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AGENDA ITEM 48

United Nations Institute for Training and Research:
report of the Executive Director of the Institute
(A/6303, chap. XIII, sect. II; A/6500 and Corr.1
and 2, A/6515, A/C.2/L.927)

1. Mr. D'ARBOUSSIER (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research) explained that it was not his intention to seek praise for what the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) had achieved in the first twenty months of its operations; the report of UNITAR (A/6500 and Corr.1 and 2) would, however, show that many of the hopes he had expressed in the twentieth session of the General Assembly were being fulfilled. When he had introduced the first report of UNITAR to the Committee (987th meeting), he had been able to speak only of intentions, whereas he was now in a position to report on achievements.

2. During the year under review the Institute had evaluated the activities undertaken in its first experimental phase and had come to the conclusion that there was a need to raise the level of the training programmes, to increase their number and, through regional decentralization, to ensure a multiplier effect. As instances of the higher level of training programmes, he mentioned the Seminar on Major Problems of the United Nations Technical Assistance and the new specialized programmes. It was also hoped that there would be more programmes in the near future. Their cost, however, necessarily limited the number of those who could benefit from them and it was hoped that decentralization would help to solve that problem, in addition to enabling more officials to be trained at a fraction of the cost, without depriving their countries of their services for too long a period. Moreover, decentralization would improve co-operation between UNITAR and similar institutes in other countries and so ensure the best possible use of local and international resources.

3. The distinguishing characteristic of UNITAR's research programme was that it was directed towards the study of basic trends in the promotion of peace and development in a rapidly changing world and not towards immediate solutions to the day-to-day prob-

lems of the United Nations. The specific research subjects were listed in the report of the Executive Director and the Committee would note that they fell under three main headings: development and modernization, studies in the field of international organization, and trans-national studies in the fields of human rights and international law; it was hoped that UNITAR's research would contribute towards improving the efficiency of the United Nations system.

4. In the operations of the Institute, training and research were treated as interdependent: changing needs necessitated research, and the results of research were applied to the training programmes. Similarly, no rigid distinction was made between training and research in the work assigned to the staff.

5. The first Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Fellowships had been awarded, for which funds had been provided by the United States Government. It was to be hoped that that Government's example would encourage others to provide the Institute with the resources it needed to increase the number of fellowships in future years.

6. In addition to the modest resources shown in its budget estimates, UNITAR obtained supplementary funds through its collaboration with other organizations and special contributions for specific research projects. Its small staff had been selected on the basis of qualifications and with a view to the participation of all regions of the world and all schools of thought. The Institute had from its inception attached special importance to co-ordination, particularly with other United Nations institutes, and it hoped to be able to further the work of a number of the main committees in the future.

7. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Institute's approach of imaginative innovation coupled with prudence in execution would amply justify the confidence placed in it by Member States and private organizations.

8. Mr. AL-RIFAIE (Kuwait) said that it was gratifying that UNITAR had passed from the formative stage to actual operations. His delegation believed, however, that priority should be given, in the Institute's activities, to training designed to meet the acute needs of the developing countries. For that reason, it was in favour of the proposed decentralization of training programmes, which would enable some of them to be undertaken in developing countries and thus be of immense benefit to institutes, such as the Institute for Planning in his country, which were engaged in similar activities.

9. The programmes relating to development financing and technical assistance, and the Seminar on Major

Problems of United Nations Technical Assistance, would help developing countries to derive the maximum benefit from external assistance and lead to better co-operation between the United Nations and recipient Governments. A parallel research project—the study of methods of evaluating technical assistance projects—would greatly strengthen United Nations assistance activities. The studies on the transfer of technology and on the problems of certain small countries were both valuable and timely; a number of the other research projects, however, were purely academic and UNITAR should concentrate on projects which were a necessary corollary to its training activities or otherwise related to United Nations development work.

10. In conclusion, he complimented the Executive Director of UNITAR on the efficient work so far accomplished by the Institute and proposed that his statement should be distributed as a Committee document.

11. Mr. M'BAYE (Guinea) supported that proposal.

It was so decided.^{1/}

12. Mr. SADI (Jordan), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.927 on behalf of the sponsors, said that its purpose was to endorse Economic and Social Council resolution 1138 (XLI) and to express the General Assembly's appreciation of the significant progress made by the Institute in a relatively short period. That appreciation was abundantly justified by the achievements recorded in the report of the Executive Director of UNITAR. In its training activities, the Institute had not only done experimental work to improve the programmes taken over from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), but had initiated new and extremely useful programmes. The research programmes, with their emphasis on improved methods and co-operation with other research institutions, were equally valuable. The sponsors therefore hoped that the draft resolution would be approved unanimously.

Mr. Boiko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

13. Mr. DEVENDRA (Nepal) observed that UNITAR, in its first year of active operation, had given fresh impetus to United Nations training activities for development, as the Seminar on major Problems of United Nations Technical Assistance and the programme for deputy Resident Representatives demonstrated: both of those programmes would have a practical impact at the country level, as would the proposed specialized courses for national officials. The research programme was equally concerned with problems of direct relevance to the United Nations; the studies relating to development and modernization, in particular, would prove the usefulness of UNITAR to policy making bodies such as the Economic and Social Council, the Governing Council of UNDP and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, and provide a notable example of inter-action between research and operations.

14. His delegation was gratified at the inclusion in the research programme of subjects of such vital interest to developing countries as the "brain drain" and the more effective implementation of multilateral conventions. If studies of the latter subject led to the identification of measures which would improve the acceptance of treaties adopted by United Nations bodies, such as the Convention on Transit Trade of Land-locked States, they would be of great practical value. Moreover, the proposed research seminars should lead to the development of new ideas and the discovery of areas of common interest on specific subjects.

15. Mr. ROOSEVELT (United States of America) noted that UNITAR had, in only twenty months, progressed from its early formative stages into a fully fledged member of the United Nations family. The Executive Director's report indicated the considerable amount of work already accomplished, as well as a number of exciting prospects for the future.

16. The research programme had been vigorously launched, and it was gratifying to note that the Institute intended to cover a broad range of subjects. His delegation hoped that it would continue to study a variety of subjects, including the very important field of peace-keeping. He noted with satisfaction that the study on the evaluation of United Nations technical co-operation programmes would be concerned with the long-range problem of improving methods and techniques, rather than with operational appraisals, since UNITAR could not, and should not, select particular countries for evaluation or undertake actual evaluation in the field. However, in studies not connected with evaluation of technical co-operation programmes, the Institute would have to make certain selective choices concerning which countries would provide the most useful experience for study. For example, the area of research into the planning-programming budgetary systems was likely to be valuable in the management of the United Nations economic and development programmes. While the research undertaken by UNITAR—the results of which should not be published prematurely or unnecessarily—could obviously not solve the world's major problems, it could make an imaginative and significant contribution to international thought and action and could also stimulate scholars and institutes throughout the world to carry out further research in areas where it was most needed.

17. In the matter of training, the Executive Director's intention to reorient the programmes transferred from the United Nations Secretariat, as well as to develop new programmes on a higher level in a number of specialized fields, was a source of satisfaction as were the encouragement and support of facilities in the various regions to take over the basic training courses. His delegation supported the strengthening of the training programme and therefore noted with satisfaction that a Director of Training was soon to be appointed and that the Executive Director was seeking to reduce UNITAR's training costs. Continual evaluation of training techniques could also help to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the programme, and the Institute's management should therefore include per-

^{1/} The complete text of the statement made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research was subsequently circulated as document A/C.2/L.930.

sons with experience in professional training. The response to the establishment of nine Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Fellowships, for which his Government had made a special payment of \$100,000, had been gratifying, and the quality of the fellows selected was particularly pleasing. His delegation shared the Executive Director's hope that governmental and non-governmental sources would make generous financial contributions towards future fellowships.

18. His delegation supported the draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.2/L.927) and wished UNITAR every success.

19. Mr. OLUMIDE (Nigeria) expressed satisfaction at the achievements of UNITAR. In the matter of training, the Institute was already providing national and international officials with the knowledge and technical skills required to promote United Nations objectives and programmes. The programmes transferred from the United Nations Secretariat would enable UNITAR to make a practical contribution towards meeting the development needs of developing countries. His delegation also welcomed the new and imaginative group training programme for deputy resident representatives, and the Seminar on Major Problems of United Nations Technical Assistance, which would make such assistance more effective by enabling the United Nations and recipient Governments better to understand each other's problems and viewpoints. It was to be hoped that the benefits of the Institute's training programmes could be spread more widely through further decentralization and greater emphasis on regional training centres.

20. With regard to research, his delegation shared the Executive Director's view that the Institute should serve as a means of communication between the academic community and the United Nations system by carrying out studies on problems having an immediate bearing on the objectives and programmes of the United Nations. It was gratifying to note that studies had already begun on a number of subjects of direct concern to the developing countries. In that connexion, it was to be hoped that the study on the "brain drain" would lead to recommendations for halting that unfortunate trend. The Institute should co-operate with the ILO and UNESCO, which were carrying out similar studies, so as to avoid duplication.

21. He urged Governments and other bodies, especially in the developed countries, to increase their contributions to UNITAR so that it could intensify its valuable range of activities in important areas.

22. Nigeria wished to co-sponsor draft resolution A/C.2/L.927.

23. Sir Edward WARNER (United Kingdom) said that his country, which had pledged \$500,000 to UNITAR for the first five years, was a firm supporter of the Institute and was observing its progress with keen interest. One of the Institute's first priorities was to set up a regular course of training for young officials, and his delegation therefore strongly endorsed the Executive Director's efforts to appoint a suitable director of training as a matter of urgency. The Institute's research activities should aim primarily at making the United Nations a more effective inter-

national organization, and the evaluation of past operations and programmes should therefore be undertaken critically and with the specific objective of improving future performance. His delegation welcomed the appointment of Mr. Oscar Schachter as Director of Research.

24. The United Kingdom would vote for draft resolution A/C.2/L.927 and wished the Institute every success.

25. Mr. MURGESCU (Romania) said that UNITAR had succeeded, without costly or well-publicized international meetings, in becoming a full-fledged organization with a valuable role within the United Nations. In the field of training, a number of programmes of particular interest to developing countries had been undertaken, and the reorientation of the programmes transferred from the United Nations Secretariat would, by making a realistic distinction between education and training and by delegating work to regional institutes or seminars, reduce costs and improve efficiency. Among the wide range of research programmes, the studies on the evaluation of technical assistance methods and techniques and on the "brain drain" were of particular importance. The proposed projects necessitated proper co-ordination with the work of other organizations carrying out similar studies.

26. The decision by the Board of Trustees that contributions in kind or pledges in non-convertible currencies would not represent financial pledges and payments to UNITAR (see A/6500, annex II, para. 34) was not in the best interests of the Institute. A number of delegations did not agree with that decision, and he therefore hoped that the Executive Director would make every effort to have that regrettable decision reversed. The Romanian delegation would vote for draft resolution A/C.2/L.927 and wished the Institute every success.

27. Mr. ABE (Japan) expressed his delegation's satisfaction that UNITAR had passed from the formative stage to actual operations. The needs of the developing countries were rightly emphasized in the training programmes undertaken by the Institute, and the Seminar on Major Problems of United Nations Technical Assistance, in particular, could enhance the benefits derived by developing countries from United Nations assistance. The critical approach adopted towards the three programmes transferred from the United Nations Secretariat was also highly commendable. High priority had also been given to a number of research studies of direct interest to developing countries, including especially those relating to development and modernization. The Japanese delegation welcomed the appointment of Mr. Schachter as Director of Research, and hoped that a Director of Training would be appointed as soon as possible.

28. His Government had already made known its intention to offer financial contributions which were expected to amount to \$200,000 for the first five-year period, and he hoped that draft resolution A/C.2/L.927, of which his delegation was a sponsor, would receive the Committee's unanimous approval.

29. Mr. BERGQUIST (Sweden) said that the progress achieved by UNITAR in embarking on actual operations was very encouraging. It was important that the challenging research programmes which had been or were about to be launched should lead to practical conclusions, and preference should be given to projects in which sources already available to the United Nations could be utilized. His delegation, which regarded a number of the research projects as especially important, would have welcomed some indication of priorities in the Executive Director's report. The Institute would need a qualified research staff and should maintain close liaison with other research institutions. In that connexion, he recalled that the International Peace Research Institute, which had a direct interest in the studies on the law of the sea and problems of small States, had recently been established at Stockholm.

30. The transfer to UNITAR of the training programme for foreign service officers would ensure the continuance of that important work, while the training programmes related to technical assistance would be of particular benefit to the developing countries.

31. The Swedish delegation hoped that sufficient contributions would be forthcoming to enable UNITAR to continue and expand its work. It would vote for the draft resolution before the Committee.

32. Mr. AL-AGROUSH (Saudi Arabia) said that UNITAR had already made a significant impact in the short period of its existence. He welcomed its emphasis on the needs of developing countries and the fact that the reorientation and decentralization of the training programmes transferred from the United Nations Secretariat would lead to an increase in the number of trainees and a reduction in UNITAR's costs. In the interesting programme of research studies, the projects relating to the transfer of technology and the evaluation of technical assistance methods and techniques were especially commendable.

33. Saudi Arabia, which was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.927, had pledged \$40,000, of which \$32,000 had already been paid, for UNITAR's first five years. It was to be hoped that all Member States would contribute more generously.

34. Mr. VIAUD (France) said he was glad to note that UNITAR laid equal stress on training and research. At the outset his delegation had had some doubts about the advantages of centralized training and was therefore pleased to see that UNITAR planned to assign some training activities to regional institutes or seminars. Travel costs would thus be reduced and trainees would not have to spend so much time away from their countries. Decentralization should also make for closer co-operation between regional and national institutes.

35. The research programme covered a number of important topics of which the studies relating to development and modernization were of special interest to the Second Committee. The problems of small States were of vital importance for the developing countries. His delegation hoped that every effort would be made to avoid dispersal of research activities and

duplication with other bodies. It supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.927.

36. Mr. HOUNTON (Dahomey) said his delegation had every confidence in UNITAR and was particularly glad that it was concentrating on the problems of the developing countries. Dahomey, for example, was greatly concerned with the "brain drain" and hoped that the proposed studies of that subject would yield solutions of practical value. Also important for Dahomey was the training programme for middle-level officers who were concerned with details of programming and administrative procedures. He was glad to note that UNITAR had contributed to the Seminar on Apartheid, held at Brasilia, in August 1966, and hoped that it would co-operate with the Institute of Applied Research in Dahomey. He hoped that the draft resolution, of which Dahomey was a sponsor, would be adopted unanimously.

37. Mr. POLIT (Ecuador) said that the manuals to be prepared by UNITAR on development financing and procedures of technical assistance would be useful not only for trainees but also for delegations. The priority that had been given in research to studies relating to development and modernization was extremely welcome. Such studies related to topics already discussed by the Second Committee such as natural resources and in particular the resources of the sea (item 45). Undoubtedly, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination of the Economic and Social Council would find in UNITAR a rich source of information on the various aspects of technical assistance. Ecuador fully supported the work of UNITAR, was a sponsor of the draft resolution, and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

38. Mr. FILIMONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that some of the research activities as well as some of the training programmes formerly conducted by the United Nations had been transferred to UNITAR after informal consultations between officials of the two organizations. The USSR delegation objected to that arrangement whether it applied to training programmes or research activities and stressed that such transfers could only be made, in the case of training, after discussion in the appropriate departments of the Secretariat and, in the case of research, after a decision by the competent inter-governmental organizations. All the activities of UNITAR must be carefully screened by the Economic and Social Council and topics for research selected only after careful co-ordination with the departments of the United Nations Secretariat. For example, it was doubtful whether UNITAR should engage in research into the resources of the sea since that topic was already being considered by the Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

39. The training programmes of UNITAR should deal objectively with the problems of international life and it would be wrong for its lecturers on economic, financial and other topics to concern themselves solely with the experience of the Western countries. They should not ignore the valuable experience of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and in particular the assistance they had given to the developing countries.

40. The Soviet Union had followed the activities of UNITAR closely and had co-operated in some of them. For example, in October 1965 there had been a seminar in Moscow on the financing of economic development and another in July 1966 on legal questions. In October 1966, UNITAR and the African Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences had held a joint seminar in Moscow. The competent authorities of the Soviet Union were ready to consider requests from UNITAR for the participation of USSR institutes in UNITAR research activities and for the dispatch of lecturers from the Soviet Union to New York.

41. Mr. KAUL (India) said his delegation's sponsorship of the draft resolution testified to its strong support of the work of UNITAR. India had been closely associated with the activities of UNITAR from its inception. The research and training programme of the Institute showed an imaginative understanding of the important problems involved and should prove of great benefit to the developing countries. India supported the whole range of activities outlined in the report of the Executive Director (A/6500) but felt that research on the techniques of technical assistance and on the transfer of technology were particularly important. Of course, if it was to be successful, UNITAR must have adequate funds and the comprehensive list in annex IV of the Executive Director's report included India's pledge of \$50,000. The flow of finance must be maintained in the years to come and he was sure that the valuable assistance UNITAR was giving to the developing countries would justify stronger support. His delegation was confident that UNITAR had a bright future.

42. Mr. BADAWI (United Arab Republic) said his delegation was glad to co-sponsor draft resolution A/C.2/L.927 and to note that UNITAR had accorded equal importance to its training and research activities. He welcomed the appointment of Mr. Schachter as Director of Research and the efforts of UNITAR to establish closer links with regional training institutes, and his delegation supported both its training and research programmes. The Sixth Committee had already commended UNITAR on its prospective contribution to the study of international law. His delegation welcomed the plan to organize research seminars and hoped that, wherever possible, they would be held in specific regions.

43. Mr. MIRGHANI (Sudan) said his delegation appreciated the work done by UNITAR and hoped that it would lay more stress on research into the problems facing the developing countries. He was glad to note that such a highly-qualified Director of Research as Mr. Schachter had been appointed and hoped that a similarly well-qualified director of training would soon be found. The Sudan fully supported UNITAR and had pledged \$20,000 to it. It hoped that UNITAR would expand both centrally and regionally as it tackled the problems of the developing countries. His delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.927.

44. Mr. AHMED (Pakistan) said his delegation had sponsored the draft resolution because it felt that the General Assembly should take note of the progress

made by UNITAR. Now that UNITAR was fully operational, he hoped that more contributions would be forthcoming so that it could continue its work with increasing vigour. Pakistan had pledged \$20,000 and fully supported the Institute's activities. He hoped that UNITAR would co-operate even more with the specialized agencies and other bodies working in the same field and that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

45. Mr. M'BAYE (Guinea) said his country was a sponsor of the draft resolution and was deeply interested in the work of UNITAR. It was glad to note the practical approach that UNITAR had adopted and that it was planning its future expansion. It was gratifying also that the training and research activities of UNITAR were aimed primarily at helping the developing countries. He hoped that UNITAR would take advantage of the experience of countries like his own in education. He also hoped that UNITAR would co-operate with the Polytechnic Institute of Guinea. He appealed to all countries to contribute more generously to UNITAR so that it could continue its useful work.

46. Mr. DELGADO (Senegal) expressed his appreciation of the work of UNITAR and was glad to note that it had moved into top gear. The training courses already given had been very successful, particularly those in development financing, in the techniques of technical assistance and in diplomacy. The trainees which Senegal had sent to UNITAR had derived great benefit from the courses and his delegation hoped that their scope would be broadened in the future and that courses of training would be given for high-level government personnel. The Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Fellowships had been a resounding success and he hoped that more students from the French-speaking African countries could participate in them. The evaluation studies on technical assistance contemplated by UNITAR should be of great value to the United Nations. His delegation had every confidence in the Institute and would do everything to contribute to its success. It wished to co-sponsor the draft resolution.

47. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) expressed general support for the work of UNITAR but hoped that in the future it would lay greater emphasis on training. A Director of Training should be appointed as soon as possible and it would be gratifying if he came from one of the African countries. The Institute should not confine its relationships to the institutions of the Western democracies but reflect the universality of the United Nations. His delegation supported the draft resolution and appealed to all Governments to support UNITAR financially. The Institute should make the greatest possible use of all contributions from whatever source.

48. Mr. D'ARBOUSSIER (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research) thanked the Committee for its expressions of appreciation and goodwill. Few of the questions raised in the discussion could be answered immediately. He wished, however, to emphasize the following points: in its research work, UNITAR sought to co-operate, rather

than to compete, with other institutions; transfers of programmes had been made with the concurrence of the appropriate supervisory bodies; and finally, the Institute welcomed and would utilize all assistance offered to it, whatever its form.

49. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the twenty-five-Power draft resolution (A/C.2/L.907).

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.