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Chairman: Mr. Leo MATES (Yugoslavia).

Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for the economic development of under-developed countries: report of the Economic and Social Council (A/2430, A/2447 and Corr.1) (*continued*)

[Item 27]*

Technical assistance in public administration (A/2430, A/2447 and Corr.1) (*continued*)

[Item 61]*

1. U MAUNG MAUNG (Burma) said that the progress of the expanded programme during the three years of its existence had been remarkable. He regretted that the resources available for 1953 were not commensurate with the requests for assistance received by the specialized agencies. Only \$25 million was available for 1953, as against the \$43 million which it was estimated would have been required to meet all the requests submitted by the various governments. The scope of the expanded programme was thus pitifully small in relation to the needs of the under-developed countries. Whatever its scale, however, the programme had the great merit of being an international co-operative venture. It had demonstrated the importance of mutual aid and had shown, in an age of insecurity and scepticism, that among experts and technicians of all nationalities there was no lack of a creative and practical idealism to help their fellows in less fortunately situated parts of the world.

2. The gap between the highly developed and the under-developed countries was widening instead of closing. On the other hand, the peoples of the under-developed areas were becoming increasingly aware of their needs and requirements. So long as that state of affairs continued, there was danger of grave crises and there could be no hope of peace and harmony. The expanded programme had not only made possible remarkable results in the technical field, but, because it was based upon mutual help, international co-operation and goodwill, it had also helped to eliminate discontent and resentment. Thus Burma, like all the other nations represented in the Second Committee, was convinced that continued expansion of the programme was necessary.

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

3. The achievements under the expanded programme in Burma had been fully described in the fourth and fifth reports of TAB to TAC. He was happy to state that the programme had helped to expedite the implementation of various development schemes launched by his country. Burma had supported the expanded programme from the beginning, and its confidence in the work undertaken had steadily increased. The improvement in its economic situation had enabled it to increase its 1953 contribution by 50 per cent over that of previous years. It had not been able to do more because it was a newly independent country which had been ravaged by war and by insurrections and, in addition, had only recently been the victim of aggression. It had also to carry out its development schemes and to bear the local costs of technical assistance projects.

4. Burma was grateful for the various forms of assistance it had received and paid tribute to the spirit of co-operation shown by the more fortunate friendly countries.

5. The situation described by the Executive Chairman of TAB was alarming. Various projects, some of which concerned Burma, would have to be cancelled or postponed. The Economic and Social Council had set a target of only \$25 million for 1953 contributions and that figure had been approved by the General Assembly. However, despite the fact that financial aid had been pledged by more countries than before, the target of \$25 million had not been attained, and only the use of the residual funds from previous years had made it possible to carry on the programme. The delegation of Burma believed that the continuity of the programme must be assured, and therefore hoped that governments would, to the extent that their constitutional procedures enabled them to do so, be able to devise forms of assurance that would make it possible to plan the programme for several years ahead. It appeared from the statements made by the representatives of various countries that all nations, both large and small, were ready to make their contribution and to participate actively in the expanded programme. In that connexion, the delegation of Burma welcomed the decision of the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia to contribute to the programme for the first time.

6. His Government would support any measures that would further the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and ensure its continuance.

7. Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) thanked the Executive Chairman of TAB for his clear and detailed report on the work accomplished by the United Nations in the field of technical assistance. That work afforded the most striking demonstration of what international co-operation could achieve. Available funds were small in relation to needs and requests for assistance increased while the budget remained virtually unchanged. The most difficult task would therefore be to find ways of increasing financial contributions. In any event, it was

gratifying that it had been possible to accomplish so much with such limited resources.

8. The uncertainty concerning the amount of future contributions imperilled the future of the expanded programme at a time when the under-developed countries were despairing of the establishment of a system of balanced and equitable international trade. The under-developed countries, and in particular the mining countries, suffered severely from the periodic and occasionally very sharp fluctuations in the prices of their primary products. The position, which had been difficult the previous year, was growing steadily worse, while efforts to find a lasting solution were continually being postponed. In that situation, the technical assistance programme was an important demonstration of solidarity and practical idealism on the part of the United Nations.

9. It was the duty of the countries benefiting from United Nations technical assistance to state frankly what that assistance meant to them, because they alone were able properly to evaluate its advantages. Bolivia, for its part, had nothing but praise for the programme that had been carried out in its territory and for the competence of the experts co-operating in the programme. Twenty experts of eleven different nationalities were providing assistance in public administration, the development of the oil industry, agricultural meteorology, finance and the development of mineral resources. Six other experts were expected shortly and would co-operate in the national economic development plan, in particular in a study of new sources of production. Such a study was urgently necessary in order to protect Bolivia from the disastrous consequences of the fall in the price of tin on the world market and of the inequitable treatment imposed upon Bolivia with regard to the sale of that metal, the production of which was a basic element of its economy.

10. The Government and people of Bolivia wished to express their gratitude to all the technical assistance experts and in particular to Mr. Tuddo, who had assisted in preparing a draft decree establishing family allowances and was at present studying the possibility of introducing a social insurance system; Mr. Roch, who had actively participated in studies relating to the building of low cost dwellings; Mr. Demoulin, who was preparing instructional programmes for improving the training of workers in the mines and oil fields; Mr. Carman, who had developed a new method of calculating production costs and had taught that method to a Bolivian technician specially designated for the purpose by the Government; Mr. Carnielsen, who had successfully undertaken experimental work with a view to the establishment of a tin smelting works and Mr. Bennette, who had surveyed the many potential sites for hydro-electric plants in Bolivia.

11. The Bolivian Government had also attacked the complex and difficult problems of land reform. It proposed to introduce a large-scale land reform scheme which would cost about ten million dollars and would derive great benefit from the help of technical assistance experts. A Mexican expert, Mr. Flores, had already assisted a Bolivian commission which had considered the legislation required and had drafted the decrees already in force.

12. On 11 August 1953 the Bolivian Government had given its agreement to the carrying-out of a broad regional programme under the auspices of ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and the United Nations Technical

Assistance Administration, designed to integrate the indigenous populations of the Altiplano into the economic and social life of Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia while respecting their special characteristics.

13. He wished to pay a tribute to Professor Carter Goodrich who for more than a year had acted as resident representative in Bolivia. Professor Goodrich's departure would deprive the Bolivian Government of the services of a highly esteemed collaborator. The Bolivian delegation was pleased, however, that the next resident representative in Bolivia would be Mr. Sune Carlson, of whom the representative of Israel had spoken highly at the 250th meeting of the Committee.

14. The Bolivian delegation reserved the right to take up the various matters dealt with in the joint draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.2/L.197) when that draft came up for discussion.

15. Mr. RUYGERS (Netherlands) stated that the principles of the United Nations Charter had found their most concrete expression and application in the work of technical assistance, in all its forms. Technical assistance was based not on the narrow principles of national egotism but on international solidarity. By helping to relax international tension it contributed towards the maintenance of peace and security. In three short years TAA had accomplished fruitful results, for which the Executive Chairman of TAB, the Director-General of TAA and the Chairman of TAC were to be congratulated.

16. The financial situation, however, gave ground for anxiety and there was some doubt whether the amounts pledged, which had been regarded as the minimum, would actually be made available. The Netherlands Government had viewed that situation with real concern and had, therefore, despite the heavy financial burden caused by their decision to forgo further American help and the recent floods, decided to increase its contribution to technical assistance funds by 50 per cent, from the equivalent of \$400,000 to \$600,000.

17. He drew the Committee's attention to the difficulties arising from the fact that contributions to the fund became known only from year to year. That procedure had serious drawbacks. His delegation therefore supported Economic and Social Council resolution 492 C. II (XVI) urging that, in order to permit the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance to progress, governments contribute for the year 1954 so as to meet to the maximum extent possible the programme needs for 1954, and in any case so that the funds available should be no less than the amount earmarked by the Technical Assistance Board for the approved 1953 programme. If all countries without exception would heed that appeal of the Economic and Social Council the future might be faced with greater optimism. However, that left unsolved the important question of continuity and long-term planning. In that connexion it would be useful, as the Council had suggested, to have an assured financial support for a period longer than a year. For that reason the Netherlands delegation appealed to the participating States to examine seriously all possible ways, within their constitutional limitations, of providing long-term financial support for the programme. He congratulated the Indonesian Government as the first to take a step in that direction. TAB could perhaps examine the possibility of developing certain proposals from the viewpoint of the United Nations to facilitate financing the programme over a period of several years.

The Netherlands Government was prepared to offer its full co-operation in that effort provided other countries were also prepared to do so.

18. In view of the limited means available it was imperative to practise economy and efficiency in the management of funds. He agreed with those delegations that had urged a reduction of administrative costs and the establishment of priorities among the various programmes. Centralization and the co-ordination on the agency level should be stressed. On the other hand, on the geographical level the emphasis should be on decentralization and country planning. In that way the receiving country could benefit to the fullest extent within the framework of its own development programme. He drew attention to the important role of the resident representatives, who had not always had the opportunity to exercise their co-ordinating functions to the fullest extent.

19. Referring to the French representative's suggestion that governments might be more directly associated in the execution of the programme, possibly through some advisory body, he stated that his delegation was always prepared to support any measure that might contribute to the successful operation of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. Nevertheless his delegation had not yet formed a definite opinion on that question. The solution was hardly to be found in a body of very restrictive membership. On the other hand, a body of wider membership might become involved in political considerations, which would be far from the stimulating factor hoped for. Accordingly he hoped that the French representative's proposal would be examined carefully. He pointed out that participating governments which were not Members of the United Nations did at present have some opportunity of presenting their views in the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies.

20. With reference to the subject of technical assistance in public administration, he recalled that, in the past, his delegation had repeatedly stressed the importance of the question of public administration in relation to the economic development and social welfare of countries in the process of development. The Institute of Social Studies at The Hague had a special department of public administration. The views held by the Netherlands authorities in that field coincided entirely with those expressed in the draft resolution before the Committee.

21. His delegation attached great importance to technical assistance in the field of social welfare. It was common knowledge that economic and social problems were closely related both in the under-developed countries and in the industrial countries. Increasing attention should therefore be devoted to social problems, which should not be neglected in the technical assistance programmes, despite the limited means available to TAA. The Netherlands Government would continue to give its fullest support to the work of technical assistance. He hoped that the governments of the great Powers, which were in a position to alter the course of history, would act in the best interests of world peace.

22. The CHAIRMAN called upon the representative of the World Health Organization.

23. Dr. DOROLLE (World Health Organization) said that the Director-General of WHO, who had been following the Committee's recent debates with keen interest, had asked him to thank the various delegations for their interest in the part played by the specialized

agencies in the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and for the expression of their satisfaction with the work of those agencies.

24. The expanded programme was essentially a programme for economic development. Its purpose was to put an end to inequality among the peoples of the world, some of whom prospered while others lived in want. In the great work of technical assistance in the economic sphere each had a part, as was stressed by Economic and Social resolution 222 (IX) which called for a concerted effort by all the specialized agencies.

25. The primary task was, of course, to help the governments of under-developed countries to improve their agriculture or achieve industrialization. It should not be forgotten, however, that man—the farm worker, the factory worker—was the principal agent of the desired economic and social progress and that nothing could be accomplished so long as the peoples of the under-developed countries, and their productive capacity, were a prey to debilitating diseases that affected the mass of the population. In other words, economic development was possible only in a healthy society and, conversely, a people's health inevitably reflected its economic and social conditions. There was an absolute inter-dependence, of which WHO, whose task it was to improve the health of the peoples, was deeply aware.

26. WHO had already had occasion in the Second Committee and in other organs of the United Nations to show its awareness of its great responsibility; he wished only to repeat that it would adhere to the instructions that it received from its governing bodies and would perform its duty faithfully.

27. Mr. UMARI (Iraq) stated that the idea of technical assistance administered under the auspices of the United Nations had engendered in many minds the hope of world-wide economic co-operation. It was a challenge to those who believed that mankind was more prone to devote lavish funds to its own destruction than to constructive effort to improve its lot. The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was only a modest experiment but it had already proved its effectiveness and had shown what the economic future of the world might be. Economic prosperity was not a fixed, inelastic quantity; economically-advanced countries were bound to benefit from the increased prosperity of the less-developed parts of the world, since that prosperity would open new markets and stimulate export industries. The importance of a truly expanded programme of technical assistance for the prosperity of the world could readily be appreciated.

28. He shared the opinion of the Executive Chairman of TAB and the Director-General of TAA that it would be deplorable if the work of the machinery so laboriously developed by the United Nations together with the specialized agencies had to be stopped or impeded. It was true that the Expanded Programme, since its inception, had had to face the difficulty of precarious financial resources; everything possible should be done to remedy that situation. Thus his delegation would welcome any measure that would permit better use of the funds available for technical assistance. It was particularly glad to observe the desire to reduce the programme's administrative costs and it noted the constructive policy calling for uniform contributions by governments to the living costs of technical assistance experts.

29. Resident representatives served an extremely useful purpose in technical assistance by examining the

development programmes in consultation with the competent national officials to enable the technical assistance to be integrated with the national programmes. The Iraq Government and TAB were putting the finishing touches to an agreement appointing a resident representative for technical assistance in Bagdad. The Iraq Government hoped that the resident representative would be able to improve co-ordination between the technical assistance provided by the United Nations and the activities of the Iraq Development Board.

30. His delegation shared the French representative's concern regarding the organizational problems of technical assistance and thought that the French representative's proposals should be considered in detail. He also considered that the General Assembly should arrange for the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to review the administrative procedure of TAB and the participating organizations and their administrative expenditure financed from the Special Account.

31. He expressed satisfaction at the general trend of activities of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and cited several programmes carried out in Iraq, in particular the BCG vaccination campaign, school-feeding and milk conservation programmes carried out by WHO, UNICEF and FAO. Experts of the specialized agencies had helped to carry out land reform in the Dujaila region. The co-ordination of programmes was important; economic development was not an end in itself; industrialization should go hand in hand with the development of social welfare and public services.

32. He did not propose to examine in detail the programmes of the various participating agencies but wished to comment on the work of the Technical Assistance Administration. TAA had supplied few experts to Iraq and had made available a small number of fellowships. In that connexion he agreed with the Indonesian representative that the needs of the countries concerned should be taken into consideration in awarding scholarships and fellowships. He trusted that TAA would review the method of awarding scholarships and fellowships with a view to removing the disparity in the numbers awarded to various countries.

33. Technical assistance in public administration was particularly useful to many under-developed countries. He had listened with interest to the statement of the Director-General of TAA regarding that aspect of United Nations technical assistance but pointed out that before setting up a public administration institute for Turkey and the Middle East, TAA should have consulted Member States in the area concerned so as to obtain not only the views of the governments of the countries of the region, but also the views of governmental and non-governmental institutions which might have been able to contribute to the discussion of the problem. TAA had failed to consult the majority of the governments of Member States of the Middle Eastern region. The American University at Beirut, an outstanding centre of higher education in the Middle East, with a special department of public administration, had not been consulted either. As a result, the public administration institute set up in Turkey was failing to attract interest outside that country. Similarly, when it had been proposed to hold a seminar on administrative problems connected with economic development in the Middle East, his and other delegations had informed the TAA officials concerned that for political and economic reasons such a seminar would not receive the

co-operation of the Arab States. In spite of those recommendations the seminar had met without the participation of the Arab States. He hoped that that experience had finally persuaded TAA that the maximum results could not be obtained if the prevailing political climate were not taken into account. Recent events had shown that TAA had taken extremely realistic steps to extend technical assistance at the regional level. A group of experts on training community workers had been organized at Beirut by TAA in conjunction with the Department of Social Affairs. The initiative had been enthusiastically welcomed by the Middle Eastern countries and he hoped that TAA and the Department of Social Affairs would continue to work together in that field.

34. His delegation was a co-sponsor of the draft resolution on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for the economic development of under-developed countries (A/C.2/L.197). The draft followed the lines of the draft resolution proposed by the Economic and Social Council. He drew the Committee's attention to the second operative paragraph which noted that some governments had not fulfilled their pledges with respect to previous financial periods; it was most important that all governments should make their pledged contributions available promptly since the amount of the largest contribution was dependent on the total contributed to the Special Account.

35. His Government had increased its contribution to the Special Account. The request for the necessary appropriation was being considered by Parliament and would undoubtedly be approved.

36. Mr. BLUSZTAJN (Poland) said that his Government had always viewed with sympathy the efforts made by the various countries to promote their economic and social development. United Nations action in that field must be designed to strengthen the political independence of the under-developed countries. The United Nations could help to create the conditions necessary for the attainment of that end. Poland had indicated its position during its term of membership in the Economic and Social Council. It had supported resolutions dealing with matters of primary importance to the under-developed countries, such as land reform, economic development and trade agreements, and the allocation of funds for United Nations technical assistance. At the sixteenth session, the Polish Government had announced that it would contribute to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

37. It was the task of the Second Committee to study United Nations technical assistance activities and to formulate conclusions for the guidance of TAB. The expanded programme had reached a new stage in its development. The participation of the USSR emphasized the universality of the programme. The participation of the USSR also enabled the programme to benefit from its great experience in the field of technical progress and technical assistance which that country was providing to a number of other countries, including Poland. After an initial period of operations, the programme had reached a stage where it was essential to study the way in which the available funds were being used, TAB's working methods, and the general organization and financial administration of the programme. The funds available were limited and activities should be organized to ensure that the largest part of those funds were used for technical assistance proper. Administrative expenses had been reduced, but were still a large item in the budget. When an

organization was being established, administrative services invariably tended to expand and later it was difficult to reduce them. His delegation considered that the strictest economy was necessary in that respect. The so-called indirect operational costs constituted an important expenditure. It was suggested that those costs be allocated on a pro-rata basis to the different projects. The suggestion did not seem to be a good one, as such a distribution would conceal the real level of administrative costs and divert attention from the need for economy in that field. The maintenance of resident representatives in the various countries was very expensive and a burden on the budget of the programme. His delegation was certain that economies could be made in that direction also so that TAA could increase the number of experts, secure the services of more highly qualified technicians, provide more scholarships and fellowships and furnish more supplies. Some of the co-ordination functions of representatives could be carried out by the local authorities. The question of co-ordination was, of course, highly important, but representatives should not interfere in the domestic affairs of the countries concerned. It should not be forgotten that the expanded programme was intended to assist countries to develop their economies and also to strengthen their economic and political independence. Lastly, technical assistance operations would be greatly facilitated if there were integrated economic development plans in the countries receiving such assistance. It would be possible to achieve greater concentration of effort and to employ funds more usefully on projects of primary importance. In view of the limited funds available for the expanded programme concentration of effort was essential. Programmes should be primarily concerned with industrialization, agriculture, transport and communications, and health. It would be useful if TAB prepared its assistance plans on a country basis; it would perhaps be necessary to change the present system of percentage allocations to the various participating organizations. Great importance should be attached to the quality of services furnished under technical assistance programmes. In view of the present budgetary limitations, it was necessary to aim at quality, not quantity. It was essential that experts should be well-qualified and familiar with conditions in the countries to which they were sent. The training of nationals of the countries concerned to take the places of the experts should also be undertaken.

38. He wished to draw attention to the present tendency to associate United Nations programmes with other programmes of an allegedly similar nature on the pretext of achieving better co-ordination. That tendency was detrimental to the proper operation of the expanded programme, as some programmes had nothing in common with the aims and purposes of the United Nations and were intended solely to serve the interests of certain countries. The United Nations technical assistance programmes could succeed only if they retained their independence. Technical assistance must be an integral part of United Nations activities for the economic development of the under-developed countries. In accordance with the principles on which the United Nations was founded, its activities must serve the interests of the under-developed countries by helping them to raise their standards of living with a view to strengthen their political and economic independence. In pursuing those aims, the United Nations could count on the full support of the Polish Government.

39. Mr. DE SEYNES (France) wished, in response to the requests of various representatives, to explain certain statements he had made in his first speech (249th meeting).

40. A number of delegations had said that they agreed that it would be useful to associate an inter-governmental organ more directly in the preparation of annual programmes than had been the case in the past. Other delegations while not directly taking a stand on that point, had expressed misgivings regarding the present orientation of the programme and the allocation of funds to the various categories of projects. Generally speaking, those misgivings had been expressed by delegations representing countries which were essentially or principally beneficiary countries, and whose opinion was therefore based not on theory, but on their experience during the past three years.

41. The present orientation of the programme and the allocation of funds were matters of concern to the French Government and had led it to consider whether there was any possibility of a change in the orientation of the programme and the allocation of funds given the existing structure and the habits developed. The debate which had just taken place had encouraged the French delegation to pursue its study of the matter with a view to submitting specific proposals at a later stage. Any reform that resulted from that study could not be applied before the 1955 programme. The French Government did not intend to submit a plan for reorganization immediately. It would support the draft resolution before the Committee including the paragraphs relating to the provisional financial arrangements for 1954.

42. He wished, however, to point out rather more explicitly how the problem had presented itself to his Government. Two principles had stood forth with progressive clarity from the efforts made to ensure that the available funds were utilized to the maximum effect. The first, which appeared to be universally accepted, was that governments should themselves on a national scale decide on programmes which would fit into their own plans of economic development; the second, perhaps less generally recognized, was that programmes of technical assistance should be essentially directed towards projects directly connected with the development of the particular resources of each country. It was very possible that the two aims might at times conflict, since programmes decided nationally in a country could be heavily weighted in favour of activities not necessarily the most closely linked to the development of its own resources. That was a difficulty that could not be ignored and which might call for difficult decisions. Posed in these terms, the problem did not exclude solution. It became absolutely insoluble, however, if the programmes had to satisfy yet a third condition: that they should fit into a previously-fixed allocation of available funds between different types of activities. Precisely that third condition had been laid down when the system of automatic allocations to participating organizations had been started. The difficulty lay principally in the fact that the percentages according to which funds were allotted automatically to different organizations had been settled before there was any previous experience and did not in any way represent a practical allocation consonant with programmes settled with a perfectly free hand by governments themselves: there was therefore inevitably something fortuitous and arbitrary in them.

43. It had been difficult to avoid such a state of affairs in the beginning because there had been information about the needs of governments, their resources in experts and other services, and the possibilities of carrying out the programme; it was further necessary to take account of the legitimate desire of participating organizations to know in advance approximately the sum which they would have at their disposal so that they could adjust their administrative structures to their new tasks and fix their plans accordingly.

44. None of those arguments was valid any longer; after three years of experience sufficient knowledge of the needs of governments and the resources of the programme was available. The argument that organizations must know in advance the total sum which would be at their disposal was still valid but no longer necessarily implied a system of automatic allocations. Since almost half the requests considered valid could not immediately be satisfied, and since all governments thereupon set to work to list their needs and consequently the list of their requests for technical assistance, it then became possible to plan annual programmes on more rational lines and settle them several months before the beginning of the financial year. It was therefore possible to make an effort, without creating the slightest difficulty in execution, to correct and improve the initial methods of distributing funds which had been adopted perforce for want of better ones.

45. The French Government considered that the system of automatic allocations should be completely abandoned. That system limited the freedom of governments to settle integrated programmes, and the power of executive and supervisory authorities to satisfy themselves that the funds were utilized in conformity with aims which experience had proved sound. Neither the appointment of an Executive Chairman of TAB nor the development and perfecting of the system of resident representatives, the value of which seemed also to be confirmed by experience, could bear fruit as long as the system of automatic allocations continued.

46. If, as the French delegation hoped, an agreement could be reached on that first conclusion, it would remain to be seen if there were any possibility of finding a more rational method of drawing up annual programmes within the framework of the existing structures and of the habits acquired in the last three years. On that point the French Government could not help being doubtful. It feared that the present system, which entrusted the responsibility for drawing up programmes to TAB, under the rather vague and ill-defined control of TAC, was more or less inextricably bound up with the system of automatic allocations. The experience of TAB in that respect was significant: during a certain period when the total of automatic allocations had only supplied 50 per cent of the funds available it had been found that the fraction which was at the discretion of TAB had had a tendency to be allocated in proportions close to the percentages provided by the automatic allocations; it would seem that TAB had not succeeded in ridding itself of those percentages, so that a semi-automatic distribution established along analogous lines had been added to the automatic distribution of the funds. There was considerable fear lest those percentages might not be considered by the participating organizations as a sort of prescriptive charge in their favour on the whole available funds, from which it might be extremely difficult to diverge at all by mutual agreement. That implied

a rigidity ill befitting the needs of a changing reality to which all programmes should be adapted.

47. Doubtless some people might hope that TAC and the Economic and Social Council might succeed in overcoming that sort of paralysis which seemed to be inherent in the collegiate system of operating TAB. But neither texts nor experience gave any definite guidance in that direction. On rereading paragraph 6 (b) of resolution 222 (IX) it seemed that the role of TAC had been conceived of as that of an organ whose duty it was to formulate general directives and principles of action rather than as an executive council charged with drawing up and settling programmes. On the other hand, in practice, TAC had never carried out a critical preliminary examination of a programme. It was necessary then to seek a solution for the present difficulties in a modification of the structure either of the executive authority or of the inter-governmental authority empowered to direct and control it.

48. His Government was definitely attached to the collegiate principle which governed the work of TAB. The active participation of the specialized agencies and of TAA seemed to him necessary to the success of the programme in view of the aggregate experience and skill which it brought to bear on the programme. He looked to a modification of the inter-governmental body charged with directing and supervising TAB for the means of surmounting the difficulties inherent in the collegiate principle under which TAB operated.

49. Many solutions could be suggested, and the French Government had not made its choice from a number of possibilities. He wanted the annual technical assistance programmes to be fixed in collaboration with an inter-governmental agency, which alone, so it seemed to him, would be able to settle the problems which TAB seemed to be prevented by its own constitution from solving.

50. For instance, an executive board broadly similar to that which controlled UNICEF might be set up, principally to approve annual programmes in advance and assign the funds to the various projects studied and prepared beforehand by TAB. Again, a plan like the one adopted for the programmes of assistance for Palestine and Korean refugees might be considered: an advisory committee with limited powers working alongside TAB but continuously enough to influence its views decisively.

51. Still other solutions were possible: for example, reinforcement of TAB by a certain number of governmental representatives entitled to vote in discussions on programmes. The French delegation was ready to study any other suggestion aimed at making the programme sufficiently flexible and allowing the Commission to get rid of the rigid system of automatic allocations.

52. Perhaps it would be enough to make a simple change in TAC's terms of reference so as to give it express power to approve annual programmes. The Government of France was also inspired by the anxiety to associate in the management of the programmes all governments which contributed or benefited from them, including those which for reasons beyond their own control were not part of the United Nations and consequently had no chance of making their voices heard in TAC. The French Government thought that it was possible to ensure governmental representation in a manner better adapted to the needs of the techni-

cal assistance programme and that the criteria which should determine governmental representation in the administration of the programme were not necessarily those which had determined the composition of the Economic and Social Council.

53. To conclude, he hoped that his speech would not leave the false impression that the French Government had an unfavourable opinion of the programme as it was at present administered or of the bodies and persons who assumed the management and supervision of it. The French Government was simply aiming at progress, always possible in an undertaking of that sort and it thought that the present

period, marked as it was by difficulties and uncertainties in finances, was better than any other for a re-examination of the existing machinery. The French Government would continue to support the technical assistance programme, even if its concepts did not prevail, for the programme, whatever might be its present imperfections, had withstood the test. The French delegation thought, however, that it had good reason to believe that many delegations were desirous, like itself, of exploring any avenues which could open more brilliant prospects still to the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.