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Chairman: Mr. Leo MATES (Yugoslavia).

**Question of Assistance to Libya (A/C.2/L.221/
Rev.1) (*concluded*)**

[Item 60]*

1. Mr. FORD (United States of America) thanked the representative of Libya for the very helpful statement he had made to the Committee at the previous meeting. The establishment of a sovereign State of Libya was an achievement in which the Libyan people and the United Nations could take justifiable pride. But the Libyan people now faced a task which was in many ways as important to its future as the establishment of its independence; in fact, in the long run, Libya's unity and independence might largely depend upon the progress which Libya was able to make towards developing its resources and providing a better life for its people. As could be seen from the fifth report of the Technical Assistance Board,¹ the obstacles were great, but an encouraging beginning had been made; that was due in particular to the efforts the Libyan Government was making to provide for the wise use of any external assistance that might become available.

2. As the General Assembly had fully recognized at its sixth session, external assistance was essential to Libya. The United States had pledged itself at that time to do its full share to help the Libyan people to increase their opportunities for economic advancement and had given its full support to the various United Nations technical assistance programmes in Libya. In that connexion, he was happy to note that Libya was first among the beneficiaries, in *per capita* terms, of the assistance given by the United Nations under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The United States hoped that the United Nations would continue its efforts in that direction.

3. The United States for its part would continue to give direct assistance to Libya through the Libyan-American Technical Assistance Service established for that purpose in agreement with the Libyan Government. For the fiscal years 1952 and 1953, over \$3 million in technical assistance, supplies and equipment had been made available to Libya through that agency, and it was expected that an additional \$1,500,000 would

be made available during the current fiscal year. The Libyan-American Programme would continue to be closely co-ordinated with the United Nations Technical Assistance Mission and with the authorities and agencies of the Libyan Government, in order to provide maximum benefit to the Libyan economy.

4. The United States delegation, which had wholeheartedly supported Economic and Social Council resolution 493 (XVI), was of course fully prepared to support the draft, before the Committee, contained in document A/C.2/L.221/Rev.1, called attention to one of the ways in which governments could make assistance available to Libya through the United Nations. Some governments might be prepared to make assistance available to Libya through the facilities which the Secretary General could make available for the transmission of such assistance to the Libyan Government. At the same time, as indicated by the representative of Libya, the draft resolution was not designed to discourage governments from extending assistance to Libya under any other arrangements acceptable to the Libyan Government. The United States was extending assistance under such other arrangements and intended to continue to assist Libya directly in every appropriate way so that it might move toward economic independence as quickly as possible.

5. Mr. JUNG (India) said that the Government and people of India had followed with the keenest interest the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Libya. Political independence was, however, meaningless if it was not based on genuine economic independence. The Indian delegation would therefore wholeheartedly support the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.221/Rev.1, in the hope that the Members of the United Nations would do their utmost to help Libya through the Technical Assistance Administration and the specialized agencies to solve the many economic and social problems with which it was faced and on the solution of which the whole future of that young country depended.

6. Mr. DE SEYNES (France) congratulated the Libyan and Egyptian representatives on their graphic outline of the present situation of Libya. The picture they had painted was dark: natural conditions were hard and even hostile; heavy war damage had still to be made good; the *per capita* national income was \$35 a year; the infant mortality rate was at least 300 per 1,000; the illiteracy rate was 85 to 90 per cent, and the level of technical education and technology was very low. Those were the problems with which the new State had to deal. The case of Libya was a typical one in the sense that it illustrated the magnitude of the difficulties confronting the under-developed countries; from that point of view also, it deserved to be given very special consideration by the United Nations.

7. The picture was not, however, wholly dark: first, the courage, determination and steadfastness of the

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

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No 10.*

Libyan people, were the best guarantees of a prolonged effort; secondly, there was the strength of purpose and far-sightedness of the Libyan Government, and in that connexion, he wished to emphasize that the French Government had been favourably impressed by the Libyan Government's plans for the development of the national economy. Lastly, Libya also had a valuable asset in the spirit of international solidarity, and true to that spirit, France had already offered technical and financial assistance to the new State. In 1952, it had contributed direct assistance to the amount of 260 million francs, of which 160 million had helped to cover the budget deficit and 100 million had been contributed to the Libyan Development and Stabilization Agency established on the recommendation of the United Nations Council for Libya. In addition £30,000 had been made available by a French government-sponsored financial institution to the Libyan Finance Corporation, whose authorized capital was £1 million.

8. France intended to continue and possibly to expand its assistance, and the French delegation would accordingly be able to vote for the draft resolution under discussion. The French delegation considered that the text of the draft was not entirely satisfactory and preferred that of Economic and Social Council resolution 493 (XVI), which contained a wider and perhaps more urgent appeal to international solidarity. However, in view of the advanced stage of the Committee's work, he would merely take note of the Libyan representative's statement and of the remarks made by the Egyptian representative in submitting the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.221/Rev.1. It was clear from the debate that the text submitted did not differ in substance from the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council. It was in that spirit that the French Government would continue to assist Libya under the arrangements it had concluded or might conclude with the Libyan Government, on terms acceptable to that Government and in accordance with the spirit of the United Nations Charter.

9. Mr. NURADI (Indonesia) was glad that the draft resolution of which his delegation was one of the sponsors had received such a favourable reception. The Indonesian people had the greatest sympathy for the people of Libya, not only because the two States had attained independence under the auspices of the United Nations, but because of their very similar economic position: for, although Indonesia, unlike Libya, had abundant and varied natural resources, its national income *per capita* was still lower than Libya's, and it too lacked capital and technicians. Indonesia would therefore vote for the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.221/Rev.1) without reservation, in the confident belief that its implementation would strengthen the political and social forces that had arisen in Africa and Asia and were endeavouring to do away with the poverty suffered there owing to the defects of the economic structure which those continents had for so long been obliged to accept.

10. Mr. OQBAEGZY (Ethiopia) said that Ethiopia understood the Libyan people's aspirations to a more prosperous existence and was fully aware of the obstacles Libya had to surmount to realize them, because Ethiopia had thrown in its lot with another war-devastated territory, Eritrea, where it was at present endeavouring to launch an immense programme of economic and social development. Since all its resources were thus

tied up, the Ethiopian Government would, to its deep regret, be unable to take part in the joint action proposed in the draft resolution on assistance to Libya (A/C.2/L.221/Rev.1), though it took the keenest interest in the draft resolution and had decided to vote in favour of it.

11. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that his delegation had already explained its position regarding assistance to Libya to various organs of the United Nations. Libya undoubtedly needed assistance to enable it to remain in existence as an independent State, but the USSR Government, which had always championed the cause of independence, considered that such assistance ought to be provided without violating the fundamental principles of the United Nations and without the recipient countries' being obliged to grant anyone strategic, economic and political privileges. In the case of Libya, the USSR's fears had proved well founded. Under the agreement concluded with the United Kingdom in 1953, Libya had been obliged to grant that great Power, in exchange for financial assistance, the right to maintain strategic and military bases on Libyan territory for twenty years. At the sixteenth session of the Council, the Libyan representative had declared that his country required financial and technical assistance, emphasizing at the same time, however, that such assistance must not in any way be prejudicial to the new State's sovereignty.² The United Kingdom representative had then endeavoured to explain that the agreement in question was consistent with Libya's independence and the provisions of the Charter, and that it actually constituted a contribution to the cause of international peace and security. No one was deceived by those arguments, for the colonial Powers' policy was only too well known. It was quite obvious that a country had been forced to accept obligations towards a great Power that were against its interests.

12. Some parts of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.221/Rev.1 were acceptable, but the USSR delegation was unable to support others, since they would make possible the pursuance of an inadmissible policy. His delegation would accordingly abstain from voting upon it.

13. Mr. COOPER (Liberia) congratulated the Libyan representative on the graphic picture he had given of his country's financial and technical needs. Libya had obtained its political independence, and had now to achieve its economic emancipation. That was an immense and highly complex task, which could not be accomplished without foreign help. All the countries which had contributed and were still contributing to the economic and social development of Libya, therefore, deserved congratulations. His delegation regretted that it was unable to give Libya financial assistance, but would vote in favour of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.221/Rev.1.

14. Mr. BLOUGH (Secretariat), in reply to a question raised by the Saudi Arabian representative at the previous meeting, observed that the report of the Secretary-General on war damages in Libya (A/2000) contained a survey of war damages and reconstruction made by an expert sent to Libya under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. At the Committee's 189th meeting certain criticisms had been made of that report. Since the survey submitted in the report

² *Ibid.*, Sixteenth Session, 746th meeting.

was of a preliminary nature, and in view of resolution 529 (VI), subsequently adopted by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General did not consider it necessary to take any action with regard to the document. He read out the operative part of resolution 529 (VI), which provided that the survey might be resumed at the Libyan Government's request.

15. Mr. HALIQ (Saudi Arabia) agreed that the meaning of resolution 529 (VI) was clear. He had raised the question because he had felt that from the point of view of technical assistance it was desirable to have a fuller study of war damages. It was true that it now lay with the Libyan Government to decide whether to ask for a supplementary study.

16. Sir Clifford NORTON (United Kingdom) had been glad to hear many representatives express sympathy for Libya and say they hoped assistance would be forthcoming. He did not feel, however, that the USSR representative's statement had contributed anything of value to the discussion, the object of which was to encourage assistance to Libya. It was not correct that the agreement between the United Kingdom and Libya was contrary to the provisions of the Charter and prejudicial to the new country's independence. The Charter contained nothing against bilateral agreements, and Libya had the right as an independent State to conclude agreements. The object of the agreement was to maintain international peace and security. It was in accordance with the principles of the Charter and of international agreements and treaties, and did not contain a single clause involving interference in Libya's internal affairs. The USSR representative had spoken of pressure having been brought to bear on Libya to make it sign the agreement. On the contrary, the fact that Libya had certain facilities of no immediate value to itself but which were needed by another country had given it a strong negotiating position. In conclusion, he again drew attention to the unhelpful nature of the USSR delegation's statement.

17. Mr. BETETA (Mexico) was glad to note the efforts made by the United Nations to contribute to Libya's economic advancement. His delegation would vote for the draft resolution, as it approved the principle that it embodied. Unfortunately, owing to its heavy domestic burdens, the Mexican Government would not be able to furnish Libya with any economic assistance. He expressed the hope that Libya's economy would develop rapidly.

18. Mr. CHAUVET (Haiti) said that his delegation had always championed the independence of peoples, and that it had opposed a motion in the General Assembly that would have delayed Libya's independence by ten years. Now that the question of technical assistance to Libya was before the Committee, his delegation would wholeheartedly support the draft resolution to organize that assistance.

19. Mr. USCOCOVICH (Ecuador) said that he would vote for the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.221/Rev.1) concerning assistance for Libya. His Government regretted, however, that it would be unable to make any effective contribution to that assistance, since it had to cope with the devastation caused by recent earthquakes in Ecuador, which imposed a heavy financial burden. His delegation's support of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.221/Rev.1 should therefore not be regarded as a promise to make a financial contribution.

20. Mr. RIZK (Lebanon), whose delegation was one of the authors of the draft resolution, thanked all the representatives who had spoken in favour of the draft. Libya's needs were real and immediate; having been launched on the road to independence, the new State must be equipped with a sound economy.

21. Mr. O'NAGHTEN (Cuba) said that he would vote in favour of the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.221/Rev.1) because it was an expression of the Committee's interest in Libya's development. He pointed out that his support should not be interpreted as a commitment on the part of the Cuban Government to contribute to the financing of the fundamental programmes for the development of Libya.

22. Mr. YAFTALI (Afghanistan) joined the other delegations in welcoming the Libyan representative. He had listened with keen interest to the statements of the Libyan and Egyptian representatives, who had clearly described Libya's situation. Afghanistan's financial position was difficult, however, and his Government would therefore be unable to contribute to the financing of programmes for the development of other countries. It was in that spirit that he would vote in favour of draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.221/Rev.1.

23. The CHAIRMAN called for a vote on the draft resolution on the question of assistance to Libya (A/C.2/L.221/Rev.1).

24. Mr. COOPER (Liberia) moved that the draft resolution should be put to the vote paragraph by paragraph.

It was so decided.

The first paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 45 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The second paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 45 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The third paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 45 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The fourth paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 45 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The fifth paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 45 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The sixth paragraph of the preamble was adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 1 of the operative part was adopted by 44 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Paragraph 2 was adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 3 was adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 4 was adopted unanimously.

Paragraph 5 was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution was adopted by 45 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

25. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Rapporteur would prepare a draft report on the question of assistance to Libya for submission to the General Assembly. He asked the delegations who wished their observations to be included in the report to get into touch with the Rapporteur before 11 a.m. on Monday, 7 December.

26. Mr. ANEIZI (United Kingdom of Libya) thanked the members of the Committee for their references to his country and the welcome which they had accorded him. He wished particularly to express his gratitude to the sponsors of the draft resolution which had just been adopted by a large majority.

Referring to the ties of friendship between the people of Libya and the peoples of Pakistan and India, he said that he had been deeply moved to hear the delegations of those two States express their hope that Libya might one day be represented in the United Nations as a Member State. That hope, already expressed in General Assembly resolution 289 (IV), under which Libya had become an independent State, had not yet been realized. The people of his country were most anxious to obtain that full recognition of their sovereignty, and Libya was desirous of exercising its prerogatives as a sovereign State in the international community. In conclusion, he expressed his particular gratitude to the delegation of Haiti, which had been one of the principle architects of Libyan independence.

Completion of the Committee's work

27. Mr. MIR KHAN (Pakistan) paid tribute to the Chairman for the way in which he had presided over the debates in the Committee and in the various working groups. His thorough knowledge of the questions on the agenda, his mastery of procedure and his impartiality had enabled him to perform a difficult task with outstanding skill. On behalf of the delegations of the British Commonwealth countries, he extended congratulations to the Chairman.

28. Mr. UMARI (Iraq), speaking on behalf of the delegations of the Arab States, praised the spirit of compromise which had prevailed in the Committee and in the working groups. He thanked the Chairman, who had been chiefly responsible for that harmony. He also addressed his thanks to the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur, the Principal Director of the Department of Economic Affairs and all the members of the Secretariat.

29. Mr. BETETA (Mexico), acting as spokesman for the countries of Latin America, praised the manner in which the Chairman had conducted the debates in the Committee. He also expressed gratitude to the officers of the Committee and the members of the Secretariat.

30. Mr. MENDEZ (Philippines) thought that the Committee had made a useful contribution to the establishment of international peace and security. On behalf of the delegations of the countries of South-East Asia, he thanked the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur and the members of the Secretariat.

31. Mr. YAFTALI (Afghanistan), Mr. WOULBROUN (Belgium), Mr. P. CHENG (China), Mr. OQBAEGZY (Ethiopia), Mr. DE SEYNES (France), Mr. JUNG (India), Mr. JONKER (Netherlands), Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. FORD (United States of America) associated themselves with the previous speakers in congratulating the Chairman and expressing their gratitude to the officers of the Committee and the members of the Secretariat.

32. The CHAIRMAN said that he had been deeply moved by the tributes of the Committee. He praised the spirit of collaboration which had marked the debates of the Committee and its working groups. He pointed out that there was a place for controversy in such debates, because it enabled delegations to express their views, which were often divergent, but which could be reconciled by mutual concessions. He hoped that that spirit would continue to prevail, as it would enable the United Nations to continue its constructive work. In conclusion, he thanked the Committee, the officers and all the members of the Secretariat, who had shown unflagging devotion.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.