



**C O N T E N T S**

	<i>Page</i>
Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter II (A/2172, A/C.2/L.194 and A/C.2/L.194/Rev.1) ( <i>continued</i> ).....	315

*Chairman:* Mr. Jiří NOSEK (Czechoslovakia).

**Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter II (A/2172, A/C.2/L.194 and A/C.2/L.194/Rev.1) (*continued*)**

[Item 11]\*

1. Sir Clifford NORTON (United Kingdom) declared that his delegation could not pass over in silence the distorted picture of world economics presented by the Polish representative. Using selected statistics drawn from the *Economic Bulletin for Europe* and other sources, the latter had said that the countries of Western Europe were going through a serious economic crisis owing to war preparations undertaken at the instigation of the United States of America (241st meeting).

2. Before turning to the economic aspect of that thesis, Sir Clifford pointed out that since the war the United States had made the most generous contributions to the recovery of the United Kingdom and other countries which had found themselves in a precarious position after the common fight against nazism and fascism. The United States had taken the lead in promoting international co-operation and understanding. Innumerable public statements by United States leaders bore out the fact that nothing would better suit their interests than the strengthening of the economic and political power of countries that were genuinely democratic, free and independent. He indignantly rejected any assertion that the United States was deliberately seeking to weaken the United Kingdom or other European countries.

3. That discussion might sound academic if it were not for Korea. In that crisis the United Nations had been able to appreciate the firm leadership and inspiration of the United States at their true value and had reacted vigorously to a shameful aggression. The United Kingdom was proud to be taking part in the common struggle to safeguard world peace by proving that aggression did not pay.

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

4. As far as the economic position was concerned, the Polish representative had attempted, a little too obviously, to sow discord between the United States and its friends. Sir Clifford readily admitted that rearmament was a heavy burden on nations, which would be much happier if there were no need to rearm. Of course, the situation was alarming to the Polish representative. Sir Clifford was glad that he had taken good note of the rearmament effort. If the Polish representative had meant that the Western countries were prepared to undergo austerity in order to make the world a safer place for democracy, he was quite right.

5. Turning to the economic situation of the United Kingdom, he pointed out that the current analyses showed clearly that the United Kingdom had at last managed to arrest the unfavourable trend. In the communiqué issued on 11 December 1952, at the close of the Commonwealth Economic Conference, the Conference had noted with satisfaction that the sterling area would achieve balance with the rest of the world in the second half of the current year. The efforts the United Kingdom was making to ensure its own recovery did not prevent assisting the development of less industrialized countries. The export of capital goods and skills was growing, and the volume of financial assistance afforded to other countries since the war had been considerable.

6. The Polish representative had made great play of the fall in the level of industrial production in consumer goods and particularly textiles. In recent months, that had in fact been offset by the substantial expansion in the output of heavier metal goods which were more urgently required by countries in process of development. The sustained effort of the United Kingdom Government to achieve a sound economic position was bound up with a sustained effort to complete its preparations for national defence.

7. Under agenda item 25 the Committee had discussed the great present-day economic problems of the world, particularly the repercussions of wide swings in commodity prices on the balance of payments, the dollar

shortage, etc. Those difficulties should not, however, be allowed to obscure the continuous progress in production and productivity. It was undoubtedly in food and agriculture that the situation was least satisfactory: the gap between population increase and food supplies raised a really serious problem, the solution of which was of vital importance, not only to countries in course of development but also to countries such as the United Kingdom, which depended so largely on food imports. For those reasons the United Kingdom delegation approved of the initiative of the representative of Ecuador in submitting a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.194) concerning increased food production; it would vote in favour of that resolution.

8. Mr. ELAHI (Pakistan) recalled that at its sixth session the General Assembly had made a careful study of the world food situation and had adopted resolution 525 (VI) on the subject of food and famine and resolution 522 (VI) on methods to increase world productivity. The Economic and Social Council and the FAO had also examined questions that were directly connected with world food production. At the present session the General Assembly had rightly resumed its study of a question that was of the greatest importance to numbers of countries where food production was failing to keep pace with the increase in population. He approved of the Ecuadorean draft resolution, which laid emphasis on the need for co-ordinated action. He proposed, however, that the words "its annual report" in the second operative paragraph should be amended to read "its annual reports", so that the Economic and Social Council could report to the General Assembly every year on the world food situation.

9. While he did not wish to deal at length with the need to increase world food production, he pointed out that it could not be argued that the implementation of programmes of economic development in the under-developed countries was the cause of the decrease of agricultural production in many countries. The countries of Southeast Asia that were participating in the Colombo Plan had placed emphasis on agricultural development and the increase of food production. The capital invested in industrial production contributed in many cases to the execution of programmes that would ultimately increase agricultural production. For example, besides supplying electricity for towns and country districts hydro-electric schemes made it possible to develop vast areas of uncultivated land and provided the steady supply of water essential to a stable agricultural economy.

10. The execution of such programmes would bring about a substantial improvement in the food situation of numerous countries whose need for food imports would be substantially reduced; some might even have surplus produce to export. It must be borne in mind, however, that agricultural production was always subject to violent fluctuations and that action on an international scale would be necessary to remedy the most serious difficulties.

11. The Pakistani Government had given absolute priority to the increasing of agricultural production and, with the help of FAO, was taking a number of steps to facilitate agricultural development. Unfortunately the drought in West Pakistan had resulted in a shortage of wheat and Pakistan had been forced to buy

grain abroad with currency that would have been very useful for the implementation of development programmes.

12. It was essential, therefore, that the United Nations and the specialized agencies should give constant attention to the problem of increased food production. Co-ordination was of capital importance.

13. With regard to the questions mentioned in chapter II of the report of the Economic and Social Council, he drew attention to the statements he had made during the general debate (203rd meeting) and the discussion of the various draft resolutions that had been before the Committee. He would like to emphasize that, as had become clear during the examination of the Argentine draft resolution (A/C.2/L.162/Rev.2), the raw-material producing countries were apprehensive about the future of their export trade, commodity prices, the terms of trade and the possibility of carrying out their development plans, however modest. The Committee had adopted a draft resolution on that subject, but he was afraid that that would not solve the problem and he hoped that the developed countries, in a spirit of understanding, would bear in mind the concern of the raw-materials producing countries. In that way trade relations between the under-developed and the industrial countries could be considerably improved.

14. On a point of order, Mr. GINOSSAR (Israel) moved that the Committee should vote on the draft resolution of Ecuador (A/C.2/L.194) without awaiting the conclusion of the general debate on chapter II of the Economic and Social Council report.

*After a brief exchange of views it was so decided.*

15. Mr. ROGERS (Australia) said that the draft resolution was acceptable to his delegation, but he suggested that sub-paragraph (a) of the fourth paragraph of the preamble should be amended to read: "(a) that such measures call for co-ordinated joint and effective international action by the FAO and all other international bodies . . .". While all the specialized agencies and international organizations had a contribution to make, possible action by the FAO should receive prominence. He hoped that the sponsor of the draft would have no objection to amending the text in that way.

16. Mr. TOUS (Ecuador) appreciated the support that his draft resolution had received from the United Kingdom and Pakistani representatives. He realized that an increase in food production was a matter of concern to all the existing international organizations. There were many related problems in the spheres of labour, finance and public health which ILO, the International Bank or WHO could help to solve; but the main responsibility fell on FAO, which was primarily concerned with the problem of food production.

17. He therefore accepted without reservation the Australian representative's oral amendment. He also stated that he was submitting a revised draft, based on the relevant discussion, as document A/C.2/L.194/Rev.1.

18. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed his delegation's interest in the problem of increasing food production, a problem which had to be solved if the world's population were to enjoy adequate living conditions. The USSR delega-

tion was always prepared to support practical measures designed to attain that end. He did not, however, agree with the neo-Malthusian agreements of the representatives of India and Indonesia who ascribed the food shortage to over-population. The shortage was actually attributable to capitalist ideas of economics and the remedy was to take specific action, such as land reform, and to apply to agricultural production the modern methods which had proved their merit in socialist countries. His delegation was therefore unable to support either the second paragraph of the preamble or the first operative paragraph of the revised draft submitted by Ecuador.

19. Mr. TOUS (Ecuador) regretted that the USSR representative saw fit to interpret the second paragraph of the preamble of the draft resolution as an argument in favour of neo-Malthusian concepts. The draft did not argue in favour of any particular economic system but stated a fact. The problem of insufficient food production existed everywhere; if socialist countries did not suffer from that problem he was delighted to hear it. While it was understandable that the USSR representative should wish to explain his vote, Mr. Tous did not believe that he had correctly interpreted the second paragraph of the preamble of his draft resolution.

20. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) replied that his delegation did not intend to reject the draft resolution as a whole or to minimize its importance.

21. The wording of sub-paragraph (b) of the third paragraph of the preamble might give rise to misinterpretation; perhaps the sponsor had lost sight of the original purpose of his draft resolution, which was to relieve the food shortages, particularly in the under-developed countries. It would be dangerous to adopt an ambiguous formulation in haste. The food producing countries in fact included not only under-developed countries but also industrialized countries, whose economic development stood in no need of promotion.

22. Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. BIRECKI (Poland) supported the USSR representative's statement that there was an unfortunate ambiguity in sub-paragraph (b) of the third considerandum.

23. Mr. TOUS (Ecuador) said the purpose of the provisions of that sub-paragraph was to provide assistance for the countries that were most affected by food shortages, quite apart from the concern with economic development. He therefore proposed in lieu of the words "particularly in the above countries", the words "particularly in the countries most immediately threatened by food shortage".

24. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the Ecuadorean representative's intention was not expressed by the text, which was too vague. The addition proposed by the Ecuadorean representative would not alter the fact that as it stood that sub-paragraph (b) was designed to encourage food producing countries, which were not necessarily under-developed countries.

25. In support of that observation Mr. KRIVEN (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) pointed out that the economically more advanced countries were generally the food producers and that the under-developed

countries were usually single-crop countries subject to food shortages.

26. Mr. UMARI (Iraq) and Mr. BURR (Chile) felt that the difficulty might be overcome by deleting the words "particularly in the above countries" at the end of sub-paragraph (b).

27. As Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) did not find that proposal entirely acceptable, Mr. GINOSSAR (Israel) suggested that the words "producing countries" might be replaced by the words "under-developed producing countries".

28. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) thought it would suffice to replace the words "producing countries" by the words "under-developed countries".

29. Mr. DOMINGUEZ COMPANY (Cuba) pointed out that if that sub-paragraph (b) was amended as the representative of Ecuador had just proposed, there would be an undesirable repetition of the words "food shortages". In his opinion it would suffice to refer simply to "particularly in the countries most immediately threatened".

30. Mr. TOUS (Ecuador) accepted the wording suggested by the representatives of the Philippines and Cuba.

31. Mr. WEINTRAUB (Secretariat) read sub-paragraph (b) of the third considerandum in its final form:

"That it is necessary to devise effective measures for increasing the aggregate production of foodstuffs with a view to fostering the economic development of the under-developed countries and relieving the hardships caused by food shortages, particularly in the countries most immediately threatened".

32. He then read sub-paragraph (a) of the fourth considerandum as amended by the Australian representative:

"That such measures call for co-ordinated joint and effective international action by the FAO and all other international bodies capable of helping to increase agricultural production, particularly of foodstuffs".

33. Mr. SASTROAMIDJOJO (Indonesia) proposed the insertion, at the end of the first operative paragraph, of the phrase: "particularly in the countries most immediately threatened by food shortage", so that the paragraph would harmonize with the ideas expressed in the third considerandum.

34. Mr. TOUS (Ecuador) accepted that oral amendment and stated he also accepted the change suggested by the representative of Pakistan in the second operative paragraph to mention the annual reports in the plural, i.e., "in its annual reports".

35. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution of Ecuador (A/C.2/L.194/Rev.1), as amended.

36. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested a vote paragraph by paragraph.

*The first paragraph was adopted by 36 votes to none, with no abstentions.*

*The second paragraph was adopted by 31 votes to 5, with no abstentions.*

*Sub-paragraph (a) of the third paragraph was adopted by 36 votes to none, with no abstentions.*

*Sub-paragraph (b) of the third paragraph, as amended, was adopted by 36 votes to none, with no abstentions.*

*Sub-paragraph (a) of the fourth paragraph, as amended, was adopted by 31 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

*Sub-paragraph (b) of the fourth paragraph was adopted by 31 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

*The first operative paragraph, as amended, was adopted by 31 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

*The second operative paragraph, as amended, was adopted by 36 votes to none, with no abstentions.*

*The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 31 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.