



## CONTENTS

	Page
Economic development of under-developed countries: (c) Land reform: report of the Secretary-General (A/2194 and Add.1, A/C.2/L.158/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.160/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.186 and A/C.2/L.187) (continued) .....	239

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

**Economic development of under-developed countries: (c) Land reform: report of the Secretary-General (A/2194 and Add.1, A/C.2/L.158/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.160/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.186 and A/C.2/L.187) (continued)**

[Item 25 (c)]\*

1. Mr. DE SEYNES (France) wished to reply to certain allegations about French policy in North Africa. He thanked the Egyptian representative for the assurances given at the end of the 227th meeting that neither the people nor the governments of Arab countries had any hatred towards France, that feeling being contrary to the tenets of Islam. In view of certain statements and attitudes, the Egyptian representative's assurances had been much needed.

2. He felt bound to make some distinctions between the statements made concerning North Africa. The representatives of Egypt and Pakistan had confined themselves to expressing a hope with regard to the political and constitutional status of Tunisia and Morocco. He was naturally unable to follow them on to that ground; such problems were even less a matter for the Second Committee than for the First. Other representatives, however, had assumed the role of public prosecutors and had drawn up veritable indictments against France. Their arguments had been based on documentation which it was surprising to see used in the Second Committee, a body which had been trained in economic laws and was accustomed to a critical analysis of sources.

3. The turn taken by the debate could be ascribed to the Iraqi representative, who had maintained on two occasions (226th and 227th meetings) that Mr. Dulin had painted too favourable a picture of the situation in North Africa, although Mr. Dulin had merely remarked at the 224th meeting that France, while fully aware of the task which remained to be done, wished to share the results of its experience with others. His speech even

contained passages of self-criticism that were never to be found in those of others.

4. He regretted that the Saudi Arabian representative had followed the Iraqi representative's lead, and had sought in Mr. Belkhodja's statement (226th meeting) implications which were not there. According to the Saudi Arabian representative, Mr. Belkhodja had insinuated that religious institutions impeded economic development in North African countries. In fact, Mr. Belkhodja had said the very opposite, and had drawn attention to the problems, recognized by the Egyptian representative himself, caused by the *habous*, an institution which the Egyptian Government had found it necessary to suppress.

5. The Saudi Arabian representative had hit on the happy expedient of providing a number of data and then comparing them with the facts cited by the French representative. The idea of "juxtaposition" was in accordance with the theory always maintained by France, namely, that in the Second Committee economic problems common to various parts of the world should be studied independently of the political status of the countries concerned. True "juxtaposition" consisted in setting the economic data one was submitting within the framework of a comparative study which should deal with countries of similar structure. The French delegation would willingly co-operate in a comparative study of the economic conditions in Morocco and in Iraq, for example.

6. He was not himself of a censorious disposition and had no desire to draw up an indictment against other countries. He regretted that some delegations had sought their information in works whose origin was sufficient indication of their nature, whereas there existed within the United Nations itself abundant documentation on which a reliable report could have been based. As those works had been used, however, some rectifications were necessary.

7. Some delegations had referred to the distribution of cultivated land in Morocco. The area of cultivated

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

land amounted to 15,170,500 hectares. The indigenous inhabitants owned 14,458,000 hectares of which 6,975,000 was land under cultivation and 7,483,000 hectares pasture and partly cultivated land. There were also 3,500,000 hectares of forests. The non-indigenous population owned 712,000 hectares. It had been said that there were forty times as many indigenous as non-indigenous farms; in fact, there were 147 times as many. It had been maintained that the indigenous inhabitants owned four times as much land as non-indigenous inhabitants, whereas in fact they owned twenty times as much.

8. Some delegations had also stated that the population of Morocco had suffered from famine. They must have referred to famines occurring before 1912, as there had been none in Morocco since then. In 1945 there had indeed been a serious shortage of foodstuffs owing to catastrophic atmospheric disturbances and to the upheaval caused by the war, but France had granted supplementary assistance to Morocco to remedy the shortage and alleviate its effects.

9. It had been said that there were decrees expropriating land for the benefit of French landowners. That assertion was utterly incorrect. It was legally impossible for the French authorities to expropriate land from the indigenous inhabitants and hand it over to the non-indigenous population. It was true that in the first years of the Protectorate plots totalling 272,000 hectares had been sold, but they had consisted for the most part of uncultivated state land. All the land acquired by the non-indigenous population had subsequently been bought in accordance with the provisions of private law.

10. The Saudi Arabian representative had maintained that France had used Marshall Plan credits to install settlers in Morocco. In fact the installation of new settlers in Morocco had practically ceased since 1930. The same representative had said that France was trying to impede Morocco's economic development. There was no need to reply to so unfounded an allegation. The Saudi Arabian representative, in particular, had made a very summary analysis of the system of trade exchange between Morocco and France. In reality, Morocco's deficit on the balance of trade, which currently amounted to 71,000 million French francs, was fully compensated by France.

11. At the preceding meeting, the completely absurd charge had been made that nine-tenths of the "tertiary" roads in Morocco and Tunisia had been built solely to serve the farms of non-indigenous settlers. It was only necessary to study the distribution of land in Morocco in order to see that a road which served a non-indigenous farm at the same time inevitably served several indigenous ones.

12. A member of the Committee had spoken of Moroccan transport firms and had mentioned three decrees presumably expropriating Moroccan property for the benefit of the French. The fact was that there had been a road transport crisis in Morocco, as everywhere else in the world, and that in order to meet it the authorities had adopted certain regulations providing for penalties against violators. But the penalties were not in any way arbitrary, since there was a court of appeals which many times had reversed a number of them.

13. In speaking of credits for housing, the Iraqi representative had stated that indigenous inhabitants re-

ceived far fewer than the non-indigenous population. That charge, if true, must apply to the past, since at present such credits were granted only to Moroccans.

14. It would be better not to prolong the discussion unduly; the charges levied against his country were so fantastic that they added nothing constructive to the debate.

15. Mr. ABDELRAZEK (Egypt), speaking on a point of order, said that by taking part in the debate the French delegation had in fact recognized that the Second Committee was competent to deal with various aspects of the question of North Africa. As it denied that the First Committee was competent to do so, a rather surprising contradiction resulted. The French delegation itself had raised the question of North Africa in the Second Committee by having a statement made by a Moslem who had attacked his own religion.

16. Mr. HALIQ (Saudi Arabia) supported the Egyptian representative's remarks, adding that so far as he was concerned the debate was closed.

17. Mr. BAKR (Iraq), on a point of order, explained that in his previous remarks he had wished to present as faithful and complete a picture as possible of the economic situation in North Africa. He had merely sought to persuade France to make every effort to remedy the situation and to raise the standard of living of the indigenous peoples of Morocco and Tunisia.

18. In connexion with the French representative's reference to conditions in Iraq, he recalled that he himself had drawn attention to the defects of his country's agrarian structure and to steps his Government had taken to remedy it. It was not for the representatives of other countries to criticize a state of affairs of which the Iraqi Government was well aware.

19. Mr. MADRIGAL (Philippines) recalled that at its sixth session the General Assembly had approved the Economic and Social Council resolution 370 (XIII), on land reform. The United Nations had thus realized the importance of such questions to the economic development of the under-developed countries.

20. Land reform should entail, not only the division and distribution of large holdings, but also, in certain cases, the regrouping of estates; in a more general way, land reform should be accompanied by measures for the development of irrigation, electrification of the country districts, agricultural credit, rural handicrafts and the use of fertilizers and agricultural machinery.

21. A recent FAO report had brought out the fact that the world food situation was serious. Agricultural programmes for increasing the production of foodstuffs were therefore urgently needed.

22. In the Philippines the electrification of country districts was being carried out by the building of large hydro-electric plants. At the same time the Philippine Government was improving the country's road system to provide easier access to the various markets; in that matter the Mutual Security Administration of the United States had given the Philippines valuable assistance.

23. The Central Bank of the Philippines, for its part, had granted an advance of 200 million pesos for agricultural programmes. It should also be mentioned that the United States Export-Import Bank had granted the

Philippines a loan of 20 million dollars to aid it in its purchases of agricultural equipment abroad. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation of the Philippines had finished the actual reconstruction work and was now granting loans to industrial and agricultural undertakings; its total resources were about 250 million dollars.

24. The Philippine Congress had just passed a Rural Banking Act, under which five agricultural credit banks were granting farmers loans for the purchase of equipment and seeds and for the payment of wages.

25. He wished to mention with gratitude the help received by the Philippines from the Mutual Security Administration of the United States, which had appropriated about 47 million dollars for the financial year ending on 30 June 1952. That help had enabled the Philippines to put into operation programmes for developing handicrafts, the distribution of fertilizers, and research and development.

26. He recalled the damage caused in the Philippines during three years of Japanese occupation. Furthermore, between 1940 and 1951 the population of the Philippines had increased from 16,500,000 to 20 million inhabitants. In spite of those difficulties, the Philippine Government had done everything within its power to increase agricultural output and had already achieved valuable results. In two years' time or less the production of rice in the Philippines would be sufficient to meet the needs of the population. In 1953 the Philippines would produce enough sugar to fill its quota of 850,000 tons on the United States market. The area of cultivated land had increased from 4,500,000 hectares in 1938 to 4,900,000 hectares in 1949, and to 6,600,000 hectares in 1951.

27. The Philippine delegation would gladly vote for the Pakistani draft resolution (A/C.2/L.158/Rev.1). After the Pakistani representative's explanations, it was convinced that the committee of experts should study to what extent the proposed special fund could make available grants-in-aid loans to the under-developed countries.

28. In their joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.160/Rev.1), the delegations of Egypt, India and Indonesia rightly endeavoured to give a certain balance to agrarian policy by emphasizing the development of arid land and water resources. The utilization of water resources, which was one of the important factors in economic development, was an acute problem in the Philippines. The Philippines had taken part in drawing up the flood control programme of ECAFE. The Philippine Government had noted with satisfaction that ECAFE had decided to study flood control questions in the more general context of multiple-purpose unified river-basin development. In the same way, ECAFE gave priority to technical assistance and to the dissemination of technical knowledge in that field. It was necessary to bear in mind the importance of flood control problems for the countries of Asia and the Far East, where half the population lived on the banks of great rivers and were thus exposed to a constant threat of flooding.

29. That was why the Philippine delegation had submitted to the fourteenth session of the Economic and Social Council a draft, which had become resolution 417 (XIV), in which the Council stressed the need for ensuring the development of water resources and thus promoting the economic development of each country.

30. The Philippine delegation approved the proposal for setting up regional centres for training experts on the development of arid land and the utilization of water resources; such centres would enable different countries of the same region to pool their knowledge with a view to the solution of common problems.

31. The Philippine delegation supported the United States amendment (A/C.2/L.187) aimed at stimulating international interest in a fundamental question. It hoped that mention would be made, not only of the recommendations of the United Nations in that matter, but also of the efforts made by the under-developed countries to solve the problem.

32. His delegation had been among those which had submitted the proposal to include the question of Morocco and Tunisia in the agenda of the seventh session. It had therefore been keenly interested in the debate that had taken place in the Second Committee, which had enabled it to appreciate all the economic sides of the problem. The Philippine Government had always supported the legitimate aspirations of the non-self-governing peoples and was willing to approve any measure to further the cause of those peoples and improve their condition.

33. Finally, he stressed the importance of the two draft resolutions submitted to the Committee by the delegations of four under-developed countries whose populations together totalled 450 million. In taking that step, the delegations had adopted a constructive attitude, and he hoped that the industrialized countries would in their turn show some imagination and contribute technical and financial assistance to the implementation of international programmes.

34. Mr. GLOZAR (Czechoslovakia) wished first to point out that the structure of land ownership and land tenure was closely linked to agricultural production and the economic and social conditions of agricultural workers throughout the world. In all the discussions on land reform the Czechoslovak delegation had never failed to support all proposals that could bring about a solution of that problem. Thus, at the sixth session of the General Assembly, the Czechoslovak delegation had supported resolution 524 (VI) on land reform which the Assembly had adopted on the basis of a draft submitted by the Polish delegation. It had also participated in the Economic and Social Council's debates on the question. Since the question of land reform had been before the General Assembly the world economic and social situation had changed to such an extent that the question of carrying out land reforms had become even more urgent. Not only had the under-developed countries been affected by the militarization of the economies of the imperialist countries, in particular that of the United States, but the capitalist countries themselves had experienced a deterioration in the situation of their agricultural populations: the small farmers were at the mercy of the big landowners and financial trusts to whom they were gradually losing their land. The problem had thus become rapidly worse. In its contributions to the discussion, the Czechoslovak delegation based itself on the experience gained in the agricultural reform carried out in Czechoslovakia after the Second World War and drew attention to the results accomplished in the USSR and the people's democracies, where agriculture had attained a hitherto unprecedented development, once the people had taken the di-

rection of its own affairs into its own hands, and the land belonged to those who tilled it.

35. He wished to point out the causes of the catastrophic conditions of agricultural production, the effects of which were now being felt by the small farmers and agricultural workers.

36. The primary cause of that catastrophic situation was the production policy of the foreign monopolies which dominated or strove to dominate agricultural production in the under-developed countries. That policy was based on a system. The foreign monopolies were concerned only with increasing their profits, to the exclusion of any idea of raising the standard of living of the working masses.

37. The second obstacle to agricultural development in the under-developed countries was the primitive methods used in those countries and their lack of agricultural machinery, fertilizers and seeds.

38. The third obstacle to the increase of agricultural production and the raising of the living standards of the masses in most of the under-developed countries was their structure of land ownership. In those countries the ownership of agricultural land was concentrated in the hands of big landowners, who themselves also applied a single-crop production policy and prevented the workers from becoming owners of the land. In determining the kind and quantity of agricultural production, the big landowners were not in the least concerned with the needs of the masses, but only with their profits. They paid minimal wages and gave little thought to the working conditions of the agricultural workers. Such were the obstacles he had wished to point out, in order to stress the measures required for their elimination.

39. The Czechoslovak delegation would vote for the joint draft resolution submitted by Egypt, India and Indonesia, because it constituted a positive contribution to the solution of the question of land reform. That was particularly true of the first operative paragraph of the draft resolution.

40. It would not be able to vote for the draft resolution submitted by the Pakistani delegation, as it over-estimated the significance of foreign financial assistance. Everyone knew that the single-crop production policies favoured by investors in the under-developed countries were harmful to the balanced development of agricultural production and prevented the establishment of a sound system of land ownership, which was a prerequisite for raising the living standards of the masses. It was therefore erroneous to count on foreign financing to hasten land reform. The Czechoslovak delegation would therefore abstain in the vote on that draft resolution.

41. Mr. VANER (Turkey) recalled that he had previously made known the views of his delegation on land reform (196th meeting) and had reviewed the reforms undertaken by his Government to increase food production in Turkey. He would therefore speak now only of the distribution of land in Turkey. In 1950 there had been 17 special commissions supervising the distribution of land, but by 1952 the number had increased to 64. During the previous 34 years, 62,007 families had received 288,000 hectares of cultivable land and 196,885 hectares of pasture land. The Government of Turkey had also made land available to 154,000 refugees who

had fled from the persecution of the communist régime in Bulgaria. A total of 66,000 hectares of land had thus been provided for 15,520 families. In addition, loans amounting to \$6,028,200 had been granted for the purchase of agricultural equipment.

42. His delegation reserved the right to reply to the allegations made by the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other delegations.

43. It would support the joint draft resolution submitted by the delegations of Egypt, India and Indonesia, because the recommendations embodied in it conformed to the national laws and policy of his Government. It would also support the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Pakistan, because it was convinced that information on the financing of land reform would be useful as a basis for future action.

44. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet of Socialist Republics) said that land reform was an essential element in the economic development of under-developed countries. It should, moreover, be undertaken in the interest of the landless peasants and those with insufficient land. It was certainly not right for most of the farm land to be concentrated in the hands of owners who had never cultivated it. It was contrary to the interests of the workers and peasants that land should be constantly exploited by foreign monopolies which had no regard for the higher interests of a country or that land should be kept idle by its owners.

45. His delegation had already had occasion to point out that that was the state of affairs in many under-developed countries. In the Philippines, for example, most of the sugar-cane plantations belonged to United States companies. Likewise, in Malaya, a rubber-producing area, three-quarters of the land belonged to British companies. In South West Africa up to 40 per cent of the best land was owned by foreigners. In Cuba sugar-cane, the principal wealth of the country, was exploited by foreign companies. The economy of the whole of Latin America was dominated by foreign monopolies, in particular the United Fruit Company, the Cuban American Sugar Company and similar undertakings. Those companies owned the land and most of the agricultural industry; they exported both agricultural and manufactured products. They completely dominated the economy of the countries in which they operated because they also owned the railways, factories, warehouses and even the merchant fleets necessary for foreign trade. Among foreign companies established in the state of São Paulo, Brazil, the Lancashire General Investment Ltd. owned 56,000 hectares of land, the Plantation Syndicate of Brazil Ltd. 34,000 hectares, the São Paulo Electric Company Ltd. 28,000 hectares and the Companhia Colonizadora do Brazil 43,000 hectares. Figures taken from the issue of 20 April 1952 of the Brazilian newspaper *Imprensa popular* showed that the monopolies owned 313,000 hectares of land, while 4,800,000 families had no land.

46. In India too there were immense properties that the owners did not trouble to work. Between 1916-1917 and 1947-1948 the proportion of landless to landed population had increased from 9.3 to 20.2 per cent, whereas the land occupied by landowners had risen from 12 to 30 per cent. It was absolutely wrong thus to neglect large cultivable areas. The result was that the standard of living was much lower than the average. In Ceylon

50 per cent of the cultivable land was not used, in India, 60 per cent, in Pakistan, 70 per cent, in the Philippines, 69 per cent, and in Turkey, 34 per cent. Land distribution and the land-tenure system in North Africa were equally unsatisfactory. For example, in Tunisia 80 per cent of the land was owned by 700 families of settlers, and in Algeria 700,000 hectares belonged to 37,000 French farmers. Throughout French Africa the indigenous inhabitants had been expropriated for the benefit of settlers and companies, and in the areas which the British Empire had appropriated the situation was mostly the same. In Kenya, for example, from 2,000 to 3,000 Europeans controlled one-half of the land, while 5,500,000 indigenous inhabitants shared the other half.

47. Nothing had yet been done to remedy that state of affairs. The United States representative on the Second Committee had, of course, said that land reform in under-developed countries had become part of United States policy. The United States Government wanted to appear as a defender of land reform and was trying to prove that it had taken the initiative. The United States representative's statements were merely a distortion and misrepresentation of the truth intended to divert attention from the monopolies' baneful action.

48. At the sixth session of the General Assembly resolution 524 (VI) on land reform which the General Assembly had adopted had been initiated by the Polish and not by the United States delegation. The United States representatives could not regain the initiative in the matter of land reform merely by making noble statements. The United States Government claimed through its delegation that it had helped Italy and Japan to undertake reforms. Those so-called reforms had actually resulted in complete failure. In Japan, for example, landed property had become concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer people, and the peasants who had had to sell their land had understood that they had been fooled and that the fine promises made six years earlier by the United States Government had not been carried out. That was simply a manoeuvre by the United States Government and the American occupation authorities, who had become accomplices of the great Japanese landowners. At the expense of the small farmers, a great many of whom had been expropriated, the American occupation authorities had succeeded in strengthening the capitalist system in the Japanese rural economy.

49. The efforts of the United States to solve the land-tenure problem in the United States zone of occupation in Germany had been no more successful than its efforts in Japan. In Germany too the United States had become the defender of the big landowners and had supported the Junkers and kept them in power. In the Hanover area, for example, the farmers had been driven from land they had long occupied in order to make room for the Junkers who had abandoned their land in Eastern Germany. The conditions under which that land was being used were reminiscent of serfdom.

50. Likewise in Italy the United States Government had succeeded in thwarting the Italian Government's efforts towards recovery. Land reform had failed, and Italian agriculture had been crushed as the result of a liberalizing of imports undertaken at the instigation of the United States Government. Agricultural output had declined, and Italy was still importing foodstuffs.

51. The failure of land reform in countries where the United States exerted its influence was in contrast with the success achieved in the peoples' democracies and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The land reforms undertaken by the Central Government of the People's Republic of China after the Kuomintang representatives and United States agents had been expelled from Chinese territory had been so designed as to create normal working conditions for agricultural workers and to permit the industrialization of China. Ever since those reforms had been undertaken, the social structure of China had been changing rapidly, poverty was declining and the peasant masses were being liberated from their subjection to the capitalist system. There had consequently been an improvement in agricultural production. Cotton production was a case in point; in 1951 it had exceeded the 1950 level by 36.9 per cent. Furthermore, cotton production in 1951 had exceeded the 1936 level, the highest ever attained, by 10 per cent. China was now able to supply most of its requirements in cotton goods. The People's Government of China had also done wonders in improving irrigation and flood-control works along the Yellow River and had now brought the waters of that river under effective control. An area of 8 million hectares had been flooded in 1949, as against only 1,400,000 in 1951. Irrigation works had helped to increase the productivity of Chinese agriculture. Grain production was already higher than before the war and cotton production 252 per cent higher than in 1949. The progress that had been made had enabled China to readjust its trade balance.

52. Similar progress had been noted in the other peoples' democracies, where land reform had been an essential element of economic progress. Land had been distributed as follows to the peoples of the peoples' democracies: 150,000 hectares in Bulgaria, 7,300,000 hectares in Poland, 1,857,000 hectares in Hungary, 4,400,000 hectares in Czechoslovakia, 1,111,000 hectares in Romania and 320,000 hectares in Albania. In Eastern Germany, land formerly occupied by the Junkers had been given to the 528,000 families occupying it. The land reforms undertaken by the peoples' democracies had made it possible not only to use modern techniques and increase productivity, but also to make the task of the liberated peasants easier.

53. In the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the agricultural situation was still improving. Thus, in 1951 there had been 5,300,000 more hectares under cultivation than in 1939. In 1952 the grain harvest had amounted to 8,000 million poods as against 7,600 million in 1951. The main reason for that improvement was that the Government of the USSR had been able to apply scientific and industrial methods to agriculture. His country's efforts in the cattle-breeding industry had also been very successful. In 1952 there had been in the USSR 13,400,000 head of cattle, 41,800,000 sheep, 21,200,000 pigs and 5,600,000 horses. Progress had also been made in the mechanization of agriculture in the USSR. A total of 8,939 stations maintained 676,000 tractors and 146,000 combines, without counting millions of other pieces of agricultural equipment.

54. His delegation would support the joint draft resolution submitted by the delegations of Egypt, India and Indonesia. It was an attempt to seek a solution of the

land-tenure problem and contained practical provisions of undeniable value.

55. As to the draft resolution submitted by the Pakistani delegation, it implied assistance by international finance companies, and that was not an adequate solution. He would therefore abstain from voting on it.

56. Mr. JUNG (India) on behalf of the sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.160/Rev.1) thanked the representatives who had declared their intention to vote in its favour, and expressed gratification that the proposal with which the Indian delegation was associated had brought delegations representing varying opinions to its support.

57. Although he wished to avoid political issues, he felt bound to challenge Mr. Lee's allegations with regard to the current agrarian situation in China. India had recently sent a number of distinguished persons on a cultural mission to China, where they had been deeply impressed by the radical transformation of the land system: the striking results obtained demanded both study and tribute. It was regrettable that the real representatives of China were not present in the Committee to give details of that achievement.

58. He was in general agreement with the Polish representative with regard to the unsatisfactory state of agriculture in the under-developed countries. That was indeed why the joint draft resolution had been submitted. Nevertheless, it was incorrect to say that the governments of the under-developed countries were doing nothing to remedy the situation or were pursuing shadowy schemes. In appraising the results obtained by those countries, the Polish representative had failed to take into account the natural calamities of droughts and floods, which could hinder and even prevent the execution of inherently excellent projects. Nor had he taken into account the fact that the under-developed countries were anxious to abide by the legislative and judicial processes enjoined by their constitutions which they valued, so that they could not always solve all problems as quickly as they might wish.

59. The Indian Government's replies to the Secretary-General's questionnaire on land reform would reveal concrete steps taken by his country, which had completed its land reform in advance of the General Assembly's recommendation. Land reform was a matter which had been in the forefront of India's national planning since its accession to independence; it had also formed an essential part of the Indians' demands during the period of their tutelage.

60. India was strongly opposed to any system of economic exploitation, whether by foreigners or by feudal potentates. Accordingly, he had found the French representative's statement on North Africa unconvincing. From the first day of their independence, the people of India had abolished all feudal intermediaries.

61. Mr. HUNEIDI (Syria) was compelled by the French representative's last statement to declare that responsibility for the discussion then proceeding in the Committee rested not with the representatives of Iraq and Saudi Arabia, but with the French delegation itself. Since the French delegation had deemed it necessary to bring Mr. Belkhodja to express its point of view, it was only natural that the other members of the Committee should have replied to his statements. Those who had

done so could not be regarded as public prosecutors for having given the Committee true information about North Africa. Moreover, it was illogical for the French delegation to defend French policy in North Africa in the Second Committee when that question was on the agenda of another General Assembly organ which was more competent to deal with it.

62. While it had not taken an active part in the general debate, the Syrian delegation believed the problem of land reform to be one of the most important aspects of any study of economic development in the under-developed countries. It had spoken on the question of land reform during the general debate on technical assistance for the under-developed countries. It had then described the method by which the Syrian Government had distributed State lands to landless farmers, and the action it had taken with regard to rural education, social welfare and hygiene. It had also expressed its appreciation of the assistance Syria was receiving from FAO and the other specialized agencies of the United Nations.

63. The Syrian delegation took the same stand on the two draft resolutions before the Committee as on the whole question of technical assistance: firmly believing that the United Nations and the specialized agencies could help the under-developed countries to increase their agricultural production, it was prepared to support any proposal that helped to achieve that goal.

64. It would therefore give its full support to the joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.160/Rev.1). Agricultural production in the under-developed countries was largely conditioned by the system of land tenure and the most effective action to improve that system was regional action supported by technical assistance on an international level. The best results would be obtained in areas where regional organizations were already active and could serve as intermediaries to co-ordinate the respective efforts of governments and of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The organization of the seminars and training centres and the convening of regional conferences on problems connected with land reform offered wide opportunities for the effective application of United Nations technical assistance.

65. The Syrian delegation would also vote in favour of the Pakistani draft resolution (A/C.2/L.158/Rev.1), which called for information that would undoubtedly enlighten the discussion on the question of land reform at the next session of the Economic and Social Council. As the draft resolution was based on the idea that the financing of land reform was one of the fields of activity for the special fund, it would, if adopted, also provide the under-developed countries with the funds necessary to carry out their land reform programmes.

66. Mr. LIMA (Brazil) noted that the USSR representative, in the course of his semi-economic and semi-political tour of the globe, had made some observations about the agricultural situation in Brazil which could not be left unchallenged. Brazil owed its agrarian structure not to the American monopolies, but to the heritage of the past and to its own historical, economic and social conditions.

67. The colonial enterprises to which the USSR representative had referred were not foreign monopolies, but Brazilian undertakings concerned, *inter alia*, with the sale of land in the newly-cleared areas south of the state

of São Paulo and north of the Paraná river. Those lands were now being farmed by thousands of smallholders and constituted one of the country's richest agricultural regions. The Soviet world, which regarded itself as the source of all light, apparently could not appreciate the fact that progress could be made by methods other than its own.

68. He would vote in favour of the two draft resolutions before the Committee.

69. Mr. LEE (China) said that the Indian representative's statement on the situation of the Chinese peasants had left him with mixed feelings: as a Chinese, he would have liked to be able to believe him, but unfortunately he could not do so. In his previous statement (225th meeting) he had deliberately referred to documents from neutral sources to show the poverty of the Chinese peasants under the new system imposed on them by the land reform; the Indian representative had not advanced a single convincing argument to refute those documents. Furthermore, no study of the present situation in China could be complete and impartial which did not take human factors into account, factors which were at least as important as purely economic considerations.

70. The USSR representative had shown his usual skill in juggling with statistics. Nevertheless, when emphasizing the increase in cotton production in China in the past two years, he had failed to mention that before the Sino-Japanese War, China had been on the point of becoming self-sufficient in that respect. Cotton-growing had suffered greatly both from the war and from communist agitation in rural areas. Far from proving the superiority of the present régime, the improvement reported merely showed what a great agricultural nation could accomplish when not exposed to the evil consequences of war and political agitation.

71. Mr. ELAHI (Pakistan) said that his delegation welcomed the increasing attention the Committee was giving to the financial aspects of land reform. The sole object of the Pakistani draft resolution (A/C.2/L.158/Rev.1) was to focus attention on one of the obstacles

which the under-developed countries had to face in changing their economic systems.

72. It was heartening to note that the under-developed countries were fully aware of their responsibilities in agrarian matters and were doing everything possible to raise the standard of living of their rural populations. It was especially satisfactory to note the constant increase in food production in the countries whose food position was unfavourable. The governments concerned realized that agrarian reform and the improvement of the economic, financial and social structure of their countries depended primarily on their own efforts and not on any outside assistance they might receive.

73. The Indian delegation had already noted the assistance which the under-developed countries had received and were continuing to receive from international organizations, including the Technical Assistance Administration, FAO, WHO, ILO, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund. The Committee's recent decisions proved that the United Nations was endeavouring to find other fields in which such assistance might be given and the Pakistani draft resolution was in harmony with that general policy.

74. If international economic co-operation were not hindered by political factors, the proposed special fund could certainly widen the scope of its activity to include the financing of land reform. Prompt and effective economic assistance under United Nations auspices was calculated to obviate the danger brought about by the dependence of the small under-developed countries upon the great Powers, and to strengthen peace throughout the world.

75. The Pakistani delegation therefore regretted that some representatives could not see fit to support its draft resolution. However, it welcomed the support which the majority of members had promised and noted with great satisfaction the Danish government's decision to set on foot a study of the methods adopted by Denmark in solving its own agrarian problems.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.