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Chairman: Mr. Moraiwid M. TELL (Jordan).

AGENDA ITEM 53

International Tourist Year (*continued*) (A/6303, chap. XIII, sect. V; A/6427, E/4218 and Corr.1, A/C.2/L.867 and Add.1)

1. Mr. FILALI (Morocco) said that his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.867 and Add.1. The aim of the draft resolution was to arouse among nations and men an awareness which, even if it already existed, was not reflected as extensively as was desirable. The international community, and more particularly the developing countries, expected the expansion of tourism to bring greater wealth to the deprived regions, to raise the economic, cultural and social level of the peoples and to bring about greater understanding among men through direct contacts with the life of the inhabitants of other continents. The development of tourism offered one other advantage: it was an appreciable source of foreign exchange for the developing countries, whose balance of payments often showed a deficit.

2. Morocco attached great importance to the development of a tourist infra-structure directed towards the construction of hotel complexes and the development of the various touristic sites of Morocco. Situated as it was at the crossroads of the great lines of communication, a link between East and West and enjoying a temperate climate owing to its proximity to the sea, Morocco had some towns which were world famous. It also had a first-class road network, modern ports and airports, a large number of comfortable hotels, and mountain and seaside resorts. Moreover, having fallen heir to Moslem art which was the pride and the tourist attraction of Spain, Morocco was open to both African and European influences. Furthermore, hospitality was an age-old tradition of the Moroccan people.

3. The efforts his country had made to publicize and develop its touristic infra-structure had not, however, brought the reward it deserved in the influx of tourists that it was entitled to expect. He therefore hoped that International Tourist Year would provide the occasion for a better understanding of the problems encountered by the developing countries in their efforts to attract tourists. That understanding should be reflected not only in an increase of financial and technical assistance but above all in tireless action to overcome certain prejudices; such action could not fail to lead to a

better distribution of tourist traffic in the world, greater understanding among men and, in the last analysis, peace among peoples.

4. Mr. ABERKANE (Algeria) said that his Government was following with great interest the rapid developments taking place in tourism. Algeria had not been able to turn its attention to tourism until it had regained sovereignty, the one being closely linked to the other. It now had a vast touristic infra-structure, a wealth of natural resources and a particularly favourable geographical position. Algeria was convinced, moreover, that tourism by reason of the direct contacts that it made possible among men, was an appreciable factor for peace and friendship and could help to bring about what had been called the "disarmament of minds".

5. The opportunities for tourist expansion were now infinitely greater than they had been a generation earlier, owing to the great technical advances that had been made in communications and transport. The world had become smaller and its peoples had been prompted to seek new forms of coexistence which would permit personal contacts at all political, economic and cultural levels. That being so, it was paradoxical that there was already a tendency to lose interest in the cultural treasures and the past and present civilizations which had yet to be explored. The developed countries had up to the present been able to explore their own resources in that matter systematically. If, therefore, a greater effort was to be made, there was no doubt whatever that it should be made in favour of the developing countries, whose means fell far short of their tourist potential. Unless the developing countries were given greater assistance, either bilateral or multilateral, it was to be feared that those efforts would once again be to the benefit of the developed countries. It lay with the developing countries, of course, to make suitable arrangements for receiving foreign tourists, especially in regard to customs formalities and material and health conditions.

6. Algeria had a number of interesting achievements to its credit. After attaining independence, it had opened three tourist promotion centres, in Paris, Frankfurt and Stockholm, and expected to open others in the near future. At present the nationals of twenty-six countries, including sixteen European countries, could enter Algeria without a visa. From the point of view of accessibility, Algeria had one of the best infra-structures in Africa, with twenty-one ports, seventeen airports and more than eighty airfields. There were no formalities required of travellers for the temporary import of motor vehicles, personal effects or currency. Algeria had nearly a thousand

hotels, 200 of which were tourist class. It was the melting pot of many civilizations and was endeavouring to promote its archaeological sites, some of which dated back 6,000 years, its beaches, its hot springs and its handicrafts.

7. A whole series of measures had been arranged for the celebration of International Tourist Year in 1967. At the domestic level, a national committee under the chairmanship of the Minister for Tourism was working on the propagation of the slogans and themes of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO), in particular "1967: International Tourist Year" and "Tourism, Passport to Peace". All tourist and para-tourist companies would be instructed to include those two themes in their publications for 1967. The Ministry of Tourism would also publish greeting cards bearing those two slogans and reproducing the IUOTO emblem. Tourist posters were being printed and the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs had arranged for the issue of commemorative stamps and seals. Lastly, the Ministry of Education had made arrangements for the schools to set aside a special day to be devoted to the development of tourism. At the external level, Algeria had supported the recommendations of the nineteenth General Assembly of IUOTO and was endeavouring to propagate them in the other African countries, mainly through the sub-regional office of the Economic Commission for Africa. The Standing Committee on Tourism, which comprised Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya, had also decided in October 1965 to support the recommendations of IUOTO.

8. Those activities testified to the importance which the Algerian Government attached to tourism. In fact, tourism at present represented the greatest item of international trade and was increasing by 15 per cent a year. From the point of view of the developing countries, it was natural that international tourism should take precedence over national tourism. Indeed, the movement of people was effectively replacing the more difficult movement of goods and capital. It would consequently be unfortunate if the countries exporting tourists were to impose restrictions in order to try to decrease the flow of their nationals to the developing countries. The argument of equilibrium in the balance of payments should not affect tourism, for it was an established fact that the tapping of foreign exchange that tourism entailed was compensated by the purchases of goods and services by the developing countries. There were a number of anomalies in the situation in that matter; in particular, the amount spent by tourists had not progressed at the same rate as had their number. It would be useful if the Secretary-General could make a further effort to obtain replies to the questionnaire which he had sent out to Governments on the subject of their activities in the field of tourism and to which only thirty-nine countries had replied so far.

9. Turning to the IUOTO report (E/4218 and Corr.1), he expressed the view that it would have been useful for the report to be accompanied by the comments of the Secretary-General. Nevertheless, it provided an impressive list of ideas and suggestions which would certainly help towards an adequate celebration of

International Tourist Year. In particular, the proposals put forward in chapter VII were of great interest and were not such as to require efforts on the part of the Secretariat that were beyond the means and the funds at its disposal.

10. He regretted that draft resolution A/C.2/L.867 and Add.1 had been drawn up in such haste that Algeria had been unable to appear among the sponsors. The Algerian delegation would like to restore the specific reference to International Tourist Year appearing in Economic and Social Council resolution 1108 (XL) to its correct place. It would also like the word "peace" to be mentioned at least once in the text of the draft resolution. It therefore proposed that the third preambular paragraph should be replaced by the following:

"Recognizing the importance of international tourism, and particularly of the designation of an International Tourist Year, in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere, in leading to a greater awareness of the rich heritage of various civilizations and in bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures, thereby contributing to the strengthening of peace in the world".

If that amendment was accepted, his delegation would be glad to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

11. Mr. KADRY (Iraq) said that he was happy to note that the representatives of a number of developed countries had already participated in the debate in order to give the Second Committee the benefit of the experience of their countries in the matter of tourism. The Committee had before it a number of interesting documents on that subject, such as the final report of the United Nations Conference on International Travel and Tourism, held at Rome in 1963,^{1/} the Secretary-General's report on the action taken on the recommendations of that Conference,^{2/} the IUOTO report (E/4218 and Corr.1) and the Final Act of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).^{3/} Although they put forward some interesting recommendations, those documents were by no means exhaustive. Tourism, as it was known today, was a recent phenomenon, related to a considerable extent to the increase in the purchasing power and in the increased leisure time of the individual. It had become a mass phenomenon, especially in the developed countries. For obvious reasons, it had hitherto been limited to a great extent to the countries which were able to provide the necessary facilities and services. Tourism was in fact closely related to economic development as a whole. There were, however, other factors involved, such as the ability of a country to take advantage of the communications media in order to project its cultural heritage and its touristic sites; hence the importance of multilateral action. Earnings from international tourism could represent a considerable percentage

^{1/} Document E/3839.

^{2/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fortieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 8, document E/4145.

^{3/} See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, vol. 1: Final Act and Report (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.II.B.11).

of national income and could be an important source of foreign exchange. The distribution of gains from tourism, however, continued to be very unequal.

12. Iraq, for its part, was becoming increasingly aware of the value of tourism as a potentially important factor in its economy. It was making great efforts to provide foreign tourists with the necessary facilities and services. It was proud of its past and of the new Baghdad Museum, which housed the treasures of the past.

13. Turning to the draft resolution, of which his delegation was a sponsor, he pointed out that International Tourist Year was a point of departure and not an end in itself. The draft resolution made a clear reference to the need to encourage tourism to the developing countries. Another important aspect of the draft resolution was the emphasis it placed on the assessment of the results achieved in 1967 as a point of departure for further multilateral action. His delegation associated itself with the comments made by the representative of Sweden at the Economic Committee of the Economic and Social Council, at its forty-first session, when he said that the aims of the International Tourist Year should be more specifically tailored to benefit the developing countries. The representative of Iraq hoped that the draft resolution would be approved unanimously.

14. Mr. TEMBOURY (Spain) stressed the capital importance of large-scale tourism for the economic and social development of his country. Spain's experience in that regard should be of particular interest to the developing countries, and it gladly offered them its co-operation in studying the subject. From the social and cultural point of view, tourism had led to a better understanding of Spain by other peoples and a better understanding of the problems of other peoples by Spaniards. In economic terms, tourist income was now as important as earnings from the export of goods, a fact which partly compensated for the serious adverse effects on Spain's trade balance from the measures it had taken to liberalize foreign trade. Spain had also been compelled to divert part of its financial and human resources to the tourist industry in order to improve the tourist infra-structure and facilities, thus decreasing its export potential and obliging it to import more in order to satisfy the needs of the visitors. The tourist industry was a complex mechanism, not without its problems with which Spain had now become more familiar.

15. Spanish tourists were also travelling abroad in steadily increasing numbers, thanks to the rise in the standard of living, which was partly due to tourist income. The Government granted Spanish tourists all possible facilities, in the general interest of better understanding among peoples, although such foreign travel lessened net invisible income. His delegation therefore unreservedly supported the draft resolution and the Spanish Government would spare no effort to give the required prominence to International Tourist Year and implement the recommendations of IUOTO.

16. Mr. KOMIVES (Hungary) said that his delegation whole-heartedly supported the designation of 1967 as International Tourist Year. The progress made in

tourism was to a great extent attributable to the Rome Conference and to the work of IUOTO. The data supplied by that organization illustrated the economic importance of international tourism. Tourism represented 6 per cent of world exports and its annual rate of growth between 1950 and 1963 had been 12 per cent. It would be wrong, however, to regard the economic role of tourism as limited to its impact on the balance of payments. It facilitated the development of the services sector as a whole; moreover, it was an excellent means of education, providing the tourist with first-hand knowledge of the culture, art and languages of foreign countries. Lastly, tourism promoted understanding among peoples and served the cause of peace. In that connexion, his delegation supported the amendment proposed orally by the Algerian representative.

17. International tourism had expanded enormously since 1950. The number of foreign tourists visiting member countries of IUOTO had risen from 25 million in 1950 to 118 million in 1965. In many countries, tourism was becoming an independent economic sector. As it developed into a mass phenomenon, the cost factor became increasingly significant. In Europe, which had accounted for 70 per cent of international tourist traffic in 1964, there was now an increasing east-west and west-east movement in addition to the hitherto prevailing north-south flow. In 1965, the socialist countries had received 9.1 million foreign tourists, more than one third of whom had come from Western countries.

18. As a result of many different factors, the developing countries were tending increasingly to attract tourists. Hungary had received 2.6 million foreign tourists in 1964 and 1965. The Hungarian Government had simplified visa formalities and had made great efforts to increase the number of hotels and develop its road network. The competent Hungarian authorities, who had already begun preparations for International Tourist Year, would pay special attention to promoting travel to the developing countries.

19. Finally, he appealed to the sponsors to alter the wording of operative paragraph 2 in order to bring it into harmony with the spirit of the draft resolution. He hoped that the sponsors would find a solution acceptable to all delegations. In that connexion, the Hungarian delegation supported the Polish representatives's proposal (1047th meeting).

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

20. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) emphasized the importance of tourism as a means of augmenting the means of payment of developing and developed countries alike, and the leading role which it played in the trade balance of certain countries, such as Switzerland, Italy and France, and more recently Spain, Mexico and Yugoslavia. A flow of tourist traffic to the Mediterranean countries of North Africa was also to be noted. In addition, the rapid growth in the number of tourists and the fact that tourism was becoming more and more within the reach of the masses of the people each year, were promoting better understanding among peoples and making it really possible to speak of tourism as the passport to peace.

21. Although Argentina was not on the traditional tourist routes, it, nevertheless, had some important points in its favour: the route to Argentina, however long, included points of exceptional beauty, such as the West Indies, the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and the vestiges of very ancient civilizations. In Argentina itself, besides the strange world of the Antarctic and the immensities of the pampas, the tourist could visit easily accessible cities where he would find all modern comforts, at prices among the lowest to be found anywhere. The major world airlines served Latin America, which could be described as a real paradise for international tourism. He invited the members of the Committee to verify that fact for themselves.

22. The Argentine delegation supported the draft resolution, of which it was a co-sponsor, without reservations.

23. Mr. RAMAHOLIMIHASO (Madagascar) welcomed the draft resolution in view of the importance of international tourism in improving co-operation among peoples and knowledge of civilizations and cultures. If the year 1967 was to have a truly international character, however, tourism must no longer be limited to the northern hemisphere and must extend to the whole world, and particularly to the south, where civilizations were no less interesting, the beauty spots no less delightful and the welcome no less warm than elsewhere. An influx of tourists would encourage the developing countries to improve their tourist infrastructure.

24. In that connexion, the United Nations was not indifferent to the concerns of the developing countries: the African regional symposium, planned for late 1966 or early 1967, which would deal with problems of accommodation and vocational training, was proof of that fact. In addition, the programme of development for International Tourist Year included the establishment of regional centres for training in tourism and hotel management for Latin America, the Middle Eastern countries and Africa. For the developing countries, however, the essential question was whether to establish the tourist infrastructure first or to promote the tourist traffic which would justify the investments required to establish that infra-structure. The Malagasy delegation thought that the two problems were closely connected and that their simultaneous solution would be hastened by the proclamation of 1967 as International Tourist Year.

25. Mr. NICULESCU (Romania) said that statistics showed that tourism was one of the most dynamic economic activities: in 1965, the world total of foreign exchange income from tourism had amounted to 6.2 per cent of the value of world exports, and the average annual rate of increase of such income had been 15 per cent in recent years.

26. During the discussions at the forty-first session of the Economic and Social Council, which had drawn attention to the human, cultural and economic importance of tourism and to its contribution to the economic growth of all countries, the Romanian delegation had been among those supporting the idea of an International Tourist Year, and it had therefore joined in sponsoring the draft resolution before the Committee.

27. That draft embodied the basic idea, set forth in recommendation A.IV.24 of the Final Act of UNCTAD, that special attention must be paid to promoting tourist traffic to the developing countries. In addition, in connexion with International Tourist Year, which was also designed to promote tourism at the national level, each country would take the action that it considered most appropriate. That was what the Romanian Government proposed to do. The United Nations, and particularly the regional economic commissions, could also play a part in that respect: Romania hoped that the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) would make its contribution to the Development of tourism among all the European countries, without distinction as to social and political systems, in pursuance of the resolution on International Tourist Year and the development of European tourism adopted at the twenty-first session of ECE.^{4/}

28. The preamble of the draft resolution contained another basic idea: that International Tourist Year was intended for the benefit of all the peoples and all the Governments of the world and that it was bound up with world-wide co-operation. The United Nations Conference on International Travel and Tourism had adopted a resolution to the same effect. Romania attached great importance to developing co-operation in international tourism at the same time as it improved its own tourist potential.

29. The Romanian delegation welcomed the draft resolution before the Committee and hoped that International Tourist Year would further the cause of peace and understanding among all peoples and States and enhance international co-operation in matters of tourism.

30. Mr. WILMOT (Ghana) said that his country, like so many others, attached great importance to the promotion of tourism in the developing countries, and it therefore endorsed the objective of the draft resolution which designated 1967 as International Tourist Year.

31. In addition to its contribution to better understanding among the countries of the world, international tourism was an invaluable source of foreign exchange and in some countries represented a considerable portion of the national income. For example, it accounted for 10 to 20 per cent of the visible and invisible foreign exchange earnings of Italy and Switzerland and more than 40 per cent of those of Spain. Unfortunately, as in most other cases, the economic benefits of international tourism had eluded the developing countries. Whereas in 1963, a revenue of \$5,437 million and \$1,483 million had accrued respectively to Europe and North America from tourism, a total revenue of only \$2,131 million had accrued to the countries of Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East from the same source.

32. Of the developing regions, Africa was perhaps the least visited area, although it had perhaps the richest culture in the world and incomparable tourist attractions. The people of the United States, the greatest tourists in the world, continued to concentrate their tourist activities in Europe even though Europe

^{4/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 3, part III, resolution 5 (XXI).

had practically nothing new to offer them since the cultures and civilizations of the two continents were basically the same. They alleged that the reason preventing them from visiting Africa was the prohibitive cost of travelling. The fact was that the international air fares to the developing countries were so high as to constitute a positive impediment to the expansion of international tourism in those countries. For that reason, his delegation whole-heartedly welcomed the decision recently taken at Honolulu by the International Air Transport Association to lower fares on European-African routes from 1 April 1967. That decision would give the African tourist industry a boost if the countries concerned gave it their approval, and his delegation appealed to them to do so. If, therefore, the Governments of the United States of America and of the European countries, in particular, gave the widest possible publicity to those fare cuts and encouraged their nationals to visit Africa and other developing areas, they would contribute to the realization of the objectives of the draft resolution. The developing countries, for their part, were making efforts to develop the tourist industry, to protect natural sites and historical monuments and to encourage handicrafts.

33. It was the hope of his delegation that the International Tourist Year would modify the traditional pattern of international tourism and contribute in a decisive manner to the expansion of tourism in the developing countries.

34. Mr. JULEV (Bulgaria) said that his Government had established a Central Department of Tourism, which was a member of IUOTO. Its responsibilities included the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 995 (XXXVI) and of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on International Travel and Tourism. Among the measures taken by Bulgaria to give effect to those resolutions was the signing of visa formalities agreements with fifteen countries, including several developing countries. Its tourist arrangements were today among the most liberal anywhere. It had also taken an active part in a consultative meeting of the official tourist bodies of the Balkan countries, which had been held at Belgrade during the summer of 1966. The first regional conference of the organization which had been set up on that occasion had been held at Sofia from 3 to 8 October 1966. His country, in co-operation with its neighbours Yugoslavia and Turkey, had completed the construction of a Balkan highway that linked Europe as a whole with the Balkan countries, the Middle East and Asia.

35. Visas had been eliminated for the nationals of ten countries, and the nationals of the other countries could obtain a tourist visa, either outside the country or at the Bulgarian frontier, without any difficulty. As a result of those arrangements, of the investment in basic facilities and services and of the natural beauty and the historical and cultural wealth of the country, the number of tourists had increased by more than twelve times since 1958, when 80,000 visitors had been recorded, to 1,060,000 tourists had visited the country. From the tourist point of view, Bulgarian tourists taking part in or-

ganized cruises often visited the developing countries along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

36. Bulgaria proposed, on the occasion of the International Tourist Year, to organize a number of international cultural, artistic and sporting events under the inspiration of the slogan "Tourism, Passport to Peace", which had been coined for the occasion. It regarded the International Tourist Year as a means of increasing understanding among different peoples, countries and régimes and of thus contributing to the strengthening of peace and friendship among all the people of the world. It was that spirit, too, which was the basis of the third preambular paragraph and of the draft resolution as a whole, except, unfortunately, for operative paragraph 2, into which there had slipped a shadow of the cold war. The intention had been to close the door to certain countries, and in particular to the German Democratic Republic, which was the host country and the country of origin of hundreds of thousands of tourists. That represented a regrettable contradiction and even a wilfully vexatious action. The Bulgarian delegation hoped that all countries and organizations interested in the success of the International Tourist Year would rally around the slogan: "Tourism, Passport to Peace".

37. Mr. ELM (Iran) expressed his gratification at the support being given to the draft resolution by the members of the Committee. His country, which already had tourist organizations at its disposal, would make every effort to prepare for the International Tourist Year because it regarded tourism not only as an important source of foreign exchange but also as an excellent means of promoting mutual understanding among peoples. That was, moreover, the spirit in which Iran had always endeavoured to broaden its cultural relations with all countries, regardless of their type of government. According to the slogan of IUOTO, tourism was without any doubt a "passport to peace".

38. Mr. MURAYA (Kenya) said that there was no better book than tourism to facilitate an understanding of other peoples and their cultures. He therefore expressed the hope that the success of the International Tourist Year would make it possible to correct certain erroneous concepts which might have been disseminated by various mass media and thus to promote a better understanding among peoples of different social and cultural backgrounds.

39. In the economy of his country, tourism was second only to agriculture as a source of foreign exchange. The tourist industry could nevertheless bring in even more foreign exchange if more active co-operation was forthcoming from the developed countries. In many of the developing countries, for example, the hotel facilities were often owned and managed by foreigners, the package tours were organized from abroad, and the tourists flew in the airlines of their own countries. He wished to thank Austria for its aid to tourism in the developing countries, especially in hotel management, and he hoped that many other countries would follow that example and help the developing countries to give their tourist industry a national character.

40. Although there were already 5,400 beds in the hotels and lodges of Kenya, the Government was undertaking to expand accommodation facilities by 1,000 beds by 1970 and to improve domestic transport. It was doing that because the number of tourists, which had been 65,000 in 1964, was expected to increase by about 15 per cent a year. That hope was justified by the fact that Kenya, with its magnificent scenery, its wide variety of fauna and flora and its game and fishing resources, offered unlimited tourist attractions.
41. The Government of Kenya, through its Tourist Development Corporation, would do all that it could to make the International Tourist Year a success. It would like to be included among the sponsors of the draft resolution.
42. Mr. FERNANDINI (Peru) emphasized that tourism, both domestic and international, was an important factor in development, not only because it was a source of foreign currency earnings, but also because it promoted the development of other industries such as transport and construction.
43. Since the Argentine representative had brought out very clearly all the arguments in favour of tourism, he would merely stress its cultural interest, and in that connexion, he pointed out that his country was about to conclude an agreement with UNESCO for the conservation of Cuzco and of the Machu Pichu region; the agreement would promote the development of tourism in that region and provided an excellent example of the aid supplied by international organizations.
44. In conclusion, his delegation expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.
45. Mr. DELGADO (Senegal) stressed the importance of tourism in the process of economic growth of the developing countries and pointed out that his Government was striving to develop the possibilities which Senegal offered in that respect, with its varied sites of tourist interest and the choice situation of its capital at the hub of international communications. Work on the hotel infra-structure, carried out under its first development plan, had enabled Senegal to be host to nearly 50,000 visitors on the occasion of the first World Festival of Negro Arts, and that influx of tourists had, in turn, encouraged the Government to continue its efforts under the second four-year plan. Provision had been made for building new hotels and new railway lines and for the development of new centres of tourist interest. The Department of Tourism, which came under the Ministry of Information, was promoting the development of handicrafts through a National Centre for Handicrafts and regional centres. Senegal was also taking an active part in the work of IUOTO.
46. He associated himself with the appeal which the representative of Kenya had just made to the developed countries and recalled that, at the last session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, the Administrator had mentioned the very interesting possibility that pre-investment projects would be undertaken in the tourist sector.
47. His delegation would enthusiastically support the draft resolution and the amendment proposed by the Algerian delegation.
48. Mr. OMEISH (Libya) said that economic, social and even political considerations were proof of the fact that, as the resolution adopted by the United Nations Conference on International Travel and Tourism had stressed, tourism deserved the encouragement of all peoples and all Governments. As the draft resolution under consideration emphasized, it was also an excellent instrument for fostering better understanding among peoples and would lead to a better appreciation of the values of different cultures.
49. However, in regard to the economic advantages of tourism, the revenue derived from it was very unequally distributed throughout the world. The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Rome Conference (E/4145, para. 11), showed in fact, that in 1963, as in 1950, the share of world earnings from tourism received by Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East was far below that received by North America and, especially, Europe. The developing countries, under their national plans, should therefore pay greater attention to the development of tourism, taking into account above all the need to create favourable conditions by modernizing and expanding hotel facilities and by publicizing them throughout the world. To that end, they needed both multilateral and bilateral technical assistance from the international and inter-governmental organizations concerned; that assistance should be focused on the elaboration of plans for developing the tourist industry as part of over-all development plans, on the establishment of vocational training schools, and on the organization of national or regional symposia on research and vocational training for tourism.
50. His delegation noted with appreciation that the Middle Eastern centre for training in tourism and hotel management was to extend its services to the African countries in connexion with International Tourist Year.
51. The Libyan Government considered tourism to be one of its national industries and, while wishing to leave its expansion to the private sector, it had allocated the sum of £1.8 million to that industry under the current five-year plan for the construction of hotel facilities at archaeological and tourist centres in the interior of the country. It was also his Government's intention to establish and subsidize a specialized agency for tourism.
52. In conclusion, he said that his delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution.
53. Mr. NEAL (Liberia) said that his delegation would vote for the draft resolution. It also endorsed without reservations the report of IUOTO which showed very clearly how the expansion of tourism could contribute towards a more equitable division of wealth in the world.
54. Mr. LUTCHMAN (Trinidad and Tobago) pointed out that his country, with a population drawn from all the continents of the world, was proof of the

cultural enrichment which resulted from the unrestricted intermingling of peoples of different races, cultures, origins and religions. Tourism, which made it possible to overcome distances and frontiers, could promote such an enrichment on the international level.

55. As a sponsor of the draft resolution, his delegation was happy to note that all were agreed on recognizing the importance of tourism both as an instrument for international understanding and as a source of foreign currency earnings. His delegation could not help deploring, however, as the representative of Italy had done, the fact that the practical measures designed to facilitate tourism were far from being universally applied and lagged far behind technical progress in that sector. Trinidad and Tobago continued to respect the agreements concluded by its former administering Power concerning the abolition of visas, but its nationals had sometimes had occasion to note that the immigration services of certain countries did not grant reciprocal facilities to the nationals of newly independent countries. Where there was a desire for reciprocity, however, some countries were quite ready to remove the now outdated restrictions; for example, he quoted the agreement recently concluded within the Pan American Health Organization on the standards to be applied for transporting the remains of those who had died outside their own country, an agreement which would make it possible to overcome the sometimes considerable difficulties which arose in that connexion.

56. His delegation appealed to all Member States to take positive measures, during International Tourist Year, to promote tourism by abolishing unnecessary formalities which, unfortunately, in some regions still restricted the freedom of exchange, which was part of tourism and which could make such a great contribution to international understanding and friendship.

57. Mr. SADI (Jordan) said that his country, which did not have the same oil resources as its neighbours, possessed, on the other hand, historical and religious sites which were of great touristic value; the number

of foreign visitors to Jordan had risen from only 30,000 in 1951, to almost 1 million in 1966.

58. His delegation had therefore enthusiastically joined the other sponsors of the draft resolution and hoped that the designation of International Tourist year would be followed by more positive results than had been the case with other "Years" which had been ridiculed in a recent article in The Times of London.

59. Mr. PEREZ LOPEZ (Mexico) said that his country benefited from a fairly considerable influx of foreign tourists, mainly from the United States, and that the foreign currency income which it derived from tourism represented approximately 10 per cent of the total of its imports of goods; in addition, it derived a similar amount from daily border transactions with the United States.

60. His country would perhaps have preferred 1968 to be designated as International Tourist Year, since that was the year in which it would be host to the Olympic Games. Apart from the preparations which it had made in that connexion, the Mexican Government was constantly striving to extend and improve the facilities for foreign tourists and to develop new tourist areas.

61. Having supported the resolution in which the Rome Conference, held in 1963, had recommended the abolition of Tourist taxes, the Mexican Government had enacted relevant legislation. On the currency question, his delegation shared the opinion expressed at the previous meeting by the representative of Greece and stressed that Mexico had always remained faithful to the principle of freedom of exchange.

62. His delegation supported the draft resolution without reservation, since it thought that the International Tourist Year could only have favourable results, not just from the economic point of view but above all from the standpoint of promoting mutual understanding among peoples.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

