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AGENDA ITEMS 12, 29 AND 74

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CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/C.2/
L.470/REV.3, A/C.2/L.471) (continued)

1. Mr. HALM (Ghana) said that the sponsors of the
draft resolution had carefully considered all the
amendments which had been submitted and had in-
cluded certain of them in a new revised text (A/C.2/
L.470/Rev.3).

2. With regard to the United Kingdom amendments
(A/C.2/L.515), it had not been possible to amend the
title of the draft resolution. The second amendment,
however, providing for the insertion in the second
preambular paragraph of the word "continuing" be-
tween the words "aware of the" and the word "need"
had been accepted, as had the third amendment pro-
viding for the insertion in operative paragraph 5 of
the words "and the specialized agencies" between the
word "sessions" and the words "and to report to the
thirty-second session".

3. The sponsors had not been able to accept the
second United States amendment (A/C.2/L.513). They
were all aware of the importance of the Economic
and Social Council, whose authority and prestige
were confirmed in the draft resolution, and they had
therefore been somewhat surprised by the statement
made by the United States representative at the 688th
meeting. The United States delegation had, in fact,
threatened to vote against the draft if its own amend-
ment was not taken into account. Everyone was en-
titled to vote as he saw fit, but no one must insist
that the Committee should accept his own interpreta-
tion. The draft resolution had, moreover, been sup-
ported by all the representatives who had spoken in
the course of the discussion. As the Argentine repre-
sentative had pointed out, the Council's authority
over the regional economic commissions was not at
issue, since those commissions were required to
submit an annual report to the Council. The sponsors
had considered it preferable to adopt the suggestions
made orally by the Netherlands representative for
the insertion in operative paragraph 3 of the words
"—with due regard to the relevant resolutions of the
Economic and Social Council—", and they hoped that
that amendment would meet the wishes of the United
States representative.

4. The sponsors had not considered it desirable to
accept the Israel amendment (A/C.2/L.516), under
which the phrase "with due regard to the need for the
most effective use of over-all resources;" would be
added at the end of operative paragraph 3, inasmuch
as that need was apparent in all aspects of United
Nations activities.

5. They had been unable to accept the oral amend-
ment of the USSR, even though the ideas expressed
in it had appeared to them to be of some interest.

6. He hoped, at all events, that the third revision of the draft resolution would be acceptable to all the members of the Committee.

7. Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America) said that by adopting the oral amendment of the Netherlands representative the sponsors of the draft resolution had taken into account one of the main concerns of the United States delegation. His delegation was therefore able to accept that amendment and was withdrawing its own.

8. The United States delegation had stated its point of view very firmly at the 688th meeting because an important question of principle had been at issue. However there had been no implied threat in its statement, and its refusal to accept a particular wording had not meant that it wanted to impose its opinion on other delegations. It did not in any way seek to weaken the draft resolution, but wished rather to strengthen it. The co-operation and decentralization aimed at in the draft resolution could, however, be more effectively achieved if the Council's operations were in conformity with the Charter. The Council was given policy directives by the General Assembly and had to ensure that the activities of its subsidiary organs conformed to that policy.

9. Mr. ERROCK (United Kingdom) thanked the sponsors for the understanding which they had shown towards the second and third amendments proposed by his delegation. He would not insist on the first amendment relating to the title of the draft resolution.

10. Miss HARELI (Israel) said that she was not entirely certain that the amendment proposed orally by the Netherlands delegation was adequate to meet the wishes of the Israel delegation. Her delegation had mentioned Economic and Social Council resolution 801 (XXX). But since that resolution did not deal with the regional economic commissions it could not be regarded as covered by the term "relevant resolutions" to be added at the end of paragraph 3. As a number of representatives had supported the Israel amendment, her delegation felt that that amendment should be kept before the Committee.

11. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regretted that the sponsors of the draft resolution had considered it impossible to accept his delegation's amendment to the second preambular paragraph. While that did not, of course, alter his delegation's opinion on the draft resolution as a whole, he asked that that paragraph should be voted on separately.

12. Mr. MAHDAVI (Iran) recalled that the words "the specialized agencies" had originally appeared in the second preambular paragraph of document A/C.2/L.470/Rev.2 but not in operative paragraph 5, where they had subsequently been inserted in accordance with the United Kingdom amendment (A/C.2/L.515). As the co-operation of the specialized agencies was essential to ensure economic development and the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations, their function in that regard could not be overlooked.

13. He felt, moreover, that the authority and prestige of the Economic and Social Council were confirmed by the fact that the sponsors of the draft resolution had accepted the Netherlands oral amendment to operative paragraph 3.

14. Mr. HASSAN (Sudan) said that in view of the great importance of the draft resolution under discussion its sponsors had welcomed all amendments designed to strengthen it. He assured the United States representative that the sponsors had wanted to stress the function and importance of the Economic and Social Council. They could obviously not have accepted all the amendments relating to matters of detail, as that would have overloaded the text. In any event, the draft resolution made it possible to reaffirm certain important principles and to confirm that the regional economic commissions must always be ready to adapt themselves to the prevailing circumstances.

15. Mr. FOURNIER (Spain) asked that operative paragraph 4 should be voted upon separately.

16. Miss HARELI (Israel) said that as a result of the adoption of the Netherlands oral amendment, her delegation had to amend the text of its own amendment (A/C.2/L.516) by substituting for the words "with due regard to", which already appeared in operative paragraph 3, the words "having regard to".

The Israel amendment (A/C.2/L.516) was rejected by 25 votes to 19, with 22 abstentions.

The second preambular paragraph was adopted by 57 votes to 9, with 1 abstention.

Operative paragraph 4 was adopted by 60 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The draft resolution (A/C.2/L.470/Rev.3), as a whole, was adopted unanimously.

17. Mr. ROBERTSON (Australia) congratulated the representative of Ghana and the other sponsors on having submitted the draft resolution that had just been adopted and on the conciliatory attitude they had shown with regard to the amendments proposed. The text that had just been adopted fully met the requirements of the situation. The process of decentralizing United Nations economic and social activities had already begun; it was in keeping with the facts and, as the representative of New Zealand had pointed out, was virtually inevitable. It was against the background of what was already in progress that the Australian delegation interpreted the reference in the third preambular paragraph to "various operational functions". The United States delegation's amendment to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution had acknowledged that the Economic and Social Council was the principal economic organ of the United Nations and had made clear that the Council's role in the fields of decentralization and co-ordination was not completed. The alternative wording orally proposed by the representative of the Netherlands and accepted by the sponsors adequately met those points. He supported the French representative's observations regarding operative paragraph 3 (688th meeting); it was certainly desirable to indicate by whom the recommendation was to be carried out. Although the paragraph had been modified to take account of those observations, the Australian delegation felt that the wording suggested by the French representative would have been clearer.

18. The Australian delegation had been glad to vote for the draft resolution, and it was gratified to note that the African countries had the greatest confidence in ECA. It hoped that that commission would follow the example of the other regional commissions, which

had accomplished fruitful work. The statement by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs (671st meeting) that recruitment for ECA was proceeding satisfactorily was of interest in that connexion.

The meeting was suspended at 3.25 p.m. and resumed at 3.35 p.m.

19. Mr. LYCHOWSKI (Poland), introducing the draft resolution on the strengthening and development of the world market and improvement of the trade conditions of the economically less developed countries (A/C.2/L.471), said that its sponsors had wished to make a new effort to set the basic problem of the development of international trade in its correct perspective, and to contribute to the attainment of one of the universal objectives of the United Nations, the integration of the world economy. General Assembly resolution 1421 (XIV) represented a first, somewhat tentative, attempt in that direction. The members of the Committee were all undoubtedly aware of the vital role of international trade in accelerating the development of the under-developed countries. It was obvious that, regardless of the amount of economic assistance those countries received, only a rise in their exports and in their export earnings, coupled with an increase in their imports, could enable them to lay solid foundations for economic and social development, which should be a continuous process. The aim of the international community should be to increase the importing capacity of the under-developed countries; that was why problems of world trade were of such importance.

20. During the past twenty years, the development of world trade had been highly erratic. According to the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics for June 1960, which gave a picture of that development from 1938 to 1959, the dollar value of world imports in terms of constant prices had almost quintupled, but that increase had been very unevenly distributed among the three sectors of the world economy, in the case of both intra-regional and extra-regional imports. The intra-regional imports of the industrialized capitalist countries had increased quite rapidly, as had those of the socialist countries, but trade between the socialist countries and the rest of the world had increased much more slowly because of the discriminatory and restrictive measures to which the trade of the socialist countries had been exposed, and there had been only a comparatively slight increase in imports by the highly industrialized countries from the less developed countries, particularly if the substantial increase in crude petroleum imports was left out of account.

21. That extremely uneven development of world trade did not correspond to the growth of the national product in the three sectors of the world economy during the same period. While the share of world industrial production attributable to the capitalist countries had fallen from 80 to 61 per cent, the share attributable to the socialist countries had risen to 35 per cent of the total. However, the value of the trade between those two groups of countries was now a mere fraction of the pre-war value. The share of world industrial production attributable to the under-developed countries was probably now lower than it had been thirty years ago. The development of the under-developed countries was becoming increasingly

difficult, since the industrialized countries which should supply them with the necessary capital goods, preferred to trade among themselves. It was with a view to correcting that situation that the sponsors of the draft resolution had submitted their proposal.

22. Operative paragraph 1, the purpose of which was to step up the studies envisaged by ECE, was concerned with the improvement of trade between the socialist and capitalist countries. Although trade between East and West had admittedly been impeded by measures taken in connexion with the cold war, a thorough study of the purely economic aspects of the question would certainly be conducive to an improvement in trade relations between those two groups of countries.

23. Operative paragraph 2 was concerned with the exports of the under-developed countries to the industrialized countries, exports essential to the development of the former countries. The sponsors of the draft resolution were in favour of giving the regional economic commissions the task of studying the situation and seeking means to improve it, because they thought such a study should be undertaken with the co-operation of the interested countries themselves, which were in the best position to know all the facts. While the question of the prices of exported commodities was certainly very important, the Committee was dealing with it in another draft resolution and the work of the regional economic commissions should be primarily directed towards increasing the volume of exports, a problem which was mentioned in all studies on under-developed countries, and the discussion of which took up one-third of the GATT report on Trends in International Trade. If the commissions were to be in a position to transmit their views to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-second session, the Council would have to issue the necessary directives at its resumed thirtieth session in December 1960.

24. The sponsors believed that the time had come for the United Nations to take a direct interest in the "regionalization" of international trade and had drafted operative paragraph 3 with that purpose in mind. Major differences of opinion existed with regard to the formation of regional economic groups and it would be helpful if the countries belonging to such groups could inform the United Nations of their own views on the subject.

25. Some delegations would no doubt object that the questions he had mentioned had already been considered by GATT. However, although GATT, of which his country was a member, was doing extremely useful work, it could not, as at present constituted, take the place of the United Nations as a forum for study of the fundamental problem of world trade, since not all the States Members of the United Nations were members of GATT, and GATT was interested mainly in the trade problems of the highly industrialized or relatively developed countries. As it had proved impossible to set up the world trade organization, the establishment of which had been repeatedly urged by the socialist countries, it was the duty of the United Nations to do all it could to study the problems of international trade on a world basis.

26. Mr. PAYNE (United States of America) pointed out that ECAFE, ECE and ECLA were continuing to study the causes and obstacles which had prevented

a substantial rise in the volume of exports, with particular reference to the less developed countries. ECE, for example, had prepared a report on the subject in accordance with its resolution 6 (XV). In resolution 778 (XXX) the Economic and Social Council had stated that it was looking forward to the report and had taken note of the Secretary-General's preliminary report on ways and means of promoting wider trade co-operation among States (E/3389). His delegation had voted in favour of the resolutions adopted by ECE and the Economic and Social Council and was actively co-operating with the United Nations in that field. It would show a similar spirit of co-operation in connexion with the draft resolution under consideration, though it did not see that the resolution would add anything of substance.

27. The United States delegation had proposed a number of amendments (A/C.2/L.517). The first amendment proposed a more appropriate form of words for the second preambular paragraph. The United States delegation also proposed that operative paragraph 1 should be amended to read: "To recommend to the Economic Commission for Europe to ensure the preparation of the studies envisaged in its resolution 6 (XV) in time for the thirty-second session of the Council". With regard to operative paragraph 2, his delegation considered that in discussing the causes and obstacles which had prevented a substantial rise in the volume of exports of the under-developed countries, it would be wrong to limit the study to exports to the highly industrialized countries. Exports from the under-developed countries to the rest of the world, including other less developed countries, should be considered. He would therefore propose the deletion of the words "to the highly industrialized ones" in operative paragraph 2. His delegation also proposed the deletion of the phrase at the end of operative paragraph 3 beginning with the words "bearing in mind". The phrase added nothing to the draft resolution and might be controversial. The words "under a separate item" in operative paragraph 4 should also be deleted. The Council was already studying the question of international trade in accordance with resolutions adopted by various regional economic commissions and General Assembly resolution 1421 (XIV), and there was therefore no point in requesting it to discuss the matter under a separate item.

28. Mr. SERAFIMOV (Bulgaria) observed that in the original text of the draft^{1/} which had been adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 1421 (XIV), the delegations of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Poland had envisaged the establishment of an international trade organization and that the only argument against that proposal had been based on practical considerations and not on questions of principle. It had been argued that it was too early to consider the establishment of such a body in view of the structural differences between the economic and trading systems of the capitalist and the socialist countries. It was in fact those differences that made international trade co-operation more necessary than ever. He regretted that because of the attitude of the Western delegations the proposal to establish a world trade organization had been rejected at the fourteenth session. Under resolution 1421 (XIV), the Secretary-General had

merely been requested to prepare a report on the ways and means of promoting wider trade co-operation among States, irrespective of their economic system and stages of development. The Secretariat report on the subject (E/3389) merely listed the all too familiar difficulties which hampered trade between the two world systems and it might legitimately be asked whether the report was not intended to show that world trade co-operation was impossible in principle. His delegation hoped that the second report on trade between the developed industrial countries and the less developed countries would be more in keeping with the purposes of General Assembly resolution 1421 (XIV).

29. As the establishment of the world trade organization—which would have to be set up ultimately if the United Nations was not to ignore the onward march of history—had been blocked by the opposition of the delegations of the capitalist countries, the United Nations must for the time being address itself to less ambitious tasks. It should in particular organize trade co-operation at the regional level, in order to lay the groundwork for economic co-operation on a world scale. The regional economic commissions should take steps without delay to promote the expansion of international trade. That was the objective of the draft resolution. In that connexion, he regretted that ECE was doing much less than the other commissions to promote intra-regional economic co-operation. At its fourteenth session, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 1430 (XIV) concerning Latin American trade co-operation and in the course of 1960 the Second Conference of Independent African States had agreed upon a series of practical measures for trade and economic co-operation between the African countries. Many of the measures adopted by those States would apply equally well to Europe. It might be argued that the economic and political situation was not the same in Europe as in Africa but the fact was that the African countries, many of which had planned economies while others were still based on private enterprise, were all prepared to co-operate in economic and trade matters as they must do in order to accelerate their economic development. In that respect the European countries might learn a lesson from the African countries. At the same time a trend was being allowed to develop in Europe which was having the effect of creating further obstacles to regional trade co-operation. The formation of rival economic groups was sharpening trade conflicts in Europe.

30. The Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs had said (671st meeting) that the existing common ground within the international community could provide a basis for more decisive international action on a much larger scale than that at present carried out through the United Nations. It was clear that the United Nations was doing much less than it might do in the field of international economic co-operation. His delegation firmly believed that regional economic co-operation could be developed and considered that world trade co-operation could be initiated under the auspices of a world trade organization, the establishment of which would one day be found to be completely feasible. The Second Committee had adopted (686th meeting) the Pakistan draft resolution proposing studies of the economic aspects of disarmament (A/C.2/L.469/Rev.1), whereas the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Annexes, agenda items 30 and 12, document A/4321, para. 17.

ninth session had rejected a similar proposal by the Soviet delegation (E/L.861) and he was confident that in the same way the General Assembly would ultimately agree to the establishment of a world trade organization.

31. Mr. DANGEARD (France) said that he was not sure that he fully understood the intentions of the sponsors of the draft resolution or the exact scope of their text, which appeared to be too broad or too narrow, depending on the point of view.

32. It was unnecessary to recommend that ECE, which worked quickly and seriously, should speed up the completion of its studies, which in any case concerned trade between East and West. There was no urgency, in fact, for the Second Committee to study the question of the industrial countries' trade relations with one another.

33. With regard to operative paragraph 2, it was illogical to ask the regional economic commissions to examine a problem which was essentially inter-regional, since it concerned exports from the less developed countries to the highly industrialized countries. It could also be pointed out that the GATT committee dealing with that question had a much broader membership than any of the regional economic commissions. Furthermore, the Commission on International Commodity Trade had been instructed to study the relationship between general economic conditions in the industrialized countries and commodity trade.

34. As for operative paragraph 3, on intra-regional trade co-operation, it was surprising to find the sponsors of the draft resolution referring in the last part of that paragraph to principles which could impede the development of inter-regional trade. He accordingly agreed with the United States delegation that it would be better to delete the last phrase of paragraph 3.

35. If the sponsors of that draft had submitted it in the hope of bringing nearer the time when an international trade organization would be set up, no progress would seem possible along the lines laid down by the resolution. It would seem preferable to leave the study of the methods and principles which could form the basis of an agreement to the appropriate bodies, in particular ECE.

36. Mr. BOIKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the problem with which the three-Power draft resolution dealt was of great importance, for success in expanding the world market and trade would bring about a considerable improvement in the position of the under-developed countries. His delegation firmly believed that expansion of trade between all countries, regardless of their social and economic systems and their different stages of development, was an essential condition for ensuring peaceful co-existence and strengthening confidence among all countries. A large number of countries had, moreover, indicated the importance they attached to a rapid and positive solution of the problem. The Ukrainian delegation accordingly welcomed the initiative taken by the sponsors of the draft resolution in endorsing and developing the principles underlying General Assembly resolution 1421 (XIV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 778 (XXX).

37. In the draft resolution, the General Assembly would recommend some practical measures to im-

prove the situation of the economically less developed countries, brought about by certain artificial measures which prevented the expansion of world trade. In operative paragraphs 2 and 3, the General Assembly stressed the role of the regional economic commissions and asked them to elaborate appropriate measures to promote intra-regional trade co-operation, bearing in mind the development of mutually beneficial and non-discriminatory international trade. There was no doubt that studies made by those commissions would furnish excellent documentary material that would enable positive and constructive decisions to be reached. His delegation would accordingly support that draft resolution.

38. Mr. HASSAN (Sudan) said that the Sudan, as an under-developed country, would be happy to see the United Nations concern itself actively with the development of trade and world markets, as that was a prerequisite for ensuring peaceful and friendly relations among nations and promoting the advancement of the under-developed countries. Moreover, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan had said (887th plenary meeting), the Sudanese delegation believed in freedom of trade and considered that all countries should participate in trade and that trade should not be used as an instrument of policy. In addition to international co-operation must be promoted and the regional economic commissions could play a very useful role in that regard. The representative of Morocco had mentioned, with respect to Africa, a number of important problems which the countries of that region would like ECA to study. The three other commissions had more experience and had perhaps already carried out certain studies; ECA, being of more recent date, could probably benefit from the studies already available. The studies of the obstacles to the development of the trade of the economically less developed countries were of great importance. It was to be hoped that the studies referred to in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution would extend to all categories of countries. The under-developed countries would particularly like to know the reasons, political or economic, for the backwardness of their economies.

39. The Bulgarian representative had spoken of the planned economies and the non-planned economies. In point of fact all the African countries were more or less compelled to plan, but that did not mean that they followed the socialist rather than the capitalist system. The fact that they used a system of planning really involved only a question of method.

40. The representative of France had referred to the work being carried out by GATT and had pointed out that the membership of that body was broader than that of the regional economic commissions. GATT, however, was not a United Nations organ. It must be hoped, therefore, that an international trade organization would one day be established, which would function as a subsidiary of the United Nations. The Sudanese delegation endorsed the idea contained in the draft resolution and hoped that its sponsors would take into consideration the amendments that had been proposed.

41. Mr. ALVAREZ RESTREPO (Colombia) said that the draft resolution was of great value to the under-developed countries; in particular, those of Latin America.

42. The French representative had remarked that, in view of the work being done by other bodies, there was no point in recommending that new studies should be undertaken. But it should not be forgotten that the expansion of trade was of vital importance for countries whose economy depended on a single product; Colombia, whose main export was coffee, was in that position. Those countries were being faced with increasingly serious problems. Colombia's trade relations with the United States had been eminently satisfactory. On the other hand, the creation of a common market in Europe had set obstacles in the way of international trade. Coffee was grown in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The economies of countries such as Colombia were dependent on the sale of coffee at profitable prices on the world market. Any decrease in the volume of, or receipts from, the sales of that product meant hardship for hundreds of millions of Latin Americans. It was only by closer world co-operation in economic matters that an economic balance could be attained which would preserve world peace.

43. It would therefore be very useful if the regional economic commissions were to study questions of that kind. Colombia thought highly of ECLA's work on economic organization and planning. ECLA was already familiar with the difficulties and obstacles in the way of the economic development of the region and of the expansion of international trade. It would be helpful, therefore, to ask it to study those problems more closely and to seek a solution. The recommendations contained in the draft resolution were clearly useful and certainly not superfluous; they were, in fact, of vital importance for Colombia. His delegation would therefore vote for the draft resolution and for the United States amendments to it.

44. Mr. AMADOR (Mexico) said that, if he had correctly understood the purport of the draft resolution, the text recommended a speeding up of the work on international trade co-operation, on the development of the world market and on the improvement of the trade conditions of the under-developed countries, the regional economic commissions to carry out that work in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 1421 (XIV). That being so, to make the text clearer, he would prefer the second preambular paragraph to include the phrase used in section I, paragraph 3, of resolution 1421 (XIV). He therefore proposed that the phrase "and, in particular, between ... different stages of economic development" should be replaced by the expression "irrespective of their economic systems and stages of development".

45. He considered that the text of the United States amendment to the second preambular paragraph would be more correct if the adjective "peaceful" were deleted, if a comma were inserted after the words "all peoples" and if the words "helps to strengthen peace ..." were inserted after that comma.

46. As the Secretariat's report on trade between the industrialized countries and the under-developed countries was to be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-second session, it was particularly important that the regional economic commissions should also report to the Council at its thirty-second session on the questions mentioned in operative paragraph 2. The Council would thus have

available at the same time all the data which it now lacked.

47. Since during recent years most of the under-developed countries had been able to increase the volume of their exports, although the value of those exports had gone down, he would prefer to see the words "volume of" deleted from operative paragraph 2.

48. As the bulk of the exports of most under-developed countries unquestionably went to the highly industrialized countries, it would be unfortunate if the latter countries were not mentioned in operative paragraph 2. To meet the United States representative's point, the word "particularly" might be inserted after the words "less developed countries".

49. He pointed out, for the benefit of the French delegation, that Mexico, like many other States Members of the United Nations, was not a party to GATT and that ECLA, in particular, had already undertaken and was still conducting important studies on trade co-operation in Latin America. The implementation of the recommendations in operative paragraph 2 would therefore be extremely useful for all the countries in the same position as Mexico. In carrying out the proposed study, the regional economic commissions would intensify their collaboration, as recommended by the draft resolution which the Committee had just adopted (A/C.2/L.470/Rev.3).

50. Mr. DANGEARD (France), commenting on the Colombian representative's statement, said that his country's coffee policy was designed to take into account the interests of producers in various countries, in particular in Africa and other areas. The Colombian representative's comment confirmed the view already expressed in the Committee that the regional economic commissions could examine the obstacles to the development of trade between developed and under-developed countries but were not in a position to carry those studies to the stage of making recommendations. It was necessary to make use of bodies that were more broadly representative. In addition to GATT, there was the Commission on International Commodity Trade, which was a United Nations body whose efforts had led to the conclusion of a coffee agreement between various countries.

51. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) proposed that the words "to continue" be inserted before "to discuss" in operative paragraph 2, as the regional commissions were already studying the problem in question.

52. The Mexican representative's proposal concerning the United States amendment to operative paragraph 2 might raise further difficulties. It would be better merely to make a general reference to the exports of the economically less developed countries without specifying the importing countries. The main consideration was the volume and the value of the under-developed countries' exports and it might well prove easier for them to expand their exports to the relatively developed rather than to the highly industrialized countries.

53. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the sponsors of the draft resolution should meet informally to consider the amendments proposed and to draft a revised text if necessary.

It was so decided.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

54. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that it had decided at its 681st meeting to postpone sending the letter on programme appraisals to the President of the General Assembly. The Chairman of the Fifth Committee had informed him that that Committee would shortly take up the question of programme appraisals and that he would be grateful to receive the observations of members of the Second Committee on that subject as soon as possible. He therefore proposed to forward to the President of the General Assembly the letter he had previously read

out to the Committee and to inform him that if the members of the Second Committee made further comments on programme appraisals in the course of their consideration of other matters, their comments would be transmitted to the Fifth Committee. He would forward with the letter an extract from the Ghanaian representative's statement (687th meeting) introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.470/Rev.1.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.