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MEETING**

Monday, 29 November 1971,
at 4.20 p.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. Narciso G. REYES (Philippines).

AGENDA ITEM 47

**United Nations Conference on the Human Environment:
report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/8308,
A/8309, A/8403, chap. XI; A/8509 and Add.1;
A/C.2/269; A/C.2/L.1185/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.1195,
A/C.2/L.1202; A/CONF.48/PC.13 and Corr.1; E/4991
and Add.1, E/5003)**

1. Mr. PARIS (Costa Rica) said that the problem of the various forms of pollution was truly a matter of life and death, and that humanity faced the possibility of collective suicide. At the same time, his delegation was very conscious of the existence of neo-colonialism and neo-imperialism, and it shared the fears expressed by some developing countries that the fight against pollution might be exploited to prevent the countries of the third world from taking the necessary action to improve production for the purpose of creating better living conditions for their peoples. It also shared the view that up to the present time it was the developed countries which were almost exclusively responsible for pollution problems; and it was therefore only fair that they should bear the resulting financial burden. The countries of the third world, however, should profit from the lessons of the economic and ecological history of the developed countries so as not to repeat their mistakes and thereby mortgage the future of coming generations for the sake of some short-term benefits. It was absolutely necessary to establish international standards. They would, of course, have to be sufficiently flexible to allow for the special circumstances and needs of each region and country, and, in view of the increasing complexity of the modern world, there would have to be integrated international planning. There was the danger that over-emphasis of the absolute sovereignty of every country would result in a hotch-potch of measures which, on the pretext of solving immediate problems as quickly as possible, might bring about irreversible processes liable to do irreparable harm to the human environment. Man must show that humanity was not a "malignant mutation", capable of destroying not only itself but also all life on the planet. He had to demonstrate that he could go about his social and economic development in a rational and orderly manner. That was why the Conference must be made to constitute an advance along the road to a better and more humane future for all and not be allowed to degenerate into futile discussion. His delegation believed and hoped that the world community would be able to demonstrate the necessary goodwill and broadmindedness to establish international standards that would not add to the already considerable difficulties that faced the developing countries. It had to show that it possessed the maturity needed for that task.

2. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) associated himself with the speakers who had congratulated the Secretary-General of the Conference on the efficiency with which he was guiding the preparatory work. He observed that despite all their relevance, the important statements made at the previous meeting by the Secretary-General of the Conference, the representative of Sweden and the representative of Brazil appeared to assume that the problems to be discussed in Stockholm were settled. All three of them had spoken on the substance of the question but not on the Conference itself. He quite understood why the Secretary-General of the Conference in particular had gone beyond the preparatory work of the Conference but he did not think there was any need to touch on matters of substance at the present stage. The Committee was dealing with the report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session (A/CONF.48/PC.13 and Corr.1), which contained information on the organization of the Conference. The immediate and most important task was to settle the problems raised by the holding of the Conference, namely and particularly, the problems of procedure and documentation.

3. The Iranian delegation approved the report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session and wished to encourage the Secretary-General of the Conference in the extremely important work he had to do in the little time remaining until the next session of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself. It congratulated him on his success in keeping within the budgetary limits that had been prescribed, and in that respect other United Nations bodies could take an example from him. He had the impression, however, that there was a feeling that the developing countries were not well informed and that they had to be enlightened about the whole subject. He wished to assure the members of the Committee that that was not the case, as the Brazilian representative's brilliant statement at the morning meeting clearly demonstrated. He endorsed nearly all of that representative's remarks on the interests of the developing countries in the matter but he did not think that a link should be established between the population problem and the limits of development, even though family planning was an essential part of the development plan of Iran and of other developing countries.

4. He agreed with the representative of Sweden concerning an appeal to avoid dispersion and duplication of effort, but with reference to the suggestion concerning the subsequent establishment of an intergovernmental committee composed of a small number of high-level representatives, he recalled that UNESCO had created an intergovernmental committee the year before for the same purpose. He therefore warned against the danger of committing the very error one was trying to avoid. The Secretary-General of the Conference had referred to measures which should be taken

after the conference and to institutional decisions necessary for continuous action in the sphere of the environment; in that connexion, he expressed the view that the United Nations should strive for a better organization of the whole of its own structure. With regard to the ecological and environmental gaps mentioned by the Secretary-General of the Conference and the representative of Brazil, he approved the suggestion of the Brazilian representative to fashion measures which were sufficiently flexible for adaptation to changing conditions.

5. The Conference should be approached in a spirit of optimism, for there was every reason to believe that it would constitute the basis of very important decisions concerning the environment and that the interests of the developing countries would be duly taken into account.

6. The Iranian delegation had no difficulty in supporting draft resolution A/C.2/L.1185/Rev.1. It might even become a co-sponsor if some minor drafting changes were made. The draft resolution was consistent with draft resolution A/C.2/L.1195 and expanded on the provisions of operative paragraph 7 of the latter.

7. He wished to thank the Secretary-General of the Conference and especially the delegation of Sweden, which was giving such serious attention to the preparation of the physical side of the Conference. He was sure the Conference would take place under the best possible conditions.

8. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) introduced resolution A/C.2/L.1185/Rev.1 on behalf of its sponsors and thanked the delegation and Government of Sweden for their contribution to the preparation of the Conference. He also thanked the Secretary-General of the Conference and the group which was engaged in the preparatory work. The sponsors were very grateful to the delegations of the many developing countries which had come to their support in a fine spirit of solidarity.

9. The philosophy of the draft resolution was summarized in its final operative paragraph. The sponsors felt that the problems of the environment must be considered primarily in the context of development; he emphasized that development affected the entire world community since its object was to create better living conditions for all.

10. In the second preambular paragraph, emphasis was laid on the action plan which should govern United Nations activities in the environmental field. The reference in the third preambular paragraph to the regional economic commissions, the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut and the Panel of Experts on Development and Environment was designed both to secure the continued help of those bodies and to assure them of the Organization's support. The fourth preambular paragraph mentioned the Prague symposium, which had very favourably impressed the sponsors because of the way in which the environmental problem had been examined in the context of development.

11. As representatives of developing countries, the sponsors of the draft resolution had felt that they could not refrain from mentioning the fact that some environmental problems were generated by the very condition of under-

development. Everyone knew that in developing countries polluted water was a carrier of endemic diseases and that soil erosion was a cause of ecological imbalance. It was that kind of problem that was alluded to in the eighth preambular paragraph.

12. The ninth preambular paragraph drew attention in particular to the fact that pollution of world-wide impact was being caused primarily by some of the highly developed countries; it emphasized the need for those countries to deal with the problem and to plan and co-ordinate their industrial activities better so as to protect themselves and the rest of the world from even worse effects.

13. The ninth, tenth and eleventh preambular paragraphs indicated that at the present stage integrated and rational development represented the best solution of the environmental problems in the developing countries, while criteria and minimal standards of preservation of the environment would have to be defined at the national level and, in all cases, would have to reflect the conditions and systems of values prevailing in each country. He wished to explain that by the expression "systems of values" the authors had in mind economic and social structure, climate, soil, water resources, available skills and labour—in other words, all the conditions which determined any country's situation and which enabled it to deal suitably with environmental problems. The twelfth preambular paragraph also pointed out that certain standards valid in advanced nations might prove inadequate, or prohibitive in terms of social cost, for the developing countries.

14. One point which the sponsors of the draft resolution had felt it necessary to emphasize both in the preamble and in the operative part was the principle of the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources. Thus, in the thirteenth preambular paragraph, they stressed that each country had the right to formulate, in accordance with its own particular situation and in full enjoyment of its national sovereignty, its own national policies on the human environment, including criteria for the evaluation of projects; in operative paragraphs 3 (a) and 3 (d), they stressed that both the action plan and the action proposals to be submitted to the Conference must respect fully the exercise of permanent sovereignty over natural resources, as well as the right of each country to exploit its own resources, in accordance with its own priorities and needs. At the same time, in operative paragraph 3 and also in the fourteenth preambular paragraph, they emphasized the need for each country, in exercising that sovereignty and that right, to avoid producing harmful effects on other countries.

15. Operative paragraphs 2 and 3, which stressed the need to take into full account the provisions embodied in the preamble and in the operative paragraphs of the resolution, pointed out that environmental policies, particularly those of the developed countries, should not harm the interests of the developing countries or adversely affect their development possibilities.

16. Operative paragraphs 4, 6 and 7, which were related to the tenth, fifteenth, sixteenth and eighteenth preambular paragraphs, dealt with the contents of the action plan and action proposals as well as the technical and financial

assistance required to enable developing countries to enforce the measures and policies acceptable to them, and made the point that special attention should be given to the particular problems of the land-locked and least developed among the developing countries.

17. Operative paragraph 8 referred to the possibility of establishing a scheme of voluntary contributions which would provide additional financing from the developed to the developing countries for environmental purposes, over and above the resources already contemplated in the Strategy.

18. Operative paragraph 5 and the nineteenth preambular paragraph appealed to States which possessed nuclear weapons to put an end to the testing of those weapons in all environments, including the seas and the atmosphere, since they could adversely affect environmental conditions and have harmful effects for other States, and stressed the need for the expeditious conclusion of international agreements aimed at prohibiting the production and use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their early destruction.

19. Mr. MOYNIHAN (United States of America) said that when the Conference met, three years after the General Assembly decision to convene it, the participants would be faced with a wide range of new facts and new proposals. However, all those facts and proposals would focus on a single basic question: man in the age of technology and his power to change the face of the earth. The participants would be considering ways of guiding that new and growing power so that every country could, with a greater chance of success, pursue its search for a better life for the present generation and for future generations.

20. At its current session, the General Assembly would confine itself to considering the procedural aspects of the Conference. Those aspects were dealt with in draft resolution A/C.2/L.1195, which his delegation supported.

21. His country was a member of the Preparatory Committee and of the five intergovernmental working groups responsible for assisting that Committee. Preliminary papers had already been prepared in all four of the areas listed in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution. Of course, there was still much to be done before the Secretariat, working closely with the Governments concerned, could produce those documents in their final form; however, there was reason to hope that the majority of the documents could be published several months in advance so that participants at the Conference would have time to give them careful study. He wished to congratulate the Secretary-General of the Conference for his intention to reduce the volume of documentation from 1,600 pages to 900 pages; if that relative brevity could be achieved, it would certainly be an example to be emulated by future conferences.

22. One of the most difficult tasks of the Preparatory Committee would be to sift the views of the various Governments and to identify points of agreement so that the Conference could, in the space of two weeks, take concrete decisions. There was every reason to hope that the intergovernmental working groups would be in a position to

submit several draft conventions in final form; those draft conventions would relate to a world heritage trust, protection of endangered species, preservation of wetlands and dedication of certain islands to scientific research. In addition, at the proposal of the United States Government, a draft convention was being prepared on the dumping of noxious wastes in international waters. His delegation hoped that it would be possible for the Conference to approve those conventions and to open them for signature even before the conclusion of its work. He wished to emphasize, however, that any conventions which might be adopted would in no way bind any country which decided not to become a party to one or another of them.

23. The United States Government did not construe operative paragraphs 5 and 6 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1195 as in any way giving the Conference plenipotentiary powers and did not envisage the possibility of negotiations taking place at Stockholm on draft conventions referred to the Conference by the Secretary-General; on the contrary, it interpreted the draft resolution as granting full discretion to Governments to authorize or not to authorize their delegations to sign or initial conventions or instruments submitted to the Conference in final form, in the event that Governments had been able to agree on a final text in prior consultations and that that text had been circulated to them prior to the Conference.

24. He then referred to development and environment, which was one of the major topics on the agenda for the Conference and which was of great interest to all. Since the destruction of the environment might jeopardize the rapid economic and social development of the developing countries, the question arose whether the destruction of the environment should be viewed as a threat to development or whether the protection of the environment was, rather, a dimension of development whose importance had only recently been recognized. In his view, environmental issues would be resolved mainly at the national or even the local level. Traditional economic objectives such as the building of roads and dams, or the use of chemical fertilizers for increased food production, often had a significant impact on the environment. It was therefore important—and the Conference could help to ensure—that the choice between economic and ecological goals should be made in full knowledge of the implications of such decisions for the environment, both natural and man-made. To neglect the ecological problem could prove costly in the longer run, and the poor developing countries were the countries which could least afford such greater cost.

25. A small fraction of environmental decisions must, by their very nature, be considered at the international level: for instance, the preparation of programmes and arrangements for monitoring and protecting the common realm, namely, the atmosphere and oceans of the earth. He referred to still other decisions which could have environmental implications and said that ecological considerations were bound to have an effect on international trade and investment and that while some of them would create problems, others would create opportunities for the developing countries.

26. He then referred to the report of the Panel of Experts drafted in June 1971 at Founex, Switzerland, which was

mentioned in the draft resolution introduced by the Swedish delegation. That report dealt with perplexing problems and could be regarded as a well-informed and sound document on an extremely important subject, which had never been treated so well before. While no Government could accept the implications of the report without exception, it could serve as a basis for discussion among Governments of developed and developing countries on that range of questions.

27. Referring to the statement made at the previous meeting by the representative of Brazil, he said that he shared the concerns of the Brazilian delegation and believed that more development, rather than less, was necessary. Furthermore, although he agreed with the representative of Brazil that the Conference should encourage a reduction of the emission of pollutants by developed countries, he did not believe that it was the intention—explicit or implicit—of any country to control the population growth of the developing countries, place a ceiling on their development, or place the resources of the developing countries in a “world trust”. The representative of Brazil was assuming that the security and comfort of the developed nations would somehow be threatened by the prospect of growth elsewhere. However, it was over-population which threatened the world, and the countries of the third world would be reduced to impotence and poverty if their populations continued to grow at the current rate. The developed countries had nothing to fear from the development of other nations, and an increase in international trade could not fail to bring about a general increase in wealth. On the contrary, there was little profit to be had from doing business with a poor country, for the simple reason that there was little business to be done. Such was the reality of the present world situation, and although an attempt could now be made to mitigate that reality in the United Nations and elsewhere, wholehearted efforts should not be expected if the developed countries were confronted with the accusation that they were opposed to development.

28. The representative of Brazil had spoken of the “Calvinistic” attitude of the developed countries to the effect that, through their development, they had supposedly demonstrated their right to salvation and perpetuation, and that the more numerous peoples of the developing countries would therefore have to stop breeding and encroaching on their delicious enjoyment of nature and natural resources. Replying to that statement, he said that, although some Calvinist influence was associated with the rise of industrialism in the West, it was also possible to take a Thomistic view and maintain that it was more often salvation by works rather than by faith that had distinguished the societies which had first created industrial wealth. A consequence of industrialization had been the onset of ecological imbalances which must now be attended to; the United Nations had provided a forum by organizing the forthcoming Conference, and the United States meant to make the most of it.

29. The discovery that industrialization could bring about ecological imbalances and the exhaustion of raw materials, the destruction of many forms of life and the transformation of what economists used to call “free goods” into costly goods, had expanded man’s understanding of his responsibilities as guardian of the earth’s resources. Recal-

ling that the Brazilian representative had spoken of goods which constituted the “common heritage of mankind”, including the high seas, the ocean floor, and the like, he noted that following the discovery of the environmental problems of the earth had come the perception by international society that the great untouched resources of the seas ought to be held in common for the benefit of those most in need. Centuries hence it might well be the case that men would look back to that idea as one which had finally given mankind a positive interest in advancing the general welfare, thus freeing it from the negative fixation with machinery to ward off the final holocaust.

30. In conclusion, he said that he looked forward to the forthcoming Conference in which he placed much hope.

AGENDA ITEM 45

Review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade: report of the Secretary-General (concluded)* (A/8387/Rev.1, A/8403, chap. V; A/C.2/L.1152/Rev.3, A/C.2/L.1182/Rev.2, A/C.2/L.1189, A/C.2/L.1201; E/5040)

31. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) congratulated the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1152/Rev.3 and expressed the hope that there would be greater co-ordination between the Second and Fifth Committees in matters relating to information. He agreed with the Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Information that information work on economic and social questions could not compete with information work on other subjects, and added that the press never gave major coverage to economic and social questions, but instead played up sensational issues.

32. His delegation had hoped that the Second Committee would have the time to examine information problems in greater detail, as the Trade and Development Board had done. The Fifth Committee would have to consider the question and determine what financial arrangements were necessary. Unfortunately, that would not be possible during the twenty-sixth session.

33. Although resolution A/C.2/L.1152/Rev.3 presented some difficulty for his delegation, it could not vote against its provisions, nor could it abstain. If the draft resolution was not adopted by consensus, his delegation would vote in favour of it, but without much conviction. While it did not object to any of the provisions, it considered the draft resolution—and, in particular, the two operative paragraphs—incomplete. He therefore asked that the draft resolution should be expanded to include procedures for its implementation. He feared that considerable efforts and financial resources in the field of information were being uselessly wasted and favoured an annual meeting of all the information services.

34. His delegation would vote against the Jordanian amendment (A/C.2/L.1201) because it believed that the Centre for Economic and Social Information and the Office of Public Information should be reorganized in a manner conducive to the attainment of the established goals and

* Resumed from the 1421st meeting.

objectives. His delegation would not propose any amendments of its own to the draft resolution; if it was adopted by consensus, his delegation would join in.

35. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) explained that he had opposed the closure of the debate on the review under consideration because he had felt that it would be unfair to terminate the discussion after the Soviet Union had offered its proposals and India and Jordan had introduced amendments. The sole duty of the Centre for Economic and Social Information and the Office of Public Information was to keep Governments informed of what was happening.

36. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he attached considerable importance to the question of the review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy; he had been prepared to vote in favour of the original draft resolution before it had been amended. He pointed out that his delegation had not submitted formal amendments and that it would vote in favour of the revised draft resolution if amended along the lines it had suggested.

37. Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan) recalled that he had supported General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV) concerning the mobilization of public opinion and was pleased to note that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1152/Rev.3 was based on paragraph (84) of the International Development Strategy.

38. With regard to the second preambular paragraph, he said that it was pointless to take note of the administrative arrangements for the Centre for Economic and Social Information which the Secretary-General had made in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV), since those arrangements had to be re-examined in the Fifth Committee; he would therefore vote in favour of the Jordanian amendment. Lastly, he hoped that the Centre for Economic and Social Information and the Office of Public Information would be reintegrated in the United Nations.

39. Mr. ALULA (Ethiopia) said that relations did not always appear to be smooth between the Office of Public Information and the Centre for Economic and Social Information; if that was so, it would be unfortunate, for such a situation would affect their activities and might jeopardize the success of the Second United Nations Development Decade. He considered the draft resolution rather weak and would have preferred a more dynamic, direct and clear text.

40. If economic development was to register any progress during the Second Development Decade and the developing countries were to be helped, it was first necessary to create an informed public opinion. That meant that the efforts undertaken in the context of the Second Development Decade must be publicized throughout the world.

41. Various educational methods must be used to bring the activities of UNCTAD, UNIDO and other organizations to the attention of young people in order to make them aware of the weaknesses and merits of those bodies, as well as of the important role they played in the development process and in international co-operation. It was therefore the task of the Office of Public Information and the Centre for Economic and Social Information, within their respec-

tive fields, to impress upon other media the need to make people at all levels conscious of the efforts and frustrations of the developing countries. He hoped that the press of the developed countries would give wider coverage to those efforts, and thereby help to promote the International Development Strategy.

42. Mr. SANTA-CRUZ (Chile) said that the sponsors of the original draft resolution had been kind enough to act on certain suggestions and comments made by his delegation, which had accordingly become a co-sponsor of the revised text. However, it must not be thought that he did not agree with the representative of Ghana, or that he was unaware that the draft resolution did not go to the root of the problem.

43. He agreed, as did the representative of Ghana, that the methods and procedures of the Office of Public Information and the Centre for Economic and Social Information must be totally reorganized, since they had not reached world opinion. The present system of press releases which were sent directly to newspaper correspondents at Geneva and in New York must be abolished, and means must be found of planning information so that the objectives of the United Nations could be made known and promoted. Such arrangements would admittedly require greater decentralization. After 20 years' experience of development and with various organizations, he was aware of the effectiveness of the information services run by regional offices, which had succeeded in making their activities known to the inhabitants of the various countries in their regions.

44. For the same reason as the representative of Ghana, his delegation would vote against the amendment proposed by Jordan if it was put to the vote.

45. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) pointed out that, first of all, there was no contradiction between the draft resolution and that before the Fifth Committee, which in fact made no mention of General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV). Moreover, the activities of the Office of Public Information covered information in general, whereas those of the Centre for Economic and Social Information dealt only with economic and social questions.

46. The reason why the sponsors proposed, in the second preambular paragraph, to take note of the administrative arrangements for the Centre for Economic and Social Information was precisely that the Second Committee was not qualified to pass judgement on provisions of an administrative nature.

47. The documents on which the draft resolution was based—Economic and Social Council resolution 1357 (XLV), General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV) and paragraph (84) of the International Development Strategy—all aimed at mobilizing public opinion.

48. The Office of Public Information admittedly had its shortcomings, but they could be remedied, and that was precisely the purpose of the administrative arrangements made by the Secretary-General, who would certainly not allow the situation to continue, and accordingly he had informed the Fifth Committee that he would do everything within his power to mobilize public opinion. However, the

administrative arrangements, which had taken effect only on 1 January 1971, must be allowed time to become effective.

49. Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan) pointed out that those speakers who had discussed the administrative arrangements made by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV) appeared to have missed the central point at issue. What, in fact, did that resolution say? Did it authorize the Secretary-General to set up an organ separate from the Office of Public Information and to make the necessary provisions for that purpose? Some delegations did not agree that it did. If the Second Committee was not qualified to pass judgement on provisions of an administrative nature, it was equally unqualified to take note of them. He recalled a resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth session, which specified that all public information services of the United Nations should be under the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information. Some delegations disputed the Secretary-General's decision to separate the two organs. His delegation was not convinced that the Secretary-General's decision was in accordance with the resolution he had referred to, nor that the Committee was entitled to take note of the administrative arrangements in question at a time when the subject was before the Fifth Committee.

50. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) said that his delegation shared the concerns expressed by other delegations, in particular that of Pakistan. The second preambular paragraph requested that note should be taken of administrative arrangements of which his delegation did not know the content. If it was true that, as the representative of the Philippines had stated, the draft derived from a Fifth Committee document, he proposed that the draft resolution should be transmitted to that Committee for study.

51. While it in no way under-estimated the role of information in ensuring the promotion of the objectives of the Second Development Decade, his delegation could not accept the introduction of an element which fell within the competence of another organ; it would therefore vote for the amendment submitted by Jordan and, if that was not adopted, would be obliged to abstain on the draft resolution as a whole.

52. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the amendment submitted by Jordan should be put to the vote after the explanation of vote before the vote by the delegation of the United Kingdom had been heard.

53. Miss DARLING (United Kingdom) said that the English text of document A/C.2/L.1152/Rev.3 gave rise to some ambiguity as to the role of organizations in the United Nations system. In her delegation's understanding, operative paragraph 2 of the draft reflected paragraph (84) of the International Development Strategy, which specified that the mobilization of public opinion had to be the responsibility mainly of national bodies, and that the role of the organizations of the United Nations system would be to assist the various national information media, in particular by supplying adequate basic information from which those media might draw substance and inspiration for their work. On that understanding, her delegation would vote for the draft resolution.

The amendment (A/C.2/L.1201) was rejected by 32 votes to 28, with 24 abstentions.

54. Mr. MORENO (Cuba), speaking on a point of order, requested a separate vote on the second preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1152/Rev.3.

The second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution was adopted by 51 votes to 21, with 15 abstentions.

55. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution as a whole.

The draft resolution was adopted by 71 votes to none, with 17 abstentions.

56. Mr. DUNN (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted for the draft resolution in the light of two considerations. First, the sponsors had stated at a previous meeting that the draft resolution had no financial implications, and secondly, his delegation had also voted to retain the much-disputed second preambular paragraph in full awareness of the fact that the Fifth Committee was currently discussing the item "Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities". The vote which had just taken place in the Second Committee was not incompatible with the discussions of the subject going on in the Fifth Committee, and could not prejudice the results of the latter's deliberations.

57. Mr. MORENO (Cuba) said that his delegation had requested a separate vote on the second preambular paragraph, and had abstained in that vote, because it did not believe it appropriate to include a controversial passage in a draft resolution which otherwise could have been adopted without difficulty. The discussions of United Nations information policies and activities currently taking place in the Fifth Committee had not yet produced results, and a decision on the subject by the Second Committee, whether positive or negative, might perhaps to some extent influence the final decision.

58. Mr. AIYAR (India) said that his delegation had voted against the amendment submitted by Jordan, and for the retention of the second preambular paragraph. That did not, however, indicate approval of the administrative arrangements for the Centre for Economic and Social Information made by the Secretary-General. The current administrative arrangements were of some concern to his delegation. It understood that a number of administrative arrangements had been tried; if those referred to in the paragraph did not prove satisfactory, the Secretary-General would undoubtedly draw up others, which his delegation would not quarrel with. He did not believe that the Centre for Economic and Social Information was directly affected by the administrative arrangements. His delegation had some reservations on the subject, and would formulate them before the competent organs.

59. Mr. FLEMING (Argentina) said he had voted against the amendment submitted by Jordan. He had voted for retention of the second preambular paragraph in the belief that it did not prejudice the discussion of United Nations information policies and activities taking place in the Fifth Committee.

60. Mr. OZÓRIO DE ALMEIDA (Brazil) said he had voted against the amendments submitted by Jordan and for the retention of the second preambular paragraph for the same reasons as those given by the representatives of India and Argentina.

61. Mr. AIYAR (India), introducing the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1182/Rev.2), said that it was co-sponsored by 36 countries, which indicated that it was widely acceptable to the international community.

62. The present version had been evolved after consultations between the sponsors and informal consultations with several delegations which had proposed amendments. The sponsors had done their utmost to take into consideration or incorporate all the amendments which, while improving the text, did not violate its fundamental principles.

63. The first five preambular paragraphs were the same as the first five paragraphs in document A/C.2/L.1182/Rev.1, which had already been explained by the representative of Brazil. In the last preambular paragraph of the new version, the sponsors had taken account of an important point made by several delegations—that of Japan in particular—and had in consequence decided to replace the word “negotiating” by the word “seeking”, in conformity with the actual wording of paragraph (20) of the International Development Strategy.

64. The first two operative paragraphs were the same as those in document A/C.2/L.1182/Rev.1, and the last preambular paragraph of that document had become operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1832/Rev.2. That text was a faithful reproduction of the relevant provisions of paragraph (83) of the International Development Strategy, since the machinery for review should, in the view of the sponsors of the draft resolution, be the same as was envisaged in the Strategy. Operative paragraph 4 of the new revised version—which the sponsors regarded as the kernel of the draft resolution—was fully identical with operative paragraph 3 of the first revised text and set forth in an explicit, clear and unequivocal way the basic concepts and principles which should govern the work of review and appraisal. His delegation was gratified that no delegation had raised any objection on that point; that ensured that the review authorities would be in no doubt regarding the common purpose of review and appraisal at all levels and the scope of the exercise.

65. The wording of operative paragraph 5 of the new revised text was the same as that of paragraph 5 (i) of the first revised version.

66. Paragraph 6 of the new text was a slightly amended version of paragraph 4 of the earlier version. Several delegations had said that the phrase “to enable the Committee for Development Planning to carry out its tasks effectively” was not sufficiently clear and that it would be useful to explain in that context the role of the Economic and Social Council and its relationship to the General Assembly and the Committee for Development Planning, respectively. In the new paragraph, therefore, the wording of an earlier Economic and Social Council resolution had been used. Paragraph 7 was an amended version of paragraph 5 (ii) of the first revised version. The wording met

two considerations. Firstly, the sponsors had decided that, in view of the nature of the relationship between the organizations of the United Nations system and the United Nations itself, it would not be entirely proper to have the Assembly “resolve” what action those organizations should take or “decide” on their role. Consequently, they had merely requested the competent secretariats at the sectoral and regional levels to co-operate with the Committee for Development Planning. Secondly, they had accepted the view that it would not be in keeping with the status of those secretariats to restrict their role to the supply of data and information required by the Committee for Development Planning. That was why the mutual relationships between the secretariats and the Committee for Development Planning were spelled out clearly in the second revised version. The secretariats would collect, process and make available the data and information required for over-all review and appraisal.

67. The wording of paragraph 8 reproduced that of paragraph 6 of the first revised version, which had already been explained by the Brazilian representative, and the Indian delegation reaffirmed the position he had taken. However, the sponsors wished to emphasize two points. Firstly, the rationale for those provisions derived from the obligation, under paragraph (79) of the International Development Strategy, of “streamlining the existing machinery and avoiding unnecessary duplication or proliferation of review activities”. Secondly, the sponsors were not in any way attempting to circumscribe the review activities at the sectoral level carried by the competent sectoral organizations. When introducing the original version of the draft resolution, his delegation had pointed out that since their inception all the specialized agencies had been carrying out annual review activities in their respective spheres of competence. Those activities should, of course, be continued and adapted to the requirements of the Second Development Decade. It was only in respect of the over-all appraisal to be carried out by the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that it would be necessary to integrate appraisal activities at the sectoral level with the preparatory work for the global review and appraisal. In that connexion, he agreed with the view expressed by the representative of the Soviet Union that ACC had, so to speak, jumped the gun. It was the present resolution which, when adopted, would constitute the “specific mandate” mentioned in paragraph (83) of the Strategy. ACC should, therefore, take a fresh look at the organization of review and appraisal activities after the present resolution had been adopted by the General Assembly.

68. Paragraph 9 of the present draft resolution was the same as paragraph 8 of the first revised version and required no further explanation. The last paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1182/Rev.1 referred to the report on over-all review and appraisal. Some delegations had asked which was the organ whose report was to be considered by the General Assembly. The sponsors had therefore specified, in the second revised version, that the General Assembly would undertake an in-depth consideration of the Economic and Social Council’s report on over-all review and appraisal together with the reports of the main bodies of the United Nations with responsibilities for sectoral review and appraisal. Paragraph 10 of the second revised version

was thus a procedural paragraph, relating to the procedure to be adopted by the General Assembly so as to conduct the over-all review efficaciously and expeditiously.

69. On behalf of the sponsors, he hoped that the draft resolution would be put to the vote without delay, since it took into account the views expressed by several delegations. In that connexion, he appealed to the representative of Ghana to withdraw the amendments he had submitted. In any case, the Ghanaian amendment to the last operative paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1182/Rev.1 had been incorporated in the second revised version. The Ghanaian representative had said that he did not quite understand the purport of the draft resolution and had proposed certain deletions; the sponsors hoped that he would find the explanations given satisfactory.

70. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) thanked the sponsors for taking his comments into account in preparing the new text. Furthermore, the two paragraphs whose deletion he had proposed had been amended in a way acceptable to his delegation. Since draft resolution A/C.2/L.1182/Rev.2 was not in contradiction with its position, his delegation withdrew its amendments (A/C.2/L.1189).

71. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1182/Rev.2 was adopted without a vote.

It was so decided.

72. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution on the question of the review and appraisal system which had been adopted without a vote, and in so far as paragraphs 3 and 10 corresponded to the relevant provisions of the Statement submitted by the eight delegations of the

socialist countries on 21 September 1970.¹ His delegation considered, as in the past, that the functions of the organ entrusted with the task of following up the progress made in the implementation of the programmes of the Second United Nations Development Decade should be vested in the Economic and Social Council, which, under the Charter, bore the main responsibility for the Organization's activities in the economic and social fields.

73. Mr. HAMAMOTO (Japan) said that there had not been the necessary quorum for adopting the resolution without a vote.

74. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) said he was sure that there had been a quorum at the time of the adoption of the resolution.

75. Mr. MORENO (Cuba) said that he welcomed the resolution which had been adopted. That did not imply that his delegation withdrew the reservations, comments and observations it had made in its general statement on the present item in the Second Committee, concerning the gaps in document E/5040.

76. Mr. SPENCER (Canada) said that his delegation had supported the draft resolution because its tenor was in conformity with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1621 (LI). His delegation had not spoken on the present agenda item, because its views were set forth in the Canadian Government's written reply to the Secretary-General's questionnaire, contained in document E/5000/Add.6 and Corr.1.

The meeting rose at 7.30 p.m.

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 42, document A/8074.