United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY NINTH SESSION Official Records



second committee, 342nd

(CLOSING) MEETING

Monday, 13 December 1954, at 3.25 p.m.

New York

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Agenda item 12:

The Korean question:

Chairman: Sir Douglas COPLAND (Australia).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapters II and III (A/2686) (concluded)

Report of the Rapporteur (A/C.2/L.257)

1. Mr. ENCINAS (Peru), Rapporteur, pointed out that the English text of paragraph 5 of the draft report (A/C.2/L.257) should be corrected: in sub-paragraph (b), which reproduced paragraph 2 of the operative part of the Soviet Union draft resolution on measures to reduce unemployment and increase employment (A/C.2/L.247), the words: "all national and international trade-union organizations and other non-governmental organizations" had been left out owing to a typing error. They would be reincorporated in the final version of the report.

2. Another error had slipped into paragraph 11, which gave the results of the votes on the various paragraphs of the Soviet Union draft resolution on the removal of measures of discrimination applying to trade with individual States or groups of States (A/C.2/L.248 and Corr.1); as the preamble to that draft resolution contained only three paragraphs, the sentence relating to a fourth paragraph should be deleted.

3. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the report of the Rapporteur (A/C.2/L.257) on the subject of the report of the Economic and Social Council, chapters II and III.

There being no objection, the report of the Rapporteur was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 17

The Korean question:

(b) Report of the United Nations Agent General for Korean Reconstruction (A/2750, A/ 2810) (concluded)

Report of the Rapporteur (A/C.2/L.258)

4. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the Rapporteur's report (A/C.2/L.258).

There being no objection, the report of the Rapporteur was adopted.

Completion of the Committee's work

5. The CHAIRMAN reviewed the Second Committee's work and expressed satisfaction with the high measure of common agreement which had been reached on each of the questions on the Committee's agenda. That fact was all the more comforting as the ultimate purpose of all the Committee's decisions was to promote economic stability and an expanding world economy and to raise the standard of living of the poorer peoples.

6. Such a measure of agreement had not been achieved without difficulty: it had been necessary to settle the differences existing not only between East and West but also, within the Western world, between the underdeveloped countries and the economically more advanced countries. Fortunately, the differences concerned not so much the objectives as the practical methods of reaching them. In fact, the problems with which the Second Committee was concerned were capable of solution in the long run only, after much discussion and give-and-take. But if, over a period of years, the Committee could continue to work in the same atmosphere and with the same good will that had marked its discussions during the ninth session of the General Assembly, the world might well come closer than ever before to a solution on which the welfare of the great majority of people in the under-developed countries depended.

7. He then announced the impending departure of Mr. Georges-Picot, Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs, who was leaving the United Nations to represent his country in Mexico. On behalf of the Committee, he wished to pay tribute to Mr. Georges-Picot's ability in the performance of his duties and for his personal qualities, which delegations had been able to appreciate in the course of the three years during which he had assisted them.

8. Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs) thanked the Chairman for his kind words. A year before, he had informed the Secretary-General that he intended to leave the United Nations when his contract expired. He had, however, continued to discharge his duties up to the end of the year. His successor, Mr. Philippe de Seynes, who had for several years been economic adviser to the French delegation, had a thorough knowledge of the work of the United Nations.

9. He recalled that he had been an ambassador in Latin America before coming to the United Nations. He was glad to be able to return to that region, enriched by the experience he had acquired, for during the last two years he had become accustomed to con-

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sidering all problems from both the regional and the international point of view and had had the opportunity of establishing with the representatives of many Governments relations which he hoped to maintain in Mexico.

10. He had followed the Second Committee's work with interest and regretted that he had not been able to attend its meetings more often. He felt that he was not really leaving the United Nations, but would now be joining the group of men who, having been associated with the work of the United Nations, remained attached to the great principles on which it was based and continued their efforts to achieve its aims.

11. Mr. HALIQ (Saudi-Arabia) said that he was glad to be the first to express to the Chairman his admiration and gratitude for the remarkable way in which he had performed his duties. The virtual unanimity which had marked the Committee's decisions during the ninth session was very largely due to the wisdom, patience, tact and good humour with which he had conducted the proceedings.

12. The Saudi-Arabian delegation also wished to thank the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Umari, the Rapporteur, Mr. Encinas, Mr. Blough, Principal Director of the Department of Economic Affairs, and Mr. Lukac, Secretary of the Committee, as well as all the members of the Secretariat.

13. Lastly, he was very sorry to see Mr. Georges-Picot leave the Secretariat of the United Nations and wished to convey to him his best wishes for success in the high post to which he had been called by his Government.

14. Mr. DE LA VALLEE POUSSIN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the Benelux countries, Mr. (Canada), Mr. SAPRU HOWARD (India), Mr. KREIDIE (Yemen), Mr. HSIA (China), Mr. MANSOUR (Iran), Mr. RENOUF (Australia), Mr. SUJUD (Indonesia), Mr. QUEUILLE (France), Mrs. WRIGHT (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Danish, Norwegian and Swedish delegations, Sir Alec RANDALL (United Kingdom), Mr. STRAUS (United States of America), Mr. STEWART (New Zealand), Mr. STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia), Mr. ALFONZO RAVARD (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Latin American republics, Mr. OZGUREL (Turkey), Mr. FISCHER (Union of South Africa), Mr. COOPER (Liberia), and Mr. OFER (Israel), associated themselves with the Saudi-Arabian representative's statement.

15. Mr. UMARI (Iraq), Vice-Chairman, thanked the members of the Committee for their kind words and congratulated them on the results of their work. They also expressed his appreciation to the members of the Secretariat for their devotion to their work and for their competence.

16. Mr. ENCINAS (Peru), Rapporteur, associated himself with the sentiments expressed by the Vice-Chairman.

17. The CHAIRMAN expressed his appreciation of the generous remarks which delegates had made regarding his chairmanship. He thanked all the members of the Committee for their co-operation and forbearance at times when it had appeared that the Committee might not be able to reach reasonable agreement upon the basic issues before it. Fortunately, the spirit of compromise and the good will of the delegates had, in the last report, triumphed over the inevitable differences of approach that would be found in a committee of representatives of sixty independent nations. This augured well for the future of the United Nations. It was necessary to bear in mind the fact that the United Nations had been in existence for only nine years and that the Second Committee had been conducting an experiment on a world-wide scale for the first time in human history. It was an attempt among the nations of the world to take concerted action to combat the economic ills that beset humanity. When looked at in this perspective, there was no cause for impatience if progress seemed to be slow. The main thing was to move forward and in that respect the Committee had good cause for satisfaction with its work. It had made a significant advance in respect of two major issues: the establishment of an international finance corporation and the further development and organization of technical assistance on a multilateral basis. On all the other matters that had been before the Committee debate had been maintained at a high level, and there was a much higher degree of agreement on the basic issues involved than had appeared possible at first sight. In particular, the protracted discussion over the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development had made it possible for Mr. Scheyven, the Special Rapporteur, to review the problem again and to consult with the Secretary-General and a group of experts. That review might well lead to a fresh attack upon a problem that was of great importance to the future economic well-being of many millions of people. 18. Finally, he expressed his thanks to the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur, the Secretary of the Committee, and all members of the Secretariat, to the translators and the precis writers. He then declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.