



Fifteenth session  
Agenda item 32

QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO LIBYA

Report of the Secretary-General

1. General Assembly resolution 1303 (XIII) of 10 December 1958 on the question of assistance to Libya contains the following operative paragraphs:

"The General Assembly,

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"1. Invites anew all Governments willing and in a position to do so to provide financial assistance to the United Kingdom of Libya through the appropriate mechanisms available within the United Nations for receiving voluntary contributions, in order to assist Libya in the financing of its fundamental and urgent programmes of reconstruction and of economic and social development;

"2. Recommends that, if and when further means become available for assisting in the financing of the development of under-developed areas and for expanding technical assistance to them, the United Nations and the specialized agencies should give due consideration to the specific development needs of Libya;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General, the Technical Assistance Board, and the specialized agencies concerned to continue to waive local costs and to give all possible favourable consideration to the requests of Libya for technical assistance, taking into account the special needs of Libya and the principles of the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies enumerated in Economic and Social Council resolution 222 (IX) of 15 August 1949;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to draw the attention of the Managing Director of the Special Fund to the communication of the Prime Minister of Libya dated 17 September 1958 and to the recommendations contained in paragraph 2 above;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of the Governments of Member States and to take the necessary measures to facilitate the implementation of paragraph 1 above;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to make a special report on the question of United Nations assistance to Libya in time for the report to be placed on the provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the General Assembly."

2. A memorandum on technical assistance to Libya, together with a letter from the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Libya to the Secretary-General, dated 13 October 1960, is now before the General Assembly under this item (A/4576).

3. It will be recalled that following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 289 (IV) of 21 November 1949, the United Nations assumed an active role in the events leading to the declaration of Libya's independence in December 1951. Moreover, both before and since independence, the furtherance of Libya's economic and social development has been a matter of special concern to the United Nations, as the successive resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its eighth, tenth and thirteenth sessions have evidenced.<sup>1/</sup> The country's needs, and especially the developments in those needs since this question was last considered by the General Assembly, together with the way in which they have been met from international sources, are described in some detail in the above-mentioned memorandum. The most notable change in the Libyan scene since this question was last considered by the General Assembly has been brought about by the discovery of oil. The Prime Minister's letter warns, however, that "Libya's natural resources, with the single exception of recently discovered petroleum reserves, are extremely limited, and the shortages of cultivable land, water supplies and skilled personnel are acutely felt". While it speaks of the economic prospects for Libya as being "bright and hopeful", it makes it clear that "the revenues from the commercial exploitation of ... oil resources will not become available in important volume for at least two or three years" and, further, that "in fields such as agriculture, the receipt of the petroleum

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<sup>1/</sup> Resolutions 726 (VIII), 924 (X) and 1303 (XIII).

revenues will do little to solve the fundamental problems posed by climate, soil, lack of water and deficient farming techniques".

4. The amount of assistance provided under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance covering the period 1950-1960 is summarized in the table annexed to the present report, bringing up to date the information submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirteenth session.<sup>2/</sup> It will be seen that the amount of such assistance over the ten-year period totals about \$6.5 million, the figures for 1959 and 1960 being \$713,600 and \$640,000 respectively. The Prime Minister writes of the Government's disappointment that further reductions are to be made in the level of assistance to Libya under the Expanded Programme in the next two years. Such reductions are, however, in no way a reflection of any diminishing concern for Libya's economic needs. Similar reductions have been made in other country programmes, particularly those which have been long established, in order to accommodate within the funds expected to be available in the next two years the requests for technical assistance from a rapidly growing number of countries, especially newly independent countries. The Secretary-General is confident that the Technical Assistance Board will continue to do its utmost to meet the special needs of Libya. The Technical Assistance Board took note of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1303 (XIII) and throughout 1959 and 1960 has continued to "waive local costs". It is noted that the Government believes the time is not far distant when Libya will be in a position to relinquish the waiver on local costs. The Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board has indicated his intention to renew the waiver for 1961, after consultation with the Board, on the understanding that consultations will be opened with the Government for the progressive application to Libya, in future years, of the arrangements regarding local costs applicable to other countries.

5. The United Nations and specialized agencies have also provided significant amounts of technical assistance under their regular programmes. During 1959, for example, the available data indicate an expenditure of \$116,976, the

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<sup>2/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 30, document A/3960.

provision of fifteen experts and thirty-nine fellowships under these programmes. Over a period of nine years, UNICEF has allocated \$553,700 for child care projects, nutrition, health services and tuberculosis control in Libya. The Government of Libya was among the first to request the services of experts under the Operational and Executive Personnel Programme (OPEX). Following the conclusion of an agreement between the United Nations and the Government in 1959, officers were supplied to man three high-level posts, having an important bearing on the administration and economy of the country. All appointments were made for one year in the first instance. Two of them will be extended for another year, while the third officer, who has retired after concluding his assignment, is being replaced by another to man a somewhat different post in the same field. The Secretary-General was regretfully unable to meet more requests for OPEX assistance at the time, since the programme had been sanctioned only on an experimental basis and with limited resources. The possibilities have, however, improved in recent months and recruitment has commenced for the provision of two more OPEX officers for the Government of Libya.

6. With reference to operative paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 1303 (XIII), the Special Fund has allocated in December 1959 the sum of approximately \$1 million to assist in the establishment of an Institute of Higher Technology. In addition, the Managing Director is recommending to the forthcoming session of the Governing Council that it approve an allocation of approximately \$525,000 to assist the Libyan Government in the establishment of a Radio and Telecommunications School.

7. It will be seen from the above that, although there has been a slight reduction in actual and planned expenditures under the Expanded Programme in the past few years, the provision of assistance to Libya under other programmes, and more particularly by the Special Fund, will more than offset, in financial terms, the reductions referred to above.

8. In accordance with operative paragraph 5 of resolution 1303 (XIII), the Secretary-General again addressed the Governments of all Member States, indicating that he was prepared to "take the necessary measures to facilitate the implementation of paragraph 1" of that resolution. Of the nineteen Governments

which replied to this communication, a number referred to their support of assistance to Libya through their regular contributions to the Expanded Programme and other programmes of technical assistance of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, but none indicated a desire to furnish additional financial assistance to Libya "through the appropriate mechanisms available within the United Nations". At the same time, the Governments of France, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America also drew attention in their replies to their continued direct financial and technical assistance to the Government of Libya under bilateral arrangements.

## ANNEX

Expanded ProgrammeTECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LIBYA 1950-1960: UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES<sup>a/</sup>

	UNTA	ILO	FAO	UNESCO	ICAO	WHO	ITU	WMO	TOTAL
Amounts obligated (in thousands of US dollars)									
1950-1951 <sup>b/</sup> . . . . .	85.4	1.0	23.0	102.0	-	20.4	-	-	231.8
1952 . . . . .	229.5	18.1	160.3	211.8	-	34.7	-	-	654.4
1953 . . . . .	127.7	176.4	281.1	160.2	-	26.4	-	-	771.8
1954 . . . . .	76.7	178.4	191.8	98.2	6.1	13.8	-	19.1	584.1
1955 . . . . .	95.3	160.5	176.3	136.1	-	12.3	-	21.9	602.4
1956 . . . . .	72.6	145.4	241.7	176.5	-	42.8	-	52.8	731.8
1957 . . . . .	83.4	161.2	242.1	149.7	-	63.7	-	33.0	733.1
1958 . . . . .	66.7	171.9	239.8	153.4	-	82.9	-	21.1	735.8
1959 . . . . .	91.6	115.2	246.3	150.3	-	81.3	3.2	25.7	713.6
1960 <sup>c/</sup> . . . . .	92.6	90.0	225.9	139.9	-	70.8	4.0	16.8	640.0
	1021.5	1218.1	2028.3	1478.1	6.1	449.1	7.2	190.4	6398.8
Number of experts									
1950-1951 . . . . .	6	1	4	20	-	3	-	-	34
1952 . . . . .	14	7	18	26	-	2	-	-	67
1953 . . . . .	13	34	15	27	-	2	-	-	91
1954 . . . . .	8	43	15	11	1	3	-	2	83
1955 . . . . .	6	38	21	16	-	5	-	2	88
1956 . . . . .	5	35	27	20	-	6	-	2	95
1957 . . . . .	7	27	21	21	-	9	-	3	88
1958 . . . . .	6	34	21	18	-	9	-	2	90
1959 . . . . .	6	19	19	18	-	12	1	1	76
1960 <sup>c/</sup> . . . . .	7	10	18	18	-	6	1	1	61
	78	248	179	195	1	57	2	13	773
Number of fellows									
1950-1951 . . . . .	28	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	45
1952 . . . . .	32	-	13	23	-	3	-	-	71
1953 . . . . .	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	-	10
1954 . . . . .	1	64	2	55	-	-	-	-	122
1955 . . . . .	8	50	3	65	-	1	-	-	127
1956 . . . . .	11	2	-	50	-	2	-	-	65
1957 . . . . .	6	5	3	30	-	3	-	1	48
1958 . . . . .	2	3	-	22	-	4	-	-	31
1959 . . . . .	19	5	5	16	-	-	-	-	45
1960 <sup>c/</sup> . . . . .	-	4	-	6	-	2	-	-	12
	107	133	31	284	-	20	-	1	576

<sup>a/</sup> Source: Reports of the Technical Assistance Board.<sup>b/</sup> Estimated expenditure.<sup>c/</sup> Approved programme, category I.