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Chairman: Mr. Jorge Pablo FERNANDINI
(Peru).

AGENDA ITEM 39

United Nations Industrial Development Organization: report of the Industrial Development Board (continued) (A/6703 and Corr.1, chap. IX; A/6715/Rev.1, A/6800, A/6808)

1. The CHAIRMAN brought to the Committee's attention the document circulated under symbol A/C.2/L.953 which contained a very useful list of the documents relating to the work of the Second Committee.

2. Mr. GEORGE (France), speaking on a point of order, asked that the Committee should confine itself for the present to considering separately certain sub-divisions of item 39 of the General Assembly's agenda. The French delegation would be unable to take part in a discussion on item 39, as a whole, since the important document regarding the work programme of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for 1968 (ID/B/20) had not yet been circulated in French. He protested against the delay in the circulation of documents in some of the working languages.

3. Mr. OULD SIDI (Mauritania), Mr. CAMEJO ARGUDIN (Cuba), Mr. N'GUESSAN (Ivory Coast), Mr. DEWULF (Belgium), Mr. BEAULIEU (Haiti), Mr. TEMBOURY (Spain) and Mr. HARKETT (Morocco) supported the French representative's request and associated themselves with his protest.

4. Mr. ABDEL-RAHMAN (Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization) pointed out that document ID/B/20 was an Industrial Development Board document and not a General Assembly document, although the decision had been taken to transmit it to the Assembly for its information. The Secretariat had therefore not given that document the priority normally given to Assembly documents. He would ask the appropriate Secretariat services to issue document ID/B/20 in the other working languages as soon as possible.

5. Mr. CHTOUROU (Tunisia) noted that it had been decided that the document regarding UNIDO'S work programme for 1968 and that concerning the final arrangements for the International Symposium on Industrial Development would be made available to

the General Assembly for its information (A/6715/Rev.1, paras. 207 and 208). It was therefore important that both documents should be circulated in all the working languages and that all delegations should be given equal consideration.

6. Sir Edward WARNER (United Kingdom) said he would like to be able to study document ID/B/20 more thoroughly and suggested that its examination be postponed until it had been distributed in all working languages.

7. The CHAIRMAN noted that no delegation had objected to postponing consideration of the question of UNIDO's work programme for 1968. But since the International Symposium on Industrial Development was to begin at the end of November, the question must be considered without delay and a decision taken. The Committee might therefore discuss the question of the International Symposium on Industrial Development and postpone consideration of the Industrial Development Board's report as a whole.

It was so decided.

8. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that the Soviet Union had strongly supported the convening of an International Symposium on Industrial Development. When the General Assembly had decided to organize that Symposium, the Soviet Government had set up a special Preparatory Committee in which Soviet scholars and specialists had prepared themselves in order to make a useful contribution to that international gathering.

9. Following the developments in Greece in March 1967, the question of the location of the Symposium had arisen. The Soviet Union had made known its position on the matter at the forty-third session of the Economic and Social Council.^{1/} His delegation wished to emphasize that its attitude was prompted solely by the desire to create the conditions most conducive to the success of the International Symposium. World public opinion could not be ignored. At the forty-third session of the Economic and Social Council, the Soviet delegation had declared itself in favour of holding the Symposium at the United Nations Office in Geneva or at UNIDO headquarters in Vienna, so that certain delegations might not have to stay away. It should also be borne in mind that other delegations to the Economic and Social Council had also expressed concern regarding the location of the Symposium. His Government wished to state that if the International Symposium on Industrial Development were to be held in Greece the Soviet Union would not participate in it.

^{1/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-third Session, 1500th meeting.

10. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon) said that, as matters stood, the only question to which the Second Committee should devote its attention was that of the location of the Symposium. The Soviet representative had declared that the USSR would not take part in the Symposium if it were to be held in Athens, but had made no suggestion that might furnish the Committee with a basis for further discussion. The best course would be to shelve the question for the time being.

11. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the meeting should rise so as to give the countries in the various geographical groups time to confer and to request instructions from their Governments.

12. Mr. MUZIK (Czechoslovakia) said that Czechoslovakia had always been in favour of the establishment of a United Nations Industrial Development Organization, particularly because it considered itself equipped to give the developing countries useful assistance in the spheres of industrialization and international trade. Czechoslovakia had also followed the work of the various regional symposia on industrial development with great interest. He stated that his country attached great importance to the International Symposium on Industrial Development which should not become merely a technical forum. Czechoslovakia had taken all the necessary steps to participate fully in the Symposium and had started to prepare the Czechoslovak delegation at high professional and political levels.

13. However, because of reasons known to the Committee, some countries, among them also Czechoslovakia, would not be able to participate in the Symposium if it should be held under the present arrangements. It was also known that some other countries would not be able to send their delegations at a high enough level. Under those conditions, the Symposium could hardly be a success.

14. Mr. CHTOUROU (Tunisia) said that his delegation was most anxious that the Symposium should be held and that the socialist countries should participate in it. He hoped that a final decision might be taken very quickly.

15. Mr. OULD SIDI (Mauritania) reserved his delegation's position on the location of the Symposium. Like the representative of Lebanon, he hoped that the Chairman would suggest to the Committee a procedure whereby it could break the present deadlock.

16. The CHAIRMAN said he hoped that the consultations among the various geographical groups would lead to a formula that all could accept.

17. Mr. BEAULIEU (Haiti) supported the Chairman's suggestion.

18. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) hoped that the Soviet Union's decision was not final. At the present time, the Committee did not have to decide whether the Symposium would be held at Athens, Geneva, Vienna or elsewhere, but to consider whether or not the necessary preparations for the Symposium, were satisfactory. The General Assembly had adopted, at its twenty-first session, resolution 2178 (XXI), in which it endorsed the decision of the Economic and Social Council to convene the International Symposium

on Industrial Development at Athens in December 1967. On 14 April 1967, the Government of Greece and the United Nations had signed an agreement regarding the facilities which the host country would provide for the Symposium. The Industrial Development Board at its first session, had then asked the Executive Director of UNIDO to submit to the General Assembly for its information at its twenty-second session, a document containing detailed information on the final arrangements for the International Symposium. The Economic and Social Council at its forty-third session decided in turn, to recommend to the General Assembly that it "consider early at its twenty-second session such additional information as the Executive Director of UNIDO may provide concerning the state of preparation of the International Symposium on Industrial Development with a view to ensuring its success".^{2/} He then read out paragraph 13 of the note by the Executive Director of UNIDO (A/6808) indicating that during a visit by several Secretariat members to Athens on 15 September 1967 it had been found that the physical facilities to be provided by the host country were adequate and would permit the Symposium to be held under satisfactory conditions as scheduled. Since there were apparently no technical obstacles to convening the Symposium on the date proposed and the Greek authorities had already committed large funds for the Symposium, and since no one taking part in the Symposium had reason to fear any violation whatsoever of his rights under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, any measure that would revoke a previous decision of the General Assembly for purely political reasons would be an unprecedented action. Individual Governments were of course free to decide whether or not to take part in the Symposium, but to go back on a decision by the General Assembly merely because certain Governments objected to the location was indefensible.

19. He would like the Chairman to explain to the Committee why he had suggested that it should adjourn the discussion on the question so that the regional groups could meet.

20. The CHAIRMAN replied that he was not competent to rule on the preparations for the Symposium. He had suggested the meeting of the regional groups—which would not fail to take the Greek representative's statement into account—because it was in everyone's interest that the Symposium should be held in the best possible conditions.

21. Mr. ALI (Iraq) inquired whether the Symposium could get under way on the appointed date if it were decided to hold it elsewhere than in Athens.

22. Mr. ABDEL-RAHMAN (Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization) replied that he would put the question to the Secretariat as soon as the Committee had taken a decision.

23. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) did not see on what basis the General Assembly could be asked to reverse its decision regarding the date and location of the Symposium. In his view, all that the Committee

^{2/} *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 1, "Other decisions", p. 5.

could discuss at the present time was the state of preparation of the Symposium.

24. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon) said that while he recognized the merit of the arguments of principle advanced by the representatives of Argentina and Greece, he nevertheless considered it impossible to ignore the positions taken by certain delegations

whose participation in the Symposium was extremely important. In the interests of avoiding a political debate in public, he formally moved the immediate adjournment of the meeting.

25. Mr. ARCHIBALD (Trinidad and Tobago) seconded the Lebanese representative's motion.

The meeting rose at 12.5 p.m.

