

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## SEVENTH SESSION

## Official Records



## SECOND COMMITTEE, 211th

## MEETING

Friday, 14 November 1952, at 10.30 a.m.

Headquarters, New York

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Chairman: Mr. Jiří NOSEK (Czechoslovakia).

**Economic development of under-developed countries: (d) Technical assistance for the economic development of under-developed countries (A/C.2/L.156 and Corr.1 & 2, A/C.2/L.167 and Corr.1) (*continued*)**

[Item 25 (d)]\*

1. Sir Clifford NORTON (United Kingdom) said the joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.156 and Corr.1 & 2) had been admirably introduced by the French representative (209th meeting). It confirmed the action of the Technical Assistance Committee, and would undoubtedly command the Committee's support. He thanked Mr. Owen and Mr. Keenleyside for their contribution to the discussion. Particularly useful was the evidence of the tangible results of the technical assistance programme quoted by Mr. Owen.

2. The last report of the Technical Assistance Board to the Technical Assistance Committee (E/2213) showed that governments everywhere were undertaking programmes of land reclamation, increasing food production, of prevention of disease, better irrigation, better communications and improved methods of administration and education, all of which were part of the drive for economic development. He was sure that those plans could be assisted by international action, and the Expanded Programme was one of the most important means to that end. If the level of contributions to the programme was to be maintained or increased, it was essential that governments of under-developed countries should be able to present evidence of tangible results. He therefore hoped that all participating governments would make public their estimates of the value of the work done through technical assistance.

3. The United Kingdom was participating in the programme both as contributor and as recipient. His delegation agreed that methods of establishing and levying local costs for technical assistance projects should be

\* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

re-examined. He therefore urged the specialized agencies who were members of TAB to put forward their agreed recommendations on the subject as soon as possible, as the resolution adopted by TAC was only a temporary solution.

4. His delegation supported the strengthening of TAB and the expansion of the system of resident technical assistance representatives. As Mr. Keenleyside had pointed out, the question of whether the experts recruited should be of high calibre and reputation or younger men was subordinate to the requirements of each individual case. What was essential was that the men chosen should be capable of adapting themselves to local needs and conditions.

5. Commenting on the Ecuadorean amendments (A/C.2/L.167 and Corr.1) to the joint draft resolution, his delegation felt that there had been considerable merit in the simplicity of the original draft resolution. It was better to leave the organization of technical assistance flexible so that it could be more rapidly adapted to changing circumstances. The question of establishing the programme on a permanent basis should be discussed in TAC and in the Economic and Social Council before it was reviewed by the Second Committee. His Government had contributed to the first and second periods of the programme and would continue to do so. He felt, however, that it would be preferable to leave the size of the 1954 programme for decision in the light of the progress reports received during the next few months, and not to define it as did the Ecuadorean amendment. With regard to the activities of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds, he had the impression that nothing was included in the amendment which that Committee would not do in the normal course of its duties. He therefore hoped the representative of Ecuador would support the joint draft resolution without pressing his amendments.

6. Mr. CHA (China) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the statements made by Mr. Owen and Mr. Keenleyside (209th meeting). He was glad to note

that no racial or religious bias was tolerated among the personnel of TAA.

7. The substance of the joint draft resolution was in line with Council resolution 433 A (XIV). The financial arrangements embodied in the annex to the draft resolution had been designed to facilitate the smooth operation of the Expanded Programme. The fact that \$25 million instead of \$20 million had been fixed as a goal for the 1953 programme was good evidence that the programme required further expansion. He hoped that those who had the means to make substantial contributions would be able to contribute still more, and that those governments which had not yet met their pledges for the first or second financial periods would do so in the near future so that the programme could be carried on in accordance with the original plans.

8. In connexion with the Ecuadorean amendments (A/C.2/L.167 and Corr.1), he said that most governments had to depend on annual legislative appropriations for their contributions to international projects, and it was consequently difficult for delegations to take a decision with regard to the continuation of the programme on a long-term basis. The work of TAB as well as of TAA would of course be facilitated if governments were to pledge their contributions at an early date. With regard to the question of negotiations by the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds after the end of the Council's sixteenth session, he felt that it was not necessary for the General Assembly to take a decision on the question until its eighth session. Finally, in his delegation's opinion the question of the goal of \$40 million for 1954 might also be decided by the General Assembly in 1953. The experience gained in the following year would be a factor worthy of consideration. His delegation had no objection to a further expansion of the programme or a further study of the problem in a year's time, but it felt that it might be premature to consider it at that time.

9. Mr. DE SEYNES (France) said his feelings toward the Ecuadorean amendments to the joint draft resolution were mixed. He was extremely sympathetic to the attempt to introduce greater permanency into the technical assistance programmes. The problems to which the amendments drew attention were of the greatest importance. The difficulties arising out of the fact that appropriations for technical assistance were made annually had been explained, and everyone recognized that there were certain long-term operations under the technical assistance programme that were greatly handicapped by the fact that contributions could not be pledged for a period of more than one year. He, however, as the representative of a country which was firmly attached to constitutional and parliamentary processes could not disregard the system of an annual budget. The rule that the budget should be drawn up annually was at the very origin of the parliamentary system, and had enabled representative organs to curb progressively the power of the executive. The principle possessed such historical and sentimental value that up to the present time it had proved impossible, save on very rare occasions, to circumvent the rule of annual budgets, although nowadays, it appeared somewhat outdated. It was in the light of those various considerations that the amendments submitted by the delegation of Ecuador should be examined.

10. He supported the first, second and third amendments without comment. He could also support the proposed paragraph 5, but with one qualification. He was not sure that it would be possible or useful for the Negotiating Committee to begin its work immediately after the session of the Council. If, however, circumstances were favourable, it would be very desirable that the Negotiating Committee should be able to act on the basis of a desire expressed by the General Assembly; that would facilitate its task.

11. His most serious objections were to the proposed paragraph 6. He did not think that "financial arrangements" could be withdrawn from the Assembly's annual control, and suggested to the representative of Ecuador that those words might be dropped from its draft without detriment. The Committee might however ask the Council to set financial objectives for a period to be determined — say three years. The resulting figures would be a mere estimate and there would be no guarantee that they would be fulfilled, but they would provide a valuable indication for governments and exercise a certain moral pressure. Moreover, such procedure was not unprecedented in the United Nations. The previous year, in dealing with the question of Palestine refugees, the General Assembly had set up a three-year programme with financial objectives for each year. It would therefore not be a revolutionary departure to follow a similar procedure in the case of technical assistance.

12. He had one comment to make on the technical assistance programme in general. At the previous meeting, the United States representative had stressed the necessity for careful co-ordination by each government of its position in each of the organizations participating in the Expanded Programme on which it was represented. It was not possible for the agencies to co-ordinate their programmes if governments did not do likewise. He therefore wished to support the United States representative's comments and to stress the importance of that aspect of the question.

13. Mr. JOCKEL (Australia) welcomed Mr. Owen in his new capacity as Executive Chairman of TAB and associated himself with the United States representative's remarks (210th meeting) on the significance of the post.

14. His delegation would support the joint draft resolution, and it shared the French representative's interpretation with regard to the goal of \$25 million.

15. With regard to the Ecuadorean amendments, he pointed out that some governments experienced certain difficulties as regarded placing the programme on a permanent basis, and he did not feel that the second amendment would add a great deal to the resolution since the programme would continue to be financed on a voluntary basis. He therefore suggested that greater unanimity might be achieved if it were dropped. There was general agreement that the technical assistance programme was producing valuable results and should be continued; it was not necessary to go further.

16. The remaining parts of the Ecuadorean draft resolution dealt with the very important problem of obtaining long-term assurances with regard to the financing of the programme. Considering the position of contributions to the programme, he pointed out that for

the first year \$20 million had been pledged and some \$6,500,000 had been spent. For the second year, pledges had amounted to \$18,800,000 and the probable expenditure was estimated at \$21 million. When account was taken of the \$3 million placed in special reserve, that meant that there should be a carry-over of about \$8 million available for spending in 1953. But on the basis of actual contributions the situation was different. The sum of \$19,400,000 had actually been received for the first financial period. It was not yet known what contributions would be received for the second, but, assuming a similar rate of non-payment, there might be a default of \$600,000 to \$800,000. Moreover, in the first period the United States had more than matched the contributions of other countries and had paid the full amount it had pledged but it could not be assumed that it would continue to do so; thus there might even be a greater deficit in the second financial period amounting to \$2 million. It might therefore be assumed that contributions of only \$36,200,000 would be received as compared with the \$38,800,000 pledged. Although that difference did not seem very great, it was important in the present situation particularly since it might be difficult to utilize the currencies in which some contributions were paid. First it meant that the carry-over might be \$5,500,000 and not \$8 million. Secondly it meant that the current rate of expenditure of \$21 million should be compared not with the pledges of \$18,800,000 but with receipts of \$16,800,000. Third it meant that while the increase in the target from \$20 million to \$25 million was a 25 per cent increase, what the General Assembly was really seeking was an increase in receipts of 50 per cent, i.e., from \$16,800,000 to \$25 million.

17. All the calculations of course were based on the assumption of a certain rate of non-payment of pledges. That might, however, not prove to be the case, but the possibility was sufficiently real to underline the importance of long-term assurances, and also what Mr. Owen had said with regard to the need for strict planning and economy. It was also possible that the sum carried over into 1953 might be smaller than anticipated and that the problems of financing the programme in the early part of that year and in 1954 would have to be faced. Consequently, since the entire problem of financing the programme would have to be dealt with sooner or later he thought it would be preferable to leave it for the Council and the Technical Assistance Committee to consider as a whole. He suggested that no vote be taken on that aspect of the question at the current stage. If the suggestion of the delegation of Ecuador that the Economic and Social Council should establish the 1954 goal were put to the vote, his delegation's attitude would largely be determined by the views of governments not represented in the Council.

18. Mr. JUNG (India) said that his delegation supported the joint draft resolution. He was still awaiting instructions from his Government with regard to the proposed financial arrangements, but he had little doubt that they would be approved.

19. His delegation was at least in favour of the spirit of the Ecuadorean amendments. He had no objection to the first and he sympathized with the intention of the second, although he thought that certain details of the existing structure particularly with regard to local

costs and equipment required further study. The permanence of the programme depended, however, on the permanence of financial contributions and he therefore suggested that the Committee should not commit itself without first ascertaining the views of the contributing countries. The programme was by no means weakened by its fluid character. He agreed that the third amendment was necessary for administrative reasons to enable plans to be drawn up in due time. He was not, however, in favour of fixing the 1954 target at \$40 million at that stage. The initiative in that respect should be taken by TAB and the Council, particularly since difficulties had already been experienced in financing existing targets. He suggested that no definite figure should be indicated in paragraph 6.

20. In brief, his delegation supported the joint draft resolution and the first, third and fourth Ecuadorean amendments but could not agree to the figure of \$40 million mentioned in the proposed paragraph 6. Its support for the draft resolution was based on its enthusiasm for the technical assistance programme as a whole. Although the programme was as yet in its infancy the record of work so far achieved was impressive, and the modest raising of his country's contribution to the Expanded Programme was a token of its belief that the fulfilment of the programme was one of the United Nations most important functions.

21. Mr. SALAMANCA FIGUEROA (Bolivia) observed that a very important experiment in technical assistance was under way in Bolivia. Its purpose was to increase technological knowledge in various spheres of economic activity. That was not always an easy task especially when, as in the case of Bolivia, economic and political obstacles had impeded technological progress. However, the country was now in a transitional period in which it would require technical assistance to develop its economy.

22. For a country to develop economically it was essential that its government should promote that development and that its people should be eager to accept it. Those pre-requisites had not existed in Bolivia in 1950 when the United Nations had organized a joint mission to that country in which ILO, FAO and UNESCO had taken part. That mission had investigated the country's requirements and resources and had prepared a report containing a series of recommendations for the economic and social development of the country. However it had failed to give serious consideration to the mining problem. On the basis of that report the Government of Bolivia had nevertheless accepted a recommendation to the effect that the United Nations should offer its assistance to Bolivia in recruiting the services of a number of experts in public administration to be integrated into the Bolivian civil service.

23. An agreement had been signed between the United Nations and the Government of Bolivia in 1951 under which the former agreed to provide ten administrative assistants, experts, and thirty scholarships for Bolivian students. The Secretary-General had appointed a special representative to Bolivia and the Bolivian Government, for its part, had appointed a chief co-ordinator whose task was to co-ordinate the various technical assistance programmes in the country.

24. The Bolivian Government wished to pay tribute to the integrity and high qualities of the representative of the Secretary-General and also to the experts sent by TAA and the specialized agencies. His Government had submitted several requests to the United Nations for the equipment required to give effect to the technical assistance programme in Bolivia. It hoped shortly to submit the names of several candidates for fellowships who, upon conclusion of their studies abroad, would work in their respective fields in Bolivia.

25. Bolivia was in need of United Nations assistance in transforming and diversifying its production of tin and in undertaking land reform. The Bolivian Government was currently engaged in negotiations with TAA for further technical assistance. It had requested the co-operation of the United Nations in recruiting engineers, technicians and public administration experts to assist in carrying out its plans for the organization and supervision of the mining industry. The Government had decided to establish an economic planning council which would carefully study the possibility of utilizing the country's vast mineral resources. The Bolivian Government also intended to request the United Nations and the specialized agencies to provide more experts in land reform and in public administration.

26. He stated, in conclusion, that his delegation would vote in favour of the joint draft resolution before the Committee and most of the amendments proposed thereto by the representative of Ecuador. He could not, however, commit his Government with respect to the suggested target contribution.

27. Mr. DIAS CARNEIRO (Brazil) was in favour of the position taken by the French representative with regard to the amendments proposed by Ecuador to the joint draft resolution of which his country was a co-sponsor.

28. Two factors restricting expansion of the technical assistance programme were its limited operating fund and the uncertainty regarding its future financial position. Under the joint draft resolution, governments were being urged to increase by \$5 million the present \$20 million target for contributions. The funds pledged by Brazil would no doubt soon be made available. Brazil did not feel that the relatively small increase in contributions requested under the joint draft resolution would be sufficient to satisfy the minimum requirements for technical assistance in the under-developed countries. It was merely the best that could be achieved in the present circumstances.

29. The Brazilian delegation supported, in principle, the fourth amendment submitted by Ecuador but agreed with the Cuban representative that a tentative contribution target for 1954 should not be mentioned for the time being.

30. With regard to the prevailing uncertainties as to the availability of future funds, it was obvious that United Nations technical assistance operations were being hampered by delays in the payment of pledged contributions. For one thing, that had prevented TAB from offering a career to the experts it recruited.

31. Thus the Brazilian delegation would support the first three amendments proposed by Ecuador. It reserved its right to comment further on the item under consideration.

32. Mr. TAYLOR (Canada) appreciated the spirit which had moved the representative of Ecuador to propose amendments to the joint draft resolution. However, the Canadian delegation did not feel that those amendments constituted any real improvement in either the substance or the wording of the joint draft resolution.

33. It was premature, for instance, to speak of placing technical assistance on "a permanent basis". While it was no doubt true that TAA and TAB should plan their programmes over a period of more than one year, a view which would certainly be reflected in the Committee's report, the Canadian delegation did not think it advisable for the time being to prepare plans extending over a period of several years.

34. With regard to the paragraph 5 proposed by Ecuador, his delegation did not believe that the General Assembly could properly delegate final authority on the overall size of the technical assistance programme to the Economic and Social Council. Decisions taken by that organ consisting of eighteen Member States could not finally bind the sixty States Members of the United Nations.

35. As for the proposed paragraph 6, Canada's parliamentary system precluded it from entering into financial commitments for a period of more than one year at a time. However, that should not be construed as indicating any lack of support by Canada for technical assistance. The Canadian delegation was, however, unable to vote in favour of the amendments proposed by Ecuador.

36. Mr. KAZEMI (Iran) said that his delegation considered the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance to be the most remarkable accomplishment yet achieved by the United Nations in the field of international economic co-operation. The fact that the programme was now reaching a stage of full development was a matter of satisfaction to the Iranian delegation which hoped that the flow of technical assistance to the under-developed countries would consequently be increased.

37. The Iranian delegation approved of the appointment of a full-time Executive Chairman to the Technical Assistance Board and supported the joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.156 and Corr.1 and 2) in that respect. It expressed its appreciation and gratitude to TAA and the specialized agencies for the valuable assistance which Iran had received and hoped that the technical assistance programme for the financial year 1953 would include the two special items which were of vital interest to Iran, namely a DDT powder factory and fellowships for the study of questions relating to the petroleum industry.

38. Despite the financial and economic difficulties which Iran was encountering, it approved of the financial provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 433 B (XIV).

39. With regard to the amendments to the joint draft resolution proposed by Ecuador, the Iranian delegation was not in a position to commit itself in advance in respect of the \$40 million target suggested by Ecuador for the technical assistance programme in 1954.

40. Mr. VANER (Turkey) observed that his Government had contributed substantially to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and considered that much had been done for the economic development of under-developed countries. Turkey itself had benefited from technical assistance provided by the United Nations.

41. The Turkish delegation felt that the appointment of a full-time Executive Chairman to the Technical Assistance Board was a sound decision likely to facilitate examination of requests for technical assistance submitted by governments.

42. He suggested that an analytical report should be published periodically so as to enable contributing governments to study the work of the United Nations in matters of technical assistance.

43. It was a matter of regret to the Turkish Government that, despite its substantial contributions to the technical assistance programme, TAA had no Turkish national on its staff or among its experts.

44. Convinced of the need for continued application of the technical assistance programmes, the Turkish Government had included in its budget for 1953 an appropriation in Turkish pounds equal to \$180,000, the same amount it had contributed in each of the two previous years.

45. The Turkish delegation supported the joint draft resolution but did not wish to take a position with regard to the amendments proposed by the representative of Ecuador before obtaining the views of the co-sponsors of the joint draft resolution.

46. Mr. BURR (Chile) said that his Government placed great hope in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, one of the most effective means of achieving economic progress.

47. With regard to the delicate problem of local currency costs of technical assistance programmes, he shared the view previously expressed by the Cuban representative (210th meeting) and hoped that a solution would soon be found which would enable under-developed countries to benefit fully from technical assistance.

48. The Chilean delegation believed that TAB, as recently reorganized, would be in a better position to co-ordinate the various United Nations technical assistance programmes and would work most effectively under the full-time chairmanship of Mr. Owen. In connexion with the question of co-ordination he called attention to the successful achievements of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council.

49. The Chilean delegation unreservedly supported the joint draft resolution before the Committee. As for the amendments proposed by Ecuador, it would probably vote in favour of most of them. However, it would abstain from voting on the last amendment because it could not commit its Government in advance to any specific contribution over a four-year period.

50. Mr. MATES (Yugoslavia) welcomed the appointment of Mr. Owen as Executive Chairman of TAB and expressed appreciation of his statement and that of the Director-General of TAA at the 209th meeting. He fully endorsed Mr. Owen's remarks con-

cerning the importance of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance as a truly international enterprise. It provided the best means of exchanging technical advice, brought together experts and scholars from many countries, thereby promoting international understanding and expressing the purposes of the Charter with regard to economic and social co-operation.

51. His delegation was glad to note that the serious doubts expressed in the initial stages as to the possibility of success of the Expanded Programme now seemed to have been largely dispelled. The Programme had received greater support in the Second Committee and the General Assembly at the present session and had so developed that its possibilities were now greater than the funds provided to meet them, although contributions had increased. It was clear, therefore, that the Programme was now in full swing and operating on a sound basis, but improvements were still needed and, above all, continued and universal support was required.

52. His own country had received most satisfactory co-operation from the United Nations both at Headquarters and in Belgrade. Assistance under the Programme in Yugoslavia had covered the training of experts through the granting of fellowships, the training of workers for skilled labour in other countries and the supply of equipment. In spite of the criticism levied against it and the difficulties raised concerning local currency costs he felt that the prospects for the Programme were favourable.

53. Yugoslavia's appreciation of the Programme was particularly strong because it saw its effects against the background of very different earlier experiences, which had led it to feel that international co-operation such as the Programme provided was the best safeguard against the misuse of relationships between small and large countries.

54. Because of the criticism levied against the technical assistance programmes, he felt it his duty to cite an illustration which would enable the Second Committee to compare the benefits offered under United Nations technical assistance with the arrangements proposed under a draft agreement that the USSR had offered to his country in 1948. Under the proposed agreement with the USSR, Yugoslavia would have had to pay all the expenses for the administration of the programme, for the training of Yugoslav specialists, for the workers sent to the USSR and for Soviet specialists sent to Yugoslavia, the value to be fixed in United States dollars. Technical equipment necessary for the implementation of the programme was to have been purchased from the Soviet Union by Yugoslavia on the basis of existing commodity agreements. He felt that his brief outline of the proposed agreement would serve to dispel any doubt as to the relative merits of the two systems of assistance.

55. For the above reasons and in appreciation of the benefits received by Yugoslavia under the United Nations technical assistance programme, his delegation wholeheartedly supported the joint draft resolution. It was also in full agreement with the intentions of the Ecuadorean amendments as it also wished to see the Programme expanded and made permanent; but it had no strong views as to the necessity of voting at the present session of the General Assembly on the pro-

posals contained in the Ecuadorean amendments. It would not, however, oppose them.

56. Mr. SOHLMAN (Sweden) had been particularly interested to note the remarks of the Executive Chairman of TAB concerning the desirability of establishing a financial target for the technical assistance programme, in order to facilitate planning for more than one year at a time. However, Sweden, for the same reasons as those explained by the representative of the United States and others, was not in a position to agree to the amendment relating to financial arrangements proposed by Ecuador. It might, however, be useful to have the idea contained therein incorporated in the Second Committee's report to the General Assembly.

57. The Swedish delegation was also glad to learn that TAA would take into consideration its observations concerning the recruitment of experts. It hoped that the possibility of engaging younger experts would be further examined and supported the remarks made at the previous meeting by the Danish and Netherlands representatives on that point.

58. Accordingly, the Swedish delegation was prepared to vote in favour of the joint draft resolution and for the first and third Ecuadorean amendments as also for the proposed paragraph 5 contained in the first part of the fourth Ecuadorean amendment, but it was not in a position to support the second Ecuadorean amendment or the proposed paragraph 6.

59. Mr. COHN LYON (Dominican Republic) was convinced that the Expanded Programme was an invaluable means of progress towards fuller economic development of the under-developed countries and that it had done excellent work in the short period during which it had operated. His delegation expressed its appreciation of the efficient work done by TAB and TAA and welcomed the statements made by the Executive Chairman of TAB and by the Director-General of TAA.

60. Problems such as the scarcity of available technical staff, the difficulties of selection of suitable experts and the need to ensure that missions to countries exactly met the local needs still remained and further improvements could be made to the Programme. He thought that due note should be taken of the Cuban representative's remarks concerning local currency costs. He felt sure that the programme could be implemented more rapidly if the expenses to be borne by the recipient countries could be reduced.

61. His delegation would support the joint draft resolution and the amendments proposed by Ecuador provided that the fourth amendment was revised in accordance with the suggestions made by the United States and French representatives. It considered that the remarks of the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia representatives on the same point should also be borne in mind.

62. Mr. MORALES (Argentina) also expressed appreciation of the progress reported in the statements of the Executive Chairman of TAB and the Director-General of TAA. The recent administrative reorganization would no doubt lead to further improvements.

63. Argentina's traditional belief in international co-operation based on mutual respect for national sovereignty had made that country a constant supporter of

the United Nations technical assistance programme. It had offered a number of fellowships for scientific research and had provided expert advice for other countries under the programme, in which it would continue to co-operate within the bounds of its possibilities.

64. As evidence of its support of the programme, he was glad to announce that Argentina had just deposited with the Special Account its contribution for the financial year 1951-1952 amounting to 2 million Argentine pesos.

65. His delegation supported the joint draft resolution on the understanding that its Government was not thereby bound to increase its contribution. It was in sympathy with the ideas contained in the Ecuadorean amendments and supported the first three amendments thereof, but for administrative and governmental reasons was unable to support the fourth amendment.

66. Mr. HALIQ (Saudi Arabia) also announced his delegation's support of the joint draft resolution and of the principles contained in the Ecuadorean amendments. As the Canadian representative had pointed out, he thought the amendments had served their purpose in provoking discussion, without needing to be adopted in their entirety. The controversial points, contained in the second amendment and in the proposed paragraph 6 in the Ecuadorean amendments, would undoubtedly require further consideration. To place the technical assistance programme on a permanent basis would amount to making the necessary funds an integral part of the overall United Nations budget. In connexion with that proposed paragraph 6, he thought it inadvisable to quote an exact figure or a specific period. Perhaps the Economic and Social Council could be asked to take into consideration the advisability of facilitating longer-term planning: if necessary he would be prepared to make a formal proposal in that sense.

67. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that his country was glad to see the technical assistance programme beginning to bear fruit and would continue to support it. The initial stage was over and the conception of the real function of technical assistance had been greatly clarified. The increase in the programme's budget and the progress reported by the Executive Chairman of TAB was eloquent proof of the programme's value. A particularly striking feature was the successful co-ordination of the work of the specialized agencies and the United Nations.

68. Greece was grateful for the assistance it had received, for it was well aware of the difficulties involved in finding qualified experts and granting the requested fellowships. It also endorsed the views expressed by the President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in his report to the fourteenth session of the Economic and Social Council<sup>1</sup> in regard to the Bank's technical assistance programme in the form of general survey missions designated to help member countries to formulate long-term development programmes.

69. His Government was presently studying the possibility of using the facilities of the Expanded Programme for establishing a national productivity centre and was also intending to take full advantage of the

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fourteenth Session*, 605th meeting.

technical assistance programme for obtaining fellowships and receiving the assistance of experts.

70. He stressed the important function played by the resident representatives and referred to the views expressed in the fifth report of TAC<sup>2</sup> in that connexion. The representatives must be able to assess local conditions and deal tactfully with governments. Political considerations must not be allowed to influence matters and the representatives must keep strictly to their technical functions.

71. His delegation wished to reaffirm its view that there was no better investment in the world than the United Nations technical assistance programme. It therefore fully supported the joint draft resolution. It was also sympathetic to the intentions of the Ecuadorean amendments but thought the proposed paragraph 6 unrealistic.

72. Mr. TOUS (Ecuador) expressed his gratitude to all the delegations which had supported his amendments

and noted that the support had corroborated his own intention, namely, that the amendments should only be considered as in the nature of an addendum to the joint draft resolution.

73. In view of the objections to the second amendment, he would be prepared to amend the phrase "on a permanent basis".

74. The main controversy, however, appeared to concern his proposal to add a paragraph 6 to the joint draft resolution. Actually, he had not meant to suggest that rigid budgetary arrangements for a four-year period should be established, as he knew that governments could not commit themselves for more than one year ahead. With the assistance of the French representative, and the support of other sponsors of the original joint draft resolution, he had therefore drafted a revised text for paragraph 6 which would be circulated in document A/C.2/L.167/Corr.1; he hoped it would represent an acceptable compromise.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, *Annexes*, agenda item 22(b) (E/2304).