United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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second committee, 591st

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Chairman: Mr. Marcial TAMAYO (Bolivia).

AGENDA ITEM 29

Progress and operations of the Special Fund (A/4217¹/ and Add.1, A/4143, chap. III, sec. XIII, A/C.2/L.408/Rev.1) (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF THE SIXTEEN-POWER DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/C.2/L.408/Rev.1) (concluded)

1. Mr. OMAR (Afghanistan) said that the modified draft was an improvement on the original text and appeared to reflect the views of the majority of members of the Committee. A measure of agreement had also been reached on the amendments submitted jointly by the Byelorussian and Bulgarian delegations (A/C.2/L.409). The main issue outstanding was that of the proposed new paragraph (which would become paragraph 4) concerning the utilization of resources. In a final effort to break the deadlock on that matter, his delegation would suggest that the paragraph should be redrafted to read:

"Expresses its confidence that the Managing Director, from the outset of the operations of the Fund, in conformity with all the provisions related to voluntary contributions and use of resources embodied in resolution 1240 (XIII), will endeavour to make the fullest possible use of all resources available to the Special Fund."

2. Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) stated that the sponsors of the amendment were prepared to accept that text as a compromise in the hope of securing the unanimous support of the Committee. His delegation attached great importance to the principle of the full and rational use of the Fund's resources. In that connexion, he recalled that at the Committee's 514th meeting, during the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Fund, Mr. Mir Khan, had stated that the Committee construed the financial provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 1240 (XIII) to mean that contributions might be paid in national currencies. At the Committee's 523rd meeting his delegation had requested that that point should be duly recorded, and would repeat that request. He hoped that the Managing Director and the Governing Council would interpret the paragraph formulated by the Afghan representative in the light of the statement of the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee.

3. Some delegations had suggested that resolutions adopted at earlier sessions could in no circumstance be altered. His delegation did not agree: there was no reason at all why the General Assembly should not improve on earlier decisions if it thought fit. In the present instance it was only logical to suppose that if there were more countries to draw upon there would be a larger volume of contributions.

4. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) said that his delegation continued to believe that the proposed new paragraph was unnecessary, but was prepared to accept the text put forward by the Afghan representative on the clear understanding that General Assembly resolution 1240 (XIII), part B, section VI, still governed the Managing Director's actions in the matter of contributions and that nothing in the present resolution gave him any powers not conferred by that resolution. It had always been understood that contributions could be made in national currencies, although they should preferably be made in readily usable currencies. The choice of projects to be executed must depend solely on the needs and requests of the less developed countries and not in any measure on the currencies available for use. Once projects had been selected, it was for the Managing Director to make the best use of the resources available.

5. Mr. THEARD (Haiti) stated that his delegation would support the text in its present form.

6. Mr. ERROCK (United Kingdom) said that although his delegation considered the paragraph redundant, it could accept the skilfully rephrased version suggested by the Afghan representative as it incorporated, essentially, the points already agreed to by the sponsors.

7. Mr. ADARKAR (India) also supported the revised text offered by the Afghan delegation.

8. Mr. TEIXEIRA PINTO (Portugal) announced that his delegation would withdraw its amendment concerning the voluntary character of contributions as the point was covered by the proposed new paragraph.

9. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the proposal of the Bulgarian and Byelorussian delegations that in operative paragraph 4 the words "States Members of the United Nations, of any of the specialized agencies, or of the International Atomic Energy Agency" should be replaced by the words "all States wishing to participate in the Special Fund" and that the words "to the Special Fund" should be deleted.

The amendment was rejected by 35 votes to 12, with 27 abstentions.

^{1/} Note by the Secretary-General transmitting to the General Assembly the report of the Governing Council of the Special Fund to the Economic and Social Council (E/3270).

10. The CHAIRMAN took it that there was no objection to the incorporation in the draft resolution of the paragraph formulated by the Afghan representative. He invited the Committee to vote on the draft resolution as a whole (A/C.2/L.408/Rev.1), as amended.

11. Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) requested a separate vote on operative paragraph 5 (originally paragraph 4).

Operative paragraph 5 was adopted by 58 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.

The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

12. Mr. UMARI (Iraq), explaining his vote, said that his delegation considered that the membership of the Special Fund should be universal since the participation of all in measures to assist the less developed countries and promote their economic prosperity could alone guarantee peace and security in the world.

13. Although the Special Fund had not attained the stature the proponents of SUNFED had had in mind, it had made a good start and the present resolution would, he believed, help it forward in its work. Nothing that had been said in the Committee should, he thought, be taken as a reflection on the policy or actions of the Managing Director.

14. Mr. STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia) thought that the Committee might be grateful to the Afghan representative for his efforts to achieve a compromise.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.