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CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 33:</i>	
<i>Economic development of under-developed countries (continued):</i>	
(b) <i>Activities of the United Nations in the field of industrial development: report of the Economic and Social Council (continued)</i>	323
(c) <i>Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions (continued)</i>	325
(a) <i>Planning for economic development: report of the Secretary-General (continued)</i>	328

Chairman: Mr. Ismael THAJEB (Indonesia).

AGENDA ITEM 33

Economic development of under-developed countries (A/5532) (continued):

(b) Activities of the United Nations in the field of industrial development: report of the Economic and Social Council (E/3781, annex VIII; A/5503, chap. IV, A/5534 and Add.1 and 2, A/5535 and Add.1-5 and Add.5/Corr.1; A/C.2/221, A/C.2/L.740 and Add.1 and 2) (continued)

1. Mr. WEIDINGER (Austria) said that in the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Industrial Development, his delegation had always supported the high priority given to United Nations activities in the field of industrial development and endorsed the efforts to intensify them.

2. While acknowledging the predominant role played by industrialization in diversifying the economies of the developing countries, his delegation believed that the question of whether heavy industry or the consumer industries should have priority within individual development plans should be decided on in the light of the resources available and the economic and social conditions in each country. The importance of medium and small-scale industries in economic development should not be underestimated. The process of industrialization did not consist merely of the proper allocation of capital and means of production; it also involved the human element. It seemed essential, therefore, that the social problems connected with industrialization should be given appropriate consideration by the Second Committee.

3. Regret had been expressed in the course of the debate that the Committee had been exclusively concerned with finding an appropriate institution for United Nations industrial development activities. His delegation's objection to the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.740 and Add.1 and 2) was based on that considera-

tion. The Committee should not decide upon the institutional aspects of the matter before the principal functions, scope and responsibilities of future United Nations action in that field had been clearly determined. It would be useful if the Secretary-General were to prepare an outline of the scope and nature of that action as a supplement to the report of the Advisory Committee of Experts on the Industrial Development Activities of the United Nations System (E/3781, annex VIII) and as a guide for discussion in the Committee for Industrial Development. It was only on such a basis that a realistic idea of the financial implications could be obtained; decisions could then be taken regarding the institutional framework.

4. His delegation fully agreed with the Mexican representative that the Secretary-General should have the possibility of expressing his views on projected changes in the structure of the United Nations. His delegation therefore supported the first of the Swedish amendments (A/C.2/L.774). If the sponsors were unable to accept that amendment, his delegation would be prepared to support the text proposed by the representative of Tunisia (A/C.2/L.773) together with the French sub-amendment (A/C.2/L.775).

5. His delegation endorsed the main conclusions of the report of the Advisory Committee of Experts that, while United Nations activities in the field of industrialization should be strengthened and expanded, the establishment of a specialized agency seemed inadvisable. The Centre for Industrial Development had not been given an opportunity of demonstrating its full capacity, since it had been in operation for only a short period and because its administrative structure had frequently been reorganized. In that connexion, he agreed with the Polish representative that the Centre must be allowed to function for at least ten to fifteen years before an evaluation could be made of its efficiency and steps taken to reorganize it. Even if it were subsequently found that another institution would be more efficient, no hasty changes should be made.

6. His delegation strongly supported closer co-ordination between the various United Nations bodies concerned with economic and social activities and was prepared to give favourable consideration to proposals for more functional leadership on the part of the competent United Nations organ in those fields. While acknowledging the intentions of the sponsors of the draft resolution, his delegation felt that priority should be given to formulation of the work programme and financing of United Nations activities in the field of industrial development. He hoped that the sponsors of the draft would find it possible to make the necessary changes in their text so as to ensure its unanimous adoption.

7. His delegation was in full agreement with the basic idea in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, but believed that a symposium organized on a

regional or inter-regional basis would yield better results than an international symposium.

8. Mr. KARAKOYLU (Turkey) said that he recognized the great value of United Nations activities in the field of industrial development and would like to see them intensified. He therefore congratulated the sponsors of the draft resolution on their initiative. He had, however, reservations on some points. The text seemed to be based on the report of the Advisory Committee of Experts, and yet that Committee's conclusions and recommendations were not fully covered. The time had not come for a decision on the establishment of a new organization, and the activities of the existing bodies should be carefully reviewed. His delegation's position was based on the Advisory Committee's report which, although a useful and remarkable document, had not satisfied most of the members of the Second Committee. In its report to the Economic and Social Council (E/3765), the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination pointed out that it attached great importance to avoiding fragmentation in the general field of economic policy. The matter was highly important to the developing countries, and more accurate information on organization, financing and administration was needed before a decision could be taken.

9. His delegation supported amendments of the United Kingdom (A/C.2/L.772) and of Tunisia (A/C.2/L.773). The draft would be improved by the incorporation of the Swedish amendments (A/C.2/L.774) and the French sub-amendment (A/C.2/L.775). He hoped that, with those amendments, the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

10. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that a recent United Nations publication entitled The Growth of World Industry, 1938-1961^{1/} contained significant data on the contribution of industrial development to the expansion of production. While in the poorer countries, industrial activity accounted for as little as 10-25 per cent of total production, the proportion in the highly industrialized countries was 30-45 per cent. Between 1938 and 1961, the developing countries had achieved higher rates of output than the industrialized market economies. But because of their more rapid population growth, the 1961 gross domestic product per caput in the former had been roughly 45 per cent above the 1938 figure, while in the latter the increase had been 70 per cent. In other words, the gap between the two groups of countries was still widening.

11. Obviously, the developing countries must industrialize in order to diversify their economies and raise their living levels. The magnitude of the task was equally obvious. In order to attain the 5 per cent rate of growth proposed for the United Nations Development Decade, they would have to raise their industrial output by more than 100 per cent. The World Economic Survey, 1961^{2/} pointed out that they should seek to achieve a pattern of industrialization similar to that of the highly advanced countries. But it might be asked whether it was realistic for a small nation like Greece, for example, to try to establish the same wide range of industrial activities as a large country with a big domestic market and a wealth of natural resources.

12. At the third ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

(OECD), Belgium had put forward a plan to set up an international committee that would decide on selective tariff concessions by the industrialized countries to stimulate the development of specific industries in specific under-developed countries. The plan would try to focus the industrial efforts of those countries on things that the world really needed—rather than textiles which all countries produced—and, by means of regional co-ordination, would seek to keep them from over-producing the same things. Such a plan was sound and realistic. There was a tendency in the United Nations to treat the developing countries as a single group, but in fact they covered a wide range of States at different levels of development. That fact became even more evident when the social aspects of industrial development were considered. Nevertheless, the maximum rate of economic growth, through industrialization, was now the universal goal.

13. Social and economic reforms were an essential part of the industrialization process. Equally important was the formation of capital, which depended upon the restriction of consumption. Entrepreneurial skills and favourable prospects must also exist if the capital saved was to be invested productively or, indeed, if savings were to continue. The restriction of consumption remained an absolute necessity both in a socialist economy, where the State was responsible for investment, and in an economy based on private initiative.

14. The revolution of rising expectations, of which Adlai Stevenson had spoken, was still the best description of the situation in the under-developed countries. Undoubtedly, they were trying to telescope into the lifetime of one generation a process which had taken centuries in the West. Their unwillingness to repeat the experience of today's industrial giants reflected their repudiation of the capitalist system. But they did not seem to realize that another system must be found to withhold income from the mass of consumers. They seemed to think that industrial capital could be obtained by grants or loans, but foreign aid could never be sufficient to obviate the need for domestic financing. Nevertheless, they could dramatically shorten the time needed for industrialization by importing industrial techniques as well as financial and technical assistance. None of the industrialized countries had received such help. Furthermore, in the United Nations system there was a wide range of bodies providing assistance in industrialization. Among them, the Centre for Industrial Development had done impressive work.

15. The report of the Advisory Committee of Experts (E/3781, annex VIII) rightly emphasized the importance of industrialization in the process of development, but it did not analyse the various factors impeding industrialization nor suggest how the various international organizations could assist in removing them. The objective set forth in paragraph 30 of the Advisory Committee's report, namely, the promotion of manufacturing industries, could best be attained by strengthening the Centre for Industrial Development.

16. If a large majority of the Second Committee found such a solution inadequate, his delegation would reluctantly support the possibility, mentioned in paragraph 38 (c) of the report, of creating a subsidiary organization within the United Nations. But it was not clear how such a body would perform functions not already covered by existing United Nations organs and the specialized agencies. Would it provide technical assis-

^{1/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 63.XVII.5.

^{2/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.II.C.1.

ance? Would it produce economic or technological studies? To what extent would its activities differ from those of the Centre for Industrial Development? And how would it be financed? The Committee had already adopted (922nd meeting) a draft resolution on a United Nations capital development fund which had failed to elicit the support of the main potential contributors. Was the Committee going to adopt a similar draft resolution which was merely an empty shell, or was it going to make a practical recommendation? So long as no new resources were available, it would be inadvisable and even harmful to set up a new agency.

17. Mr. WOULBROUN (Belgium) thanked the Greek representative for having mentioned the Brasseur plan which had just been put forward at the third ministerial meeting of OECD in Paris. The members of OECD were industrialized countries, but they were deeply concerned with the economic development of the less developed countries. They had set up a development assistance committee in order to ensure that their aid to the developing countries became more effective. The Brasseur plan would be presented in greater detail at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

(c) Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions (E/3786, E/3798, A/5584, A/C.2/L.742/Rev.1) (continued)*

18. Mr. DARJAATMAKA (Indonesia) said that when the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions had first been seriously considered as a desirable policy, some had held that the United Nations was committing itself to a radical or, at least, a controversial course of action. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI), however, the idea had gained wider acceptance and was at present regarded as a valid and essential method of ensuring the most efficient use of the resources available for economic and social assistance to the developing countries.

19. The institutional framework through which a policy of decentralization could be executed was already in existence. The regional economic commissions were gaining specific knowledge of the problems confronting their member countries and acquiring experience in solving them. The policy of decentralization was therefore logically linked to the expanding role of the regional economic commissions in promoting development in their areas. His delegation was glad to note from the report of the Secretary-General (E/3786) that positive steps were being taken to carry out the suggestions of the General Assembly. It also welcomed the indications in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/5584) that it strongly supported decentralization.

20. Technical assistance co-ordination units had been established in the secretariats of the regional economic commissions. Almost all the regional technical assistance projects established in 1963 had been relegated to the respective regional commissions, and the regional secretariats were becoming increasingly involved in the screening, planning and implementation of some Special Fund projects. The Secretary-General had also taken action to ensure that States not mem-

bers of any regional commission should receive the same benefits as members. The establishment of an economic unit within the Regional Social Affairs Office for the Middle East, at Beirut, should go far towards guaranteeing that the interests of those States were not overlooked. It was also encouraging that the General Assembly's recommendation regarding meetings of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions had been carried out.

21. The Economic Projections and Programming Centre, at Headquarters, was making use of the specific knowledge of the regional centres by having them participate in the world-wide projections programme which it had initiated. It should be noted that the Economic Projections and Programming Centre would concentrate on methodological studies and policy guidance, while the regional centres would undertake advisory services in the field of planning and programming.

22. As the Advisory Committee had recognized in its report, although progress had been made in implementing the policy of decentralization, much remained to be done. For example, with regard to regional projects, greater financial and administrative authority should be delegated to the regional economic commissions, since simplicity of procedure and of administrative methods was essential to decentralization. The participation of regional commissions in country programming should also be considerably increased, and his delegation was gratified that steps were being taken to that end. It also appreciated the increased co-operation between the resident representatives and the respective regional commissions.

23. With regard to the further strengthening of the resources of the regional secretariats, the Secretary-General, executive secretaries and the Advisory Committee had expressed concern over the significant number of vacant posts at Headquarters and in the secretariats. His delegation shared that concern and hoped that every possible effort would be made to remedy the situation. In that connexion, he looked forward with interest to the study being prepared, at the request of the Advisory Committee, by the Administrative Management Service of the Office of the Controller on the utilization of staff in the economic and social fields. In the Advisory Committee's opinion, that study would be of considerable value in determining the percentage of total available resources required at Headquarters for central responsibilities and the percentage that could be placed at the disposal of the regional economic commissions.

24. The draft resolution of which his delegation was a sponsor (A/C.2/L.742/Rev.1) was intended to give further impetus to the process of the policy of decentralization.

25. Mr. LANUS (Argentina) said that the establishment and operation of the regional economic commissions were based on the concept of decentralization. The measures taken since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1518 (XV) had been instrumental in simplifying administrative methods and procedure, namely, the establishment of technical assistance co-ordination units, the increase in the number of regional adviser posts in Africa, Latin America and Asia, the growing contribution made by the regional economic commissions to the Special Fund projects and the World Food Campaign, and the greater participation of the regional secretariats in the programming and implementation of projects of the Expanded Pro-

* Resumed from the 930th meeting.

gramme of Technical Assistance. Decentralization was also apparent in the gradual transfer of substantive and operational functions to the regional commissions.

26. His delegation favoured decentralization to the extent that it permitted closer familiarity with the specific problems of each region and did not give rise to duplication. If decentralization were to be carried too far, however, it would create additional problems; it must therefore be rational and co-ordinated. The report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions indicated that the problem of increasing the flexibility of resources allocated to the decentralized projects had not been solved. His delegation was in favour of such flexibility, but it was obvious that the regional economic commissions must adapt their activities to the decisions that the Economic and Social Council took with regard to co-ordination and priorities.

27. The draft resolution under study took account of the need to consider the interests of countries not members of regional commissions. Areas not covered by those commissions might suffer as a result of decentralization.

28. His delegation reserved the right to intervene again, if necessary, and it supported the draft resolution.

29. Mr. AHMED (Sudan) recalled that the Council had taken the initiative in the matter of decentralizing the economic and social activities of the United Nations and had clarified the meaning of decentralization. It had noted, in resolution 793 (XXX), the shift of emphasis from Headquarters towards the field and had requested the Secretary-General to draw as fully as possible upon the services of the regional economic commissions. His delegation congratulated the Secretary-General on his report (E/3786), which was a clear statement of the stage reached in the implementation of the policy of decentralization and contained constructive recommendations concerning further steps.

30. The measures already taken included a wide range of responsibilities previously assumed by Headquarters and now delegated in varying degrees to the regional commissions. His delegation was particularly happy to note that regional projects were very largely decentralized, subject to the requirements of central financial control and of personnel policies for internationally recruited experts. It also welcomed the association of regional secretariats with operational activities related to country projects. That was an important area in which decentralization could be most effective.

31. Although he appreciated the caution expressed by the Secretary-General in his report, he did not share the view that the association of regional secretariats should, at least for the time being, be limited to the planning stage. The Secretary-General had mentioned practical considerations and governmental preferences as limiting factors, but they could be covered if the regional secretariats were sufficiently strengthened and equipped to handle country projects in the planning, execution and follow-up stages. The follow-up stage was no less important than the planning or implementation stages. The regional economic commissions were ideally placed to evaluate the projects relevant to their respective areas and to make the necessary changes by mutual agreement. The establishment of the technical assistance co-ordination

units, the appointment of an increased number of qualified regional advisers and the strengthening of the substantive and administrative services of the regional secretariats, together with their closer co-operation with the resident representatives, should make it possible for the commissions to assume a greater measure of financial responsibility, make decisions on administrative and technical changes and recruit certain types of personnel.

32. The period during which the policy of decentralization had been initiated had been full of paradoxes. It had coincided with the launching of the United Nations Development Decade, which called for the intensification of economic and social activities. That period had also been one of financial restrictions for the United Nations. However, the budget level had risen annually by an average of more than 10 per cent, most of the increase being due to rising prices and costs. Throughout that period, there had been great pressure on the staff and yet there had been only modest additions to their strength. Despite the difficulty of recruitment mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, his delegation was glad to note that the findings of the Advisory Committee indicated that staffing problems had not impeded the decentralization process.

33. Some seemed to think that decentralization was synonymous with a reduction in expenditure. Decentralization was rather a reallocation of responsibilities and resources, including the redeployment of personnel with a view to increasing efficiency. The result might be economies or might be increased expenditure, since the transfer of responsibility could not be matched by a proportionate shift of resources from Headquarters to the regions so long as Headquarters retained the central substantive functions. Economies should not be effected at the expense of decentralization.

34. The draft resolution under study was constructive, since it sought to strengthen the decentralization process and widen its scope. He noted in that connexion that paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 dealt with the present status and future plans of the United Nations Office in Beirut and proposed to enhance its effectiveness. His delegation appreciated the fact that the Secretary-General, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII), in which he was requested to take into consideration the interests of States not members of any regional economic commission, had recently established an economic unit within the Regional Social Affairs Office for the Middle East. Another significant step forward had been the establishment of technical assistance co-ordination units in the secretariats of the regional economic commissions. For those reasons, his delegation whole-heartedly supported the recommendation in operative paragraph 6, as well as the idea that the Director of the United Nations Office in Beirut should be invited to the annual meetings of the executive secretaries.

35. The amendments proposed by his delegation (A/C.2/L.763) did not seek to exclude any of the ideas contained in the draft resolution or introduce any new element into the policy of decentralization. Their aim was to supplement the draft resolution, to provide additional guidance to the Secretary-General and to endorse some of the measures already taken or contemplated by the Secretary-General and some of the recommendations made by the Council.

36. The first amendment referred to a particular aspect of decentralization which merited further attention and recognized action already taken into consideration by the Secretary-General in implementing the policy of decentralization. In connexion with the second amendment, it should be pointed out that the Secretary-General himself had associated the regional economic commissions in the work of preparing for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. That step had been noted with satisfaction by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 28 of its report (A/5584). In connexion with the third amendment, his delegation appreciated the reservations expressed by the Secretary-General with regard to the association of the regional economic commissions in country programmes. It was not the intention of the amendment to overlook the special case of country projects, but the policy of decentralization would not be fully implemented unless the commissions helped Governments in connexion with technical assistance programmes. The study by the Administrative Management Service mentioned in the paragraph 7 proposed in the amendment dealt with the utilization of staff in the economic and social fields and was therefore very closely related to decentralization. It might even be impossible to evaluate the results of decentralization without such a study. The last amendment therefore requested the Advisory Committee to make such an evaluation in the light of the study of the Administrative Management Service and of the report of the Secretary-General provided for in the draft resolution. That would enable the General Assembly to determine the pace and scope of decentralization in future years. The results should be examined, not at the twentieth, but at the nineteenth session of the General Assembly, when the policy of decentralization would have been in operation for almost four years.

37. Mrs. GINOR (Israel) said that the draft resolution dealt with two subjects: decentralization in general and the United Nations Office in Beirut.

38. In recent years, some delegations of countries in the Middle East had complained that they were deprived of an important instrument for their economic and social progress because of the lack of a regional commission. In the view of the Israel delegation, the only really effective solution was to establish a regional commission. The United Nations Office in Beirut had first been established as a branch of UNICEF and, in 1957, the Bureau of Social Affairs had outposted some staff members there. The Office had been supposed to serve Israel as well. However, since Israel representatives were denied access to Beirut, her Government had regarded that arrangement as a violation of a vital United Nations principle—the free access of Member States to United Nations bodies. For the past two years, there had been growing pressure to expand the Beirut Office and outpost economic staff to it. Israel had raised the whole question with the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs and had pointed out that even the social services at Beirut were unsatisfactory from Israel's point of view. All United Nations services in the area should be situated at a place to which Israelis had free access.

39. Paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 955 (XXXVI) invited the Secretary-General to explore ways and means of expanding the economic and social activities of the United Nations Office in

Beirut, including the possible creation of a technical assistance co-ordination unit in it. Certain members of the Council, when voting for that resolution, had possibly not been fully aware of the implications of paragraph 3 on the Beirut Office. In the view of her delegation, the system of outposting staff had its limits, which had already been exceeded in the case of the Beirut Office. The text of the draft resolution upset the whole concept of "outposting" since it linked the existing regional economic commissions with the Beirut Office and its recommendations amounted to the establishment of a regional commission in a disguised form.

40. An economic commission for the Middle East should be set up without further delay, should be open to participation by all the States of the region and should be situated at a place to which all those States had access. The failure to establish a commission was entirely due to the refusal of the Arab States in the Middle East to participate in it if Israel also participated. Israel could not understand such an attitude, since the Arab States and Israel were Members of the United Nations and also members of its specialized agencies and of many other bodies. In any case, functional co-operation should be divorced from political conflicts. Pending the establishment of a regional economic commission, Israel had no objection to needs being met by a regional office, on the clear understanding that its services were based on the principles of free access for and non-discrimination against Member States. Her Government could no longer accept the prevailing discriminatory situation. It was quite willing to have the Council give further study to the matter of a United Nations regional office in the light of the considerations to which she had referred.

41. Mr. BOLT (New Zealand) noted that the period of controversial debate on decentralization had ended with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI). The policy of decentralization, as stated in that resolution, had been reaffirmed in resolution 1823 (XVII). The representative of Jordan had said that the draft resolution before the Committee did not try to establish any new policies and the New Zealand delegation agreed with that interpretation. However, the reference in paragraph 8 to "the policy of accelerated decentralization" seemed to introduce a new concept not present in previous resolutions. The report by the Secretary-General (E/3786) referred in paragraph 6 to "the pragmatic approach" followed in implementing the policy of decentralization. Decentralization might therefore not be accelerated each year. It would be preferable to delete the word "accelerated" from paragraph 8 of the draft and add the words "as stated in General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI)" after the word "decentralization".

42. When read in conjunction with paragraph 7, operative paragraph 5 seemed to infer that the status of the United Nations Office in Beirut was being raised to that of a regional economic commission. It was implied that there was now an area in the vicinity of Beirut recognized as a region in the sense in which that term was used in the United Nations. However, in that sense a region should be open to all States in the area. The sponsors of the draft resolution should be aware of the difficulties presented by certain operative paragraphs for countries like New Zealand, which would find it difficult to endorse a United Nations activity that would have the effect of exacerbating

relations between countries with which it had friendly relations.

43. It was difficult to see the logic of the Ukrainian amendment (A/C.2/L.762) concerning the application of the policy of decentralization in equal measure to all four existing regional economic commissions. The regions each had different development problems and different ways of exploiting their resources. Most of the Sudanese amendments (A/C.2/L.763) were in keeping with the tone of the draft resolution. However, the inclusion in the draft resolution of references to isolated paragraphs of previous resolutions made it difficult to maintain a suitably balanced text. In addition, the New Zealand delegation had doubts about the advisability of advancing the date for the assessment of the results of decentralization.

44. Mr. HAGEN (Sweden) said that, when viewed from a distance, administration at Headquarters seemed to be somewhat labyrinthine and that a strengthening of the activities of the regional economic commissions would be of great value to Governments. The regional commissions should help Governments to interpret reports and other communications from Headquarters. Decentralization in favour of the regional commissions would make the work done at Headquarters much more useful to all concerned. However, it would still be necessary for Headquarters to handle many activities, such as the recruitment of technical assistance experts. In view of the scarcity of those experts, it would be inadvisable to allow the regional commissions to compete with each other for their services, and Headquarters should be left to select the experts for the posts where they could be most useful. If the regional commissions were strengthened, Governments within the regions would be more willing to make able civil servants available for work in the commissions. It was important to strengthen the Secretariats of the commissions, which could not be done simply by transferring staff from Headquarters. Nothing should be done to impair the functions of the Secretariat at Headquarters, and the United Nations should therefore have the necessary funds to employ the additional staff needed for the regional commissions.

45. Mr. CALDERON FRANCO (Mexico) said that, although his delegation did not usually sponsor draft resolutions, it had made an exception in the case of the text before the Committee, because of its particular interest in the activities of the regional economic commissions. The Mexican delegation had been the first to propose the establishment of an economic commission for Africa and had been active in the preparatory work preceding its establishment. It had welcomed the decision to set up an office in the Middle East, although it had not been consulted on the subject of its site and methods of work. It was desirable for that office to be strengthened and for its director to attend the meetings of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions.

46. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon) associated his delegation with the remarks of the representative of Jordan (930th meeting) and with those just made by the representative of Indonesia. His Government welcomed the recommendations contained in the draft resolution and would co-operate fully with the Secretariat in their implementation.

47. In connexion with the remarks made concerning access to the territory of Lebanon, he said that it was

the sovereign right of his Government to decide who should be allowed within its territorial boundaries at any time. It should be pointed out that the Israel Government refused to allow Palestinians to return to their own homes. The need for the free access of citizens of Member States to United Nations organs had never been postulated as a United Nations principle and the argument based on that consideration was unfounded. There were offices of other United Nations bodies at Beirut, to which no objection had ever been raised.

48. The sponsors of the draft resolution were not asking for the establishment of a regional economic commission in the Middle East, and operative paragraph 6 could not be construed as recommending the establishment of such a commission in a disguised form. The establishment of a technical assistance co-ordination unit in the United Nations Office in Beirut would not necessitate travel to Lebanon by government representatives. Members of the unit would be required to visit the various countries, at their request, and provide assistance on the spot. Finally, Lebanon placed no restrictions on the movements of United Nations staff members.

49. Mr. TRAORE (Mali) said that, as could be seen from the report of the Secretary-General (E/3786), the hope placed in the United Nations by the developing countries had resulted in an increase in the volume and quality of the Organization's activities. Such vast and diversified activities required different but co-ordinated methods for their execution. The policy outlined in General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI) met that twofold need. While Headquarters retained its role of co-ordination and control, decentralization, based on pragmatic principles, would link United Nations activities with centres of decision in direct and continual contact with the regions concerned. The draft resolution was in harmony with that policy. Since the activities of the United Nations were based on the principle of universality, it would be unfair to deprive one part of the world of the benefit of those activities. The policy of decentralization should be applied in the same way to all the regional secretariats.

50. Mr. TELL (Jordan) reaffirmed that the draft resolution did not introduce any new measures or new ideas and was not aimed at setting up a new regional economic commission. He was surprised at the inference that the sponsors of the draft resolution and the delegations which had voted for Council resolution 955 (XXXVI) were not aware of the implications of the establishment of a technical assistance co-ordination unit in the United Nations Office in Beirut. The aims of the draft resolution had been clearly explained by other speakers and had no political connotations.

(g) Planning for economic development: report of the Secretary-General (A/5533/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.744 and Add.1-3) (continued)*

51. Mr. KOMIVES (Hungary) said that planning constituted one of the main elements of accelerated economic and social advancement. The increasing attention being given to the subject within the United Nations showed that it had proved itself useful everywhere in the world. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 1708 (XVI) had helped to strengthen

* Resumed from the 930th meeting.

the planning activities of the various United Nations bodies. Those of the regional economic commissions, particularly ECAFE and ECE, had been extremely valuable. His delegation looked forward to the activities of the regional planning institutes and welcomed the establishment of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, which had begun its work on 1 November 1963. The study entitled Planning for Economic Development (A/5533/Rev.1) was an important step forward and a good basis for further detailed work.

52. His delegation whole-heartedly supported the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.744 and Add.1-3). The measures proposed were entirely logical and in full accord with Council resolution 979 (XXXVI). Its main merit was to link planning with trade; in that respect, operative paragraphs 5 (b) and 8 were particularly welcome. With reference to paragraph 2, the planning institutes should take into account all forms of planning and utilize the experience of countries at all levels of development, regardless of their economic and social systems. The ECE would be well qualified to contribute to the activities outlined in operative paragraph 4.

53. He proposed that the following new second pre-ambular paragraph should be inserted:

"Convinced that economic planning adapted to the specific conditions and needs of each developing country is one of the main preconditions of its rapid economic and social development".

Furthermore, the following words might be added at the end of operative paragraph 4: "and the diffusion of this information by all appropriate means, including the organization of symposia and seminars".

54. Mr. GOMEZ GUERRERO (Mexico) supported the draft resolution but suggested that operative paragraphs 3 and 6 should begin with the words "Takes note with satisfaction"; that paragraph 5 (a) should adhere more closely to the wording of the corresponding paragraph of Council resolution 979 (XXXVI) by speaking of "each developing country" rather than "the developing countries"; and that in paragraph 8 the Secretary-General should transmit the report not only to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development but also to the Preparatory Committee of the Conference, at its third session.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.