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Seventeenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 28 February 1961, at 3.15 p.m.

CONTENTS

Freedom of information (E/CN.4/814 and Add.1; E/CN.4/L.580/Rev.1,
L.581/Rev.1, L.582, L.583, L.584) (continued)

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. JHA	(India)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. BRILLANTES	Philippines
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. PAZHWAK	Afghanistan
	Mr. AMADEO)	Argentina
	Mr. ABREU)	
	Mr. ERMACORA	Austria
	Mr. CHENG PAONAN	China
	Mr. MADSEN	Denmark
	Mr. CASSIN	France
	Mr. VELLODI)	India
	Mr. BHADKAMKAR)	
	Miss KAMAL	Iraq
	Mr. BEAUFORT	Netherlands
	Mr. HAKIM	Pakistan
	Mr. ILLUECA	Panama
	Mr. WYZNER	Poland
	Mr. NEDBAILLO	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
	Mr. MOROZOV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Sir Samuel HOARE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. KLUTZNICK	United States of America
	Mr. ARRAIZ	Venezuela
<u>Also present:</u>	Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX	Commission on the Status of Women
<u>Observers from Member States:</u>		
	Mr. RICSECO	Chile
	Mr. NAGASHIMA	Japan
<u>Representatives of specialized agencies:</u>		
	Mr. ZMIROU	International Labour Organisation
	Mr. ORR	Food and Agriculture Organization
	Mr. BEHRSTOCK	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. HUMPHREY	Director, Division of Human Rights
	Mr. DAS	Secretary of the Commission

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (E/CN.4/814 and Add.1; E/CN.4/L.580/Rev.1, L.581/Rev.1, L.582, L.583, L.584) (continued)

Mr. PAZHWAQ (Afghanistan) said that, since operative sub-paragraph 4 (f) had been re-worded in the revised draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.580/Rev.1), he withdrew his amendment (E/CN.4/L.582, point 4) to delete it. However, he preferred the text of the Indian amendment (E/CN.4/L.584) and hoped it would be adopted by the Commission. However, the words "accurate and undistorted" qualifying "information" in that amendment seemed tautological and one of the terms could be omitted.

With regard to operative paragraph 7 of the revised draft resolution, he suggested the insertion of the word "specific" before the word "recommendations", the word "concrete" before the word "measures", and the words "through international co-operation" after the word "undertaken". Reference should also be made in the same paragraph to the results of the regional meeting held at Bangkok.

Mr. ARRAIZ (Venezuela), on behalf of the co-sponsors, withdrew amendment E/CN.4/L.583, since its substance had been incorporated in operative paragraph 5 of the revised draft resolution.

Mr. VELLODI (India) proposed that the words "less developed" should be substituted for the word "under-developed" wherever it occurred in the revised draft resolution.

His delegation was proposing a new operative sub-paragraph 4 (f) (E/CN.4/L.584) because it considered that the text of the revised draft resolution was too vague. He saw no reason for avoiding the specific reference which UNESCO had made to tariff and fiscal policies in its recommendation.

The words "accurate and undistorted" had been used in the amendment because they occurred in a similar context in General Assembly resolution 1313 (XIII).

Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) traced the background of Council resolution 718 (XXVIII) and stressed that the sponsors of the original draft resolution introduced in the Commission on Human Rights had quite clearly wanted the Secretary-General to prepare the substantive report for submission directly to the Council. However, the same resolution provided for an annual review of developments by the Commission, so that its particular competence in the field of information remained unaffected.

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(Mr. Brillantes, Philippines)

In reply to the Afghan representative, he would be quite willing to replace sub-paragraph 4 (f) with the Indian amendment (E/CN.4/L.584), provided that the words "the development of national information media and" were inserted before the words "the free flow". Since the recommendation in question was concerned merely with the free flow of information it seemed unnecessary to include the words "accurate and undistorted", but he would have no objection if the Commission decided to retain them.

The amendments suggested by the Afghan representative to operative paragraph 7 were also acceptable although it seemed unnecessary to make specific mention of the Bangkok regional meeting since the UNESCO report had already taken into account the findings of that meeting.

Finally, the sponsors were quite ready to use the term "less developed countries" rather than "under-developed countries" throughout the resolution.

Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) felt that the additional reference to the Bangkok meeting in operative paragraph 7, while not perhaps essential, would give the paragraph greater balance and ensure that UNESCO took into account the views of all regions in preparing its report. He had no objection to the incorporation in the Indian amendment of the additional phrase suggested by the Philippines representative but felt it would not be out of place to include one of the adjectives qualifying "information".

Mr. VELLODI (India) accepted the insertion of the phrase "the development of national information media and" before the words "the free flow" in his amendment (E/CN.4/L.584).

Mr. BEAUFORT (Netherlands) observed that the revised text of the joint draft resolution was a considerable improvement over the original one, particularly as regards the more careful wording of operative paragraph 4. His delegation accepted the new text whole-heartedly.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the words "accurate and undistorted information" should be retained in the Indian amendment because they had been included in the original resolution adopted by the Commission, and their omission at the present stage might cause surprise. The

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(Mr. Morozov, USSR)

two terms were not actually synonymous and he appealed to the sponsors of the revised text to include them both.

Miss KAMAL (Iraq) said that the amendment she had put forward had already been incorporated in operative paragraph 6 by the inclusion of the word "national" before the words "information media". She fully supported the Indian amendment and the minor changes which had been suggested by the Afghan representative.

Mr. CHENG PAONAN (China) suggested that the words "inter alia" in the introductory part of operative paragraph 4 were redundant. They might be replaced by the word "especially". He drew attention to the fact that, while subparagraphs (a) to (h) of operative paragraph 4 reproduced the substance of the recommendations in the UNESCO report, they nevertheless incorporated certain changes which the Commission had agreed to make. The Commission might wish to reflect that fact in the preamble to the draft resolution.

Mr. ARRAIZ (Venezuela) remarked that, although the expression "less developed countries" might be more acceptable in the English text, he hoped that it might be rendered in all cases in the Spanish version by the expression "insuficientemente desarrollados", which was generally preferred by the Spanish-speaking countries of that category.

The CHAIRMAN stated that, with the concurrence of the other Spanish-speaking members of the Commission, the expression proposed by the Venezuelan representative would be used in the Spanish text.

Mr. ORR (Food and Agriculture Organization) said that he was unfortunately not in a position to give a full explanation in response to the question concerning his agency which the Netherlands representative had raised at the 676th meeting (E/CN.4/SR.676, page 3). FAO's Advisory Committee on Pulp and Paper had met at Rome in January 1961 and, in commenting on the Tokyo Conference on Pulp and Paper Development, had expressed particular satisfaction with the organization and achievements of that Conference and had endorsed its recommendations. It had noted that, in seeking to give effect to those recommendations, the Asian Governments would look for increasing assistance from FAO, both under its regular

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(Mr. Orr, FAO)

programme and in its capacity as executing agent for Special Fund projects. The Advisory Committee had also stated that the resources at present available were not sufficient for a programme adequate to implement all the recommendations made at the Tokyo Conference. However, FAO would do everything it could to implement them, within the limitations of its resources.

Mr. BEHRSTOCK (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), commenting on the suggestion made by the Afghan representative, said that he doubted that it was necessary to include in operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution a reference to the regional meeting held at Bangkok in 1960, as the initial UNESCO report (E/CN.4/814) had been based in large part on the results of that meeting. The results of the Santiago and Addis Ababa meetings, on the other hand, had not been taken into account in preparing document E/CN.4/814. In drafting a further report, UNESCO would of course make use of all available information.

Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) agreed to withdraw his suggestion, provided that the UNESCO representative's comment was reflected in the Rapporteur's report.

Sir Samuel HOARE (United Kingdom) thanked the co-sponsors of the draft resolution for having accepted certain modifications suggested by his delegation.

He agreed with the Chinese representative that the words "inter alia" in operative paragraph 4 were unnecessary and he proposed their deletion.

His delegation did not consider it would be correct to say in the preamble to the resolution that the Commission had modified the recommendations contained in the UNESCO report. The Commission had merely, in referring to the subject of those recommendations, described them in terms which were slightly different, in some instances, from those employed by UNESCO. He agreed with the Philippine representative's comment concerning the Indian amendment (E/CN.4/L.584). It might be necessary, in certain contexts, to add the words "accurate and undistorted" before the word "information", but they were not essential in operative sub-paragraph 4 (f). However, he did not object to their inclusion. His delegation would vote for the Indian and other amendments which had been proposed, and for the draft resolution as thus amended.

Mr. KLUTZNICK (United States of America), speaking on behalf of the co-sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.4/L.580/Rev.1, accepted the amendments to

(Mr. Klutznick, United States)

operative paragraph 7 which had been proposed by the Afghan representative. The co-sponsors also accepted the United Kingdom proposal to delete the words "inter alia" in operative paragraph 4 and agreed to substitute the Indian amendment (E/CN.4/L.584) as amended in the course of the meeting for the present text of operative sub-paragraph 4 (f).

The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to vote on the French amendments (E/CN.4/L.581/Rev.1).

The French amendments (E/CN.4/L.581/Rev.1) were adopted by 15 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Draft resolution E/CN.4/L.580/Rev.1, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.