provision in the United Nations Charter that prevented any individual State from terminating its trade with another State in pursuance of its customary and sovereign right to safeguard its security. United States actions were also consistent with the OAS Charter. Both the United States/Nicaragua treaty and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade contained provisions allowing a party to take measures necessary to protect its essential security interests. Nicaragua's campaign of subversion and aggression in Central America was a direct threat to the security of the region, and the United States was thus justified under the agreements and Treaty mentioned in exercising its right under international practice to restrict trade.

112. Nicaragua had also accused the trade embargo of violating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In view of the fact that the Nicaraguan Government had recently announced a crackdown on the human rights and individual freedoms of the Nicaraguan people, it should not have the temerity to raise the issue of human rights in the Committee. If the Government of Nicaragua pursued internal reconciliation and peaceful relations with its neighbours as diligently as it denounced the United States, the current tension between Nicaragua and the other nations in the Americas would be greatly reduced.

113. Mr. MADRIZ FORNOS (Nicaragua), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, pointed out that the Latin American Economic System (LAES) had in its resolution 222 considered the trade measures taken by the United States against Nicaragua as a violation of Article 41 of the United Nations Charter, article 32 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, article 19 of the Charter of the Organization of American States and several articles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. LAES had furthermore, in its decision 112, condemned action against any member State that threatened that State's economic security and right to independent development, as had happened in the case of the suppression of Nicaraguan airline and shipping services to the United States. Again, LAES, in its

(Mr. Madriz Fornos, Nicaragua)

decision 113, had stated that the economic measures adopted by the United States against Nicaragua adversely affected inter-American security and exacerbated tensions within Central America. It called on the United States Government to lift its trade embargo and other economic measures against Nicaragua and to refrain from introducing political elements into the management of and decisions taken by the Inter-American Development Bank.

114. The United States was applying a double standard. On the one hand it vetoed proposals for action against South Africa made in the Security Council, and on the other it applied a unilateral trade embargo to Nicaragua on the grounds of a so-called unusual threat to its economic security. Let the United States take that claim to the International Court of Justice and it would then be seen where the threat really lay. It was clear to Nicaragua that the current activities of the United States Administration were aimed at overthrowing its Government.

115. Mr. ORLANDO (United States of America) commended the representative of Nicaragua for exercising his right to freedom of speech, a right the citizens of the United States held in high esteem. The Nicaraguan Government, however, denied that right and other fundamental human rights to its citizens, thus generating considerable opposition to the Sandinista régime. It was to be hoped that Nicaraguans would eventually win their way to those rights.

116. Mr. MADRIZ FORNOS (Nicaragua), said he could understand that the representative of the United States felt himself obliged to justify the unjustifiable; nevertheless, there was no way of concealing a flagrant abuse.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

117. The CHAIRMAN announced that the deadline for the submission of proposals under agenda item 12 would be extended to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 November.

The meeting rose at 8.05 p.m.