

Friday, 18 October 1957,
at 3.20 p.m.



NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Jiří NOSEK (Czechoslovakia).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters II, III, IV and V) (A/3613, A/3661, A/C.2/L.330, A/C.2/L.332, A/C.2/L.333, A/C.2/L.335) (continued)

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON METHODS OF IMPLEMENTING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 654 A (XXIV) (A/C.2/L.332), AND DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (A/C.2/L.335)

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Hagiwara (Japan), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the Bulgarian draft resolution (A/C.2/L.332). Informal discussions on the Romanian draft resolution (A/C.2/L.330) were still in progress.

2. Mr. KAMENOV (Bulgaria), introducing his delegation's draft resolution (A/C.2/L.332), observed that the general debate on the Economic and Social Council's report (A/3613) had shown the number and importance of the international economic problems awaiting solution. The Bulgarian delegation had been happy to note that it was not alone in thinking that the broadening and improvement of international economic co-operation generally could help much towards the solution of the problems of which everyone had spoken with such concern. Furthermore, a great number of delegations had stressed--and rightly--that the expansion of international trade could help improve the world economic situation and facilitate the solution both of economic and of other vital problems. His delegation had felt, therefore, that Council resolutions 654 A (XXIV) and 654 E (XXIV) should be implemented with all speed and had come to the conclusion that the Secretary-General might be helped, in carrying out the tasks laid upon him in those resolutions, by the convening of a conference of experts of the countries concerned in 1958 to discuss measures to increase and improve international trade. In that connexion the views of Governments should be sought on the establishment of an international trade organization either as a new body or as an extension of an already existing body. As resolution 654 A (XXIV) stated, there were varying opinions on the subject, and they should be given an airing. The conference ought also to consider international commodity trade and

measures to put that trade on a sound basis and eliminate the difficulties that bedevilled the economies of the raw material-exporting countries. The conference might also examine the various suggestions for other conferences on related topics put forward by the delegations of Sudan, Iraq, Haiti, the Soviet Union and Colombia. All those matters were germane to the implementation of resolution 654 A (XXIV) and could and should be examined by an international conference of experts. There was no doubt that such a conference would help the Secretary-General accomplish his task and enable him to submit a better and more detailed report on the subject of international trade and international economic co-operation in general. He hoped, therefore, that his delegation's draft resolution would win the unanimous support of the Committee.

3. Mr. LYCHOWSKI (Poland) noted that the seven-Power draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.2/L.335) was on the same subject--the expansion of international trade--as the draft resolution introduced by the Bulgarian representative. He wondered if it would not be advisable for the Committee to consider the two drafts together in order to avoid duplication of the discussion.

4. Mr. CHAUVET (Haiti), seconded by Mr. COOPER (Liberia), proposed that the meeting be adjourned briefly to allow the sponsors of the seven-Power draft resolution to consult each other.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 3.40 p.m. and resumed at 4.15 p.m.

5. Mr. KAMENOV (Bulgaria) intimated that his delegation had no objection to the discussion of the two draft resolutions together.

6. Mr. TOKUHISA (Japan), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the seven-Power draft resolution, said that they were not opposed to the discussion of the two draft resolutions together but were not prepared to introduce their own draft resolution at the present meeting.

7. Mr. LYCHOWSKI (Poland) said that although handicapped in pursuing the discussion by the fact that the seven-Power joint draft had not been introduced, he would like to explain what had prompted him to make his suggestion. He had observed that the two drafts had much in common: both were based on Economic and Social Council resolution 654 A (XXIV) and both had the same ultimate objective. The seven-Power draft, however, specifically proposed measures towards the early establishment of the Organization for Trade Co-operation. But the Contracting Parties to the general agreement on Tariffs and Trade, who would presumably constitute the membership of that organization, numbered only 35 and the draft would therefore seem to invite abstentions from the remaining 47 members of the Committee. Nevertheless, as resolution 654 A

(XXIV) admitted, there were differing views about the matter; the seven delegations themselves recognized that "further expansion of international trade" was necessary and it might be that they had in mind a broader membership for the projected Organization for Trade Co-operation. In any event it would seem that the Bulgarian proposal for a conference of experts was a useful one since it would afford an opportunity for full discussion of the whole matter. In that case the two draft resolutions might be combined into a single joint draft.

8. In reply to a question from Mr. FINGER (United States of America), Mr. KAMENOV (Bulgaria) said that the "countries concerned" mentioned in the operative paragraph of the Bulgarian draft resolution were all the States Members of the United Nations interested in participating in such a conference of experts.

9. Mrs. WRIGHT (Denmark) stated that in agreeing to the discussion of the two drafts together the sponsors of the seven-Power draft resolution had not had in mind the idea of producing a single joint draft resolution. On the contrary, they saw the two drafts as directed towards the same goal but offering alternative means of attaining it.

Mr. NOSEK (Czechoslovakia) resumed the Chair.

10. The CHAIRMAN suggested that consideration of the two draft resolutions be postponed to the next meeting.

It was so decided.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS (A/C.2/L.333)

11. Mr. ULLRICH (Czechoslovakia), introducing his delegation's draft resolution (A/C.2/L.333), observed that it was unnecessary to emphasize the importance of the regional economic commissions, the value of whose work had indeed been recognized in Council resolution 414 (XIII) which provided for the continued operation of the three regional commissions as permanent United Nations bodies. The idea of a regional commission for Africa was also gaining support.

12. The value of interregional co-operation was also evident and measures to promote it had already been

recommended in Council resolutions 579 (XX) and 614 A (XXII). All the regional economic commissions faced similar problems, such as the development of trade, arrangements for broader technical co-operation and the utilization of sources of energy, and in an increasing number of cases solution could more effectively be sought on an interregional basis.

13. His delegation's draft resolution, after expressing satisfaction with the activities and achievements of the commissions, and singling out the valuable help they had rendered in the realization of regional projects, drew attention to the desirability of encouraging a more effective exchange of information and experience in matters of common interest and called for the further promotion of interregional co-operation, within the scope of the commissions' terms of reference.

14. His delegation also felt that countries not belonging to the region concerned could usefully participate in a consultative capacity in the work of the regional commissions. Such co-operation was already taking place, and his delegation had intended to recommend in its draft that it should be expanded, but had not done so in view of the misgivings that had been expressed in some quarters. Such co-operation should not take the form of interference. Interested countries could, however, attend the sessions of the regional commissions and their participation would be fruitful and tend to prevent a narrowly regional outlook.

15. His country was interested in the work of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), from the standpoint of both economic co-operation and technical co-operation. As a large producer of machinery, it felt that it could do much to help the industrialization of the under-developed countries. His delegation particularly valued the useful work of the Economic Commission for Europe, which had devoted much attention to the solution of practical problems in intra-European trade and had supported the idea of intra-regional consultations among European countries.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.