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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Report of the Third Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 1564th plenary meeting, on 25 September 1967, the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee certain parts of agenda item 12, "Report of the Economic and Social Council".^{1/} These parts were chapters XI, XII, XIV (sections I, III, IV, V and VII), XV and XVII.
2. At the same meeting the General Assembly also decided that: (a) chapter XI, section III, of the Council's report, dealing with population, might also be of interest to the Second Committee; (b) chapters XV and XVII should also be referred to the Second and Fifth Committees; and (c) chapter XVI, dealing with the implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, which had been allocated to the Fifth Committee, should also be referred to the Second and Third Committees for comment.
3. At its 1467th meeting, the Third Committee agreed that the following subjects, which were dealt with in the report of the Economic and Social Council, would be taken up by the Committee under other items on its agenda covering the same subjects: (a) World social situation [item 49] (chapter XI, section I);

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/6703 and Corr.1)

(b) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [item 50] (chapter XIV, section I); (c) Housing, building and planning [item 51] (chapter XI, section II); (d) Town twinning as a means of international co-operation [item 52] (chapter XIV, section V); (e) Draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women [item 53] (chapter XII, section XII); (f) Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance [item 54] (chapter XII, section V); (g) Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination [item 55] (chapter XII, section I); (h) Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories [item 56] (chapter XII, sections II and III); (i) Question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity [item 60] (chapter XII, section VIII); (j) Creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [item 61] (chapter XII, section X); (k) Capital punishment [item 62] (chapter XII, section XI). The discussion of these different parts of the Council's report is therefore covered in the Committee's reports on those items.

4. The Third Committee had before it the remaining parts of the report of the Council which had been referred to it at its 1552nd and 1553rd meetings, held on 15 December 1967. These were:

- Chapter XI, sections III (Population) and IV (United Nations Children's Fund);
- Chapter XII, sections IV (Slavery), VI (Prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities), VII (Periodic reports on human rights), IX (Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights), XIII (Status of women in private law), XIV (Access of women to education), XV (United Nations assistance for the advancement of women), XVI (Political rights of women), XVIII (Promotion of women's rights in the International Year for Human Rights), XIX (Comments of the Commission on the Status of Women on periodic reports on human rights) and XX (Advisory services in the field of human rights);
- Chapter XIV, sections III (Transfer to the United Nations of the responsibilities and assets of the International Relief Union), IV (Natural disasters), V and VII (International control of narcotics);
- Chapter XV (Work programme of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields and its budgetary requirements);
- Chapter XVII (Development and co-ordination of the activities of the organizations within the United Nations system).

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As mentioned in paragraph 2 above, the Assembly also referred chapter XVI of the report to the Third Committee for comments.

5. Owing to the lack of time, the Committee was able to discuss in substance only chapter XI, section IV, on UNICEF. The Director of the Division of Human Rights, in a statement made at the 1553rd meeting, briefly referred to certain matters dealt with in other chapters of the report of the Council before the Committee.

II. UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

6. The Executive Director of UNICEF, in a statement on the main trends in UNICEF's work, referred to the view of the UNICEF Executive Board that the most effective use of UNICEF's resources was to assist key programmes of benefit to children and youth which had a recognized priority within the context of the development efforts of individual countries. UNICEF was also prepared to help in emergencies affecting children. A large proportion of UNICEF aid was in the form of supplies and equipment. Another unique feature was that UNICEF funds were used to help meet local currency costs, particularly for training schemes for national personnel which now accounted for about one third of all UNICEF aid. The wastage of human life and talent among the young in developing countries was appalling and a drain on economic and social development; the need to direct more funds to the care and well-being of children was imperative and urgent. The level of \$50 million allocations reached in 1967, as a result of drawing down all the reserves of UNICEF consistent with prudent administration, could only be maintained if contributions from Governments and private sources were increased.

7. Many delegations voiced their appreciation of the excellent work of UNICEF, its flexibility in adapting its programme to the changing requirements of developing countries, and its emphasis on investment in children and youth as a key element in national development efforts. In the course of its twenty-one years - the anniversary of which was an occasion for warm congratulations by delegations - its emphasis had always been on practical programmes of maximum impact. It had developed a close partnership and effective working relationships with the relevant United Nations and specialized agencies. It had maintained its reputation for efficient administration. Its concept of service had transcended political and ideological lines. It had set a valuable example of international goodwill in which many thousands of individuals through UNICEF National Committees and other non-governmental agencies were able to participate in a direct way.

8. A number of delegations cited the importance of UNICEF aid in helping their own countries initiate or strengthen programmes benefiting children. Several delegations welcomed the fact that UNICEF aid for education was now second only to health. Others welcomed the widening of the scope of UNICEF aid to include family planning as part of maternal and child health. It was suggested that in addition to material aid, some countries could benefit from UNICEF co-operation in bringing to them advanced technology affecting children. A view was expressed that UNICEF should avail itself more of the experience of certain countries. Objection was voiced by one delegation to UNICEF aid to South Viet-Nam; another delegation pointed out that this aid was provided under normal UNICEF procedures and that the UNICEF Board was willing to extend aid to both parts of Viet-Nam on the basis of governmental requests. Several delegations commended UNICEF for its prompt response to the emergency needs of children in the Middle East. The view was expressed by two delegations that this aid should be channelled through UNRWA and Red Cross organizations; the Executive Director explained that UNICEF was working through existing organizations to the extent possible, and that the Governments in the area, in the final analysis, decided on the distribution channels. In response to misgivings expressed by one delegation that UNICEF in its emphasis on long-range aid was not responding sufficiently to emergency needs of children, particularly refugee children in Africa, the Executive Director cited the desire of UNICEF to respond to these needs if the Governments of the countries in which the children were located considered this a priority matter for UNICEF aid.

9. Many delegations expressed concern at the insufficient funds at the disposal of UNICEF. While the increased contributions for 1967 and 1968 announced by some Governments were welcome, it was necessary for more Governments to be increasingly generous and for support from private sources to continue to grow if the Fund was to reach its financial goal of \$50 million by the end of 1969.

10. A draft resolution was submitted by Canada, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sweden and Turkey (A/C.3/L.1515/Rev.1). Subsequently Botswana, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Guinea, India, Indonesia, Libya, Nepal, Thailand, Tunisia and Uganda also became sponsors. An oral amendment by the representative of France to add the words "the specialized agencies" in the fourth preambular paragraph after the words "United Nations Secretariat" was accepted by the sponsors.

11. The Committee, at its 1553rd meeting, unanimously adopted the draft resolution as revised (see para. 12 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

12. The Third Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Children's Fund

The General Assembly,

Having considered chapter XI, section IV, of the report of the Economic and Social Council^{2/} dealing with the United Nations Children's Fund,

Welcoming the fact that the Executive Board had reviewed the assistance policies of the Fund which are focused not only on the immediate needs of children but also on preparing children to contribute to the social and economic development of their countries,

Noting with approval that the Fund continues to provide emergency aid to children and mothers in situations of urgent need, while placing increasing emphasis on long-term programmes,

Noting that co-operation between the United Nations Children's Fund and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Division of Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat, the specialized agencies and the relevant technical and other agencies in the United Nations family continues to be close,

1. Endorses the policies and programmes of the United Nations Children's Fund;
2. Congratulates the United Nations Children's Fund on the occasion of its twenty-first anniversary;
3. Commends the United Nations Children's Fund for its very substantial and significant achievements during its twenty-one years of operation, particularly on behalf of the children of the developing countries;
4. Expresses the hope that the United Nations Children's Fund's goal of \$50 million income from voluntary contributions by Governments and private sources will be attained by the end of 1969, thus enabling the Fund to continue the constructive work which merited it the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1965.

^{2/} Ibid.