



CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Agenda item 26:	
Programmes of technical assistance (<i>continued</i>):	
(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council (<i>continued</i>)	19
(b) Confirmation of allocation of funds under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.....	
Agenda item 29:	
Report of the Agent General of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (<i>concluded</i>)	
Adoption of the Rapporteur's report.....	21

Chairman: Mr. Mohammad MIR KHAN (Pakistan).

AGENDA ITEM 26

Programmes of technical assistance (*continued*):
(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/3154, A/C.2/189 and Add.1, A/C.2/L.283) (*continued*)

1. Mr. IVEKOVIC (Yugoslavia) wished to be associated with the speakers who had expressed their appreciation of the fruitful work accomplished by the Technical Assistance Board (TAB) and the participating organizations. Public opinion in Yugoslavia, as well as the authorities and agencies which had had occasion to take part in the execution of technical assistance projects, recognized the benefits the country had derived from them.

2. In the light of recent international developments, world economic problems were acquiring special importance, for it was clear that those developments were in large part due to economic causes. It was more than ever incumbent upon the United Nations to work for the elimination of the fundamental causes of international crises by striving to resolve the most pressing economic problems. It was therefore imperative that it should step up its economic activities, of which technical assistance was one of the most important.

3. Both the regular programme and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance were constantly developing, but the rate of progress was still too slow and was frankly not satisfactory when viewed in relation to the needs of the under-developed countries and the fact that those countries were now in a position to submit well-conceived and carefully worked out technical assistance projects. Fortunately, the paucity of the available funds was being partly offset by more organized and efficient utilization. It was not going too far to speak of an improvement, slow perhaps, but constant and positive, in the quality of the work being done. The application of the principle of country programming had contributed to that improvement. It had also encouraged under-developed countries to take a greater interest in technical assistance and play a more active part in the implementation of projects.

4. The Yugoslav delegation was of the opinion that the existing arrangements among the organizations participating in the Expanded Programme were on the whole satisfactory. It approved the newly adopted practice of posting Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) officials to regional commission headquarters. The decision to grant long-term contracts to some experts was another innovation in the administration of the Expanded Programme. He believed that the needs and interests of the Governments concerned must always be borne in mind in that respect and that in general care must be exercised to see that the experts assigned to carry out a project were really qualified to handle it.

5. Among the questions discussed by the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) there was one which should not have been raised: that of currency utilization. The Yugoslav Government had always maintained that it was imperative to preserve the multilateral character of the Expanded Programme. Recognition of that necessity did not mean that countries whose currencies were non-convertible should be asked to make their contributions in readily usable currencies. The question of the convertibility of contributions was a practical matter which could not arise unless there were a backlog of unused contributions. There would be no such backlog in either 1956 or 1957. The Yugoslav delegation had accordingly abstained from voting on Economic and Social Council resolution 623 B III (XXII). While strongly favouring the multilateral character of the Programme, it doubted whether adoption of that resolution by the Council would serve to encourage countries with non-convertible currencies to increase their contributions. The Yugoslav delegation therefore believed that the Economic and Social Council should reconsider the question, and it supported the draft resolution submitted by Czechoslovakia and Romania (A/C.2/L.283).

6. The Yugoslav delegation likewise could not see why the contribution offered by the German Democratic Republic had been refused, since it would be highly desirable to increase the number and amount of the contributions made. Justification for accepting the offer could be found in article VII, paragraph 7.2 of the financial regulations of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 456 (V), annex).

7. Differences of opinion on certain matters pertaining to the Programme should not be allowed to obscure the results achieved. Not a single country failed to recognize the importance of those results, or wished to discontinue its participation in the Programme.

8. The Yugoslav delegation hoped that the Committee could give unanimous approval to the regular programme and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for the year 1957. It was aware that the Expanded Programme for 1957 involved some increase in administrative expenditure, but it hoped that TAB

and the participating organizations would do their best to effect savings.

9. The Yugoslav Government fully realized the need for the maximum development and expansion of the Programme. It unreservedly supported the evaluations and conclusions contained in the TAB report entitled *A Forward Look* (E/2885-E/TAC/49).

10. The studies undertaken at the outset of the Programme had made it possible to determine what the needs were. It was becoming increasingly necessary to concentrate on operational projects and to train local personnel, which meant that priority must be given to practical instruction and the development of training centres. The establishment of such centres would naturally entail the supplying of equipment, a problem which must be approached with breadth of vision in the future.

11. The members of the Committee were aware of the needs of the under-developed countries. They likewise recognized that those needs and the number of justified requests for technical assistance were increasing more rapidly than the available resources. Hence the future of the Expanded Programme depended on solving the fundamental problem of securing a steady and rapid increase in resources. It was hoped that Governments would bear in mind both the economic results and the political importance of the Programme. United Nations technical assistance was more than just a means of accelerating the economic development of certain countries. It was a world-wide undertaking which was helping to forge stronger links between the economies of different countries, to harmonize their interests and to further international co-operation.

12. Mr. ULLRICH (Czechoslovakia) stressed the importance of technical assistance, especially for the industrialization of the under-developed countries, and was happy to note the success of the Expanded Programme, which he largely attributed to the increasing number of receiving and contributing countries. However, he deplored the fact that participation in the Programme was not yet truly universal: countries like the Chinese People's Republic and the German Democratic Republic had not yet been enabled to make their contribution to the technical assistance activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and all possible steps should therefore be taken to see that participation in the Programme was absolutely world-wide.

13. The importance which the under-developed countries attached to the Expanded Programme could be gauged by the contribution they themselves were making towards its implementation by providing experts, granting fellowships and scholarships or bearing local costs. Those costs were estimated at \$60 to \$65 million a year, which meant that about two-thirds of the total cost of implementation was borne by the under-developed countries themselves.

14. The Czechoslovak delegation held that one of the conditions for the Programme's success was close co-operation between TAB, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions. The last-mentioned bodies had acquired valuable experience in technical assistance which should be exploited to the utmost.

15. The question of available resources was obviously of prime importance. Governments had been repeatedly urged to increase their contributions and avoid any delay in payment. It had often proved impossible to meet government requests through lack of funds. In that connexion, his delegation regretted that the con-

tribution offered by the German Democratic Republic had not been accepted. Such a refusal was quite unjustified, seeing that article VII, paragraph 7.2 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations authorized the Secretary-General to accept voluntary contributions from States which were not Members of the United Nations or of specialized agencies. His delegation considered it unwarranted to debar a country—especially an industrial one like the German Democratic Republic, whose experience and knowledge could be made available to all—from contributing towards so useful a purpose as technical assistance.

16. It was also essential, in the interests of the under-developed countries, to avoid any measures which might limit the amount of contributions from participating Governments, and it was essential to ensure the fullest possible utilization of the funds contributed. On the first point, his delegation feared that the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 623 B III (XXII)—especially paragraphs 2, 3 and 4—might discourage contributing countries and thus have an adverse effect on the Programme's future development. On the second point, it recalled that some of the contributions had not yet been fully utilized in the absence of an insufficiently close study of the possibilities. That applied to Czechoslovakia's contribution in 1954. However, his delegation was happy to note that the 1955 contribution had been fully used thanks to the efforts of some of the specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

17. Similarly, there should be no discrimination between contributions. Where the utilization of a contribution created difficulties, TAB should get in touch with the Government concerned and try to solve them. His delegation was glad to find that considerable progress had been made in 1956 in utilizing contributions.

18. It would also be useful to apprise contributing countries on what the applicant countries required in the way of assistance and why certain requests had had to be turned down. Many of the contributing countries would be better able to assist the under-developed countries if they had a clearer knowledge of what they needed. The Czechoslovak Government had had no hesitation in increasing its 1956 contribution by roughly 50 per cent in order to finance a seminar for forestry research workers and a study visit for power experts from Asia, which had been organized in Czechoslovakia in 1956, and was ready to promote other similar activities in which the under-developed countries might be interested. It proposed to organize an international seminar on social insurance in 1957 and had got in touch with representatives of the International Labour Organisation in order to work out the organizational details.

19. In the Czechoslovak delegation's view, it would be advisable to re-examine the problem of currency utilization referred to in Economic and Social Council resolution 623 B III (XXII). The experience of the past year had shown that contributions paid in national currencies could be fully utilized, and Czechoslovakia had therefore joined with Romania in submitting a draft resolution calling for such a re-examination, which it hoped would be acceptable to other delegations.

20. He reserved the right to speak again later during the debate on the draft resolution.

21. Mr. ARDAIAN (Iran) thought that the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be congratulated on what had been done through technical

assistance to raise living standards in the under-developed countries. Over 6,000 experts had been sent on mission and over 7,000 scholarships and fellowships granted since the second half of 1950. Mention should also be made of the work done by the United Nations Children's Fund, especially its malaria eradication campaigns, of which Iran had been one of the many beneficiaries.

22. Nevertheless, the technical assistance given to the under-developed countries fell short of their vast requirements. Three-quarters of the world's population was undernourished and two-thirds died before reaching the age of thirty. Moreover, the difference in standards of living as between developed and under-developed countries was tending to increase with the gradual replacement of natural products by synthetics, which was resulting in a shrinkage in the latter countries' exports and hence in their income. Another fact calculated to widen that margin was that the industrialization of the under-developed countries, for which capital and skilled labour were essential, was lagging behind technical progress in the developed countries. Since the pre-war period, productivity and employment had increased considerably in the industrialized countries, but only to a fairly slight extent in the under-developed countries. Meanwhile the increase in agricultural production between 1937 and 1952 had been offset by a corresponding increase in population, so that *per capita* production in the under-developed countries had remained stationary. In addition, disguised unemployment among agricultural workers had increased, at least in terms of absolute numbers.

23. Urgent action was therefore necessary to remedy the situation. As stressed in General Assembly resolution 921 (X), it was particularly important in the various countries to train staff capable of continuing the work initiated by technical assistance experts.

24. It was also necessary to promote industrialization; and he hoped that the Committee would unanimously decide to recommend the establishment of a special body to deal with that task. One of the main subjects such a body should deal with was that of electric power. Asia, which had over half the world's population, produced only slightly more than 6 per cent of the world's electricity supply. The under-developed countries should therefore be enabled to increase their hydro-electric power production until such time as atomic energy could be economically produced. The body dealing with industrialization could also study the possibility of exploiting solar, wind, tidal and geothermic energy and the thermal energy of the sea. He hoped that the Secretary-General, who was to submit a report on that subject at the twenty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council, would be able to make recommendations on the use of those new sources of energy.

25. In this field, as in others, technical assistance progress would depend on the volume of contributions by Member States. As pointed out by representatives the previous year, better results could be obtained if participating countries made commitments for longer periods and paid their contributions promptly.

26. So far as Iran was specifically concerned, a new agreement designed to simplify the legal arrangements for implementing the Expanded Programme had been concluded during the past year between the Government and the Executive Chairman of TAB on behalf of all organizations participating in the Expanded Programme.

27. Parliament had also approved a second seven-year plan for economic development, the break-down of appropriations under the various heads (in millions of rials) being as follows: 11,958 for agriculture and irrigation, 17,454 for communications, 7,801 for the mining and manufacturing industries and 15,587 for public utilities. The funds would come from oil revenues. The organization responsible for executing the plan was financially independent and consisted of a managing director, a high council and a control board, the Government being answerable for it before both houses of parliament.

28. Two different systems were provided for executing the plan. For major projects such as the construction of roads, railways, ports, factories, etc., the organization would commission consultants to prepare detailed blueprints which it would then have to approve before execution. Projects on which the prior advice of consultants was unnecessary would be executed by the competent government agencies under the organization's supervision. To encourage private investment, the organization intended to entrust the execution of part of the programme to private undertakings, which would be granted special credits for that purpose, subject to compliance with the requirements laid down by the law and with the organization's specifications.

(b) Confirmation of allocation of funds under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (A/C.2/192)

29. The CHAIRMAN recalled that General Assembly resolution 831 B (IX), annex III, paragraph (b) (v) required Assembly confirmation of the allocation of funds to the organizations participating in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance authorized by the Technical Assistance Committee. He hoped that the Committee could adopt the draft resolution before it (A/C.2/192, para. 3) without debate.

In the absence of any objection, the draft resolution was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 29

Report of the Agent General of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (A/3195, A/C.2/L.281) (concluded)

ADOPTION OF THE RAPPOREUR'S REPORT (A/C.2/L.281)

30. The CHAIRMAN invited Committee members to vote on the Rapporteur's report (A/C.2/L.281).

In the absence of any objection, the report was adopted.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.