

Sixth session
Agenda item 11Dual distribution

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (CHAPTER IV)

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. K. AZKOUL (Lebanon)

1. The Third Committee had before it at its 347th meeting a letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.3/561) communicating the decision taken by the General Assembly at its 342nd plenary meeting to allocate to the Third Committee, among other items on the agenda of the sixth session, the report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters IV, V and VI).
2. The Committee decided to take chapter IV of the report of the Economic and Social Council as the first item on its agenda and to hold a general debate on the chapter as a whole. The debate occupied the 348th, 349th and 350th meetings during which important statements were made on the work of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund; on problems relating to social services, including the training of social workers, on the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped; on the need for initiating housing programmes, in particular for low-income groups; on certain aspects of demographic problems; on the international control of narcotic drugs; and on the desirability of developing a broader general social programme for the United Nations.

I. Development and concentration of the efforts in the social field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies

3. At the 350th meeting of the Committee, the representative of France introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.154) on the development and concentration of the efforts in the social field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

4. Amendments to the draft resolution were proposed by Yugoslavia (A/C.3/L.157), Pakistan (A/C.3/L.158) and the United Kingdom (A/C.3/L.159). Many of the ideas contained in the amendments were accepted by the representative of France, and a new draft resolution was submitted jointly by France, Pakistan and Yugoslavia (A/C.3/L.162). In the preamble of the joint draft resolution stress was laid on the fact that the United Nations and the specialized agencies should take immediate and practical action in fields where such action was likely to produce early and concrete results, particularly in the under-developed countries. In the operative part, the General Assembly called upon the Economic and Social Council to examine in detail the social activities of the United Nations and to take the necessary action to ensure that efforts and resources were effectively concentrated upon urgent social problems; it also drew the Council's attention to the report on the world social situation to be submitted to the Social Commission at its next session and requested the Council, in taking due account of the findings in that report, to draw up a programme of practical action for the United Nations in the social field, to be implemented in co-operation with the specialized agencies, and to submit it to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventh session.

5. At a later stage, the representative of Afghanistan, who had presented an amendment (A/C.3/L.165) placing greater emphasis on the under-developed countries in the operative part of the resolution, and the representative of Lebanon, who had submitted an amendment (A/C.3/L.164) to widen the field of activities to be examined by the Economic and Social Council, agreed to introduce a joint amendment covering those points. The joint amendment (A/C.3/L.172) was accepted by the sponsors of the joint draft resolution and incorporated in a revised text (A/C.3/L.162/Rev.1).

6. During the 350th to 355th meetings, when the Committee considered the joint draft resolution and the amendments thereto, a divergence of views became apparent. An amendment to the original French draft resolution proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.3/L.160) and subsequently re-introduced as an amendment to the revised joint draft resolution, noted that the Economic and Social Council and its Social Commission had ignored important social problems and proposed to include in the programmes of work of the Council and the Social Commission specific projects relating to unemployment insurance, the development

of maternity and child welfare services, free education, free medical assistance and disability insurance. The amendment stressed the desirability of studying measures which could be adopted forthwith to promote social progress in under-developed countries. It also proposed the deletion of the paragraph in the joint draft resolution referring to the report on the world social situation.

7. A number of representatives noted, with reference to that amendment, that the same proposal had been made by the USSR to the Social Commission at its seventh session and to the Council at its thirteenth session. On both occasions it had been decided to include the development of maternity and child welfare services in the programme, but the other proposals had been rejected on the ground that they were already largely provided for in the programmes of the specialized agencies. Attention was also drawn to the recommendations contained in the Council's report requesting the Secretary-General to furnish to the Social Commission the information available to him on those questions.

8. On the other hand, some delegations stressed that those problems were fundamental and contended that the fact that they were being studied by the specialized agencies in no way detracted from the responsibilities of the Council, which had a broad mandate, under the Charter, to consider such problems directly as well as in conjunction with the co-ordination of the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

9. Some parts of the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom (A/C.3/L.159) had been embodied in the revised joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.162/Rev.1) while others, which had not been accepted by the sponsors, were re-introduced later as new amendments (A/C.3/L.163). The United Kingdom proposed that the Council's programme of action should be planned (1) in the light of available resources and (2) with a view to avoiding duplication of the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations in the social field. The United Kingdom also raised the question whether the programme of action could be prepared in time for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventh session and proposed that the words "at its seventh session" should be replaced by the words "as soon as practicable" at the end of the last paragraph of the operative part of the draft resolution.

10. During the discussion of the United Kingdom amendment, many representatives expressed the fear that the phrase "in the light of resources available" might be interpreted as restricting the Council's initiative and preventing it from planning the type of social programme required. Some representatives, on the other hand, considered that the word "resources" should be construed as referring to such factors as the availability of experts and facilities as well as to purely financial resources, and noted that realistic planning should take those factors into account.

11. In addition, a number of amendments were submitted expressing other points of view. Some representatives felt that the reference to under-developed countries should include both self-governing and non-self-governing countries. Others considered that in the development of the United Nations social policy and programme due attention should be paid to the work of the specialized agencies; it was also pointed out that under the Charter, the functional commissions of the Council might be considered as being jointly responsible with the Council for the development of social policy. Finally, it was proposed that suggestions made by the countries most directly concerned should also be taken into account in preparing the United Nations programme in that field.

12. At its 355th meeting, the Committee voted on the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.162/Rev.1) and the amendments thereto:

(a) An amendment proposed by Syria (A/C.3/L.171), consisting in the addition, in the third paragraph of the preamble, after the words "under-developed countries", of the words "both self-governing and non-self-governing"; and the addition, in paragraph 2 of the operative part, after the phrase "the findings in the report of the world social situation" of the words "and of the suggestions submitted by the countries directly concerned". The Committee approved the first part by a roll-call vote (41 to none, with 12 abstentions) and the second part by 23 votes to 3, with 23 abstentions. In addition, the Committee rejected, by 27 votes to 7, with 16 abstentions, a Syrian amendment (A/C.3/L.171) to the first paragraph of the preamble intended to associate "the commissions" with "the Council".

(b) An amendment submitted by Saudi Arabia (A/C.3/L.169), which proposed the addition of the words "and the Non-Self-Governing Territories" in paragraph 1 of the operative part after the words "under-developed countries". The representative of Saudi Arabia modified his amendment

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so that the wording would conform to that of the Syrian amendment already adopted (A/C.3/L.171). The Committee adopted the modified amendment by 44 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

(c) An amendment submitted by the United States of America (A/C.3/L.166/Rev.1), which proposed to insert in paragraph 1 of the operative part, after the words "United Nations", the words "together with the pertinent activities of the specialized agencies" in order to ensure that the Council, when examining the social activities of the United Nations, would take into account the work of the specialized agencies. The amendment was adopted by

31 votes to 12, with 6 abstentions

(d) An amendment submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.3/L.160) (see paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of the present report).

The Committee rejected the amendment by the following votes:

- (1) First paragraph 40 votes to 5, with 8 abstentions
- (2) Second paragraph
 - (i) Introductory clause and sub-paragraph (a) (roll-call) 23 votes to 7, with 23 abstentions
 - (ii) Introductory clause and sub-paragraph (b) (roll-call) 16 votes to 15, with 21 abstentions
 - (iii) Introductory clause and sub-paragraph (c) (roll-call) 22 votes to 13, with 18 abstentions
 - (iv) Introductory clause and sub-paragraph (d) (roll-call) 20 votes to 11, with 23 abstentions
 - (v) Introductory clause and sub-paragraph (e) (roll-call) 23 votes to 10, with 20 abstentions
- (3) Third paragraph (roll-call) 21 votes to 9, with 23 abstentions
- (4) In consequence of those decisions, paragraph 4 was not put to the vote.
- (5) Fifth paragraph 38 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions

(e) Amendment submitted by the United Kingdom (A/C.3/L.163) (see paragraph 9). The Committee rejected the first part of the amendment relating to available resources by a roll-call vote of 32 to 16, with 4 abstentions and accepted the words "if possible" -- which the representative of the United Kingdom had accepted instead of "as soon as practicable" -- by 27 votes to 7, with 9 abstentions. The representative of the United Kingdom withdrew the second part relating to duplication of activities in view of the adoption of the United States amendment (see sub-paragraph (c) of this paragraph).

13. The Committee then considered the draft resolution as amended.
 - (a) The preamble, as amended, was approved by 48 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.
 - (b) The operative part, as amended, was approved by 43 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.
 - (c) The draft resolution, as a whole, as amended, was approved by 43 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions (see draft resolution I).

II. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

14. At its 356th meeting the Committee considered the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.155) on the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund submitted by Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, Uruguay and Yugoslavia and an amendment (A/C.3/L.175) submitted by Lebanon.
15. Many delegations reaffirmed their appreciation of the Fund's work and called attention to the important practical results which had been achieved as a result of its essentially humanitarian activities; no contrary opinion was voiced. Certain representatives reserved their government's position with regard to the extent of their future contributions to the Fund.
16. The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted drafting changes submitted orally by the representative of Pakistan and an oral amendment submitted by the representative of Lebanon, who withdrew his previous amendment (A/C.3/L.175).
17. The Committee accepted the joint draft resolution as amended, by 51 votes to none, with 2 abstentions (see draft resolution II).

III. Housing and town and country planning

18. At its 356th and 357th meetings the Committee considered the draft resolution on housing and town and country planning submitted by Greece (A/C.3/L.161/Rev.2) and amendments thereto proposed by Chile (A/C.3/L.174/Rev.1), Syria (A/C.3/L.176), Saudi Arabia (A/C.3/L.177) and Australia (A/C.3/L.179).

19. Under the draft resolution proposed by Greece the General Assembly was to request the Economic and Social Council to give urgent attention to practical measures to assist governments in increasing available housing facilities for people in the lowest income groups, including, inter alia: (a) Intensification of activities to provide information to governments on the techniques of the building industry; (b) advice to governments on the development of housing programmes; (c) assistance to governments in developing practical methods of financing housing programmes, with particular reference to domestic measures such as tax adjustments; subsidies; provision of incentives to private investors; co-operative arrangements; and community development plans; and to external sources such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other institutions; (d) utilization of the machinery of the Social Commission, the Technical Assistance Board, the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies and appropriate non-governmental organizations.

20. The Committee was in general agreement with the principles on which the draft resolution was based and the reasons for which it was introduced. However, during its discussion a divergence of views regarding the approach to the problem became apparent. In order to allow the Council itself to determine the organs to be used for the achievement of the aims of the draft resolution, the representative of Chile proposed an amendment (A/C.3/L.174/Rev.1) to delete paragraph 4 of the draft resolution in which those organs were listed, and to include at the beginning of the operative part a phrase requesting the Council to use for that purpose the services of the appropriate subsidiary bodies. The amendment was accepted by the representative of Greece.

21. Other representatives objected to the third paragraph of the draft resolution which listed some of the methods, domestic or external, of financing housing programmes; they preferred a more general recommendation. Amendments to that effect were accordingly proposed by Chile (A/C.3/L.174/Rev.1), Syria (A/C.3/L.176/Rev.1, paragraph 3), Saudi Arabia (A/C.3/L.177) and Australia (A/C.3/L.179). The representatives of these countries subsequently agreed on a joint text to replace their amendments worded as follows: "Assistance to governments in developing practical methods of financing housing programmes from domestic and external sources"; that text was accepted by the representative of Chile, who also withdrew his amendment (A/C.3/L.174/Rev.1). The Committee accepted the text by 19 votes to 9, with 16 abstentions.

22. Certain of the amendments (A/C.3/L.176/Rev.1) proposed by the representative of Syria also referred to specific measures to increase productivity and to reduce costs in the building industry. The Committee accepted those amendments by the following votes:

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| (a) Paragraph 1 (a) ^{1/} | 18 votes to 17, with 15 abstentions |
| (b) Paragraph 1 (b) | 23 votes to 9, with 15 abstentions |
| (c) Paragraph 1 (c) without the word "man-power" | 24 votes to 8, with 16 abstentions |
| (d) Paragraph 2 -- additional sub-paragraph 3 of the operative paragraph | |
| (1) The phrase beginning "The granting" and ending "study and training" | 42 votes to none, with 8 abstentions |
| (2) The phrase beginning "to experts" and ending "housing shortage" | 30 votes to 4, with 16 abstentions |
| (3) Additional sub-paragraph 3 as a whole | 27 votes to 1, with 17 abstentions |
| (4) Additional sub-paragraph 4 of the operative paragraph | 41 votes to 7, with 3 abstentions. |

23. The Committee approved the Greek draft resolution as amended, by 37 votes to none, with 11 abstentions (see draft resolution III).

24. The Third Committee accordingly recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following three draft resolutions:

^{1/} All references to paragraphs and sub-paragraphs relate to document A/C.3/L.176/Rev.1.

RESOLUTION I
DEVELOPMENT AND CONCENTRATION OF THE EFFORTS
OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES IN THE SOCIAL FIELD

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the functions devolving under the Charter on the Economic and Social Council in the matter of defining the social policy of the United Nations and promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Considering that action to promote social development and technical assistance in social matters should go hand in hand with action to promote economic development and technical assistance in economic matters,

Considering that within the framework of long-term programmes for social progress the United Nations and the specialized agencies should take immediate and practical action in those fields where such action is likely to produce early and positive results, particularly in the under-developed countries, both self-governing and non-self-governing,

1. Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to examine in detail, and in the light of these considerations, the social activities undertaken by the United Nations together with the pertinent activities of the specialized agencies, in order to fulfil the various social tasks assigned to it by the Charter, and to take the necessary action to ensure that efforts and resources are effectively concentrated upon those social problems the early solution of which can be promoted through international action, especially in the under-developed countries, both self-governing and non-self-governing;

2. Draws the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the report on the world social situation to be submitted to the Social Commission at its next session, and requests the Council, in taking due account of the findings in that report and of the suggestions submitted by the countries directly concerned, to draw up a programme of practical action for the United Nations in the social field to be implemented in co-operation with the specialized agencies, and to submit it to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventh session if possible.

RESOLUTION II
UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

Whereas by resolution 417 (V) of 1 December 1950, the General Assembly confirmed the necessity for continued action to relieve the sufferings of children, particularly in under-developed countries and countries that have been subjected to the devastation of war and to other calamities,

Whereas the aid of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund is now being afforded to projects which, if completed, will benefit 42 million children,

Considering that justified requests are coming before the Fund requiring small amounts of international aid in relation to the great alleviation of the sufferings of children which they make possible,

The General Assembly,

1. Calls attention to the urgent necessity of providing the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund with the means necessary to continue without interruption its work in the service of children throughout the world;

2. Appeals most earnestly to governments and private persons to contribute to the Fund as generously as possible during 1952 for assistance to humanitarian activities in favour of the children of the world.

RESOLUTION III
HOUSING AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

The General Assembly,

Considering that lack of adequate housing constitutes one of the most serious deficiencies in the standard of living of large sections of the population of the world,

Considering that serious social problems originate in or are aggravated by the shortage of housing,

Requests the Economic and Social Council, enlisting for the purpose the services of the appropriate subsidiary bodies, including where suitable regional bodies, and in collaboration with the competent specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations concerned, to give urgent attention to practical

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measures to assist governments in increasing available housing facilities for people in the lowest income groups, including, inter alia:

(a) Intensification of activities to provide information to governments on techniques of production and building to increase the productivity of the building industry, to utilize local construction materials more economically and to reduce the cost of housing by lowering the cost of materials and equipment through standardization and prefabrication;

(b) Advice to governments on the development of housing programmes and their relation to over-all plans for economic development and to developments in particular areas, both urban and rural;

(c) Grants within the framework of the technical assistance programme, and in accord with the specialized agencies and the services of the United Nations, of fellowships for study and training to experts from countries affected by the housing shortage, particularly countries where the building industry is still at the purely artisan stage;

(d) Invitations to the governments of countries supplying building materials to give some priority to orders connected with the construction of economical housing for low-income groups;

(e) Assistance to governments in developing practical methods of financing housing programmes from domestic or external sources.
