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Chairman : Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand).

Economic development of under-developed countries : report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter III) (A/1884¹ and A/1924) : (a) Financing of economic development of under-developed countries; (b) Land reform; (c) Technical assistance for the economic development of under-developed countries (*continued*)

[Item 26]*

GENERAL DISCUSSION (*continued*)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the list of speakers would be closed at the end of the afternoon meeting on Thursday, 22 November.
2. Mr. MATES (Yugoslavia) welcomed the increasingly great attention that the various organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies were giving to the economic development of under-developed countries. The problem could not be divorced from fundamental political problem; nor could it be considered without taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the inhabitants of the under-developed countries, who wished to achieve independence and raise their standards of living.
3. The work of the United Nations Secretariat and of United Nations experts had made available ample data showing the gulf existing between the under-developed countries and the industrialized countries from the point of view of standards of living, consumption standards and the average age of the population. Because of the backwardness of their national economies, millions of

people were living at a level far below that which could be attained by modern techniques or were threatened by famine.

4. The study, "Volume and Distribution of National Income in Under-developed Countries" (E/2041)², showed that Asia, Africa and South America, with 65 per cent of the world's population, received only 15.6 per cent of the aggregate of the world's national incomes, whereas the United States of America and Canada alone, with 9 per cent of the world's population, received 40.6 per cent. That disparity was due, in particular, to the considerable differences in level of production. The under-developed countries were lagging further and further behind the industrialized countries, and, if energetic measures were not taken, the gap would become still wider, as the *World Economic Report 1949-50* had pointed out.

5. From the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, vast wealth had been drawn from the under-developed countries by colonial trade and that wealth had contributed to the rapid development of countries which at the present time enjoyed the highest national incomes. After the industrial revolution of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the industrialized countries had made increasingly large investments in the under-developed countries with a view to expanding the production of raw materials which were the sinews of the metropolitan industries. That had not, however, been done in order to promote the balanced development of the economies of the new countries which, under the influence of foreign private capital, had become annexes of the economies of the industrialized countries and in many cases actual colonies. Their dependence had become increasingly marked from both the economic and the political points of view.

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly's agenda.

² See also United Nations Publications, *Statistical Papers*, Series E, No. 3.

6. The attitude of the inhabitants of the under-developed countries provided an illustration of the interdependence of the economic and political aspects of the problem. Millions of them had come to realize that with modern advances it was possible rapidly to eliminate the shameful conditions in which they were still forced to live.

7. The legitimate aspirations of the under-developed countries were expressed principally in the political field and gave rise to disputes and conflicts, the gravity of which could not be over-estimated. International co-operation, so necessary for the maintenance of peace, must inevitably suffer from the division of the world into two categories of countries, those that were privileged because of their economic development, and the under-developed countries. The international community was, however, also interested in the economic development of the under-developed countries as the only firm foundation for the economic progress of the world as a whole. Unless rapid development of the under-developed countries was ensured, stable development of the industrialized countries would also become impossible.

8. With regard to the financing of the economic development of under-developed countries, the most important aspect of the problem, activities in that field should be organized within the United Nations in order to ensure the democratic nature of the whole programme and its use for the economic development of the under-developed countries themselves. The United Nations could thus be used in the most effective way to eliminate the inequalities impeding the economic progress of the whole world and to promote the movement of the under-developed countries towards independence and participation in international life on an equal footing, which was a pre-requisite for the maintenance of world peace.

9. It had recently been argued that it would be unnecessary, indeed impossible, for the international community to finance the economic development of the under-developed countries on a large scale, particularly by means of governmental funds. It had been claimed that the need for foreign capital to finance economic development had been greatly reduced in some of the under-developed countries as a result of the improvement in the terms of trade due to the rise in the prices of raw materials those countries exported in large quantities.

10. A number of facts had convinced him that that view was mistaken. It had become apparent that (a) the increase in the financial resources of the under-developed countries would not reach the level some predicted; (b) the increase in income was extremely unequal; (c) it was impossible to plan vast development schemes on the basis of the increase in income as the income was highly precarious; (d) the capital goods required were either in extremely short supply on the world market or were offered at inflated prices; (e) the prices of the industrial products imported by the under-developed countries had also increased as a whole, in some cases more than the prices of the raw material exports; and (f) the difficulties of the under-developed countries were also being aggravated by a strong inflationary pressure.

11. Others stated that it was impossible to increase the volume of government funds for international financing of economic development of the under-developed countries at a time when so much effort was being devoted to defence in all countries. In answer to that argument,

he stated the belief that such economic assistance would considerably enhance peace and security.

12. From the earliest days of the United Nations it had been recognized, among other things by the establishment of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, that shortage of capital was one of the most serious obstacles to rapid economic development. That was why the United Nations had devoted so much attention to the problem. Nevertheless, the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the reports of its commissions and sub-commissions, the studies and opinions of experts and studies represented no more than preparatory work. Before endeavouring to take the action which was essential at the present stage, it would be useful to take stock of the Second Committee's discussions at the fifth session. Among other things it had been found, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 400 (V), (a) that the export of private capital alone would not in itself suffice to finance the economic development of the under-developed countries; (b) that the flow of international governmental capital must be increased; and (c) that the existing means of international financing were inadequate.

13. Since the fifth session of the General Assembly the Economic and Social Council had held two sessions; the Economic, Employment and Development Commission had also met, and a group of experts had drafted a report entitled: *Measures for the Economic Development of Under-developed Countries*³. Unfortunately, however, the results of the debates of the Economic and Social Council at its thirteenth session had been disappointing. The Council had restricted itself to giving the under-developed countries advice on the importance of making efforts at development on their own behalf and had called upon countries importing and exporting capital to encourage private capital. It had also suggested that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development should concern itself with the investment of private capital. There was reason, therefore, to remind the Council of the importance of promptly preparing specific recommendations concerning public financing.

14. The Second Committee should therefore outline the general policy to be followed by the various organs of the United Nations in the future. That policy should be founded on three main considerations: (a) that it was impossible to promote the economic development of the under-developed countries satisfactorily unless they made a considerable effort on their own account; (b) that it was necessary to develop the economy of each country along well-balanced lines; and (c) that it was essential that the most highly developed countries should agree to lend their co-operation by making available not only technical assistance, as at present, but also financial aid in the form of long-term subsidies and credits on equitable terms.

15. As the Bank had not so far succeeded in affording the required aid to the under-developed countries, and as the proposed international finance corporation could hardly improve on the conditions in which private capital had so far been in a position to satisfy the needs of the under-developed countries, another solution must be found. The best would be to establish an international fund for economic assistance to the under-de-

³ United Nations Publications, Sales No. : 1951.II.B.2.

developed countries under the auspices of a democratic body.

16. Agrarian reform, which was an essential aspect of economic development and, therefore, of interest to the economic progress of the world as a whole, primarily implied an effort on the part of the under-developed countries themselves. The regrettable consequences of the present land system also affected the peoples of the under-developed countries. He was gratified to see that the United Nations and the specialized agencies were dealing with that urgent problem. Improvement of agricultural methods in the under-developed countries could not be considered apart from general economic development. That development must make it possible to solve the problem of over-population and by raising technical standards and promoting training, pave the way for a satisfactory agrarian reform. In future studies greater attention should be paid to the relations between agricultural improvement and the plans for general economic development.

17. He was glad to note that technical assistance was no longer a service to be bought, but a form of aid offered, from motives of sympathetic co-operation, to those countries which needed it. That explained the success of the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. It well deserved, therefore, to become a permanent feature of the activities of the Organization, and he was convinced that the Second Committee and the General Assembly would shortly take the appropriate decisions to that end.

18. ABDEL RAZEK Bey (Egypt) noted with satisfaction that the economic activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies had increased substantially during the past year, and had been crowned with considerable success, in spite of current political difficulties.

19. A broad survey of world economic development since the middle of 1950 showed that it had been characterized by increasingly acute economic difficulties in both the developed and the under-developed countries, in spite of higher production. The difficulties had either been caused or had been much aggravated by the war in Korea and the intense re-armament effort to which it had given rise. Briefly, they consisted in a shortage of raw materials; a growing disequilibrium in the balance of payments and increased inflationary pressures in the developed countries; and a shortage of industrial products and equally increased inflationary pressures in the under-developed countries. It did not appear that such difficulties would be solved merely by the reduction of military expenditure since they had their origin in three permanent factors: the policy of economic autarchy pursued by certain countries short of foreign exchange, the policy of investment and full employment pursued by certain other countries industrialized in spite of their lack of foreign currency and, finally, the effort to accelerate their economic development which the under-developed countries were at present making.

20. Some industrial countries also considered that the current crisis would be alleviated if they met the shortage of raw materials by increasing production, stabilizing the prices of such raw materials and organizing their distribution. Such countries maintained that there was no shortage of industrial products, as the production capacity of the countries exporting those products was greater than it had been in the past and the mari-

time transport situation more favourable. In fact, those arguments collapsed in face of the simple fact that the under-developed countries were encountering increasing difficulties in procuring the manufactured products they needed and that the prices of manufactured products were going higher and higher, to a point where their increased profits due to the rise in prices of their raw materials were threatening to disappear rapidly. Consequently, if stabilization of the prices of their raw materials were not balanced by a stabilization of the prices of the manufactured products they imported, such countries, far from exploiting the situation, as they were sometimes accused of doing, would find themselves quite unable to develop and diversify their economy. Re-armament must not, therefore, unduly restrict the production of capital equipment for non-military needs.

21. The disequilibrium in the international balance of payments reflected a fundamental defect in trade relations between the developed and under-developed countries. In order to remedy that situation, an equitable relationship must be established between the prices of raw materials and the prices of industrial products; the under-developed countries with foreign currency at their disposal must be guaranteed a stable purchasing power for such currency; inflationary pressure must be reduced immediately and the under-developed countries must be allowed to obtain credits and convert them into capital equipment and other goods.

22. At the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Economic and Social Council efforts to reconcile the opposing views of the developed and the under-developed countries had led to protracted debate, which had culminated in the adoption of resolution 341 A (XII), of which he cited paragraphs (b), (c) and (f) of the preamble and paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the operative part and resolution 367 (XIII), of which he quoted paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the operative part.

23. The United Nations and the specialized agencies had also turned their attention to the more general problems of the economic and social development of the under-developed countries, and, in particular, had analysed the following aspects of those problems: the financing of economic development; land reform; the volume and distribution of the national income in under-developed countries; and technical assistance to such countries with a view to hastening their development.

24. As far as the first point was concerned, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had on many occasions stressed the necessity of stimulating the formation of domestic capital and the investment of foreign capital in the under-developed countries. A rapid expansion of production in those countries was clearly essential, and the total domestic financial resources of the under-developed countries, supplemented by foreign capital, had not yet been sufficient to permit such an increase. The authors of the report on *Measures for the Economic Development of Under-developed Countries* had calculated that those countries required about \$19,000 million a year to expand their agricultural production and achieve their industrialization; but their total savings were barely \$5,250 millions.

25. The need to stimulate the formation of domestic capital was generally agreed; but that was a far from easy task. The national income of the under-developed countries was in most cases very small, leaving only

an insignificant margin for savings. To encourage voluntary saving it would be necessary to create a system of savings banks offering adequate rates of interest. Any attempt to compensate for the excessively low rate of saving by taxation met with other obstacles such as the unpopularity of taxes which bore heavily upon an already impoverished people, and the difficulties arising in connexion with the taxation of foreign companies which were often protected by concessions. Finally, it must not be forgotten that the national incomes of the under-developed countries were often dependant to a large extent on revenue from exports and the creation of national capital on that basis called for greater equity in trade between the developed and the under-developed countries.

26. In the circumstances, contributions from domestic capital must be complemented by foreign investment, which might take three different forms : private capital, government or international loans, or international grants. He was disappointed with the lack of progress in that respect.

27. Before the First World War, private capital had been provided chiefly by Western Europe. That source had now almost dried up, and the small quantities available were largely directed to territories under the domination of the European countries. There remained the United States, which was encouraging private investment, but was concentrating mainly on oil-producing countries. There were many obstacles in the way of the investment of private capital. Under-developed countries feared foreign intervention in their domestic affairs and protested against the excessive rates of interest sometimes required. Capital-exporting countries, for their part, feared that the governments of the borrowing countries might make arbitrary decisions confiscating the investments of foreign nationals or preventing the return of profits or of the capital itself. In order to overcome those obstacles, the Economic and Social Council had adopted recommendations contained in subparagraphs (e), (i) and (ii) of paragraph 5 and in paragraph 6 (b) of its resolution 368 A (XIII).

28. In that connexion there were certain omissions or contradictions in those recommendations. They made no provision for the co-operation of foreign and national capital; they provided for the participation of nationals of the under-developed countries in the management of enterprises only "wherever feasible" and they protected the remittance of earnings or the withdrawal of capital without taking into account the unfortunate effect of such steps on the economies of the countries concerned.

29. Another difficulty was double taxation on investment, and the recommendation contained in subparagraph (c) of paragraph 6 of Council's resolution 368 A (XIII) left something to be desired on that score. Finally, in order to enable capitalists to raise the necessary capital, the Council had proposed, in paragraph 13 of the same resolution, that the International Bank should explore the possibility of establishing an international finance corporation.

30. As regards government and international loans, the two main sources were the United States Export-Import Bank and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The authors of the report on financing of economic development had been so impressed by the efficacy of the former that they had suggested the establishment of similar bodies in other countries. The

Council, however, had preferred to recommend that the developed countries should review the adequacy of their national institutions for expanding the flow of capital to under-developed countries. That recommendation was theoretical because it concerned the investment of public capital, which was practically non-existent in most of the developed countries.

31. The International Bank had made definite progress as a result of the adoption of Council resolution 294 (XI); it had increased its funds and extended the scope of its activities. He quoted sub-paragraphs 8 (c) and 11 (b) and (c) of that resolution and added that, thanks to those recommendations, by 31 January 1951, the Bank had been enabled to make loans of more than \$ 1,000 million; its bonds were favourably received on the United States market and were beginning to make their way in other countries. He recalled that the authors of the report had recommended that the Bank should set for itself the objective of lending \$ 1,000 million annually within five years. The Council had not, however, mentioned that figure in its resolution 368 (XIII).

32. As regards the international grants required for the financing of non-self-liquidating projects, there were General Assembly resolution 400 (V) and the recommendation of the experts for the establishment of an international development authority which would be responsible for granting subsidies for definite purposes to the under-developed countries. That proposal had been rejected by the majority of the Council, which had confined itself to adopting the recommendation contained in paragraph 14 of resolution 368 (XIII), requesting the Secretary-General, in consultation with the competent specialized agencies, to keep the question under active study.

33. Turning to the question of land reform in the under-developed countries, he quoted the recommendations adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 401 (V). The report submitted by the Secretary-General in pursuance of that resolution and entitled: "Defects in Agrarian Structure as Obstacles to Economic Development" (E/2003) ⁴ clearly brought out that agrarian structure, and particularly the land tenure system and the system of agricultural credit, hindered the economic development and the raising of the standard of living of agricultural workers in many countries. The Secretary-General had, however, pointed out that the lack of statistics and of accurate information on the problem made it impossible fully to evaluate the effects of the various features of the agricultural structure analysed in the report. Several sections of Council resolution 370 (XIII) dwelt on the necessity of adopting measures appropriate to circumstances in individual countries and brought out the importance of co-operative organization in agriculture. The Council had requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the competent specialized agencies, to prepare a report analysing the results obtained in various countries through agricultural co-operation. The study must take into account the fact that the development of a co-operative organization, particularly in poor countries, raised many financial and social problems. As for the industrialization of predominantly agricultural countries, it was to be hoped that the General Assembly would entrust the Secretary-General with the preparation of a study on the practical and financial measures required. Such a study would serve as a complement to his report on land reform.

⁴ United Nations Publications, Sales No. : 1951.II.B.3.

34. Referring to resolution 370 (XIII), paragraph 3, subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) which dealt with land tenure, he emphasized that reforms must be undertaken as part of a general programme of agricultural re-organization, careful attention being paid to the relationship between the density of the rural population and the amount of land available. Although the parcelling out of big estates might have advantages when the estates were extensively cultivated, it might be, when the contrary was the case or when the agricultural population was dense, that the process of division would create less favourable conditions for production. One of the most serious defects of agrarian structure was often the prevalence of small fragmentary units. Finally, considerable funds would be needed to cover the indemnities payable on expropriation, if big estates were parcelled out. His delegation welcomed the Council's recommendation to the Secretary-General requesting him to prepare a report on the development of arid zones in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 402 (V), adopted on the basis of a proposal submitted by the Egyptian delegation.

35. Turning to the question of the volume and distribution of national income in the under-developed countries, upon which the Secretary-General had submitted a report (E/2041), he stressed the great difference between the *per capita* income in the under-developed and the developed countries and drew attention to the fact that the former must use part of their income to service foreign debts.

36. With regard to technical assistance, he noted with appreciation the work done by the United Nations in implementing the technical assistance programme.

37. He also considered that progress had been made by setting up the Technical Assistance Administration within the Secretariat. In his last two reports to the Council, the Secretary-General had referred to the shortage of experts and the lack of clarity in the requests. The latter factor was a direct result of the shortage of experts. If further economies were to be made in the United Nations budget the Secretary-General should ensure close co-ordination between the Departments of Social and Economic Affairs and the Technical Assistance Administration. Amalgamation might even be necessary in order to make the maximum use of the experts available in the three services.

38. He welcomed the increased importance attached by the United Nations to the programme of training in public administration. Through such training, countries under foreign domination could be prepared for self-government.

39. He further drew attention to the Economic and Social Council's resolution 399 (XIII) which, in paragraph 2, recommended the adoption by the General Assembly of the recommendation that additional technical assistance activities in the fields of economic development, public administration and social welfare should be considered under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in cases where such additional programmes could not be financed from the budget of the United Nations.

40. As for the expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, he expressed approval of the decisions recently taken by the Technical Assistance Committee and particularly those referring to the provision of equipment and supplies and to the creation of a working party for the purpose of studying ways and means

whereby the activities of the agencies participating in the expanded programme might be more effectively co-ordinated and the programme more effectively administered. His delegation was in principle prepared to support Council resolution 400 (XIII) dealing with the financial arrangements arising from the expanded programme for 1952.

41. The war in Korea had altered the nature of the world economic situation which, during the first six months of 1950, had seemed to show a revival of economic activity and trade. The change had been reflected first in a sharp rise in the prices of raw materials which, while it had seemed to favour the balance of payments of under-developed countries, had brought about difficulties outweighing the advantages. Moreover, intensive re-armament had caused considerable inflation and a scarcity of industrial goods for consumer use, and the rise in the prices of raw materials had resulted in a reduction of the areas under food crops. The threat of inflation had forced all countries to adopt measures of control and restriction on the domestic level while, on the international level, many countries had had to cut their imports, particularly those from the dollar area.

42. With regard to the effect of that situation on the under-developed countries, they were the only adversely affected countries which could not depend on outside financial assistance. Political tension was invoked as a reason for ruling out a broader programme to meet their need for technical assistance of financial aid. Yet, to safeguard international peace and security, it was even more important to foster the economic recovery of poor countries than to be armed.

43. The United Nations could neither be charged with misdeeds for which it was not responsible, nor be lavishly praised for its activities in several fields. He firmly believed that mankind would be saved, that its suffering would ultimately be ended and that the poor peoples would follow a liberal and wise course when their economic condition had improved.

44. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) recalled that the General Assembly had never failed to recognize the importance of economic development and its urgency. Its conviction in that respect had been made clear as early as the San Francisco Conference and had been reflected in the provisions of the Charter.

45. There was now unanimous agreement about the need for economic development. The only point which remained to be decided was the direction, scope and significance of the work to be done in the international field.

46. The Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly⁵ contained the best definition of the need to promote the economic development of the under-developed countries and to that end, to give them both technical assistance and financial aid.

47. The basic documents for the Committee's work did not consist merely of the reports and memoranda submitted to it. The Committee should also take into account the Gray Report, the recommendations of the International Development Advisory Board to the President of the United States, and the report of the Group of Experts entitled: *Measures for the Economic Development of Under-developed Countries*.

⁵ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 1*.

48. At the fifth session of the General Assembly, the Committee had been greatly encouraged by the constructive proposals of the Gray Report. The general lines of those proposals had been laid down in the Rockefeller Report, which contained important recommendations, in particular, one calling for the establishment of an international finance corporation to promote equity investments and of an international development corporation to allocate development subsidies. At one time, there had been reason to hope that the problem of financing was on the way to successful solution. Mr. Garcia recalled the Economic and Social Council resolution 342 (XII) requesting Member States to submit their proposals on the financing of economic development before 15 June 1951 so that they might be considered by the Economic, Employment and Development Commission. In its report⁶, the Commission had recommended an increase in the flow of capital to the under-developed countries, the possible establishment of an international finance corporation and of a system of international financing of commercial undertakings with small or slow yield. On the other hand, the Commission had not adopted the recommendation for the establishment of an international development authority. When the Economic and Social Council had approved the Commission's report, the Philippine delegation had reserved its position and had abstained in the vote on the part concerning the rejection of that recommendation⁷.

49. The situation of the under-developed countries was such that they had to make considerable efforts merely to maintain their position in relation to the more advanced countries. There was a statement to that effect in a Colombo Plan publication, declaring that, in default of contributions from outside, the countries in question would be obliged either to retard their development or reduce their very low level of consumption. There was no doubt that it was scarcely possible to rectify such a grave situation, easily or speedily. It was, however, important for the United Nations to undertake the task as soon as possible, so as to give the peoples of the under-developed regions, who were not enjoying any of the benefits of civilization, some measure of hope.

50. It had been stated that the under-developed countries' balance of payments had shown an improvement, which would enable them to meet development needs from their own resources. That improvement, however, was only temporary and development needs were so great that outside resources were still needed. The Secretariat study on "Relation of Fluctuation in the Prices of Primary Commodities to the Ability of Under-developed Countries to obtain Foreign Exchange" (E/2047 and Add. 1) also showed that those countries could not count on the profits from their exports ensuring a steady flow of resources for economic development. The situation could have been remedied by reducing the preponderance of export goods in the economies of such countries, but such a transformation of their structure pre-supposed a measure of diversification and a measure of industrialization, which in turn would demand an inflow of capital.

51. During the two preceding sessions of the Economic and Social Council, his delegation had conceded that strictures prevented the International Bank for Recons-

truction and Development from expanding its loans. Yet those loans should not be subjected to the criterion of capacity to repay. The establishment of an international agency to grant loans to low or slow-yielding projects was therefore a matter of considerable interest. The Philippine delegation had taken the initiative in introducing, in the resolution adopted at the thirteenth session of the Economic and Social Council, the recommendation inviting the Bank to expand its loans to under-developed countries, account being taken of the fact that development would increase their capacity to pay.

52. As far as the flow of private capital was concerned, he believed that the bilateral agreements had not been sufficient to extend it. It was above all for the capital-exporting countries to take the necessary measures to that end. The Philippine delegation would receive favourably any proposal to increase the inflow of public and private capital into the under-developed countries, although it, of course, reserved its position with respect to proposals which might be submitted.

53. Technical assistance was closely bound up with the financing of development; both the one and the other could help to combat the scourges from which the under-developed countries were suffering. He was pleased with the encouraging results of technical assistance, which had attained its full development. The work was one of the most useful ever undertaken by an international organization, and it had made it possible to achieve considerable results with very slender resources. He quoted the case of his own country, where technical assistance had rendered possible the replacement of imported jute by a home-produced substitute. Thanks to technical assistance, the United Nations was not merely a symbol for the under-developed countries, but a living reality.

54. He approved the resolutions adopted by the Technical assistance Committee at Geneva, recommending that the participating organizations interpret the guiding principles of the programme concerning equipment and supplies more generously than in the past, and stressing the importance of training centres in the under-developed countries. He welcomed the appointment of Technical Assistance resident representatives and approved the arrangement whereby such representatives were appointed by the Technical Assistance Board. Finally, he emphasized the important role of training in public administration in the technical assistance programme as a whole: it was to be hoped that the General Assembly would endorse the Secretary-General's recommendations that the public administration programme should be placed on a continuing basis. The programme must above all be adapted to the practical needs of the countries concerned. His delegation had no objection to the organization of seminars, provided they were carefully prepared in consultation with governments.

55. Technical assistance and the inflow of capital represented two complementary factors in economic development. If the measures to be adopted in financing could be comparable in scope to those in the sphere of technical assistance, there would be grounds for hope that the way to prosperity would be open to the whole world.

56. He paid a tribute to the initiative taken in the matter of land reform by the United States delegation, which had submitted the resolution adopted by the

⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirteenth Session, Supplement No. 2.*

⁷ *Ibid.*, 478th meeting.

Economic and Social Council. At the Council's last session his delegation had proposed the establishment of a special committee to examine the question of the creation of an economic commission for Africa⁸. The Council had not adopted the proposal but the Philippine delegation intended to submit it again at an appropriate moment. It believed that the development of the African nations should benefit from the services which a regional economic commission could supply.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 492nd meeting. See also *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirteenth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 2a, document E/L.183.

57. He would support any proposal for the re-establishment of the Economic, Employment and Development Commission.

58. He concluded by paying a tribute to the retiring President of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. Santa Cruz, under whose leadership the Council had been able to accomplish work which had yielded important results.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.