

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE 176th

MEETING

Monday, 7 January 1952, at 3 p.m.

Palais de Chaillot, Paris



CONTENTS

	Page
Economic development of under-developed countries : report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter III) (A/1884 and A/1924) (<i>continued</i>)	
(b) Land reform (A/C.2/L.76 and Add.1, A/C.2/L.80/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.82, A/C.2/L.121 and Corr.1, A/C.2/L.122 and A/C.2/L.130).....	187

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) (*continued*)

(b) Land reform (A/C.2/L.76 and Add.1, A/C.2/L.80/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.82, A/C.2/L.121 and Corr.1, A/C.2/L.122 and A/C.2/L.130)

[Item 26]*

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to begin its consideration of the draft resolutions on land reform : the draft resolution presented jointly by the delegations of Brazil, Pakistan, Thailand and the United States of America (A/C.2/L. 76 and Add.1), to which amendments had been submitted by Egypt (A/C.2/L. 80/Rev.1), Mexico (A/C.2/L.121) and Israel (A/C.2/L. 122); and the draft resolution submitted by Poland (A/C.2/L.82).

2. Mr. LIMA (Brazil) said the authors of the joint draft resolution accepted the amendments submitted by Egypt, Israel and Mexico, and asked the authors of the amendments to associate themselves with the authors of the draft resolution.

3. ABDEL RAZEK Bey (Egypt) thanked the authors of the joint draft resolution for having accepted his amendment and for having invited him to associate himself with them in submitting the draft resolution. Before accepting that invitation, however, he would like to submit another amendment.

4. Mr. BETETA (Mexico) thanked the authors of the joint draft resolution for having accepted his amendment, thus enabling him to vote for the draft.

5. Mr. KIDRON (Israel) was pleased to associate himself with the authors of the joint draft resolution.

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

* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

6. Mr. TOBIAS (United States of America) said he had been struck by the unanimity which the Assembly had displayed at the fifth session in adopting the resolution on land reform (135th meeting). He expressed the hope that there would also be unanimity at the present session in adopting a resolution on the same subject, which was of vital importance to millions of human beings deprived of land or without security of tenure.

7. Land reform, which was rightly studied in connexion with the economic development of the under-developed countries—of which it was one of the essential conditions—had, furthermore, a bearing which went beyond purely economic matters. The recent FAO Conference had stated that the elimination of defects and anachronisms in the agrarian structure was an essential condition of social progress and the development of democracy. Three-quarters of the population of the world earned their living on the land and the world's economy would suffer unless that land were held through a system which reflected the needs of the people. The excellent report on land reform presented by the Secretary-General (E/2003/Rev.1)² showed, however, that over a large part of the world suitable systems of ownership and efficient methods of cultivation did not prevail.

8. The FAO Conference had emphasized that the agrarian structure of many countries suffered from a number of defects : uneconomic size of farms and fragmentation of holdings, bad distribution of property, excessively high rents, unjust taxation, insecurity of tenure, permanent indebtedness, usurious rates of interest, etc.

9. Land reform was most often associated with the idea of the breaking up of large estates, but the United States conception of agrarian reform went far beyond

² *Land Reform : Defects in Agrarian Structure as Obstacles to Economic Development*, United Nations Publications, Sales No. 1951.II.B.3.

that. The notion of land reform, however, was a wider one. It included the institution, for example, of an adequate system of agricultural credit, a system for the sale of agricultural products at prices which were sufficient for the producers and a system of taxation which dealt fairly with agriculture; it also included arrangements for the placing of modern techniques at the disposal of farmers and the improvement of conditions of rural living.

10. The representative of China had already described in the Committee the results obtained in Taiwan by the institution of land reforms (155th meeting). At the recent FAO Conference, the Japanese spokesman had also referred to the improvements effected in his country since the introduction of the reforms of 1946. In Japan, the State had bought land previously leased out to farmers and had re-sold it to them. The land had been paid for by state bonds at an interest rate of 3.6 per cent. The result had been that the proportion of land cultivated by tenant farmers or sharecroppers had fallen from 46 per cent to 10 per cent of the total area under cultivation. Moreover, rents must not exceed a certain level and was held under model leases giving security of tenure. Land could no longer be bought except by persons who would actually cultivate it. Thanks to those reforms, the standard of living of Japanese farmers was higher than in the past and they had achieved a new social and political status. Furthermore, farmers were no longer subject to the domination of non-farming interests.

11. In the United States the legislative history of land reform had begun in 1862 but the history of the matter went back to Thomas Jefferson. The United States position was based on the principle that a nation in which the farmers were, or were in a position to become the owners of the land they cultivated, possessed the fundamental elements of political stability. In 1862, the Government had adopted measures to give ownership of land in the West to people who would cultivate it. Such land had been assigned in lots of 65 hectares to families undertaking to cultivate it for five years. A national department of agriculture had been established to help farmers in giving them technical advice, and the States had been given large tracts of land the income of which would endow agricultural colleges. Such schools derived a large part of their income from the land thus placed at their disposal. The results of that judicious policy were still being felt. During the last ten years, agricultural production had increased by 40 per cent. Great progress had been achieved in the development of agricultural credit, insurance against the loss of harvests owing to unforeseen events and co-operatives for production, marketing, purchasing and servicing of farm machinery, the annual turnover of which amounted at present to \$9,000 million. Soil conservation measures were being taken and also grading and standards services. Thus, in fifteen years, the number of farms without electricity had declined from 90 per cent to 10 per cent.

12. Thanks to all those efforts, the proportion of tenants renting all the land they operated, had fallen in fifteen years from 42 to 26.8 per cent, and sharecroppers represented less than 8 per cent of the rural population. Even in the southern States, where the situation was complicated by racial inequality, the proportion of farms operated by share-croppers had

fallen from 21 per cent in 1935 to 12 per cent at the present time. He was convinced that the negro population of the United States would see the inequalities from which it still suffered come to an end in agriculture as well as in other respects. Considerable progress had been achieved since the time of the great negro scholar and leader, George Washington Carver.

13. The United States did not, however, claim to have solved all the problems of land tenure, particularly those relating to tenure, the distribution of land and migrant agricultural labour. It was, however, working towards a solution of those problems. The method adopted in the United States admittedly could not be automatically applied in other countries, but in any case the United States Government would place them at the disposal of governments which wished to study them. The United States could also profit by the experience of other countries.

14. Partly on the basis of the Secretary-General's very full report on land reform, the Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 370 (XIII) that had been submitted by the delegation of the United States. That resolution could be of great use, for it drew the attention of governments to various measures adapted to different situations. Similarly, after an exhaustive study, the FAO had adopted a resolution laying out its own programme in that matter. He hoped ILO and UNESCO would take similar action. Everything was ready for practical action. Such action, however, would always have to be based on the following six principles. One, land reform must be the result of the efforts made by the governments themselves. It required conviction on the part of the public officials and leaders and could not be introduced from the outside. Two, to be effective, the work of inter-governmental organizations must be accompanied by the full co-operation of governments. The questionnaire envisaged in the Council's resolution should therefore be treated seriously. Three, there could only be technical assistance in land reform if it was requested by governments. Four, to be most effective request for technical assistance should be related to complementary programmes for rural industrial development. Five, there was no ready-made formula applicable to all countries. Each country must solve its problem by its own methods. Six, land reform must be started now. The problem was too urgent to permit them to wait for ideal solutions.

15. The Government of the United States was prepared to assist other governments, within the framework of the United Nations or by means of bilateral agreements in accomplishing the immense task which land reform represented.

16. ABDEL RAZEK Bey (Egypt) pointed out that neither the joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.76 and Add.1) nor Council resolution 370 (XIII) of the Council referred to the question of financing land reform. That omission was all the more surprising in that the various aspects of land reform, the acquisition of land the diversified character of agricultural production rural industrialization, vocational training and agricultural research, would entail considerable public expenditure. He therefore requested the sponsors of the joint draft resolution to agree to the fourth paragraph of their draft being amended to take into account the particular technical and financial circumstance of each country by adding the words "technical and financial" after the word "particular" (A/C.2/L.130).

17. The amendment would bring that section of the operative part into harmony with the third paragraph of the Egyptian amendment (A/C.2/L.80/Rev.1), already accepted by the sponsors of the joint draft resolution, which referred to the "other resources" on which any redistribution of land would depend. Obviously those words covered financial resources. The amendment would, moreover, make the connexion between the two above-mentioned texts closer, since it took into account the difficulties with which governments might be confronted in putting land reform measures into effect, difficulties referred to in paragraph 8 of Council resolution 370 (XIII). There was accordingly a very close link between the various measures for economic development, and particularly land reform and questions of financing. That was why the General Assembly had adopted resolution 400 (V) alongside resolution 401 (V), for if no means of financing were found, the resolution on land reform would remain a dead letter. He therefore requested the United States and Brazilian representatives not to oppose in the General Assembly the resolution sponsored by Burma, Chile, Cuba, Egypt and Yugoslavia and approved by the Second Committee on 13 December 1951 (166th meeting). If the General Assembly rejected that resolution, technical assistance would by itself be insufficient to help governments put far reaching land reforms into effect.

18. Mr. LIMA (Brazil) stated that the sponsors of the joint draft resolution saw no objection to the new Egyptian amendment (A/C.2/L.130). Clearly, governments would only be able to implement the resolution to the extent that their financial resources permitted; but the domestic measures they took in the economic and social fields would be a far more important factor than international financing in providing those resources.

19. He wished to indicate to the Committee the nature of the problem of land reform in his country. Under the Brazilian Constitution the concept of ownership was subordinate to that of the overriding interests of society. With that principle as a starting point, Brazil was pursuing an agrarian policy aimed at raising the production and consumption levels of its rural population. Brazil was a vast country, with varied climate and soil, and with 52 million inhabitants. Its population already represented an important internal market which the Government was endeavouring to develop still further.

20. Brazil had long been primarily an agricultural country and an exporter of raw materials. Its coffee plantations at present covered two-and-a-half million hectares, and production amounted to \$900 million annually. The area sown in cotton in 1945 had been 2,700,000 hectares. As regards the land tenure, it was to be noted that the immense holdings which had been so numerous in the 19th century were gradually disappearing. In 1940, Brazil had only 1,236 estates with an area exceeding 1,000 hectares. The land was therefore already split up to a great extent. Moreover, in order to promote agricultural production and raise the rural population's standard of living, the Government had just set up a national agrarian policy committee to co-ordinate all the necessary measures in that field. Measures which were projected or already under way included facilities for agricultural credits, improvement of rural transport, mechanization of agriculture and above all, education of the rural population.

21. Brazil had gone half-way along its path of economic development, agriculturally as well as industrially. Vast tracts were still covered by virgin forests, whereas other parts of the country could be compared with the most highly developed regions in the world. Brazil was trying to adapt Western civilization, based on the control of nature, the scientific spirit and the gift of organization within the limits set by the character of its people and its geographical conditions.

22. The agrarian problem differed in nature from country to country, and the solutions for it had therefore to differ too. The draft resolution with which the Brazilian delegation had associated itself had at any rate the merit of drawing governments' attention to the question. He therefore hoped that the Committee would give it general support.

23. Mr. BETETA (Mexico) said that he had noted that all Members of the United Nations attached very great importance to the problems of the land tenure and the distribution and cultivation of land, and considered, moreover, that an imperfect and unjust system of land tenure constituted a serious obstacle to economic development, which was a factor of international stability indispensable to the preservation of world peace. The Mexican delegation therefore considered that the United Nations should encourage the efforts of those countries which had realized the seriousness of the problem and were trying to solve it in the framework of their economic development; that was the object of the Mexican amendment (A/C.2/L.121) to the joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.76 and Add.1); under it the General Assembly would be requested to note with approval the progress achieved in that field. The progress made was very substantial, as was shown by the Secretary-General's report on: "*Land Reform—Defects in Agrarian Structure as Obstacles to Economic Development*".

24. If the amendment proposed by the Mexican delegation was accepted, it would vote in favour of the joint draft resolution; but before doing so it wished to state once more the way in which it interpreted the Economic and Social Council's recommendations contained in resolution 370 (XIII).

25. If that resolution were considered in the light of the experience acquired in Mexico, the Mexican delegation felt that it did not sufficiently emphasize the need for granting land to individuals and communities which did not possess any. That was however an essential prerequisite for any well-balanced economic development which would achieve stability and diminish poverty in the rural areas. The state should be responsible for that redistribution of land without making it conditional upon immediate payment for such land. The redistribution should be limited only by the amount of land available, but at the same time uneconomic splitting up of existing farms should be avoided. It must be admitted, however, that the redistribution of land alone would not solve the problem, and that there should also be a general plan of development including irrigation projects, an increase of credit, mechanization and technical assistance with a view to improving agricultural production.

26. Moreover, the Council's recommendations "concerning land tenure and other related problems", as indicated in the fourth paragraph of the joint draft resolution, should be clearly defined. The Mexican

delegation wished to give orally the necessary explanations before the vote was taken. Paragraph 3 (a) of the Council's resolution stipulated that security of tenure should be assured to the cultivator of land so that he might have the incentive to improve the productivity of the land and to conserve its resources, and the opportunity to retain an equitable share of his production. The Mexican delegation realized the necessity of affording cultivators guarantees in that respect, but considered that the form of such protection should vary according to whether the system of ownership had already undergone reform or whether it had not yet been reformed and, as was the case in many countries, gave rise to inequalities and injustices so flagrant that they helped to keep the rural population in a state of actual slavery.

27. In conclusion, he drew the Committee's attention to a mistake in the English and French translations of his amendment, and submitted a corrigendum (A/C.2/L.121/Corr.1).

28. Mr. KATZ-SUCHY (Poland) recalled that it had been the Polish delegation which had drawn the attention of the General Assembly at its fifth session to the importance, for the economic development of under-developed countries, of improving the agrarian structure. It had submitted a draft resolution requesting the Secretariat to prepare a report on the subject, and the Economic and Social Council to submit specific recommendations to the Assembly for the elimination of defects in the agrarian structure that had a direct and harmful effect on agricultural output and impeded economic development.

29. He considered that the time had come to review the results of the preliminary surveys and previous recommendations. In fact, the Assembly's opinion of the Secretariat's work and of the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council would determine the action of the United Nations in that field. The need was to define the theoretical principles underlying future concrete action to improve the agrarian structure. He therefore proposed to discuss whether his delegation had been right in believing that an out-of-date agrarian structure was an obstacle to development; whether the Secretariat's report contained sufficient data for an assessment of the existing situation as a whole; whether the Economic and Social Council, which had been requested to submit specific recommendations, had drawn all the necessary conclusions from such data; and whether it was advisable to follow the Council and to do nothing more than confirm the decisions it had taken at its thirteenth session.

30. The warm reception at the fifth session of the General Assembly of the Polish draft resolution, which had been unanimously adopted,³ had proved the soundness of the Polish thesis. Most delegations had agreed that improvement of the agrarian structure was an essential condition of economic development and that action towards that end must be taken without delay. That point of view had also been confirmed in the conclusions of the Secretariat's report on Land Reform where it was stated that the agrarian structure, and particularly the system of land tenure, hampered economic development, prevented the expansion of food production, and kept agriculture in a state of stagnation.

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 312th meeting.

31. The problem to be solved could be stated in the following terms: in under-developed countries agriculture was the main branch of production and, therefore, provided most of the national revenue; the ability of the economy to accumulate resources thus depended on agricultural output. As a result of the out-of-date agrarian structure, agricultural production and output levels were very low, so that the economy was deprived of a large part of the resources that might have been applied to economic development. Low agricultural production was, moreover, the cause of the poor standard of living of the greater part of the population whose purchasing power was consequently insufficient to enable new industries to be established. That state of affairs was still further aggravated by the colonial exploitation in all forms from which the under-developed countries were suffering. It could therefore be stated that in a country where an out-of-date agrarian structure continued to exist, no economic development was possible.

32. As the Secretariat's report showed, that situation was one of the characteristic features of most under-developed countries. It was particularly noticeable from that report that in such countries many farms were too small to enable the farmers at best to earn a livelihood; they could not therefore contemplate improvement of their farming methods. The results were apparent from the fact that the average *per capita* yield was less than a quarter of a ton a year in Asia and one-eighth of a ton in Africa, whereas it attained 2.5 tons in North America. Again, while the great majority of farms were small, there was tremendous inequality in the distribution of land, and that was a crucial feature of the problem. Thus, in Japan, even after the land reform carried out by General MacArthur, the average area of farms was not more than one hectare; in Egypt, 72 per cent of the farms were less than one feddan in area and took up no more than 13.1 per cent of the cultivable land. The situation was similar in Latin America: in Argentina, 80 per cent of all privately owned agricultural land was included in farms more than 800 hectares in area, whilst 80 per cent of the rural population had no land at all. There were many other examples of a similar situation in that respect in other Latin America countries.

33. The FAO-ECLA report on *Agricultural Requisites in Latin America*⁴ stressed the harmful effect of the maldistribution of land on the development of agricultural production. The undersized small farms stood in the way of any modernization of agricultural methods, while the larger farms often showed over-intensive cultivation of the soil.

34. Again, the data on distribution of land took no account of the fact that the smaller agriculturists were more often farmers or tenant farmers than proprietors, and their position was infinitely worse. They had rents to bear, at rates up to or even exceeding 50 per cent of the harvest, as well as exorbitant rates of interest; moreover, the security of their holding was far from being assured.

35. That situation was reflected in the fact that agricultural production in the under-developed countries could not increase proportionately with the population, so that the food position was highly unsatisfactory.

⁴ United Nations Publications, Sales No. 1950.II.G.1.

As FAO had noted in its last annual report,⁵ the diet in some Latin American countries was barely adequate, if regarded solely from the standpoint of calories, and completely deficient as regards some of the more important nutritive elements.

36. The situation in that respect was hardly more satisfactory in the Middle East, where malnutrition was very widespread, and more serious still in the Far East, where even the calorie-resources per person were insufficient and below pre-war level. Those data could be regarded as an irrefutable indictment of the agrarian system in most of the under-developed countries, a system responsible for the poverty of hundreds of millions of farmers in those areas of the world.

37. The situation was still more serious in that respect in the colonial and Trust Territories. Although another Assembly Committee was studying the fate of those Territories, it was advisable to keep them in mind when broaching the question of land reform. The inequality between Europeans and Africans in those Territories was reflected in the distribution of arable land. Thus, in Southern Rhodesia, 1,500,000 Africans occupied less than 12 million hectares of inferior quality land, while 100,000 Europeans had 20 million hectares at their disposal. Hence, the African inhabitants generally suffered from malnutrition.

38. He noted that, just like various other documents, the Secretariat's report on "*Defects in Agrarian Structure as Obstacles to Economic Development*" supported his delegation's statement that the agrarian structure in the under-developed countries was preventing any increase in agricultural production and that the standard of living of the rural population of those countries could not be improved without far-reaching changes in their economic and social structure.

39. Those had been the reasons prompting his delegation to submit to the fifth session of the General Assembly the draft resolution which had subsequently become resolution 401 (V). The next point to be considered was whether or not Economic and Social Council resolution 370 (XIII) was likely to bring about a solution of the problem. In its resolution the General Assembly had issued certain instructions to the Economic and Social Council and had emphasized, in particular, the need for land reform to bring about a better distribution of the land and a complete transformation of the system of land tenure.

40. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe were clearly demonstrating the importance of land reform for economic development. In countries such as Poland, which had suffered before the war from too large a rural population and the concentration of land ownership in the hands of a few, land reform had made it possible to improve agriculture and increase production, while the process of industrialization had absorbed the excess rural population. Land reform in Poland had affected more than 15 million hectares. The establishment of the People's Government of workers and peasants had not only enabled division of the land among the peasants and agricultural workers, but had also opened the way for the establishment of collective and co-operative farms. The establishment on a voluntary basis of farmers' co-operatives was indeed the long-term policy of the Polish Government.

⁵ *Work of FAO 1949/50, Report of the Director-General*, Washington D. C., October 1950.

41. A further example of the success of the policy of land reform had been supplied during the past two years by the People's Republic of China, where, even in the first year following the sharing-out of the land, the harvests had increased by 10 to 30 per cent.

42. In the light of the instructions in the General Assembly resolution, the Polish delegation had submitted to the thirteenth session of the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution⁶ based on the observation that the distribution of land in most under-developed countries was contrary to the interests of the small farmers; that the system of large estates was the main cause of poverty among the agricultural workers and the small and medium farmers; that that system unfavourably affected agricultural production and hence the whole economy of those countries, and was impeding their economic development. Consequently the Polish draft had recommended certain measures believed essential for the solution of the problem. Those proposals had in no way gone beyond the scope of General Assembly resolution 401 (V) but had simply been intended to translate that resolution into concrete recommendations. Although Economic and Social Council resolution 370 (XIII) represented an important step towards carrying out the Assembly's instructions, it seemed nevertheless somewhat incomplete. It omitted some aspects of the problem entirely, and its recommendations on others were inadequate.

43. The Polish delegation had thus submitted its draft resolution to the Committee in order to remedy those defects. The draft did not in any way run counter to the Economic and Social Council resolution, but took it as a starting point and tried to strengthen it. His delegation was still convinced that, in order to increase agricultural production, to eliminate the shortage of food supplies, and to improve the position of the populations of under-developed countries, it was essential to abolish the outmoded aspects of their agrarian structure, which were impeding the development of their productive strength. Land reform was therefore needed along the lines laid down in the Polish draft resolution.

44. In conclusion, he emphasized that, in including land reform in its agenda, the United Nations had undertaken the tremendous task of abolishing the obvious defects in the social systems of most under-developed countries and particularly in their agrarian structure. Thus the United Nations had recognized that the solution of that problem was one of the main prerequisites of economic development.

45. The recognition of that fact, however, was not in itself enough to satisfy the populations of the under-developed countries, who considered that their position was the result of prolonged exploitation by foreign imperialism and would only be content when they had finally won their fight for freedom.

46. Mr. MATTOS (Uruguay) congratulated the authors of the Secretariat report on *Defects in Agrarian Structure as Obstacles to Economic Development*. His delegation fully endorsed the considerations on which the joint draft resolution was based and the solutions it proposed, and he would accordingly vote in favour of it.

⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 4 (c), document E/L.247.*

47. He told the Committee of Uruguay's experience in agrarian structure and the successful legislative and other measures with which it had improved the organization of its agricultural production.

48. About thirty years ago, the State Mortgage Bank had set up a development and colonization Department in order to help those who actually cultivated the land to acquire farms. Farmers had thereby been enabled to purchase the land on which they worked, provided that they could put down on the spot 15 per cent of the cost price. Further legislation had enabled the activities of that section of the Bank to be expanded, and many families had thereby been enabled to own their farms.

49. The Government of Uruguay had pursued a policy of very active encouragement of the co-operative movement in agriculture. Ever since 1912, when the establishment of rural credit funds had first been authorized, the number of co-operatives had steadily increased and the State had granted them important customs concessions. The co-operative movement was safeguarded by Act 10,008, which the legislature was still seeking to improve.

50. The State's agricultural and industrial credit policy was applied by the *Banco de la Republica* which granted loans to private farmers and rural co-operatives. That policy helped to promote the establishment of new productive enterprises and to increase the yield of existing ones.

51. The land in Uruguay was divided as follows : of the total area 71.2 per cent was natural prairie and grazing land; 7.9 per cent was reserved for cultivation; 2.8 per cent was forested; 7.6 per cent was unproductive; and 10.5 per cent was covered by rivers, towns, roads and railways. As in most under-developed countries, the land was often unevenly distributed. In 1946 there had been 104,129 farms with a total area of under 100 hectares; 21,216 between 101 and 500 hectares; 4,096 between 501 and 1,000 hectares; and slightly more than 3,000 of over 1,000 hectares.

52. To solve the problem of bad land distribution, the Uruguayan Parliament had considered a land reform plan and as a result, had created the National Colonization Institute (*Instituto nacional de colonizacion*), which had thereafter played a very large part in shaping the new system of land tenure in Uruguay.

53. Law 11,029 by which the Institute had been established, understood colonization to mean the whole body of measures required to achieve rational land distribution and satisfactory farming with a view to increasing and improving agricultural production and promoting the welfare of land workers. The new Institute was to act as an independent body for encouraging the various types of colonization.

54. The types of colonization were classified as follows. (a) According to the purposes of colonization : economic farming, when the farm had to support the settler entirely; supplementary or subsidiary farming, when the settler's agricultural activity was undertaken in addition to his normal professional or industrial work; subsistence farming, when the produce merely covered the consumption requirements of the settler's family. (b) According to the use to which the land was put : creation of farms for intensive horticulture, fruit-growing, etc.; creation of farms for extensive cultiva-

tion of cereals and oil-bearing plants, fodder or industrial crops; creation of mixed farms for crop and stock raising; creation of ranches; creation of agricultural-industrial colonies primarily to produce raw materials for an industry established in the colony; colonization for the development of forests to check soil erosion, etc. (c) According to the type of colonization : individual colonization, when the settler employed his family or paid workers; co-operative colonization; collective colonization. (d) According to the type of ownership : farms which could become the settlers' property, be leased to them, let to them for a variable proportion of the crop, etc. (e) According to the size of the farm : small holdings of less than 25 hectares (intensive agricultural colonization); small farms of less than 120 hectares (extensive agricultural colonization); medium farms of up to 500 hectares (mixed farms), and big farms of up to a thousand hectares (stock raising and silviculture). (f) According to the density of colonization : creation of isolated farms or groups of farms. (g) According to the length of occupation : permanent colonization and temporary colonization. (h) According to the settlers' nationality : colonization by natives, colonization by immigrants and mixed colonization.

55. The methods employed by the Institute were also very varied : the colonization could take place on land belonging to the Institute; it could also be carried out through the Institute on lands not belonging to it in its own right; the Institute could act as an administrator on behalf of third parties and, lastly, it could exert an indirect effect on colonization by co-operating with municipalities or other public bodies for the establishment of military, labour or penal colonies. The Institute could take a more or less active part in controlling the colonies' economy. Thus there were free colonies run on private property lines; in the case of other colonies the Institute itself could determine the type of farming and nature of the crop; other colonies again could receive the Institute's support subject to certain conditions laid down by it concerning the use to which the land was put, method of cultivation, etc. In other cases the Institute could control the settlers' activities directly or make contracts with the settlers guaranteeing them markets and prices and covering part of their risks.

56. The law containing the provisions thus outlined had been promulgated three years previously. Since then it had been realized that the law had certain defects : for example, the Institute's funds (20 million pesos) were inadequate. Those faults had to be remedied.

57. He drew the Committee's attention to a new plan for the conservation and development of renewable natural resources, which had been adopted by the Council of Ministers and submitted to Parliament. For its implementation the plan would require the investment of several million pesos in the following projects : conservation and development of natural resources such as soils, waters, forests, etc; control of foot-and-mouth disease, bovine tuberculosis, parasitic diseases, trachean arachnism; the creation of a bovine pathology service, and the establishment of a department of rural sociology in the Ministry of Stock Raising and Agriculture.

58. Before bringing his statement to an end, he explained that a special law had established a minimum wage for dairy workers and obliged employers to pro-

vide their workers with adequate amounts of foodstuffs. Work accidents insurance had also been made compulsory, so that the agricultural worker could obtain the medical assistance and medicaments he required, be admitted to hospital and draw pay while unable to work.

59. To solve the problem of the agrarian structure each country must divide up its land to the full extent that might be necessary. The State must acquire the necessary land either by purchase or expropriation at a fair price and allow it to be acquired by those who

cultivated it. Land thus sold must not be speculated in or act as security for debts contracted by their owners and the State alone must have the right to buy it back again should occasion arise. The farms must be sold to the farmers at a price not in excess of their real value, for a long period and at a low rate of interest, and they must be exempt from all taxation for at least 10 years. Lastly, the farmers taking over such land must be granted big loans to buy the necessary machinery and equipment and to finance the first harvest.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.