



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**  
*Thirty-fifth Session*  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS**

Thursday, 4 April 1963,  
 at 3.15 p.m.

**NEW YORK**

**C O N T E N T S**

	Page
<i>Agenda item 4:</i>	
<i>Report of the International Monetary Fund</i>	
<i>(concluded)</i> . . . . .	25
<i>Agenda item 10:</i>	
<i>Population questions (continued)</i> . . . . .	29

*President:* Mr. Alfonso PATIÑO (Colombia).

*Present:*

Representatives of the following States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia.

Observers for the following Member States: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Israel, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Syria, Thailand.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; International Monetary Fund.

**AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Report of the International Monetary Fund (E/3696 and Add.1)**  
**(concluded)**

1. Mr. ANJARIA (India) thanked the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund for the admirable statement he had made at the preceding meeting, in which he had mentioned certain fundamental problems such as the world payments situation and the need for stability in order to ensure the economic growth of the developing countries.

2. The world payments situation had improved considerably in recent years, and that was one of the Fund's main services to the international community. Stability was of vital importance for the development of trade, and it was encouraging to note that the balance of payments of the industrialized countries had been strengthened and that the Fund had been able to mobilize resources to meet countries' needs through an agreement which it had concluded with GATT in order to remedy situations brought about by unfavourable capital movements.

3. As he saw it, there were three main causes of balance of payments difficulties. With regard to the first—namely, fluctuations in the prices of primary commodities, which frequently endangered the exports of the developing countries—the Fund had developed a compensatory financing plan. With regard to the second—namely, inflationary pressures of very varied

origin, which countries sometimes themselves created by their development efforts—consultation with the Fund and the provision of assistance by the latter were extremely useful; the Fund had frequently intervened in order to ease certain temporary difficulties and had endeavoured to increase the stability of foreign currencies held by the exporting countries. The third cause of balance of payments difficulties was connected, in certain cases, with improper use of foreign aid.

4. Balance of payments difficulties were more deeply rooted in the developing countries than in the industrialized nations. In the case of the latter, they were often only temporary and were related to the various phases of the trade cycle; in the developing countries, they were an integral part of the development process itself. The Fund could not help to solve those problems by supplying long-term resources. It was quite obvious that the developing countries would often have to resort to sources other than the Fund. Although the Fund could not be regarded directly or primarily as a tool for economic development, it did in fact play an important role in that field by creating a favourable climate for payments balances and foreign currencies.

5. Another source of difficulties was the delay which occurred between the time when a loan or the opening date for a credit was approved and the time when the funds were actually paid out; but those difficulties were mainly merely procedural matters. He was pleased to recall the effective aid given by the Fund to his own country, which in the previous summer had obtained a \$100 million stand-by credit.

6. The Fund had played a particularly important role in the field of technical assistance. The Managing Director of the Fund had mentioned, in connexion with trade policies, the responsibilities of the developing countries and of the industrialized countries. The latter would have to open their markets and provide new outlets for the under-developed regions. The developing countries themselves would have to find new resources. He quoted the example of his own country, which had had to face considerable difficulties owing to problems of national defence; it had preferred to solve them by increasing taxes substantially rather than by resorting to inflation.

7. He was gratified at the expansion of the Fund's activities, and praised its flexibility and its ability to adapt itself to new situations.

8. Mr. BAYONA (Colombia) drew attention, in particular, to the work done by the International Monetary Fund in Latin America. In the case of his own country, the assistance given had taken many different forms: technical assistance, consultations and, in particular, the opening, under an arrangement of principle, of a credit equivalent to 200 per cent of its quota. The Fund had also played a part in the co-ordination of Colombian financing plans. The report showed that the year 1962 had been an exceptional one in every respect.

9. He regretted the departure of Mr. Jacobsson and paid a tribute to the organizing ability which the latter had shown as Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

10. Mr. BLEDHAM (United States of America) said that 1962 had been a very remarkable year which had witnessed, in particular, the conclusion in October 1962 of a special arrangement with a number of countries, providing for the opening of confirmed credits in the Fund. That would serve to guarantee the stability of the principal currencies and to strengthen the world monetary system. The resources of the Fund had continued to grow. One of the factors in that growth had been the increase of drawings in convertible currencies other than the dollar; they had amounted, in 1962, to 81 per cent of the total drawings of eighteen countries, seventeen of the latter belonging to the group of under-developed countries. Repurchases had also been higher than in previous years. It was noteworthy that the United Kingdom had repaid a substantial part of its 1961 drawing.

11. Seven countries had become members of the Fund in 1962, thus bringing the membership to eighty-two with quotas totalling \$15,000 million. Twenty requests for admission had been made. Almost all of the new members and applicants for admission were newly independent countries of Africa.

12. The Fund had continued to provide consultation and technical assistance services in the financial and monetary fields. It was worth emphasizing that the assistance granted in the form of compensatory financing would in no way reduce the amount of normal drawings, and that it would accordingly be possible to provide increasing resources to meet the needs of the developing countries.

13. The Fund was showing increasing interest in the problems of dynamism and growth and was participating more effectively in the development process.

14. He wished to pay a tribute to Mr. Jacobsson and to the manner in which the latter had guided the Fund's activities. He was sorry to learn that Mr. Jacobsson was attending the meetings of the Council for the last time.

15. Mr. TETTAMANTI (Argentina) noted with satisfaction the considerable strengthening of the international monetary system during the period covered by the report (E/3696 and Add.1), owing to the arrangement concluded by the Fund with ten major industrial countries whereby some \$6,000 million were made available to it. In addition, the Fund's operations had increased at an unprecedented rate during the period under review.

16. As Mr. Jacobsson had said, the year between May 1961 and April 1962 had been one of economic, financial and political crises, but the important point was the reaction of the various countries to those crises according to their respective situations. Generally speaking, the economic and financial difficulties had been overcome, but there were certain slight differences that should be borne in mind. The means available to the different countries for ensuring a rate of economic growth which would be adequate in relation to population increases varied considerably. The instruments of financial and fiscal policy which the industrial countries and the developing countries could put into effect differed as widely as their respective economic structures. The former could deal

with the most serious problems in an atmosphere of political stability, and possible set-backs would not shake the confidence of their peoples, whereas in the developing countries the difficulty lay precisely in the uncertainty of the future; it was well known that confidence was the very foundation of any national and international monetary system. When one heard the French representative talk of his country's tremendous gains in the economic field, it was impossible to avoid the thought that there was a great difference between making plans with reserves of about \$4,000 million, even if those reserves represented only six months' exports, and working out a policy when such reserves had fallen to one month's exports and sometimes even less.

17. For that reason, the Fund could not confine itself to being merely the custodian of the monetary system, and it was comforting to hear Mr. Jacobsson refer to the Fund's ever-growing experience in the problems of the developing countries. The success of a policy of expansion without inflation, in which Argentina firmly believed, must depend on the progress of international co-operation. International trade was the mainspring of such expansion, and it was in the hands of the industrialized countries. For many reasons, now was the time to put it to work.

18. In the plan announced by the Fund on 27 February 1963, regarding financial compensation for the developing countries with a view to solving the balance of payments problems caused by the fall of their export receipts in specific circumstances, the Argentine delegation saw proof of the increasing attention paid by the Fund to the problems of the developing countries, and it therefore welcomed it warmly.

19. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) said that, since 1955, the membership of the United Nations and of the International Monetary Fund had risen in almost identical proportions. That parallel progress was very significant; it indicated current trends and pressures in the international economic field.

20. The world of today could be divided into three groups of countries, each of which had their own financial and monetary problems.

21. The first group, that of the highly industrialized countries, was exposed to the risks of short-term capital movements. Those countries were concerned with the obstacles that might be encountered by an increase in the volume of trade if the resources necessary for such an increase were insufficient. Their problem was therefore one of international short-term and long-term liquidity.

22. The second group consisted of countries whose economies were based essentially of monoculture. Those countries had borrowed from abroad in order to carry out their development programmes and were reluctant to enter into new commitments. In addition, they had to face the progressive deterioration of the terms of trade in their commercial relations with the industrialized countries.

23. The third group, the newly independent countries, encountered most of their difficulties in connexion with the building of their infra-structure, and needed both substantial financial support and adequate technical assistance.

24. The problems facing the different groups of countries were largely interrelated. The difficulties of the under-developed countries concerned the industrial-

ized countries also, and the latter could come to the assistance of the under-developed regions only if the world monetary system was working well.

25. That last point led to the examination of the question of the international liquidity essential to regularity of payments; the problem had two aspects: short-term liquidity and long-term liquidity.

26. So far as short-term liquidity was concerned, the report of the Fund and the conversations held in Washington had shown that the international monetary system was currently in a position to perform its functions without any need for modification. As for long-term liquidity, it would be premature to try to formulate conclusions forthwith, since the position was not yet entirely clear. The question should be studied as soon as possible, because it involved an international trade of \$130,000 million a year, not counting short-term capital movements, whereas gold reserves amounted to only \$40,000 million and their rate of growth was inadequate in relation to the increase in international trade. Was there not, therefore, a danger of such trade being limited? Would it be possible to continue using the gold standard, supported by a few key currencies? Would it perhaps be advisable to concentrate some of the available currencies in regional or world institutions?

27. It would be an exaggeration to speak of contradictory trends in the Washington discussions on those and similar problems; it was enough to say that some quarters seemed more ready than others to go more deeply into the study of long-term international liquidity.

28. Regarding the Fund's action on behalf of the developing countries, the report showed that the Fund had had many more transactions with those countries than with the industrialized nations. Moreover, although it was true that the Fund's action could apply only to temporary deficits in their balance of payments, it was a fact that the Fund was now paying more and more attention to the long-term problems of the less developed countries and that its policy had become more flexible. From that point of view, it might be said that the Fund had contributed indirectly to the realization of long-term development plans. In addition, stress had recently been laid on the part which the Fund could play in assisting the primary producing countries, still without going beyond the bounds of its present statute; the Fund had adopted more flexible criteria in favour of those countries in the form of compensatory financing which could be granted, independently of drawing rights, in the face of fluctuations in income from exports of primary products. Without harbouring too many illusions as to the amplitude of the results which a solution of that kind could bring about, it should be recognized as an important step in a new direction, and the Italian delegation welcomed it as such; it recalled, however, that the decision must be accompanied by action from all countries to facilitate access to the markets of the highly industrialized countries, and by adequate technical and financial assistance to the developing countries.

29. The action taken by the Fund therefore showed that it could adapt itself gradually to the needs of the day. That flexibility would be useful in solving problems of short and long-term international liquidity. Italy considered that increased utilization of currencies other than the dollar for the Fund's operations could help considerably to reduce the pressure on the

key currencies. The Fund's policy in that regard since 1962 had been significant. However, wider recourse to currencies other than the dollar presupposed the existence of conditions depending on the initiative of the Fund itself; so far as liquidity was concerned, some attention must be paid to seeking solutions which would facilitate the accumulation of the currencies in question. As for the utilization of those currencies, it should be based exclusively on the actual needs of the country concerned if their reconversion, which would be quite contrary to the aim in view, was to be avoided.

30. Italy was contributing to the defence of the present international monetary system, the validity of which it recognized. The action of the Italian authorities had been aimed at reducing the balance of payments surplus by reinforcing Italy's liberal import policy and promoting exports of short and long-term Italian capital. Those measures had made it possible to stabilize the level of Italy's reserves despite the expansion of its trade. The surplus of foreign exchange entering Italy had been offset by the purchase of medium-term international securities and by loans to the Government of the United States. Lastly, in order to avoid rapid transfers of capital from one market to another because of differences in interest rates, the Italian authorities had recently taken steps designed to integrate the Italian money market with the international money market.

31. In conclusion, he recalled that Italy had never applied to the International Monetary Fund for assistance and that it was now a creditor of the Fund. It was none the less anxious to make its contribution to the Fund's operations, particularly when it was a question of remedying temporary disequilibrium in the developing countries' balances of payments. Finally, the Italian delegation wished to thank Mr. Jacobsson for his work as Managing Director of the Fund.

32. Mr. CARRILLO (El Salvador) commended the International Monetary Fund for the valuable work it had accomplished and the services it had rendered in promoting international monetary co-operation by providing the necessary consultation facilities for the consideration of world monetary problems. The Fund had also contributed to the balanced growth of international trade and the development of sources of production in member countries. Moreover, it had promoted currency stability, thereby achieving one of its main objectives. Lastly, it had established effective machinery for offsetting the effects of balance of payments disequilibria. It had managed to win the confidence of its members by its readiness to make its resources available to them, subject to adequate guarantees. It was eloquent testimony to its effectiveness that most of the countries that had recently achieved independence had applied for membership in the Fund so that, by 31 December 1962, there had been eighty-one member countries, whose combined contributions amounted to \$15,000 million. The Fund's role in the matter of consultation was of particular importance to the developing countries which were seeking to establish ties with other countries so as to achieve a more profitable flow of international trade. In that connexion, his delegation hoped that the Fund would take an active part in the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. In conclusion, he associated himself with previous speakers who had congratulated Mr. Jacobsson on his efforts as Managing Director of the Fund.

33. Mr. PASTORI (Uruguay) also congratulated Mr. Jacobsson on the remarkable statement he had made to the Council. So far as Uruguay's relations with the Fund were concerned, he stressed that his Government had complied with the agreements made and that, despite the enormous efforts involved, it had maintained its currency at a stable level during the preceding four years. That was doubly significant if it was remembered that Uruguay had had to face a rise in domestic wages, largely because higher import prices had increased the cost of living.

34. The Uruguayan delegation was pleased to note that the Fund was taking steps to overcome the difficulties facing the developing countries as a result of fluctuations in the earnings they derived from the export of their primary commodities. Noting the new provisions adopted by the Fund in the matter of compensatory financing, he drew attention to two points that were of vital importance to Uruguay. First, despite what might have been said to the contrary, the deficit in Uruguay's balance of payments was not a short-term problem but a long-term phenomenon resulting from the drop in prices and the restrictions applied on the world market; in the circumstances, the assistance provided by the Fund should be consistent with the magnitude of the problem and with the needs of the situation. Secondly, it was clear that, although the problem in Uruguay and other Latin American countries was of a long-term nature, the percentage of compensatory financing out of the Fund should not necessarily be established on an *a priori* basis; the special circumstances of each country would have to be taken into account. Those remarks were not made in a spirit of criticism but with a view to achieving greater co-operation in a vital endeavour. In any case, Uruguay was pleased with the decisions which had been taken and which would no doubt mark a decisive step towards solving the problems that had been brought before the Council.

35. Mr. WODAJO (Ethiopia) said that he was pleased to note the progress that had been made by the International Monetary Fund, which had originally been intended to deal primarily with matters connected with the balance of payments of the industrialized countries and was now concerned with similar problems confronting the developing countries. The difficulties which those countries faced derived from the static nature of their economies; but if they wished to give their economies a dynamic impetus, the developing countries must contend with balance of payments problems. He had been pleased to note the efforts made by the Fund to alleviate short-term problems. It was not surprising that the developing countries had taken as great an interest as the industrialized countries in the Fund's activities in that connexion, and it was significant to note that most of the new members of the Fund were African countries. He also joined in the tributes that had been paid to Mr. Jacobsson.

36. Mr. DELGADO (Senegal) also congratulated Mr. Jacobsson on the work he had done and said that he was gratified to note the measures which the Fund had just taken in the matter of compensatory financing. He stressed that a new era of co-operation had begun between Senegal and the Fund since his country had become a member, and he pointed out that Senegal's contribution of \$7.5 million would gradually be raised to \$25 million. Senegal regarded the Fund as a key to economic development. He also pointed out that

his country's co-operation had brought about a radical change in the structure of the Central Bank of the States of West Africa. That type of international co-operation at the regional level would eventually lead to currency integration.

37. Mr. JACOBSSON (Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund) expressed appreciation for the tributes that had been paid to him. The decisions of the Fund's executive Board were taken after consultation with the various Governments concerned and, although negotiations were often lengthy, they always resulted in unanimous agreement.

38. In reply to the many representatives who had emphasized the need for the Fund to apply a flexible policy, he said that such was indeed the policy of the Fund, notwithstanding the strict monetary principles which the Fund had to observe. As a result of the prestige acquired through its orthodoxy, the Fund would be able to give sympathetic consideration to certain exceptional circumstances in individual member countries.

39. As the representative of Uruguay had pointed out, development financing certainly involved a long-term problem, but the financing offered by the Fund was on a short-term basis. It was also true, as the representative of Ethiopia had said, that the progress of developing countries entailed balance of payments problems. They were obliged to import on a large scale, and they probably had deficits in their current accounts, but they only faced serious problems if they failed to adopt a rational method of financing in time. Nowadays there were agencies that provided long-term financing that would enable them to overcome serious deficits in their balance of payments.

40. The Fund was well aware of those problems and particularly of the problem of the effect of balance of payments deficits on development. It had even decided to play a more active part in the consortia established by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and some of its most highly qualified representatives were actively participating in their meetings as observers. It could therefore be said that, although it was not in a position to devote its resources to long-term financing, the Fund was taking a close interest in that matter.

41. As regards fluctuations in commodity prices, he pointed out that if the drop in prices, which might have been feared a year earlier, had not materialized, the credit was due to the European countries and the United States, which had steadily applied a fiscal and credit policy that favoured economic growth. It would be premature to forecast future price trends, but there was no doubt that the market for raw materials had rallied in the past few months.

42. Lastly, as regards the future of the Fund, he was sure that it had sufficient liquid assets and that its institutional machinery was sufficiently flexible to afford every opportunity for dynamic growth.

43. The PRESIDENT expressed the Council's sincere gratitude to Mr. Jacobsson for the exceptional work he had accomplished as head of the International Monetary Fund. Since no proposals had been submitted on the agenda item, he proposed that the usual procedure should be followed and that the Council should adopt a resolution in which it merely took note of the report it had considered.



*It was so decided.*

### AGENDA ITEM 10

Population questions (E/3723 and Corr.1, E/CN.9/167, E/CN.9/177 and Add.1, E/CONF.41/PC/1, E/L.985) (continued)

44. Mr. MELOVSKI (Yugoslavia) recalled that in its report (E/3723 and Corr.1) the Population Commission had rightly stressed two problems: population growth and the relationship between such growth and economic and social development.

45. It appeared from the Secretariat survey of world fertility levels and trends (E/CN.9/167) that the population of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America was increasing twice as rapidly as that of the countries of Europe and North America. Those regions with a high rate of population growth were mainly countries in which there was a risk that the phenomenon of over-population might create a situation which impeded economic and social development. The Population Commission had not recommended any over-all solutions because the problem differed according to the particular conditions "in each country". That was something which, in the first place, interested countries should decide for themselves. The Secretariat survey showed, for example, that the birth-rate decreased in some countries with urbanization, improvements in education and in the status of women, and higher living levels, while it had been observed that in other countries not only had such progress not been followed by a drop in the fertility rate, but in some cases it had even resulted in a rise in that rate.

46. The Population Commission had therefore stressed the need to develop and systematize the studies on the various aspects of the world demographic situation and its relationship with economic and social development. In that connexion, the Secretary-General's questionnaire should adopt a scientific approach, without prejudging the policies or measures which Governments would want to adopt.

47. His delegation fully endorsed the general view of the Population Commission that the acceleration of economic and social development should be the main goal of developing countries and that the problem of demographic growth could and should be solved within the context of general efforts for the acceleration of economic and social development by the creation of necessary material conditions and the production of material goods so as to meet the growing needs of the society. That was the only way of ensuring a durable solution. That would naturally not prevent the countries which needed to limit their population growth in order to adjust it to their economic needs from taking any other measures they deemed advisable.

48. As recommended by the Commission, regional demographic activities should also be intensified and improved, with due regard to the role which the regional economic commissions could play in that respect.

49. Significant among those activities in the near future would be the holding of two conferences. The Yugoslav Government had invited one of them, the second World Population Conference, to meet at Belgrade. In connexion with that invitation, his delegation thanked the French representative for the tribute he had paid to Yugoslavia in his statement at the 1244th meeting, but wished to emphasize that the Yugoslav

Government had no intention of taking precedence over the African or Latin American countries. It had made its offer only after being informed by the Secretariat that no invitation had been received from the countries in question. There would therefore be no point in altering the order of the sub-divisions of paragraph 3 (b) of draft resolution I, as the French representative had proposed. That provision merely noted the Yugoslav offer and left the door open for any invitations which might be extended by African or Latin American countries.

50. His delegation supported the two draft resolutions appearing in chapter XII of the report of the Population Commission (E/3723 and Corr.1) and the draft resolution submitted by the representative of Japan (E/L.985).

51. Mr. DELGADO (Senegal) said that his delegation appreciated the scientific nature of the report of the Population Commission. The problem of population growth and its relationship with economic development, although complex and controversial, was of particular interest to planners in every country. Africa was no exception for, as was shown by the report of the Seminar on Population Problems in Africa (E/CN.14/186), held at Cairo in the autumn of 1962, the rate of population growth in Africa was higher than in other developing regions. That factor, together with the economic and social structure of the active population, was liable to be an obstacle to the economic and social development of almost all African countries. Consequently, even if in those countries an annual rate of growth of national income of 5 per cent was attained by the end of the United Nations Development Decade, the resulting increase in per caput income would be only slight.

52. The Senegalese Government had given that problem much thought when preparing the first four-year development plan (1960-1964). It had been established that children under fourteen accounted for 41 per cent of the population and that in thirty years' time the population would grow from 3 million to 6 million, which was an annual rate of increase of 2 to 2.5 per cent.

53. All the African countries must make a special effort to solve population questions and that effort could be facilitated by United Nations assistance. His delegation therefore fully supported the draft resolutions and very positive recommendations submitted by the Population Commission. The questions of censuses, the development of civil registration and internal migration were specifically African problems which should be solved as a matter of urgency.

54. His delegation welcomed the idea of a demographic training and research unit in the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to be opened shortly at Dakar. So far as the establishment of regional centres was concerned, such centres should be geographically distributed so that they could successfully meet the requirements of all the African countries.

55. He supported the idea of holding the next World Population Conference in an African or Latin American country. The Senegalese Government was ready to co-operate whole-heartedly in the implementation of the Population Commission's recommendations.

56. Mr. MATSCH (Austria) said that his delegation was fully aware of the need to publish statistical data

on the world demographic situation and to improve census methods. The results of censuses would provide a sound basis for the selection of economic and social policies and for further studies on the effect of population changes on economic and social development in a given region or country. His delegation therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to carry out an inquiry of world fertility levels and thought that the study on that question (E/CN.9/167) added considerably to the available knowledge in that regard. But some of the data were only approximate, and methods of inquiry would have to be further improved before comparisons could be made and long-term projections established at an international level.

57. He supported the suggestion of holding the second World Population Conference in 1965, which would make possible a more detailed evaluation of the data provided by Governments that had taken censuses in 1960-1961. With regard to the documentation to be prepared for the Conference, his delegation would give high priority to the revision of the 1952 study entitled The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends.<sup>1/</sup>

58. With regard to the manner in which the Secretary-General should put General Assembly resolution 1838 (XVII) into effect, his delegation associated itself with those which had recommended the method followed by the Secretary-General on other occasions, namely, of requesting Governments to provide all information on the matters in question. In any case, a questionnaire did not seem necessary for the purposes of the proposed inquiry, as the subject under discussion was controversial and delicate.

59. Mr. SOLODOVNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation appreciated the Secretariat's effort to intensify its activities in the demographic field. It attached great importance to the problem of population, particularly so far as it affected economic and social development prospects. The importance of that problem to many countries, particularly the economically less developed, could not be denied.

60. There was concern lest the excessively high birth-rate might not only continue but increase. There had been references to a population explosion presenting a threat even more serious than nuclear weapons. Some Western circles were making use of those neo-Malthusian ideas to distract world public opinion from the real causes of the poverty of the under-developed countries, by attributing economic backwardness to excessively rapid population growth, rather than to long years of exploitation in the colonial era. Efforts were being made to use the United Nations to spread propaganda on that subject and to disseminate theories which were at variance with reality.

61. The demographic problem was not in fact a real one. It existed only because in some countries the level of production was too low and was not rising at the same rate as the population. His delegation thought it was the duty of United Nations bodies, and particularly of the Population Commission, to speak out against Malthusian explanations of population changes. If population problems were to be eliminated, emphasis must be placed on the development of all sectors of the economy of developing countries, particularly agricultural production, and on improved

standards of living and education for the population, rather than on efforts to find ways of decreasing the population.

62. Similarly, the proposed inquiry to be made of Governments on the reciprocal action of economic development and population changes should not stress only problems connected with birth control. It should also deal with economic conditions in the various countries and their effects on population movements, and with the necessary measures to increase the rate of economic development beyond that of population growth.

63. He noted with satisfaction that the United Nations had expanded its activities at the regional level in the demographic field. In that connexion, he pointed out that the competent agencies in his country were in a position to provide technical assistance to the less developed countries in their demographic inquiries, having considerable experience and trained staff in that field.

64. He regretted that, as a result of the decisions taken with regard to the second World Population Conference, the membership would consist of experts and scientists acting in their individual capacity, rather than of Government delegations, a more logical arrangement. The conclusions and results on the Conference could only be addressed to Governments or governmental organizations. It was also a pity that the work proposed for 1963 regarding migration from rural areas and the effects of internal migration on the urban and rural populations of the less developed countries was to be deferred until 1964.

65. Mr. ATTOLICO (Italy) said he would not deal at the moment with the merits of the report submitted by the Population Commission (E/3723 and Corr.1). He noted, however, that that document showed clearly the intricacies and complexities of population problems.

66. Referring to chapter III of the report, the chapter entitled "Population growth and economic development", he recalled his delegation's clearly defined attitude towards that question when the latter had been considered at the seventeenth session of the General Assembly. His delegation was still convinced that the United Nations could in no way act in conflict with certain fundamental principles and tenets covering the way of life of his country. In that connexion, he reiterated the views advanced by the Italian representative on the Population Commission with regard to the recommendation to conduct an inquiry among Member States concerning the problems confronting them as a result of the reciprocal action of economic development and population changes. He consequently thought that the inquiry recommended by the General Assembly and approved by the Population Commission should be carried out in conformity with paragraph 3 of resolution 1838 (XVII), which provided clear enough terms of reference as to the information to be elicited from Member States. Italy would oppose strongly the use of any form of detailed questionnaire drawn up by the United Nations Secretariat, for such a method would be quite unsuited to the widely varying situations existing throughout the world in that connexion. Indeed, the Italian delegation maintained that a questionnaire would limit the possibilities for Government to present those situations and might change the nature and scope of the proposed inquiry. It hoped that the Secretary-General would take those reservations into account

<sup>1/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: 53.XIII.3.

and would act in accordance with the specific recommendations of the General Assembly, as there was no justification for any other procedure.

67. Mr. PASTORI (Uruguay) offered his delegation's congratulations to the Population Commission for its report. His delegation recognized the importance of population problems, particularly in connexion with the preparation of economic and social development programmes in developing countries. The Uruguayan Government had started a national census which would be completed during the current year. It would thereby have attained one of the objectives which the Population Commission considered of fundamental importance.

68. The Commission in its report had proposed to the Council for adoption two draft resolutions which his delegation was, for several reasons, unfortunately not in a position to support.

69. First, the report of the Preparatory Committee for the second World Population Conference (E/CONF.41/PC/1), approved by the Population Commission, suggested, in paragraph 25, that documents prepared during the Conference should not be issued in Spanish. That was unjustifiable, as the Population Commission was a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council and as the publication of Conference documents in Spanish would not entail any great additional expense.

70. Moreover, draft resolution I proposed by the Population Commission ignored, in operative paragraph 1, an elementary principle, namely, that it was for each Government to decide its own policy in demographic matters and to formulate its own programmes

of action. The adoption of that paragraph would be a flagrant infringement of General Assembly resolution 1838 (XVII). Moreover, paragraph 1 of that draft resolution, as now worded, was a blanket approval of the agenda of the Conference, which included such topics as the effectiveness of measures aimed at influencing fertility, as well as the attitudes and motives pertaining to fertility, and the knowledge and practice of methods of fertility control. Questions relating to the great mystery of life were beyond the competence of the Council. Were representatives qualified to reveal the secrets of men who might have been born but were not born? Moreover, the Council would be accepting indirectly a policy in which the United Nations could not become involved. At the same time, it would be tackling economic and demographic problems in a half-hearted manner, in a spirit of renunciation and with a lack of faith in the better future that universal efforts would bring. His delegation thought that no decision should be taken without careful reflection and that the Council should not adopt a resolution whose consequences were not foreseeable. His delegation was also opposed to the submission to Governments of a detailed questionnaire, which might be tendentious, to elicit their opinion on population problems. Such a questionnaire would be useless, because the General Assembly resolution was already sufficiently clear and because each Government was perfectly capable of providing the information which it considered relevant on all questions regarding that subject.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.