



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

AGENDA ITEM 43

**United Nations Institute for Training and Research: report
of the Executive Director (A/8414; A/C.2/L.1144)**

1. Chief ADEBO (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research) said that since his report covered the work of UNITAR for the period from 1 July 1970 to 30 June 1971, he would describe the activities undertaken since the latter date or contemplated before the end of the year, as well as some of the important decisions taken by the Board of Trustees at its recent session.
2. Research activities had continued at a high level, in spite of inadequate financial resources. UNITAR had been particularly active during the past three months in connexion with the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. The Secretary-General of that Conference had requested assistance, particularly in connexion with problems of pollution and environmental quality control. UNITAR had drafted papers for discussion by the inter-governmental groups preparing for the Conference, and its staff had participated in several such meetings, as well as in panels of experts. It had recently completed, with the guidance of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, a paper on environmental quality control at the international level, which would serve as the basis for an action proposal at the Conference.
3. A study of the genesis and potential of the General Committee of the General Assembly had been prepared for the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly; it would form part of a more comprehensive study of the General Assembly which was currently being prepared. In July, international panels of experts had considered the first draft of two studies, one concerned with the good offices of the Secretary-General and another dealing with the consensus practices of the Security Council, especially as they had developed in the past two years. Although the panels had included high-ranking diplomats with considerable knowledge and experience of the United Nations, the final form in which the papers appeared would be the responsibility of the authors. All UNITAR did was provide advice and guidance from its Director of Research and afford opportunities for dialogue with outside scholars and others with relevant knowledge and experience.
4. An in-depth course on the functioning and procedures of the Economic and Social Council had been held in New York from 23 to 27 August for the purpose of giving members of delegations more extensive knowledge of the subject. UNITAR had prepared special working papers for the course, making use of material from on-going studies of the working and effectiveness of the Council. The director of the course had possessed a good knowledge of the subject-matter and had practical experience of the Council. Experienced diplomats and international officials, as well as scholars from outside the United Nations, had been used as seminar leaders. Thirty individuals from 28 countries had taken the course, and had played the active part which was essential to its success. Preliminary soundings indicated that the course had fulfilled its purpose; it should, and would, be followed by similar courses on other topics of urgent relevance to the United Nations.
5. In September, at the suggestion of the delegation of a Member State, a series of seminars had been organized to provide new delegates attending the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly with a general view of the Assembly's functions, procedures and methods of work. Seminar leaders had been drawn from among ambassadors, senior international officials, including the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of UNITAR, and outside scholars. Active participation on the part of those attending the course had contributed to its success. Three seminars in English, three in French and three in Spanish had been planned, but of those only three in English, two in French and one in Spanish had been held because of small attendance. The total attendance of over 50 persons showed that the experiment should be repeated in coming years, and the possibility of using simultaneous interpretation facilities in 1972 was being considered.
6. One of the most severe handicaps to the rational development of developing countries had been the practice of tied aid, which meant that receiving countries were unable to take advantage of prices lower than those offered by the country providing assistance. A breakthrough in that connexion appeared imminent; if it occurred, developing countries would more often than before be able to seek out the best bargains in terms of prices and soundness of product. However, that advantage would be illusory unless their officials were well acquainted with the problems and techniques of international bidding and contracting. Accordingly, UNITAR had completed plans to hold four regional seminars in developing countries in 1972, which would deepen the participants' knowledge of international procurement problems as related to international development finance, and discuss such questions as the optimal use of foreign exchange resources in importing goods and services for development. The syllabus would concentrate on elements of competitive bidding procedures, guidelines for procurement by IBRD and other institutions, common general conditions for the sale of goods, relations with

consultants, price alternatives, terms of payment and guarantees of performance and quality. The seminars, each lasting three weeks, would be held at Santiago, Dakar, Nairobi and Bangkok. Participants would be selected from among the nominees of developing countries, but would have to be officials responsible for the formulation and execution of public-sector procurement policy; acceptance would be subject to satisfactory performance at interviews conducted by the director of the seminar. The teaching staff of each seminar would consist of a staff member of an international finance institution, a professor of trade law, and an educator with experience of international trade relevant to the area covered by the seminar. The seminars would be financed through a special grant from the Swedish International Development Authority.

7. Since the events relating to the proposed United Nations staff college described in paragraphs 40 to 44 of the report (A/8414), an interagency panel meeting had been held at Geneva to consider what courses might be given in 1972 if the first stage of the college came into effect. He had also consulted heads of specialized agencies concerning the recruitment of a competent head of the college. However, those activities would remain mere contingency plans unless the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other agencies and organizations were able to provide the necessary funds. Under article II, paragraph 2, of its Statute, UNITAR had a clear mandate to provide a staff college, but it could do so only with the moral and financial co-operation of the other organizations. In view of the current financial situation, it would be foolhardy to predict that financing the project would be easy, but in view of the desire of all Governments to strengthen the initiative, drive and efficiency of international officials, he hoped that adequate financial support would be forthcoming and that allocations for training would be suitably increased so that every organization could contribute its quota to meeting the costs of the college.

8. Chapter V of the report described UNITAR's plans for holding a conference to develop a project, decided upon by the Board of Trustees, which was aimed at assisting the United Nations system on a continuing basis with the formulation of adequate responses to important developments, before they assumed crisis proportions. That conference had been held from 9 to 12 September at Rensselaerville, New York. The Institute on Man and Science, aided by a grant from the Johnson Foundation, had provided host facilities; the conference had been attended by 34 persons, including, apart from the Executive Director and six of his senior colleagues, the Chairman and five members of the Board of Trustees, four representatives of specialized agencies, two representatives of UNDP, one representative of the United Nations Secretariat, one founder member of the "Club of Rome", the Chairman and a member of the Commission of the State of Hawaii, and 11 scholars and other special guests. The discussions had proceeded on the lines described in paragraph 110 of the report; the conference had reached a consensus in favour of the project and had made suggestions as to its implementation.

9. The Board of Trustees had considered the report of the conference at its tenth session, and had adopted a resolu-

tion whereby UNITAR decided to undertake, as soon as funds permitted, a programme for the continuing examination of major world trends and developments having implications for the future of mankind, which might require responses from the system of international agencies, including UNITAR, to help promote the objectives of the Charter. UNITAR would establish a commission of up to 36 persons serving in their individual capacities, chosen on the basis of their ability to contribute to that purpose. The commission would be truly international and broadly representative of the relevant intellectual disciplines, and of different cultures and social systems. Members would be appointed initially for a term of one year, with the possibility of reappointment. The Board of Trustees would establish a steering committee to assist the Executive Director in launching the programme. The members of the commission would be appointed by the Chairman of the Board in consultation with the Executive Director and the steering committee. The Executive Director would arrange to maintain continuous contacts with centres and individuals engaged in activities relevant to the programme, and to secure the co-operation of all organizations in the United Nations system. The commission would meet at least once a year and would issue an annual general report on its findings, together with appropriate special reports.

10. In his introductory statement to the Committee at its 1369th meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had referred to the need to absorb new problems and concepts and to learn to deal with them, not in isolation but by taking an over-all view that illuminated their interactions and ordered them in accordance with the criteria of rigorous research, inspired by a humanitarian ideal. That was precisely the purpose of the commission, but there was no intention to proceed with the implementation of the project until special funds became available to finance it. He was already in touch with two private foundations which might be able to provide part of the financing. One or more Governments might also wish to underwrite part of the cost of the commission. The State of Hawaii had offered to act as host to its first session, but before that session could be contemplated, a great deal of work requiring a sizeable amount of funds would have to be carried out.

11. The third important subject discussed at the tenth session of the Board of Trustees had been the proposed United Nations international university. The Board's attitude to that project was reflected in annex III to the report. He had since attended the first session of the Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on the Establishment of an International University, held at Geneva in July, and had submitted a report explaining the Board's position along with the draft of the paper which, subject to the Board's comments, he proposed to submit to the Economic and Social Council in response to its resolution 1542 (XLIX). The Board of Trustees had now commented on that draft, and the paper in its final form had been submitted to the secretariat of the Council, with copies to the Secretary-General.

12. The Board had also agreed to a plan he had presented for the reorganization of UNITAR. It would in future comprise a Department of Studies, divided into divisions, each of which would be responsible for both training and

research in a given substantive field or fields, with the result that experts and scholars would engage in both training and research, as in a university. That reorganization would enhance the quality of training courses and increase the utility of research. There would also be a Department of Administration, which would provide administrative support, including physical and financial arrangements for courses, conferences and studies, for all the divisions, as well as handling the personnel and financial requirements.

13. UNITAR was currently in the difficult situation of attempting to operate in 1971 with the same budgetary allocations it had had in 1968. As a result of rising costs, the real value of the sum involved had considerably shrunk. Unless its total income increased, UNITAR would be unable to continue at its current level of activities, and a reduction in services would be inevitable.

14. Mr. DO RIO-BRANCO (Brazil) said that UNITAR had been established to occupy a special place in the United Nations system as a "think tank" which would provide the system with new insights and non-routine ideas. It aimed at establishing a link with the academic world and bringing into the United Nations a continuous flow of information which would keep the Organization up to date with new developments and concepts.

15. Much had already been done to ensure that UNITAR's functions and capabilities were known and fully utilized both inside and outside the United Nations system. As the tempo of its activities increased, it was becoming clear that they covered such a broad scope, and that the needs of the United Nations system for assistance were increasing so rapidly, that priorities must be established to guide the Executive Director in making efficient use of the limited financial resources available. Paragraph 18 of the report stated that the academic world now looked to the Institute for more research initiatives than its financial and manpower resources permitted.

16. The General Assembly should therefore appeal to Governments to increase their financial support of UNITAR, especially by providing untied funds which could be freely programmed. UNITAR's resources should not be increased by drawing on the assets of UNDP, which were already inadequate to the tasks the Programme was called upon to perform. That financial point apart, however, there was ample room for increasing co-operation between UNITAR and UNDP in the operational field. He wished to repeat his delegation's suggestion at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly that UNITAR should assist in the building up of national counterparts for UNDP projects.

17. UNITAR's work programme as a whole should place more stress on activities in the field of development. An increasing number of projects, especially in the field of research, should be designed and implemented to highlight particular problem areas in the field of international co-operation for development, and to analyse the effectiveness of the relevant international machinery. The number of projects relating to international law, for example, should be reduced, since they were less likely to produce a direct impact on the mobilization of manpower and financial resources throughout the United Nations system in response to the objectives of the Second Development

Decade. There could then be a corresponding increase in activities related to, for instance, the transfer of technology to the developing countries, with particular attention to the ability of existing United Nations machinery to meet the increasing demands placed on it.

18. The need for greater emphasis on development projects could be linked to the question dealt with in chapter V of the Executive Director's report, namely new perspectives in international co-operation. His delegation would welcome more information on that project, which should be aimed at seeking new issues and ideas for international co-operation. His delegation felt that the high level of abstract sophistication involved in "futurology" research should not obscure the difficulties of the present system of international co-operation, which in itself offered many topics for study by UNITAR. His delegation hoped that the new project would not divert vital resources from priority development issues. It also hoped that with additional resources UNITAR might be able to link the two main elements of its work programme more closely, so that research and training could be integrated into a long-range programme that would be particularly sensitive to the needs of developing countries.

19. On behalf of the sponsors, his delegation introduced draft resolution A/C.2/L.1144. The points referred to in operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft were both stressed in the report, and his delegation hoped that the Committee would find it possible to adopt the draft resolution unanimously.

20. Mr. SADEK (Egypt) said that his delegation noted with appreciation UNITAR's progress with regard to the project for the international university and the United Nations staff college, both of which would undoubtedly promote international understanding and co-operation in the joint consideration of issues with regional or global implications. The developing countries would also benefit from the increase in their means of access to advances in science and technology, and from the increasing level of qualifications of the international civil service.

21. The commission to consider new perspectives in international co-operation could render important service by examining major trends in scientific and social developments with implications for the United Nations system, and by considering possible responses on its part. The scope of the system would be broadened to cover present and future problems which might affect its concerns, and its response to new situations would be facilitated.

22. Where training was concerned, his delegation welcomed UNITAR's constant review of training courses and programmes. Its training activities over the past year had been excellent, in particular the basic training course in diplomacy held at Dakar, the symposium on the theme "Environment and Development", the seminar held at Addis Ababa as part of the regional programme in techniques and procedures of the United Nations technical assistance and the fellowship and training programmes in international law.

23. In the field of research, his delegation noted with satisfaction the increased number of research projects to be

completed in 1971, and the publications which had resulted from continuing projects. Particularly important had been the study on relations between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States and other regional organizations, including the League of Arab States, the studies of General Assembly procedures and the functioning of the Economic and Social Council, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the international migration of professionals from developing to developed countries, the transfer of operative technology from enterprise to enterprise, the financing of international waterway systems, new methods and techniques of managerial training, communications, computers and automation for development, environmental problems, the Regional Symposium on International Law for Africa, and racial discrimination.

24. The growing co-operation between UNITAR and scholars and institutions outside the United Nations system should be encouraged, particularly when it involved developing countries. His delegation would vote for draft resolution A/C.2/L.1144.

25. Mr. ISAKSEN (Denmark) said that his delegation was highly satisfied with the marked progress in the Institute's training and research activities during the previous year. It had taken particular note of the seminars arranged by UNITAR primarily for diplomatic personnel, of which two were worthy of special mention. One was the seminar on the structure and functioning of the United Nations recently held in New York for young, newly arrived diplomats. It had fulfilled an obvious need and his delegation hoped that it would be held on a regular basis in future. The other was the in-depth seminar on the functioning of the Economic and Social Council; it had been most useful and well timed following upon the adoption by the Council of far-reaching recommendations concerning its own role in the United Nations system and prior to the General Assembly's consideration of those recommendations.

26. His delegation welcomed the plan to organize courses, within the framework of the staff college, to improve the competence and professional skills of United Nations staff members and considered that the college should provide training for development as well as for management. The courses should aim at familiarizing officials with modern methods of management and providing training for field staff. It hoped that phase I of the staff college would be implemented early in the following year. During the "running-in" period courses held on an *ad hoc* basis when and where needs arose would make for desirable flexibility and would also keep expenditures down. It also hoped that it would soon be possible to find active and imaginative managers of the programme. One of the problems the managers would face would be the establishment of teamwork with the United Nations, UNDP and the specialized agencies with regard to the planning of courses. It would be of importance that those bodies inform the staff college well in advance what persons would be designated for training and the time when they would be available. Another problem to be solved was the financing of the staff college. His delegation saw the staff college primarily as a service organ for the United Nations bodies that would benefit from it, and it would therefore be only reasonable

that they should bear the costs in accordance with their share of participation. The financing should not depend on voluntary contributions.

27. The research activities of UNITAR had been even more relevant and timely than previously. The Institute had contributed important documentation for the preparatory work of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and would submit documentation on pollution and environmental quality control to the Conference itself. In addition, UNITAR had prepared useful documentation for the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly.

28. There had been a growing feeling among Member States and in the Secretariat that the present distribution of programming and budgeting functions was inadequate to achieve a rational allocation of resources among programmes in accordance with the priorities of Member States and maximum effectiveness in the utilization of resources. UNITAR had already done some pioneer work on the question of programme budgeting and his delegation would like to see it resume its efforts in that field.

29. The resolution of the Board of Trustees concerning the establishment of a UNITAR Commission on the Future was an initiative which might assume far-reaching importance, and his delegation welcomed the institutionalization of a new methodology. Specific problems had not yet been selected and given priority as subjects for analysis but his delegation was convinced that "futurology" represented a relevant point of departure for research. The idea of extrapolating development trends into the future in order to provide the best possible basis for decisions to be taken today would assume increased relevance as a result of the rapid changes which were taking place. Population problems, human environment, the utilization of natural resources and economic growth would appear to be obvious targets for analysis by the new Commissioner.

30. In conclusion, he said that his delegation hoped the draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.2/L.1144), of which his delegation was a co-sponsor, would be adopted unanimously.

31. Mr. WOLTE (Austria) noted that his Government had been host to a colloquium of senior officials of the United Nations system at Castle Hernstein, near Vienna, in June 1971. In addition, his Government had also made a cash contribution to UNITAR which had not been listed in annex II to the report since payment had been made after 30 June 1971. The Austrian Government would maintain its contribution for 1972 at the same level and was prepared to continue its active co-operation with UNITAR.

32. Mr. ČABRIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation had noted with satisfaction the way in which UNITAR had successfully implemented its work programme and expanded its activities to all those United Nations fields in which additional research work was needed, despite the modest resources at its disposal. It considered that UNITAR had made a particularly significant contribution in the field of training programmes for young people from developing countries. His delegation was ready to continue to lend its support to UNITAR and to co-operate with its Executive Director in every way.

33. In order to fulfil its objectives UNITAR would have to spend in 1971 between 7 and 8 per cent more than its income for that year. His delegation trusted that the proposal in paragraph 9 of the report of the Executive Director to reduce the level of expenditure would not have to be put into effect. If the level of expenditure had to be reduced, the volume of the work programme would have to be reduced by the same percentage; he hoped that sufficient funds would be forthcoming to enable the Institute to carry out its original programme.

34. His delegation noted that if UNITAR had not succeeded in breaking away from traditional patterns of activity in the field of training, its results would have been much less positive. It had adapted its programme to contemporary needs and had brought it into line with those of the developing countries. His delegation wished to stress the importance of the regionalization of training programmes, emphasis on the unique features and specifics of developing countries and greater emphasis on practical exercises and active participation by trainees.

35. In the field of research, the scope of UNITAR's work had expanded not only in quality, but in respect of such important areas of the agenda of General Assembly committees as General Assembly procedures, functioning of the Economic and Social Council, relations between the United Nations regional intergovernmental organizations, and relations between international organizations and the United Nations system. His delegation felt that research activities, which were vitally important to the developing countries, should receive greater prominence in UNITAR's future work programmes. It believed that the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, upon whose successful implementation the prosperity of millions depended, called for continuing research work and an in-depth analysis of its many practical aspects.

36. In conclusion, his delegation wished to point out that, although it recognized the feasibility of a staff college which would also provide training for officials from developing countries, work on the establishment of the international university had already advanced into the final phase and every care should be taken to avoid duplication of the work already in progress.

37. Mr. MOBARAK (Lebanon) said that his delegation had noted with interest and satisfaction UNITAR's activities in the fields of training and research. It had welcomed the study on the functioning of the Economic and Social Council and it was awaiting with interest the study on the role of the General Committee. In view of the work by the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly, of which his country was a member, its publication seemed particularly well timed. His delegation looked forward to the study on the United Nations and the news media which would provide the most comprehensive examination so far of the use made by press, radio and television of information on the United Nations. Also gratifying was the work done in connexion with the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

38. His delegation was particularly satisfied at the way UNITAR had carried out its functions in the field of

training by strengthening and extending its programmes. It noted the activities envisaged in the sphere of technical assistance, which were of particular interest to developing countries.

39. UNITAR had demonstrated a sense of initiative and dynamism by advocating the establishment of a United Nations staff college or an international university in which his country was particularly interested.

40. His delegation was convinced that the Institute occupied a unique place in the United Nations system and it had therefore reaffirmed its support for its activities by co-sponsoring draft resolution A/C.2/L.1144.

41. Mr. DABROWSKI (Poland) said that the Institute's studies and research were important because they had a specific bearing on problems related to United Nations activities. Its programme had been expanded appreciably during the year to include questions of great importance to the international community. UNITAR training should concentrate on areas directly related to the effectiveness of the United Nations system, namely, diplomacy, technical co-operation and international law, and his delegation noted with satisfaction the arrangements to publish a number of the reports issued by the research department of UNITAR.

42. The International Development Strategy would require concerted action by all United Nations bodies, and co-ordination would be needed to make the maximum use of the resources available. UNITAR's work programme played a useful role to that end and could make an ever greater contribution by concentrating on activities designed to attain the objectives of the Second Development Decade and by carrying out basic research on development problems, including specific problems facing certain countries or groups of countries.

43. UNITAR's training programmes had achieved good results and should be intensified. Technical and financial co-operation programmes for development assistance should focus more on the training of nationals in the developing countries and on improving United Nations activities. In future, UNITAR's training programmes should aim at training administrative personnel in the developing countries. In addition, the scope of such programmes in the economic and social fields should be extended to help countries to build up their independent economies by utilizing their own human and material resources.

44. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Institute constantly reviewed and modified its courses and seminars and took account of the needs of the less developed among the developing countries in the field of planning to introduce courses which should make a significant contribution to the success of the Second Development Decade. The Institute should however concentrate on specific subjects in order to avoid duplication and overlapping with the work of other organs of the United Nations or its specialized agencies. In the view of his delegation UNITAR's in-depth course on the Economic and Social Council, although most interesting and useful, had been too short.

45. Turning to seminars on procedures and techniques of technical assistance, he said that participation should not be restricted to officials from Ministries of Foreign Affairs. It was also important to bear in mind the cost of effectiveness of seminars, and whether courses which were not well attended were justified. However, UNITAR should not limit itself to training in the field of technical and financial assistance, but should also organize seminars for the personnel of permanent missions to the United Nations, with lectures by eminent personalities expressing a wide range of views on issues of concern.

46. At the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, UNITAR had presented an excellent report¹ on the outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries and had subsequently submitted a number of country studies to the Economic and Social Council. In the view of his delegation, the problem of the "brain drain" was particularly serious for Latin American and African countries, and the United Nations should seek to promote the integration of study centres in both developed and developing countries in order to provide a solution. Research activities should also include studies on more effective and less costly methods of transferring modern technology to the developing countries.

47. In conclusion, he said that his delegation would be pleased to support the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1144).

48. Mr. BARTOLOME (Philippines) said that, despite the limited funds and personnel at its disposal, UNITAR had provided service of a consistently high standard to the United Nations system. His delegation hoped that the resources available to UNITAR would be increased so as to enable it to expand its important activities.

49. The establishment of a United Nations staff college, as proposed in chapter III of the report of the Executive Director of UNITAR, would fill a long-felt need for facilities to provide United Nations officials with specialized training in development, administration and modern management techniques, and would go far towards improving the expertise and effectiveness of international civil servants in many fields of United Nations activity. His delegation welcomed the proposal to extend the services of the college to national officials during the second stage of its operation. It was convinced that the training of officials and personnel for the United Nations system through a staff college would, in the long term, be both economical and practical, and it was with that consideration in mind that it had supported the appropriation of funds for UNDP's share in the financing of the first stage of the project at the twelfth session of the Governing Council of UNDP.

50. His delegation also welcomed the decision to establish a commission to examine major trends in scientific and social development with implications for the United Nations system. It was hopeful that the commission, whose main purpose was to bring to the notice of international agencies significant issues which were not being dealt with but which required their action, would serve to focus the

attention of the international community in good time on questions likely to prove dangerous to mankind.

51. Regarding the training and related activities of UNITAR, his delegation welcomed the interregional programme in technical and financial co-operation, the symposium on environment and development, and the regional programmes in techniques and procedures of United Nations technical assistance. UNITAR's involvement in those subjects, which he was sure had been extremely worth while, was in keeping with the priority given by the United Nations to the task of development.

52. Regarding UNITAR's research activities, his delegation attached particular importance to the on-going studies on the peaceful settlement of disputes and on the international migration of professionals from developing to developed countries. The "brain drain" was a cause for serious concern to the Philippines and to many other developing countries, and it was to be hoped that UNITAR's research on the subject might provide a basis for remedial action by the developing and developed countries concerned.

53. Noting that one aim of current research was to improve the effectiveness of United Nations bodies through analysis of their functions and procedures, he observed that UNITAR was carrying out studies to that end concerning the functioning of the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly procedures.

54. The UNITAR study on the use by the news media of information on the United Nations was also relevant, in view of the inadequate publicity accorded by the media to United Nations activities. In particular, he hoped that the UNITAR study might stimulate wider dissemination of information concerning the objectives, goals and policy measures of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade, since the mobilization of public opinion was an integral part of that Strategy.

55. His delegation was pleased to note the efforts of UNITAR to facilitate access to United Nations data for research purposes. Co-operation between UNITAR and similar institutes and researchers outside the United Nations system was essential. It also hoped that UNITAR's concern with the various aspects of development, as indicated by its research into the transfer of operative technology from enterprise to enterprise and into technical co-operation in international organization, would be maintained. Those projects were worthy of support.

56. UNITAR was further to be commended for its valuable contribution to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, in particular its research report on marine pollution problems and remedies, and its paper on international environmental regulation. Those documents provided valuable background information of the kind essential to the conclusion of international agreements on those questions.

57. Unfortunately, the financial support given to UNITAR's activities was not commensurate with their value, which lay in training minds and developing human potential to the full. Many private institutions and foundations throughout the world pursued goals similar to

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 47, document A/7294.*

UNITAR's, and it would be advisable to improve co-operation between UNITAR and those bodies. He had gained the impression from the report of the Executive Director that co-operation in that area had not been developed as fully as possible. In general, UNITAR should avoid working in fields in which private institutions—which were often better endowed with financial and other resources—were engaged. The limited funds at UNITAR's disposal should be used in fields where its training, research and studies had a real impact, or were new and unique.

58. Finally, he wished to express his delegation's wholehearted support for draft resolution A/C.2/L.1144.

59. Mr. UTHEIM (Norway) said that he would confine his remarks to a few points which, in his delegation's opinion, warranted special attention. In the field of training, UNITAR conducted two main kinds of courses or seminars: first, basic training courses in diplomacy for the benefit of young foreign service officials from developing countries—those courses were very useful and should be continued; secondly, seminars on the organization and functioning of the United Nations. In that connexion, attention should be drawn to the specialized in-depth course on the functioning and procedures of the Economic and Social Council, which had been held for the first time in August 1971. There had long been a need for a course of that type for the benefit of members of permanent missions, and his delegation was pleased to note that UNITAR intended to conduct similar courses in the future.

60. In the field of research, his delegation was gratified by the increasing attention given by UNITAR to projects and activities directly relating to the effectiveness and capacity of the United Nations system. It attached particular importance to the two on-going studies regarding the work of the Economic and Social Council, which it hoped would prove to be a valuable contribution to the general analysis and re-evaluation of the Council's role and functions.

61. Another UNITAR study of particular significance was the study on the use by the news media of information concerning the United Nations. There was good reason to believe that the study, which he was pleased to note would shortly be completed, would make a valuable contribution to improving public understanding of the United Nations. His delegation also felt that the study might provide a useful means of mobilizing world opinion in support of the objectives and policy measures of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade.

62. He wished to announce that the Norwegian Government intended once again to increase its contribution to UNITAR. Subject to parliamentary approval, Norway's contribution in 1972 would be approximately \$29,000—an increase of almost 40 per cent over the 1971 figure. He hoped that other Governments would also increase their contributions to UNITAR so as to enable it to continue and expand its very valuable activities.

63. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's full support for draft resolution A/C.2/L.1144, which it hoped would be adopted unanimously.

64. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) expressed his delegation's appreciation to UNITAR for its extremely valuable activi-

ties in the training field. Noting that UNITAR had embarked upon a reappraisal of its training programmes in diplomacy, international organizations, and technical and financial co-operation, he expressed the hope that that reassessment would not lead to any basic change in those programmes, which fulfilled a valuable function not provided by any other body in the United Nations system. His delegation welcomed the decentralization of UNITAR's training activities and also the continuing co-operation of UNITAR with other organizations in the United Nations system with a view to economy, as illustrated by the agreement that the distribution of UNITAR publications to United Nations depository libraries and information centres might be undertaken by the Distribution Section of the United Nations.

65. His delegation fully supported the proposal to establish a United Nations staff college, and in that connexion shared the hope expressed by the Executive Director of UNITAR that such a school would be able to enlist the short-term services of teachers from developing as well as developed countries. Teachers from the developing countries would certainly make an original and positive contribution to the staff college.

66. With regard to research, his delegation welcomed UNITAR's initiative in undertaking studies of the functioning and efficiency of the machinery of the United Nations and related institutions. In particular, it hoped that the study on the functioning of the Economic and Social Council would permit identification of the defects in the Council's co-ordination and programming machinery and would increase the effectiveness with which the Council performed its work, notably in implementing the International Development Strategy. In other fields, his delegation felt that, while due regard should be paid to future problems, the main thrust of UNITAR's research should be directed towards economic, social and cultural development.

67. While Upper Volta would continue to assist UNITAR in its task within the means at its disposal, it was to be hoped that the developed countries would increase their contributions to UNITAR.

68. Mr. CABEZAS (Ecuador) paid a tribute to the valuable work accomplished by the Executive Director of UNITAR and his staff in the field of training and research. UNITAR's training activities, carried out with the assistance of UNDP, encompassed a broad range of courses, seminars and symposia in diplomacy, international organizations, and technical and financial co-operation. In the research field, its study concerning the use of information on the United Nations was of great importance in view of the need to mobilize public opinion in support of United Nations activities. As was noted in paragraph 50 of the Executive Director's report, UNITAR's research activity had been concentrated increasingly on operational analysis of the effectiveness of United Nations machinery and the United Nations system; in other words, its activities covered the whole spectrum of relations between States and the Organization, involving, on the one hand, the training of diplomats and, on the other, the training of international civil servants.

69. He noted that a paper had been written on the peaceful settlement of disputes involving members of the Organization of American States. Of particular importance, too, were the studies on the “brain drain”, a phenomenon which could mean a serious loss of resources for the developing countries. As a result of the important regional symposium on international law held in Quito in 1969, UNITAR was preparing a publication on public multi-national enterprises with particular reference to Latin America; such enterprises bore witness to a new spirit of co-operation between States.

70. In conclusion, he said that his delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.2/L.1144 and that his Government would endeavour to maintain its level of contributions to UNITAR.

71. Mr. McCARTHY (United Kingdom) said that, in view of its limited financial resources, UNITAR was wise to concentrate its efforts on a few specific subjects in the fields of training and in research. His delegation welcomed that realistic and productive approach and considered that those subjects had been well selected. It hoped, however, that UNITAR would limit its operations, particularly in the research field, to matters of definite interest to the United Nations system which had not been examined elsewhere and that it would not duplicate work already undertaken, or which might well be undertaken, by some other agency or organization.

72. Regarding the three institutional developments highlighted in paragraph 2 of the Executive Director's report, on which important decisions needed to be taken, his Government was fully in sympathy with the aims of the proposed staff college and commended UNITAR for its careful and practical approach to the project. It hoped that in the first stage the college, if established, would concentrate on training United Nations and specialized agency officials, leaving UNITAR free to continue with its current programme for training national civil servants. It also hoped that the college would concentrate its early efforts on a carefully defined programme of priorities. In particular, it should provide middle-management courses for officials likely to move into senior positions in the near future and developmental and managerial courses for field officers. Noting from paragraph 43 of the Executive Director's report that, while ACC had concurred in the proposals concerning the staff college, UNDP had requested special treatment in recognition of its prime interest in the development field, he would welcome information on what progress had been made towards concluding an arrangement satisfactory to UNDP. His delegation also noted that the Executive Director envisaged the staff college as being financed by members of the United Nations system; it would welcome further details concerning what form of contribution was contemplated and whether any contributions would come from existing budgetary allocations of the United Nations, UNDP or the specialized agencies.

73. His delegation noted from paragraph 15 of the Budget Estimates for 1972² that the Secretary-General intended to submit to the General Assembly a special report with

revised estimates on the cost of staff training activities in the United Nations; it seemed that those estimates would be likely to include additional appropriations to the amount of some \$325,000. His delegation wished to know whether there was any relationship between that increased allocation of \$325,000 and the proposed establishment of a staff college, and also to what extent the current allocations for staff training in the United Nations itself would be lowered if the United Nations made use of the proposed staff college. Since the special report had not yet been issued and the Fifth Committee was not due to take it up for some time, the Second Committee might be well advised to keep that item on its agenda and to revert to it after the Fifth Committee had concluded its consideration of the matter.

74. Regarding the proposed commission on new perspectives in international co-operation, his delegation noted that the Executive Director was seeking special funds for that project from non-governmental as well as governmental sources and that the Board of Trustees had emphasized the importance of contact with other centres and individuals involved in similar activities. His delegation felt that the proposed commission could be valuable, provided that it restricted its activities to the implications of developments which would have an effect on, or require action by, the United Nations system, in pursuance of the objectives of the Charter.

75. Regarding the third institutional project highlighted by the Executive Director, namely, the possible establishment of an international university, his delegation would not comment on the matter in detail until it had been considered at the resumed fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council. It appeared from the research papers prepared by UNITAR or under its auspices, however, that much of the work which it was planned to allocate to that international university was already being done by UNITAR or under its control. His delegation took it that, if the General Assembly did decide to establish an international university, the university would make full use of the services of UNITAR and other existing institutions already active in the field of research on United Nations organizations and problems.

76. He wished to reaffirm the United Kingdom Government's general support for the work being done by UNITAR, which had a useful part to play in the United Nations system. His Government had already contributed over \$700,000 to UNITAR's work, and would be contributing a further \$100,000 per year in 1972, 1973 and 1974. It had also offered to act as host for a UNITAR week-end in 1972 aimed primarily at establishing new forms of technical co-operation, a subject to which it attached particular importance. The United Kingdom delegation hoped that other Governments which valued UNITAR's work would be able to support its activities by making financial contributions.

77. His delegation welcomed draft resolution A/C.2/L.1144. However, in view of the proposal in the Executive Director's report for the establishment of a staff college, he suggested that a further operative paragraph should be inserted in the draft resolution, reading “Commends the

² *Ibid.*, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigenda.

proposal for the establishment of a United Nations staff college”.

78. Mr. VOLOSHIN (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the organizational difficulties referred to in the report (A/8414) had to some extent affected UNITAR's activities, but that useful work had nevertheless been done. However, UNITAR had available to it certain possibilities which, had they been made use of, would have considerably increased its effectiveness. For example, it had made insufficient use of the experience of the socialist countries, which could provide practical assistance both in research and in training.

79. One of the most important aspects of UNITAR's activities was the holding of symposia and seminars. That useful activity should be continued in the future, following the example set by the seminars held in Tadjikistan and Puerto Rico on technical and financial co-operation.

80. His delegation was not clear as to the reason why UNITAR's activities in relation to the United Nations staff college covered the specialized agencies, which had taken decisions without the consent of their intergovernmental bodies. It would appear that their action was motivated not by the directly expressed wishes of the majority of countries concerned, but by the position taken by their administrations. Moreover, the expansion of UNITAR's activity in that area would cast doubt on the fairness of United Nations personnel selection with respect to those countries whose representatives, in spite of their acknowledged experience and qualifications, had not studied at the college. His delegation would also welcome more information on the sources of financing for the college.

81. His delegation felt that although the General Assembly had in resolution 2573 (XXIV) instructed UNITAR to conduct an investigation of the establishment of an international university, the Institute had in fact given exaggerated attention to that task. In view of the limited resources available it would have been better not to conduct a detailed study, and the Executive Director should certainly not continue to make himself available to the Secretary-General in the continuation of those studies. UNITAR should simply report on studies which had already been conducted by other organizations.

82. It was clear from the report that UNITAR was also attempting to give considerable attention to strengthening its relations with other United Nations institutes and with national institutions. However, it made practically no use of the services of national centres in the socialist countries, which had extensive scientific and practical knowledge, and it could make good use of national experience to point a way to the solution of many problems that faced the developing countries.

83. UNITAR's activity in training could be of substantial assistance to developing countries. It was to be hoped that it would concern itself more with the preparation of instructional materials, with direct teaching and with the preparation of scientific investigations. In many cases, as the report stated, there was too little time for such tasks. An improvement in that situation would undoubtedly have a positive effect on the results of UNITAR's activities.

84. Mr. HUTAGALUNG (Indonesia) said that his delegation attached great importance to UNITAR's activities, which were vital to development. It was gratifying to note that UNITAR concentrated on selected topics and fields of special interest to developing countries; in that way, the limited resources at its disposal were being utilized to the full. His delegation was also pleased at the vastly increased output of research publications, which was undoubtedly of benefit to all. It supported the establishment of a United Nations staff college, whose importance lay in the possibility of introducing a crash programme of *ad hoc* courses to meet the special needs of the various organizations in the United Nations system, especially UNDP, and during the second stage of its operation, of serving national officials. His delegation also welcomed the development of the new project entitled "New perspectives in international co-operation".

85. UNITAR was to be congratulated on its success in breaking away from traditional patterns of activity in the training field, giving consideration to the future position regarding training in the United Nations system and developing new programmes. In that connexion, the seminars on the organization and functioning of the United Nations in New York and the regional programmes on techniques and procedures of United Nations technical assistance were particularly worthy of note.

86. Regarding research activities, his delegation attached particular importance to the studies of the international migration of professionals from developing to developed countries, international youth organizations and the United Nations system, the transfer of operative technology from enterprise to enterprise, and new research on technical co-operation in international organizations.

87. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's support for draft resolution A/C.2/L.1144.

88. Mr. MUKHTAR (Sudan) noted that, thanks to generous contributions from private as well as governmental sources, UNITAR had not yet been confronted by insurmountable financial difficulties. However, in 1972 and thereafter, expenditures would have to be kept strictly in line with income and the Institute might find it difficult to implement satisfactorily its most vital projects. In the view of his delegation, reduced expenditure would mean reduced activity and reduced activity might well defeat the purposes of the Institute.

89. The first paper prepared under the major research programme on the peaceful settlement of disputes had been published during 1970. The peaceful settlement of disputes was becoming a matter of priority concern to peace-loving nations, and developments in the art of negotiation could only serve the best interests of mankind. The research being carried out on the consensus practice in the Security Council was a most significant undertaking. Other extremely useful studies pursued by UNITAR were those related to co-operation among closely interrelated United Nations organizations and agencies. The studies on relations between the United Nations and the regional intergovernmental organizations such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States and the League of Arab States would no doubt promote the cause of peace and bring about a better understanding among nations.

90. While his delegation commended the training programmes of UNITAR, it would like to emphasize its role in initiating and executing training programmes suited to the needs of the least developed among the developing countries.

91. The CHAIRMAN announced that the delegations of El Salvador, Laos, Lesotho, Uganda and Uruguay wished to join in sponsoring the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1144).

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.