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**Chairman: Mrs. Lina P. TSALDARIS (Greece).**

**AGENDA ITEM 12**

**Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (A/3848, A/C.3/L.668, A/C.3/L.670) (concluded)**

**CO-ORDINATION OF RESULTS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (A/C.3/L.668)**

1. Mr. CASEY (Australia) said that he had already explained at a meeting of the General Assembly (759th plenary meeting) the purpose of the draft resolution submitted by his delegation (A/C.3/L.668). He had emphasized the need to study the methods by which the United Nations and the specialized agencies might stimulate and encourage further the general direction of scientific research towards peaceful ends. Opinions might differ as to the surest means of achieving those ends but the aim in itself could not give rise to any political controversy. Research undertaken in any one country contributed to the progress and well-being of humanity as a whole. Measures should therefore be taken to stimulate such research and to give wider dissemination to its results.

2. He quoted various examples illustrating the considerable changes which science and technology had brought about in almost all countries during the past fifty years. Agriculture and food production had undergone a veritable revolution and the progress made in medical science had been extraordinary. The efforts made were being continued and the prospects were almost unlimited, particularly in view of the future use which would be made of atomic energy and solar energy. The question arose then why the United Nations should be asked to intervene. He recalled that many Governments had considered it necessary to establish national scientific research councils. Australia, for instance, had a Council for Scientific and Industrial Research which had rendered inestimable services to the country. Institutions and private or public bodies of that kind existed almost everywhere but concerned themselves above all with the particular needs of the various countries. Some co-ordination was therefore necessary and the purpose of the draft resolution was to take advantage of the resources of the United Nations in order to concentrate efforts on the most important matters and to ensure a wider and more rapid dissemination of the results

obtained. The proposed organization would by no means imply the regimentation of science but would make it possible to give to the most urgent practical needs the attention they required. Several specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had already played a useful role in that connexion and important scientific exchange programmes had been arranged under the auspices of the United Nations. Nevertheless, the number and the complicated character of those operations made it necessary to pay more attention to establishing priorities in the work of research and application. The Economic and Social Council had already dealt with the matter but it was essential to carry out a more thorough study of the main trends of inquiry and of the role the United Nations might play in guiding and further stimulating scientific progress. The survey proposed by the Australian delegation would meet, to a certain extent, the wishes expressed in the General Assembly on 18 September 1958 by the Secretary of State of the United States of America (749th plenary meeting) and on 24 September 1958 by the Chairman of the delegation of Ghana (757th plenary meeting).

3. In a brief summary of the draft resolution, Mr. Casey said that the survey proposed in operative paragraph 1 covered a wide range. It should not result in the publication of a very bulky document but should present a rapid outline of the situation. The survey to be made by the Secretary-General in co-operation with the specialized agencies and IAEA would be studied first by the Council, which would prepare comments on it and make recommendations if necessary. It would then be submitted to the General Assembly, if possible at its fourteenth session.

4. Mrs. LEFLEROVA (Czechoslovakia) attached particular importance to the promotion of international co-operation, particularly with regard to the peaceful applications of science. Scientific discoveries, which were increasing in number, could be used to improve the lot of man but could also be employed for destructive purposes and it was for that reason that the United Nations should consider the question with particular attention. The purpose of the draft resolution submitted by Australia was to promote international relations in the sciences. That had also been, to some extent, the purpose of General Assembly resolution 1164 (XII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 695 (XXVI). It would therefore be desirable to recall those two resolutions in the new draft. The Czechoslovak delegation had presented an amendment to that effect (A/C.3/L.671) and it also suggested that, in making the survey, account should be taken of the report of UNESCO to be prepared in response to the Economic and Social Council resolution.

5. Mr. MAHEU (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) recalled that under its

Constitution, UNESCO must help to maintain, increase and disseminate knowledge; since its foundation, it had been steadily engaged in important programmes relating strictly to research. Resolution 2.31 adopted in 1956 by the General Conference defined its policy in that field. The limited resources available had led the organization to concentrate its efforts on a number of priority projects relating, *inter alia*, to the reclamation of arid lands, oceanography, the humid tropical zone, cellular biology and new sources of energy other than the atom. With regard to the dissemination of knowledge, since 1947, UNESCO had established scientific co-operation posts at Cairo, New Delhi, Djakarta and Montevideo, it had organized interesting exhibitions and provided technical assistance in education. It had been able to carry out those numerous and important activities thanks to the co-operation of various non-governmental organizations, such as the International Council of Scientific Unions, the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences, the Union of International Engineering Organizations and the Federation of Astronomic and Geophysical Services. Since 1947, it had paid \$3 million to those organizations in subsidies. Moreover, the Director General convened, each year, the UNESCO International Advisory Committee on Scientific Research in the Natural Sciences, established in 1954, of which the directors of the national research centres and of the main international organizations were members.

6. Thus UNESCO was in a position to make an important contribution to carrying out the draft resolution, as it had already done in the case of resolution 22 (III) of the Economic and Social Council and as it was now doing for General Assembly resolution 1164 (XII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 695 (XXVI). It could not but approve of the purposes inspiring the draft resolution; it was prepared to use all available means, drawing on its experience and its many contacts in the scientific world. It did not, however, lay claim to any monopoly. The three purposes referred to in the draft resolution: the inquiry, the dissemination of scientific knowledge and its application, were in varying degrees matters also for the other specialized agencies and IAEA. It was a joint undertaking, and the existing administrative machinery for consultation would doubtless enable the agencies to agree on the method of implementing the resolution and on the distribution of assignments.

7. Mr. DE SEYNES (Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs) emphasized the importance of the proposed study, which opened up horizons of which the Secretariat had perhaps lost sight. Such an analysis, however, of the scientific and intellectual environment in which economic progress took place would entail an examination of problems bordering on the philosophical and would be no easy task. The prospect of extending the all too brief time limit set by the draft resolution was therefore to be welcomed, and the Australian representative's statement appeared to make that prospect a certainty. Apart from the difficulties inherent in the project, considerations relating to methods of work would have to be taken into account, particularly the organization of collaboration with the specialized agencies. The Secretary-General intended to initiate in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination a discussion of the methodological problems inherent in such a project. When the specialized agencies and, possibly, the non-

governmental organizations had made their contributions, a synthesis would have to be made so that the document submitted to Governments would be more than a mere compendium. It would therefore be wise to set a more generous time limit than that laid down in the text. The Secretary-General would no doubt be able to submit the study to the Economic and Social Council at its thirtieth session; he might prepare a preliminary report indicating the progress reached and submit it to the General Assembly at its fourteenth session.

8. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) recalled that the evolution of mankind had often taken the form of revolutions, some of which had brought serious upheavals in their train. The current epoch was characterized by spectacular advances in all fields, but every effort should be made to ensure that such advances should be orderly and should not lead to a revolution. The greatest danger lay in the rapid increase of the world population. The resources of science should be used to solve that problem and research should concentrate particularly on increasing production, in order to raise levels of living for all peoples of the world. The Third Committee could not emphasize that point more effectively than by adopting the draft Australian resolution (A/C.3/L.668).

9. His delegation considered that point 1 of the Czechoslovak amendments (A/C.3/L.671) considerably improved the original text. To avoid making operative paragraph 1 of the Australian draft resolution too cumbersome, point 2 of the Czechoslovak amendments might be incorporated in a separate sentence, which would read: "In arranging for such a survey, the Secretary-General is requested to take into account the report of UNESCO to be prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 695 (XXVI)."

10. Mr. ALDUNATE (Chile) said that he supported the draft resolution submitted by Australia and the amendments proposed by Czechoslovakia and Saudi Arabia.

11. Mr. Chalapathi RAU (India) said that he supported the Australian draft resolution substantively and would have been very glad to have been a co-sponsor, if there could have been close consultations and agreement on every part of the resolution.

12. The Australian representative's remarks concerning the part played by science in his country were equally applicable to India and other countries in Asia, which, incidentally, had attached very great importance to scientific research during the past few years. He drew attention to a resolution on scientific policy, the first of its kind adopted by the Government of India, and placed before Parliament in March 1958. The draft resolution emphasized the need and means for encouraging scientific progress by which alone reasonable material and cultural amenities and services could be provided for the people, and pointed out that the idea of a Welfare State had grown out of a recognition of that possibility. Science had led to the growth and diffusion of culture to an extent never possible before. In addition to radically altering man's material environment, it had provided new tools of thought and had extended man's mental horizon. Among other things, the development of new scientific methods enabled a country like India to make up for the inadequacy of its national resources and its lack of capital. Thanks to

science also, the under-developed countries would one day be able to bridge the gap which separated them from the advanced countries.

13. In view of the fundamental importance of the survey requested in the Australian draft resolution, it would be better not to refer it to the Economic and Social Council for consideration, so that the General Assembly could deal with some of the matters coming under the resolution according to their urgency. The Indian delegation had a fear that those important matters might get bogged in the Economic and Social Council. The expression "natural science" used in the English text was ambiguous; in fact, he feared that it might be interpreted in a restrictive sense. He wanted the proposed survey to deal with all sciences and suggested that it would be better to delete the word "natural". The Indian delegation would be glad to support the two Czechoslovak amendments, the first of which appeared particularly useful.

14. Mr. MAKIEDO (Yugoslavia) said that the time had come for the United Nations and the specialized agencies to intensify their efforts in scientific matters and bring about better co-ordination of the progress which had been achieved throughout the world. The survey proposed in the Australian draft resolution would be extremely useful and the Yugoslav delegation would support that text. Nevertheless, account should be taken of the fears expressed by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs about the time limit for preparing the survey. The two Czechoslovak amendments were improvements and he would vote for them.

15. Mr. MORIN (Canada) said that he would be glad to support the Australian draft resolution. It was essential to examine the contribution made by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and IAEA to scientific progress and to develop methods which would make it possible to encourage research and achieve a broader dissemination and application of new discoveries.

16. Canada attached particular importance to international co-operation in scientific research and was proud to have participated in the International Geophysical Year, a splendid example of co-operation. He hoped that the Australian proposal would lead to an increase in the number of projects of that kind.

17. It might, perhaps, be possible to improve the wording of the Australian draft resolution. Operative paragraph 1 would give a much more accurate idea of the relations between the United Nations, on the one hand, and the specialized agencies and IAEA, on the other, if the first part was worded as follows: "Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with UNESCO and other specialized agencies concerned with the peaceful application of science, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency, to ...". The last part of operative paragraph 3, after the words "for consideration by the General Assembly", duplicated paragraph 4 and could be omitted.

18. In conclusion, he hoped that the Australian draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

19. Mr. KETRZYNSKI (Poland) said that the gigantic strides made by science were forcing modern man to ask what should be done so that progress would lead to an improvement in the welfare of mankind and not

to an unbridled armaments race which would become increasingly more dangerous and more difficult to control or what should be done so that all nations, and not merely a few privileged countries, would benefit.

20. The Polish Government had made great efforts to ensure a fair distribution of the benefits of modern science among all its citizens. It had likewise endeavoured to improve education. With the assistance of research workers and scientists from the Soviet Union in particular, the Polish Academy of Science had carried out important work of research. In addition, Poland was participating in all international scientific activities, congresses, exchange visits and the like.

21. He hoped that the survey proposed in the Australian draft resolution (A/C.3/L.668) would give due consideration to the main problems posed by modern scientific developments and that it would be based on an objective study of the needs of all countries, and more particularly the under-developed countries. The survey should also emphasize the need for placing science at the service of peace and point out clearly the dangers which would threaten mankind if science was subordinated to political and military ends. The Australian draft resolution could contribute to the welfare of mankind and the Polish delegation would be glad to give it its full support.

22. Mr. SUDJAHRI (Indonesia) thanked the Australian delegation for its commendable proposal. The remarkable scientific progress achieved in recent years made it possible for all mankind to attain a high level of material prosperity. Unfortunately, the under-developed countries did not have enough capital to intensify the work of scientific research necessary to enable them, for example, to increase their productivity and to combat disease effectively. All work in the sciences must be co-ordinated and the knowledge gained must be diffused as widely as possible. Several specialized agencies, and in particular UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), were already co-operating in carrying out various projects and the results obtained showed how useful co-operation could be. The work of scientists of all countries during the International Geophysical Year had been inestimable. The survey proposed in the draft resolution would be very valuable because it would help to avoid the waste of resources and efforts which was a result of an inadequate dissemination of the scientific discoveries of the various countries.

23. Dr. COIGNEY (World Health Organization) said that WHO had given the most sympathetic consideration to the Australian proposal. He thanked the Minister for External Affairs of Australia for having referred in his statement to the progress made in public health and, in particular, to the efforts being made to eradicate malaria; he also thanked the representative of Indonesia for his tribute to the work of WHO in the field of epidemiology.

24. Under the terms of its mandate, WHO was already actively engaged in encouraging and co-ordinating research in medical science and in the sciences applied to medicine. It was receiving the co-operation of laboratories and institutions all over the world which were engaged in increasing the available knowledge

on the aetiology, treatment and prevention of the most widespread diseases.

25. The Eleventh World Health Assembly had requested the Director-General of WHO to make arrangements for a special study of the role of WHO in research and of ways in which the organization might assist more adequately in stimulating and co-ordinating research and developing research personnel; the Assembly had also requested the Director-General to prepare a plan on the basis of such study in the furtherance of research, for transmission to the twenty-third session of the Executive Board and to the Twelfth World Health Assembly, which was to be held in May 1959. The World Health Organization would thus be in a position to make its full contribution to the survey proposed in the Australian draft resolution.

26. Lastly, he thanked the representative of Canada for having proposed an amendment which gave an equal place to all the specialized agencies concerned with scientific progress.

27. Mr. ROSSIDES (Greece) congratulated the Minister of State for External Affairs for Australia for the clear and convincing manner in which he had introduced the draft resolution sponsored by his country. That draft was of the utmost importance and the Greek delegation would vote in favour of it. He suggested, however, the introduction of the word "on" before the words "the dissemination" and also before the words "the steps" in operative paragraph 1. In addition, the words "scientific knowledge" used in the same paragraph were not quite appropriate, because the term "knowledge" had not been previously used. It was better to use, for example, the words "scientific research", which were to be found earlier in the text.

28. Mrs. DE ARENAS (Guatemala) said that she agreed with the Indian representative's reservations with regard to the expression "natural science", which has been translated into Spanish as "ciencias naturales". It would be better to refer simply to "science".

29. Mr. TSAO (China) said that he warmly supported the Australian draft resolution. He had, however, some doubts regarding the meaning of the expression "main trends of inquiry" appearing in operative paragraph 1. He wondered whether that meant that the survey would deal only with the main forms of scientific research. The Chinese delegation would like that to be made clear.

30. Operative paragraph 3 was indispensable. It was not sufficient to make a survey; the survey had to serve as a basis for concrete steps, which it was for the Secretary-General to suggest. He feared that it would not be possible to prepare a sufficiently detailed survey for the twenty-eighth session of the Economic and Social Council. Perhaps the Committee could adopt the idea put forward by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs and be content with only a preliminary report for its next session.

31. It was to be noted that the Australian draft resolution appeared to refer to chapter VIII of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/3848) rather than to chapters VI and VII, the only ones which came within the competence of the Third Committee. That, however, should not stand in the way of the adoption of the draft, since the Committee would in

any case have to deal with questions of co-ordination. It would nevertheless be useful to ask the General Assembly in future to refer chapter VIII of the report to the Third Committee or to a joint meeting of the Second and Third Committees.

32. Miss FUJITA (Japan) said that if her delegation had had the time for consultation it would have liked to join Australia in sponsoring the draft resolution. It would gladly support it with the Czechoslovak amendments.

33. Miss HORNSBY-SMITH (United Kingdom) welcomed the Australian action and, in general, approved the draft before the Committee. She would, however, support the Canadian amendment to operative paragraph 1, since the text proposed by Canada had the merit of showing clearly that the Secretary-General should consult all the specialized agencies concerned. She shared the doubts about the time limit for the preparation of the survey and trusted that the Australian delegation would be willing to reconsider that part. The Secretary-General might, for example, be requested to submit a preliminary survey to the Council at its twenty-eighth session and a final survey at the thirtieth session. Finally, the last part of paragraph 3 should be deleted, as proposed by the Canadian representative.

34. Mr. BEAUFORT (Netherlands) felt that there was no need to emphasize that his delegation fully approved of the substance of the Australian draft resolution, although he considered that the most suitable body for studying matters of that kind was the Economic and Social Council and not the General Assembly. However, as the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs had not objected to the relevant paragraph of the draft resolution, he would not submit an amendment.

35. Mr. YAPOU (Israel) said that the Australian draft resolution was in keeping with the efforts being made by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to encourage scientific research for the benefit of all mankind. He pointed out that Israel, for its part, had just completed a desalination plant using the partial freezing process. If the results proved to be satisfactory, it was hoped that the same process could be used to meet the requirements of irrigation.

36. His delegation would support the draft resolution, as amended by Czechoslovakia.

37. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) pointed out that there was an inaccuracy in the statement in the third paragraph of the preamble to the effect that the Economic and Social Council had requested the United Nations to undertake appraisals of its activities and programmes. That request had in fact been addressed to the Secretary-General (Council resolution 665 C (XXIV), para. 3, and resolution 694 D (XXVI), paras. 7 and 8). The words "United Nations" in that paragraph should therefore be replaced by the word "Secretary-General".

38. Moreover, if point 2 of the Czechoslovak amendments was made a separate sentence, as suggested by the Saudi Arabian representative, there was a danger that operative paragraph 1 would be too long. It might be preferable to make that amendment a separate paragraph.

39. Mr. SIMPSON (Liberia) commended the Australian Minister for External Affairs on the extremely clear statement that he had made to the Committee. The Liberian delegation would support the draft resolution but suggested that the amendments proposed by the Saudi Arabian representative should be retained. It also felt that the survey should be prepared for the thirtieth session of the Council, and not the twenty-eighth, as already suggested.

40. Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that his delegation had decided to accept the various amendments proposed or suggested during the debate. In view of the reservations to which the term "natural science" had given rise, the Australian delegation had decided to replace it by the term "natural sciences", hoping thereby to remove the meaning which some speakers had attached to the first term. It also agreed to point 1 of the amendments submitted by Czechoslovakia and would insert the text as the third preambular paragraph. The Philippine representative was correct in pointing out that the request referred to in the final preambular paragraph had been addressed to the Secretary-General; in the present context, however, it was preferable to keep the words "United Nations".

41. With respect to the operative part, the Australian delegation accepted the Czechoslovak amendment in the form suggested by the representative of Saudi Arabia. It also accepted the wording proposed by Canada for paragraph 1. His delegation would replace the words "twenty-eighth session" in paragraph 3 by the words "thirtieth session". Lastly, it would delete the final words of that paragraph (after "appropriate recommendations"), in accordance with the request of the Canadian representative.

42. The CHAIRMAN called for a vote on the draft resolution submitted by Australia (A/C.3/L.668), as amended.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 71 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

43. Mr. WAHLUND (Sweden) said that his delegation knew how important it was to encourage scientific research through international co-operation and it did not doubt the usefulness of the survey advocated by Australia. It was not certain, however, that the Secretary-General should have the responsibility for carrying out such a survey. Lastly, and most important, the draft resolution seemed to imply that scientific work should be directed towards a specific objective, a situation which could endanger the independence which was necessary to science. For those reasons, the Swedish delegation found itself compelled to abstain. It wished, however, to make clear its very warm sympathy for the objectives of the draft resolution that had been adopted.

44. Mr. WISE (United States of America) said that in supporting the draft resolution, the United States delegation had expressed its great and continuing interest in promoting international scientific development. It wished however to make clear its understanding that the draft resolution that had been adopted in no way authorized the Secretary-General or any other United Nations body to deal with the established authorities in the unrecognized régimes which had no standing with the United Nations.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN (A/C.3/L.670) (concluded)

45. The CHAIRMAN called upon the Committee to consider the draft resolution submitted by India (A/C.3/L.670).

46. Mr. Chalapathi RAU (India) said that the draft resolution was an expression of the unanimous feelings of the members of the Committee, who had paid a tribute to Afghanistan for its courageous prohibition, in 1957, of the production of opium and who had expressed the desire that United Nations technical assistance should be given to that country to help it cope with the economic and social consequences of its decision.

47. Mr. MASSOUD-ANSARI (Iran) endorsed the draft resolution and recalled that in 1955 Iran had welcomed the opportunity to benefit, in similar circumstances, by help from the United Nations and the specialized agencies. In principle, the resolutions of the Assembly were general in character, but an exception was called for in the particular case before the Committee.

48. He said that the word "important" in the second paragraph of the preamble should be deleted. The classification of opium producers was a technical question which should be left to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Nor was Afghanistan an "important" producer within the meaning of the Protocol adopted in 1953 by the United Nations Opium Conference. Moreover, it was not appropriate to pass judgement in a document the sole purpose of which was to commend Afghanistan and to obtain for that country the assistance which it required.

49. Miss HORNSBY-SMITH (United Kingdom) also supported the draft resolution but felt that it would be better to replace the word "particular" in paragraph 2 by the word "due". It would also be useful to know whether the Technical Assistance Board (TAB) had already considered the question.

50. Sir Humphrey TREVELYAN (Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs) said that the technical assistance services had already given serious consideration to the matter. A mission comprising representatives of the Government of Afghanistan, the specialized agencies and TAB would make a study on the spot of the type of assistance which would enable the requirements to be dealt with most effectively. Such assistance would be financed from the Contingency Fund.

51. Mr. CALDERON PUIG (Mexico), Mr. KETRZYNSKI (Poland), Mr. MAKIEDO (Yugoslavia) and Mr. DEHLAVI (Pakistan) supported the draft resolution.

52. Mr. Chalapathi RAU (India) accepted the suggestion of the United Kingdom representative. With respect to the suggestion of the representative of Iran, he would welcome the opportunity to hear the views of the other members of the Committee. He pointed out that resolution 689 H (XXVI) of the Economic and Social Council had stated that Afghanistan was formerly an important opium-producing country.

53. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) believed that it was preferable not to amend the second paragraph of the preamble: the reference to the importance of opium production showed the extent of the sacrifice to which Afghanistan had agreed, thereby justifying the special request to the competent technical assistance bodies.

54. Mrs. MURAVYEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) shared the view of the Saudi Arabian representative in that matter and would vote for the draft resolution.

55. The CHAIRMAN called for a vote on the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.670), amended in accordance with the suggestion of the United Kingdom.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

56. Mr. SHALIZI (Afghanistan) warmly thanked the members of the Committee and the Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.