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Chairman: Mr. Janez STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia).

AGENDA ITEMS 28, 30, 31 AND 32

Progress and operations of the Special Fund (A/4415, A/4491, E/3398, E/3401 and Corr.1, SF/L.24 and Corr.1) (continued)

Programmes of technical assistance:

- (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/4415) (continued);
- (b) United Nations assistance in public administration: report of the Secretary-General (A/4589, E/3370 and Corr.1) (continued)

Opportunities for international co-operation on behalf of former Trust Territories and other newly independent States: reports of the Economic and Social Council and of the Secretary-General (A/4415, A/4585) (continued)

Question of assistance to Libya: report of the Secretary-General (A/4575, A/4576) (continued)

STATEMENTS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, OF NEW ZEALAND AND OF THE SUDAN

1. Mrs. GEORGE (United States of America) said that the newly independent countries presented a challenge and an opportunity to the United Nations in the assistance field. The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance had proved its value over ten years of operation and the Special Fund had made a promising start.

2. Commenting on the Expanded Programme, she said that the new two-year programming system would greatly facilitate a more orderly execution of technical assistance projects, particularly those of a long-term character. TAB had also been asked to make recommendations for the simplification and improvement of its programming procedures, including the elimination of agency sub-totals from country targets and the abolition of the present system of agency planning shares, in order to achieve maximum efficiency and enable recipient countries to obtain the kind of technical assistance they needed.

3. Her Government welcomed the increasing attention to Africa, whose share of the total technical assistance programme in 1961-1962 would rise to about 29 per cent. Despite that increase, assistance to other regions would not be reduced; Chile, for instance, would receive additional aid to overcome the effects of the recent earthquakes.

4. The Special Fund, which was of great value for economic development because of its emphasis on pre-investment activities, had made encouraging progress and the Governing Council's report (E/3398) gave good reason for optimism regarding its future. Two proposed measures of potential importance to new countries were the broadening of the Fund's scope to include assistance in secondary education and the allocation of \$250,000 to help countries in the preparation of projects. Lastly, the close collaboration between the Fund, TAB and the specialized agencies augured well for the future.

5. The United States welcomed the increased contributions pledged by many Governments to the Expanded Programme and the Special Fund and would urge them to make further increases. Her Government would continue to contribute 40 per cent of the total resources of the Expanded Programme and Special Fund on a matching basis up to a combined total of \$100 million, and regretted that that pledge had not yet been fully used because of the failure of other Governments to match the United States offer. All the \$100 million fixed as the initial goal for the two programmes would be needed in 1961, and technical assistance to newly independent States equivalent to that furnished to other States of comparable size, without reductions in the programmes of other countries, would require an increase of at least \$10 million in the period 1961-1962. In a world in which about \$300 million was spent every day on armaments, failure to reach that modest target would be shameful. The Committee would be assured that the United States stood ready to play its part.

6. Agenda item 31 (Opportunities for international co-operation on behalf of former Trust Territories and other newly independent States), was one of the most important on the agenda. Economic and Social Council resolution 768 (XXX), which the United States had co-sponsored, urged the provision of prompt and effective assistance to those new countries within the framework of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and recommended that appropriate provision be made for such assistance in the budget of the United Nations. While the principal support for United Nations technical assistance programmes should come from voluntary contributions, it was clear from the Secretary-General's report (A/4585) that the newly independent countries could not obtain certain desperately-needed technical assistance unless provision was also made in the regular budget. If Members were agreed that the newly independent countries should receive such assistance they must also assume a fair share of the burden of providing it. She recalled that President Eisenhower, in his address to the General Assembly on 22 September (868th plenary meeting), had declared that the emergence of new nations in Africa and other developing areas demanded a renewed attack on poverty, illiteracy and disease, and had urged the United Nations to help those countries to prepare their long-term development programmes by increased assistance through the Expanded Programme, the Special Fund, the OPEX programme, IBRD and IMF. Since then IDA had been established and she hoped that the newly independent countries of Africa would join IDA and receive assistance from it.

7. Other assistance, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, would also be needed and should be related to the basic problems and changing needs of the African countries themselves. As President Eisenhower had said, the United States was also ready to contribute to an expanded programme of educational assistance to Africa, under United Nations auspices and based on the needs and requests of the countries themselves. The projects could include appropriately located institutes for health education, vocational training and courses in statistics and public administration. The United States was playing a leading role at the current UNESCO Conference, which proposed to increase its regular budget by \$1 million for increased education assistance to Africa.

8. In conclusion, she pointed out that all countries were under-developed in some field and were ultimately interdependent. Excellent institutions were available for international co-operation and they should be fully used to meet the present challenge.

9. Mr. GREEN (New Zealand) said that the emergence of many new countries presented a challenge to the international community in general, and the United Nations in particular. All the new States were economically under-developed and, although they were making great efforts to strengthen their economies and achieve social progress, they would continue to need outside help for some time to come. He recalled that Economic and Social Council resolutions 752 (XXIX) and 768 (XXX), both of which his delegation had co-sponsored, recognized the need for prompt and effective United Nations assistance to the newly independent States and called for additional contributions to the Expanded Programme and the Special Fund.

10. Certain special needs arose directly from the process of transition to independence and the Secretary-General had been asked to prepare a programme of appropriate assistance to be financed from the regular budget of the United Nations. That report (A/4585), although not comprehensive, gave a clear indication of the type and magnitude of the assistance required. The Secretary-General's proposals were in line with the views expressed by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and his delegation supported them in principle. The United Nations had a special interest in assisting newly independent States and should be given the means of discharging that responsibility. The Expanded Programme was placing heavy emphasis on assistance in the conduct of basic surveys, and his delegation felt that similar emphasis should be laid on public administration and development programming. If requests in those fields could not be met in other ways, the Executive Chairman of TAB would be justified in using his contingency authority to provide it. It was obvious, however, that the resources available under the Expanded Programme would not be sufficient to meet all, or even the greater part of, the valid requests new States were likely to make. His Government believed that assistance to the newly independent States should be provided for in the regular budget of the United Nations and he hoped that the Secretary-General's proposals would be sympathetically considered by the Fifth Committee. He also hoped that the detailed report on the utilization of additional funds, which the Secretary-General intended to submit to the General Assembly in 1961, would also be laid before TAC, within whose province the activities to be financed would fall; and it would be useful if the Secretary-General could submit an interim report to TAC at its summer session.

11. In addition to adequate financial resources, assistance programmes required qualified personnel and, as the Secretary-General pointed out in paragraph 26 of his report (A/4585), it was becoming increasingly difficult to find suitable experts and training facilities for technical assistance work. That was due both to the rapidly increasing demands for technical assistance and to insufficient efforts on the part of organizations administering assistance programmes. The main reason, however, was that the importance of service with international organiza-

tions was not always fully recognized by Governments and in some cases little encouragement was given to those willing to undertake it. Although skilled men and women were usually needed in their own countries, more would have to be made available if international assistance programmes were to be fully effective. His delegation would therefore support the Secretary-General's appeal to Member States to facilitate the recruitment of suitable personnel, and considered that the appeal might usefully be incorporated in an Assembly resolution. Meanwhile, he would urge the Secretary-General to ensure that existing opportunities for the recruitment of suitable personnel, in countries like his own, for instance, were fully utilized.

12. As the Secretary-General had pointed out, the OPEX programme was particularly suited to the needs of the newly independent countries, although many other countries at various stages of economic development also needed and had requested such assistance. The comments of recipient Governments clearly showed that the programme was able to meet those needs in widely differing circumstances. His delegation believed that the programme had an important part to play in the development of the less developed countries and that its resources should be substantially increased. The New Zealand delegation had co-sponsored Economic and Social Council resolution 790 (XXX), which recommended that the programme be established on a continuing basis, and was also co-sponsoring a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.460 and Add.1-2), now before the Committee, giving effect to the Council's recommendations. Since the programme had hitherto been conducted on an experimental basis, the Secretary-General would no doubt take into account the total number of requests for OPEX assistance as well as the needs of newly independent countries when recommending the distribution of the additional funds. It was also to be hoped that there would soon be a substantial increase in the number of appointments under the programme, as procedures for recruitment had been established and agreement reached with a number of Governments on the terms of appointment. To be fully effective, such assistance must be concentrated at the higher levels and he was glad to note that in making appointments, priority was given to posts of strategic importance to economic development. While it was not always easy to recruit high level personnel on a short-term basis, the programme would be of real value only if appointments were made on the basis of the highest personal and professional qualifications. Recruitment should also be on as wide a geographical basis as possible, since the programme offered scope for the provision of assistance by countries at different stages of development, and he hoped that all countries capable of providing such personnel would be given the opportunity of doing so.

13. The Expanded Programme had proved to be one of the most successful channels of direct assistance to Governments, with the result that its steadily increasing resources had consistently been outstripped by the demand for assistance. Its success was mainly due to the sound principle that the Government of the recipient country was the best judge of its needs and should be given the greatest possible freedom of action in determining the content of its country programme. That principle had been embodied in the country programme procedure adopted in 1953, but

at that time the earlier system of agency planning shares had been retained also. That procedure had proved cumbersome and had not fully realized the objective of allowing Governments a free choice of assistance. To simplify the procedure and make the programme more flexible, two-year planning had been introduced experimentally for the period 1961-1962. Although an improvement, the new system did not go far enough in making the Programme responsive to the wishes of recipient Governments and TAC had decided at its summer session to plan and approve projects for their entire duration and to eliminate the system of agency planning shares, thus giving recipient Governments the greatest possible freedom of choice. In the 1961-1962 programmes, assistance had been concentrated in fields of activity with relatively high priority in the recipient countries, for instance basic surveys, education and health services. Without the greater flexibility resulting from the elimination of agency planning shares, such concentration might not have been possible.

14. The Expanded Programme had a particularly important part to play in newly independent States. In countries at a relatively early stage of economic growth, technical assistance was usually the first requirement for accelerated development and was often needed for the formulation of projects qualifying for assistance on a larger scale, whether of a capital or a pre-investment character. That fact had been recognized by the Governing Council of the Special Fund, which had agreed to the appropriation of \$250,000 for assistance to Governments in the preparation of projects. Whereas the Expanded Programme made specific provision in 1961-1962 for all the newly independent States, the Special Fund had so far been able to undertake projects in only a few of them. The ability of the new States to benefit from large-scale international assistance depended mainly on the extent and effectiveness of the technical assistance they received, and if the growth of the Special Fund was allowed to outstrip that of the Expanded Programme, international assistance might fail to reach the countries most in need of it, or at least fail to reach them in sufficient volume. His delegation did not underestimate the importance of the Special Fund, which provided a type of assistance of great value to many under-developed countries as a means of bridging the gap between technical assistance and capital investment, although it was not a substitute for either. The Fund's administration had shown commendable flexibility in applying its basic principles to the actual requirements of the less developed countries; restrictions such as the \$250,000 lower limit for projects and the restriction on projects in the social field had been relaxed to meet specific needs. Further modifications might be necessary to enable countries in a relatively early stage of development to derive the greatest benefit from the Special Fund.

15. The Special Fund's close co-operation with capital-supplying agencies, such as IBRD and IDA, was most valuable since it helped to ensure the availability of capital when projects reached the investment stage. He hoped that some action would be taken to strengthen that co-operation further. While there was scope for further expansion in the Fund's activities commensurate with the rate of growth of the Expanded Programme, its usefulness as an instrument of United Nations assistance to under-developed countries de-

pendent on the ability of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to obtain the services of suitably qualified technical and managerial personnel, for work both in the organizations and in the field. Unless that problem was solved the capacity of the organizations concerned to handle the projects entrusted to them would be seriously limited; and this consideration had to be taken into account by Governments in determining the allocation of the resources which they were prepared to make available to international organizations.

16. With regard to the question of resources, it was gratifying that over \$40 million had been pledged to the Expanded Programme for 1961 and nearly \$50 million to the Special Fund, representing a three fold increase in the past three years. Together with the provision requested by the Secretary-General in the regular budget, that sum would enable the most urgent needs of newly independent and emergent States to be met. Those needs fell mainly within the scope of the Expanded Programme and in order to meet them the assistance to other countries had had to be kept down to existing levels, although their needs had not diminished. When fully effective, technical assistance tended to create new needs, which often could not be met without further assistance. While additional assistance would become available to many countries through the increase in the resources of the Special Fund, such a substitution might not in all cases be convenient or acceptable. The Expanded Programme must therefore continue to expand, just as the Special Fund must continue to grow. Since pledging its contributions for 1961, his Government had reconsidered its position and was able to announce that it would contribute \$280,000 to the Expanded Programme and \$140,000 to the Special Fund, both partly payable in New Zealand currency and partly convertible into sterling. That constituted a 50 per cent increase over its contribution for 1960 and, on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessments, was New Zealand's proper share in the target figure of \$100 million.

17. Mr. HASSAN (Sudan) expressed appreciation of the illuminating statements made to the Committee by Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Owen, Mr. Heurtematte and Mr. Abbas (694th meeting). Mr. Hoffman's statement had increased his delegation's conviction that the widening gap between the industrialized and the less developed countries could be closed only by a concerted and many-sided attack on the problem. His delegation had also been glad to see that the Managing Director of the Special Fund was developing a more flexible understanding of pre-investment requirements and did not intend to be restricted by an over-rigid interpretation of the Special Fund's terms of reference. It was also pleased to note that the Fund had established close relations with other United Nations bodies and was minimizing costs by making use of TAB's Resident Representatives. It continued to hope that the Managing Director of the Fund would be able to make an extensive tour of Africa in order to acquire first hand knowledge of the urgency of the continent's problems.

18. His delegation had already commented in TAC on the work of the Expanded Programme. He was glad that it had been found possible to devote a larger share of the Programme's resources to Africa without decreasing the total amount of aid going to other

regions and that some of the Programme's resources had been devoted to emergency aid for Chile. In general, his delegation considered that the United Nations should play a greater part in the extension of emergency economic aid, and hoped that some day it would maintain a regular fund for that purpose.

19. His delegation also considered that the OPEX programme filled a real need and would point out that Mr. Abbas' remarks on the special difficulties of the new African States in obtaining credit constituted an additional argument for the establishment of a United Nations capital development fund.

AGENDA ITEMS 12, 29 AND 74

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters II (sections I, II and III A, except paragraphs 189-198), III, IV and VII (section I and paragraph 645)) (A/4415) (continued)

Economic development of under-developed countries (continued):

- (a) International flow of private capital: report of the Secretary-General and recommendations thereon by the Economic and Social Council (A/4487, E/3325 and Corr.1-3);
- (b) Question of the establishment of a United Nations capital development fund: report of the Secretary-General (A/4488, E/3393, E/3393/Add.1-4);
- (c) Methods and techniques for carrying out a study of world economic development: report of the Secretary-General and comments thereon by the Economic and Social Council (A/4489 and Add.1, E/3379, E/3379/Add.1-7);
- (d) Promotion of wider trade co-operation among States: report of the Secretary-General (A/4490, E/3389)

Land reform (A/4439) (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/C.2/L.492) (continued)

20. Mr. AYARI (Tunisia) said that his delegation had joined in co-sponsoring the draft resolution on projections (A/C.2/L.492) because of its conviction that sustained growth must necessarily be linked with long-term projections and planning in the under-developed countries. While the Governments of those countries were becoming increasingly aware of the need for a sustained and co-ordinated attack on development problems, it must be recognized that the unintegrated and unbalanced nature of their economies complicated the problem of drawing up plans and projections. Projections could not, moreover, be based on purely economic considerations; for example, projections of demand must be based not only on estimated changes in national income but also on an analysis of the different uses to which increased income would be put by different social groups. If, in addition to the stochastic elements normally present in variations of demand, demand projections were distorted by the extra- or anti-economic behaviour of large groups, the projections might be practically useless. Thus, while projections were valuable as indications of future trends, they must necessarily be used with caution.

21. U HLA MAUNG (Burma) said it was his delegation's belief that economic projections, if used with understanding and awareness of their limitations, could make a useful contribution to economic development. As now worded, the eight-Power draft resolution dealt chiefly with the international aspect of projections. His delegation considered that they could also be of value in the planning of economic development, and felt that the inclusion of an acknowledgement of their usefulness in that respect would make the draft resolution stronger and more comprehensive. The amendments his delegation had submitted (A/C.2/L.523) were intended to bring out that point.

22. Mr. DANGEARD (France) remarked that the draft resolution had the two essential merits of recalling the work already done by the United Nations, and in particular the Commission on International Commodity Trade, and encouraging the continuation of that work on the lines already laid down, while taking due account of both the importance attached to that work by many Governments and the methodological limitations to which it was still subject. The draft resolution also recognized the difficulties involved and gave the Secretary-General enough time to prepare the study requested. For those reasons, his delegation would vote in favour of the draft.

23. Mr. SAMUEL (India) recalled that the Secretary-General had been requested under General Assembly resolution 1428 (XIV), which his delegation had co-sponsored, to arrange for a preliminary investigation into the methods and techniques to be employed in carrying out a comprehensive, co-ordinated and continuing study of the desirability of projecting and planning on a global scale. His delegation would like to see the Secretariat address itself adequately and seriously to the initiation and preparation of such a comprehensive study. Although it would necessarily be complex and would require some time for its completion, his delegation would point out that various national and international organizations had done a significant amount of work in the field, as could be seen from the excellent summary tables in the Secretary-General's preliminary report on the evaluation of long-term economic projections (E/3379).

24. Turning to the subject of projections themselves, he said that in the present age of general planning and interdependence it was inevitable that a degree of forward economic thinking and long-range economic projection should become necessary. There could be no planning without such projections, and it was equally important that the projections should be based on reliable data and proved techniques. Projections must have as much predictive validity as the science of economics could give them. It remained an open question, however, whether change, which was the inevitable law of history, could be taken into account in any long-range projection. The extrapolation of past trends, apart from its inherent defect of oversimplification, could provide only unproved hypotheses with regard to the future. Moreover, because of the economic interrelationships in the modern world, many factors of change became more complex when viewed against a world background and might thus defy even reasonable assumption or approximation. Economic and Social Council resolution 741 (XXVIII) had requested the Secretary-General to undertake an evaluation of the techniques of

long-term economic projections and their applicability to countries in different stages of development. In view of the fact that the limitations of method did not impose themselves with the same weight in the circumscribed fields of national economies, particularly those of under-developed countries, he wondered whether that resolution was not more practical and more conducive to results than General Assembly resolution 1428 (XIV), which had placed the problem of projections in a broader setting; he presumed that the latter resolution did not supersede the former.

25. His delegation considered that the observations made in paragraph 57 of the Secretary-General's report (E/3379) did not give sufficient emphasis to the role of national projections. In its view, national projections had greater value, particularly in the case of under-developed countries, than projections made in the broader setting of the long-term progress of the world, referred to in resolution 1428 (XIV). What was required was an international system or body which would assist national authorities in planning their growth, and evaluating and mobilizing their resources—in short, in making national projections. The collation and composite study of such national projections would subsequently facilitate the study of broader projections on a world scale.

26. His delegation would support the draft resolution on projections but wished, in doing so, to place on record its belief that studies undertaken by the Secretary-General or United Nations bodies should be directed towards the formulation of a global as well as regional plans which would take into account the interdependence of national economies, the growth of world population, and the availability and balanced distribution of material resources as well as of technical knowledge. It would also suggest that when those studies were being undertaken all the statements made on the question in the Second Committee and the plenary meetings of the General Assembly should be taken into account.

27. Mr. SMID (Czechoslovakia) said his delegation had no doubt that it was important for the United Nations to study methods of economic projection and the possible application of such methods on a wider scale. It must be recognized, however, that projections had many defects, particularly in countries with non-socialist economies, and that their common characteristic was a lack of certainty. Long-term projections based on mere extrapolation were particularly uncertain and could lead, as a number of well-known examples attested, to absurd results. The United Nations must therefore consider the defects of techniques of economic projection and attempt to find their causes. In that connexion, his delegation considered that Economic and Social Council resolution 777 (XXX) provided a useful guide.

28. Although his delegation agreed that projections had special importance to the less developed countries, it considered that it was more important for those countries to concentrate their attention on determining what was needed for their own economic development and ensuring that those needs were met. Above all, those countries should not allow themselves to be diverted by the theory that their progress was dependent on the progress of the developed countries.

29. His delegation also considered that the draft resolution should lay greater emphasis on the dynamic aspect of projections, and therefore supported the Burmese amendments.

30. Mr. ROBERTSON (Australia) said that his Government had a direct and sympathetic interest in projections for primary commodities since Australia's export earnings were dependent on a very narrow range of such commodities. It therefore wholeheartedly supported the draft resolution, the first key provision of which requested a study containing such projections, and noted with approval that other operative paragraphs took into account the activities of other United Nations organizations. It also welcomed paragraph 6, which it regarded as the draft resolution's second key provision; while international efforts in the field could be intensified with advantage, it must be recognized that research on the problem was at an early stage, and that one of the main tasks of the work proposed was to explore further the methodological problems involved.

31. Mr. ERROCK (United Kingdom) said that his delegation welcomed the draft resolution, which it regarded as a useful follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolution 777 (XXX), and concurred in the emphasis laid on major primary commodities in paragraph 5. It would be generally agreed, however, that techniques of projection were still in a fairly elementary stage and that there were serious deficiencies in the data available, even in developed countries. The preparation of experimental projections seemed a proper and acceptable method of developing those techniques, provided that the projections were clearly recognized as experimental. Although they might well be useful in themselves, his delegation thought it highly important that such tentative projections should not be regarded as separate from the work to be done on techniques and data. For those reasons, it would suggest the insertion, before the word "note" in paragraph 6 of the word "detailed", and the addition, after the word "used" in the same paragraph, of the phrase "and the problems encountered". His delegation would support the draft resolution whether or not those suggestions were adopted.

32. Mr. MEJIA (Colombia) observed that his country was concerned not so much with long-term projections as with the urgent problem of the declining price of coffee, a commodity on which Colombia depended for 80 per cent of its foreign currency earnings. Nevertheless, he recognized the usefulness of the eight-Power draft resolution and would vote in favour of it.

33. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) commended the sponsors of the joint draft resolution for their workmanlike text and expressed agreement with the remarks made by the United Kingdom representative, in particular with his suggested amendments to paragraph 6. The Burmese amendment (A/C.2/L.523) might give rise to some difficulty because it introduced an idea that seemed out of place in the joint draft resolution. His delegation would be glad to support the text as it stood but would like an assurance from the sponsors that the draft endorsed the terms of Council resolution 777 (XXX) and particularly its emphasis on the importance of methodology.

34. Mr. KAKITSUBO (Japan) said that his delegation fully appreciated the value of medium- and long-term projections in national economic planning and the need for projections of major international economic trends, particularly in the field of primary commodities. It had supported all the Assembly and Council resolutions on the subject and recognized the importance of assessing international demand for primary commodities exported by the under-developed countries.

35. The topic was of such complexity and magnitude that successful work could be accomplished only if a careful and realistic approach were adopted and liaison maintained with the appropriate specialist bodies, such as the Commission on International Commodity Trade. In its report to the Economic and Social Council (E/3383), the Commission had implied that projections relating to non-agricultural commodities involved even greater difficulties than projections relating to agricultural commodities and had rightly suggested that the Secretariat should prepare pilot studies of a few non-agricultural commodities before undertaking a more comprehensive programme of work.

36. In view of the fact that the Commission on International Commodity Trade was due to hold its joint session with the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems in 1962, the sponsors of the joint draft resolution might consider allowing more time for the study requested in paragraph 5 to enable the Secretary-General to take the results of the joint session into consideration. Paragraph 4 should also be amended, since the Commission on International Commodity Trade had already decided to continue consideration of the question and there was little point in inviting it to do so.

The meeting was suspended at 5.10 p.m. and resumed at 5.35 p.m.

37. Mr. ENCINAS (Peru), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, accepted the amendments to paragraph 6 suggested by the United Kingdom representative and proposed, in order to meet the point raised by the Japanese representative, that paragraph 4 should be reworded to read:

"Welcomes the decision of the Commission on International Commodity Trade to continue the consideration of this question at its next session and invites it to make such recommendations as it deems appropriate;"

With regard to the timing of the Secretary-General's report, the sponsors had held prior consultations with the Secretariat and trusted that the studies would be conducted with the necessary flexibility and co-ordination.

38. In order to take account of the first Burmese amendment, he proposed that the latter part of the second preambular paragraph should be reworded to read: "... for the formulation of their long-term policies and plans for economic development, including the use of their natural resources". The aim of the second Burmese amendment was technically unexceptionable but it introduced a somewhat extraneous idea and the sponsors would prefer not to include it.

39. Finally, he assured the United States representative that the joint draft resolution fully endorsed

Council resolution 777 (XXX), particularly with regard to the importance of methodology.

40. U HLA MAUNG (Burma) explained that his amendments were intended to make the draft resolution more comprehensive since, as its title showed, it was concerned with projections in general and not merely with projections in the field of primary commodities. He was therefore grateful that the sponsors had reworded the second preambular paragraph in order to incorporate his first amendment.

41. The aim of his second amendment was not merely to state a principle but also to suggest action. Technical assistance was already being given in the field of projections and the subject was also dealt with in some detail by the regional economic commissions. The proposed paragraph therefore introduced nothing new and, as the Peruvian representative had pointed out, was technically unexceptionable. However, as the sponsors seemed to feel that it introduced a note of incongruity, he would not press it.

42. Mr. HASSAN (Sudan) said that although the Burmese representative had not pressed his second amendment, it raised a point of particular impor-

tance to the African countries. He would like to know whether the inclusion of such a paragraph would have caused any difficulties from the Secretariat's point of view.

43. Mr. MOSAK (Secretariat) replied that technical assistance programmes were carried out entirely at the request of Member Governments and if they asked for help in the field of projections their applications would be considered in the normal way.

The draft resolution (A/C.2/L.492), as amended, was adopted unanimously.

44. Mr. ABDEL GHAFAR (United Arab Republic), explaining his vote, said that he had supported the joint draft resolution because, as a country which depended for the bulk of its export earnings on the production of cotton, the United Arab Republic was keenly interested in medium- and long-term projections of the prospective international demand for and supply of selected major primary commodities. The Ministry of Planning in his country was engaged in studies of projections based on United Nations data.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.