

countries. Within the framework of that assistance, the members of CMEA had already trained more than 400,000 skilled workers in developing countries, and some 25,000 students from those countries were attending courses at educational institutes in the Council's member countries. At its 1973 session, CMEA had decided to establish a fellowship fund, which was of very great importance to the scientific and technological development of the developing countries. The fund had begun operations in the 1974/75 university year and would facilitate the training of qualified specialists in the developing countries.

21. On 4 July 1975, an agreement had been concluded between the CMEA countries and Iraq for the development of scientific, economic and cultural co-operation. That agreement, the first to have been concluded between CMEA and a developing country which was not a member of the Council, was a follow-up to already extensive bilateral

co-operation. A similar agreement had been concluded on 13 August 1975 with Mexico.

22. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that co-operation among all countries would be strengthened through, *inter alia*, the judicious use of all available resources.

#### *Organization of work*

23. The CHAIRMAN announced that, in accordance with the practice followed at the two preceding sessions, the two Vice-Chairmen would be responsible for co-ordinating the informal consultations on proposals submitted under the items on the Committee's agenda. The apportionment of agenda items between the two Vice-Chairmen would appear in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

*The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.*

## 1657th meeting

Tuesday, 30 September 1975, at 3.10 p.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Olof RYDBECK (Sweden).

A/C.2/SR.1657

### GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. OLTEANU (Observer for the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the goal of CMEA was to co-ordinate the efforts of member States in achieving planned economic development, strengthening economic progress and integration among member States, raising the level of industrialization in the less industrialized member States and increasing the productivity of labour and the living standards of the peoples of the member States.

2. Bilateral and multilateral co-operation was being carried out in accordance with the Comprehensive Programme for the Further Extension and Improvement of Co-operation and the Development of Socialist Economic Integration, adopted at the twenty-fifth session of CMEA at Bucharest in 1971.

3. Member States of CMEA felt that the key to the organization of co-operation and the strengthening of the international socialist division of labour lay in co-ordination of planning, which took various forms, including the preparation of forecasts and the co-ordination of five-year and long-term development plans in the most important sectors of the economy, science and technology, the joint planning of various aspects of industry and the sharing of experience in the area of planning and management. For that purpose the CMEA Committee for Co-operation in the Field of Planned Activities, consisting of representatives of the central planning bodies of the member States, had been formed at the twenty-fifth session of the Council.

4. The member States of CMEA had begun efforts to co-ordinate their economic plans in 1954. Work was

currently in progress to co-ordinate the plans for the period 1976-1980. Experience had shown that the co-ordination of economic plans had enabled the member States of CMEA to solve a wide range of economic problems. Co-ordination in planning was made possible by the planned nature of economic development in socialist countries and took advantage of the new type of international economic relations existing between those countries.

5. The co-ordination of economic planning undertaken in CMEA was based on the principles of socialist internationalism, respect for the sovereignty of Governments and their independence and national interests, non-interference in the internal affairs of countries, complete equality of rights, mutual benefit and comradely mutual assistance.

6. The Council did not attempt to interfere in problems of the internal planning of countries. In solving such problems, member States were guided primarily by internal considerations and national interests; they did, however, take into account the interests of other countries and the possibilities and needs for co-operation. Member States could thus take maximum advantage of mutual co-operation and assistance in the development of their plans.

7. Co-ordination in planning in CMEA dealt with a number of aspects of co-operation which were of decisive importance in the economic development and relations of the member States. The range of problems and the depth of their study in the co-ordination of planning were determined by mutual agreement by the member States of CMEA and included the main areas of scientific and technical progress and co-operation, the development of specialization and co-operation in production with a view to the organization of a rational scale of production using

- the latest technology, the co-ordination of investments in areas of mutual interest with a view to achieving maximum efficiency in the creation of new production capacity and the development of energy and raw materials for the most important branches of industry, and the establishment of the range, quantity and time-limits for the delivery of goods and services. Organs of CMEA were currently working on agreements with regard to the delivery of fuel, raw materials, machinery and consumer goods, which would serve as the basis for trade agreements between the member States for the years 1976-1980.
8. A number of intergovernmental agreements had been concluded with regard to raw material and energy problems, such as the agreements on co-operation in the construction of several large plants. As a result, the delivery of natural gas and iron ore from the Soviet Union to the European member States of CMEA had increased significantly.
9. A general agreement on co-operation in the development of new production capacities for nickel and cobalt products had been signed with the Republic of Cuba.
10. Various measures taken in conjunction with the agreements on co-ordinating economic plans were to be found in the Co-ordinated Plan for Multilateral Integration Measures for the Member Countries for 1976-1980. For the implementation of those measures, each member State of CMEA provided, in its economic plan, for the material, financial, labour and other resources required for the performance of the obligations undertaken. The co-ordination of the five-year plans had led to mutual consultations on basic economic policy problems and the elaboration of forecasts.
11. Long-range plan co-ordination had been applied in the following sectors: fuel and energy, including atomic energy; raw materials for ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy and for the chemical, paper, cellulose and light industries; and in the area of complex machinery and instruments. More detailed information could be found in the report prepared by the CMEA secretariat entitled "Information on the co-operation among the CMEA member countries in the field of planned activities", which had been made available to members of the Second Committee.
12. The measures contained in the Comprehensive Programme of 1971 opened up new possibilities for the further gradual equalization of the level of economic development of member States of CMEA through the maximum mobilization and effective exploitation of the resources and efforts of the countries concerned and the advantages of the international socialist division of labour. Twenty-five years previously, when CMEA had been formed, member States had had predominantly agrarian or agrarian-industrialized economies. Currently they derived most of their national income from industry.
13. The rates of growth for national income, industrial production and investment for the economically less developed member States were generally higher than the already quite high analogous indicators in all countries. It should be mentioned that the member States of CMEA whose rates of economic growth were the highest also had a higher rate of expansion of capital formation.
14. Special interest had been shown by member States of CMEA in the development of the economy of the Mongolian People's Republic through bilateral and multilateral agreements.
15. The Council was ready to share its already great experience in the area of co-operation in planning with any country desiring to take advantage of that experience.
16. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, since the general debate was taking place only a few days after the closure (on 16 September) of the seventh special session of the General Assembly on problems of development and international economic co-operation, it would not be surprising if the discussion embraced political as well as economic problems. The thirtieth session must deal with the establishment of the necessary political conditions for social and economic development, the elimination of the arbitrary activities of foreign capital. The sixth and seventh special sessions had marked important stages in that difficult process, as had the adoption of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (resolution 3281 (XXIX)).
17. The successes of the developing countries were linked with the role played by socialism. The growth of the forces of socialism and the weakening of imperialism were creating opportunities for the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America to advance towards independence and progress. Although compelled to recognize the political independence of the former colonies, the imperialists still hoped to keep them under their domination by economic means, by the methods of neo-colonialism. Yet that strategy was clearly bankrupt, as a result of the fundamental swing in favour of socialism and progress, the easing of international tension and confirmation of the principle of peaceful coexistence. The task was now to translate political détente into military détente, to make real progress in limiting the nuclear arms race and preventing nuclear war, and to achieve general and complete disarmament.
18. The easing of international tension was creating favourable conditions for the restructuring of economic relations on a just and equal basis. In its resolution 3176 (XXVIII), the General Assembly emphasized that international peace and security were essential conditions for the social and economic progress of all countries. That and other provisions had been embodied in the progressive decisions of the sixth and seventh special sessions and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. Those important documents not only established a direct link between social and economic development and international peace and security but also condemned colonialism, neo-colonialism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, uncovered the pernicious activities of capitalist monopolies and affirmed the principles of justice, equality of rights, non-discrimination and mutual advantage.
19. The review of the Second United Nations Development Decade should take account of the need to implement the decisions of the sixth and seventh special sessions and of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, to eliminate injustices from international relations, to support the efforts of the developing countries to achieve economic independence and industrialization, and to limit the activ-

ities of transnational corporations, which threatened the developing countries' independence. Interference by such corporations had prepared the way for the fascist coup d'état in Chile and was exacerbating the situation of certain other countries. The currently fashionable compromises must not become an end in themselves and must not be made at the expense of the final goal of economic independence.

20. The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe had marked an important success in the struggle of the socialist countries for the strengthening of peace and security and the development of equal and mutually advantageous co-operation. Even the Western countries were becoming convinced of the need for a constructive approach to the solution of European problems. The Final Act of the Conference, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975, laid down the fundamental principles governing relations among States not only in the political field but also with regard to co-operation in many other economic, cultural and social fields. The significance of the agreements reached at the Conference would become even more apparent as détente developed.

21. The termination of the arms race and the strengthening of political détente through military détente would free enormous resources for the development of all countries. General and complete disarmament had always been an essential part of Soviet foreign policy. The Soviet Union had taken the initiative for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of two important items concerning disarmament. In addition, the Soviet proposal concerning the reduction of the military budgets of the States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent, which the General Assembly had approved (resolution 3093 (XXVIII)), would release enormous resources for the provision of additional assistance to the developing countries. At a time when such huge sums were being expended on armaments it was difficult to talk seriously about accelerating social and economic development. The review of the International Development Strategy must therefore take account of the connexion between peace, disarmament and development. That was particularly important when the opponents of peace and disarmament were issuing threats about the inevitability of thermonuclear war while they themselves did nothing to prevent it and even interfered with others in their struggle for peace and social and economic progress.

22. As part of its peaceful foreign policy the Soviet Union had consistently supported the national liberation struggle of peoples against colonial and imperialist domination.

23. The Soviet Union had agreements on economic and technological co-operation with 54 developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, under which it was assisting 2,000 projects. It was participating in the establishment and strengthening of the State sector of the economy, notably the development of productive forces and national industry on a modern basis. The priority given to industry in that co-operation was determined by the desire of the developing countries to overcome their backwardness, and improve their position in the international division of labour and in world trade. Industry was the most important instrument for the modernization of other branches of the economy.

The assistance rendered by the Soviet Union was making an important contribution to the improvement of the industrial potential of young States.

24. His country was rendering extensive assistance with the training of national cadres, both by sending Soviet specialists to the developing countries and by giving nationals of the developing countries experience in Soviet enterprises. His country was helping young independent States to organize their own training systems, and in recent years some 450,000 persons had received Soviet-supported training.

25. In its relations with the developing countries, the Soviet Union was guided by the following principles: to implement existing and establish additional programmes for the extension of trade and economic co-operation on a long-term, mutually advantageous basis; to extend economic, scientific and technological co-operation; to continue to promote scientific and technological experience and knowledge; to increase the import of goods from the developing countries; to extend and improve economic links by means of specialization and co-operation in individual branches of production; to increase the export to the developing countries of goods needed for their economic development; to assist with the planning of the development of national economies.

26. His country would continue to develop friendly links with the developing countries which pursued a progressive policy rejecting neo-colonialism and aiming at equal and mutually advantageous international co-operation with all countries. Soviet co-operation with the developing countries was built on a long-term basis and its perspectives were determined by the planned and crisis-free development of its national economy and its active participation, together with the other members of the socialist community, in the process of socialist economic integration. In that connexion it was sufficient to refer to the achievements described by the observer for CMEA.

27. The mid-term review and appraisal should include an analysis of the implementation of the programme, goals and tasks of the Second United Nations Development Decade: the reasons for their non-implementation must be made clear and ways of overcoming the difficulties must be found. The recent acute economic and financial crisis in the capitalist countries had had a negative effect on the situation of the developing countries and the severe upheavals caused by the very nature of the capitalist system had undermined the implementation of the goals of the Decade.

28. The fundamental reason for the failure to implement the programme lay in the policy of those who continued to base their economic relations on exploitation, colonial and neo-colonial domination and on the unequal position of the developing countries in the world capitalist economic system. Many other reasons for the non-attainment of the goals of the programme were mentioned in the decisions of the sixth and seventh special sessions.

29. The attitude of the Soviet Union with regard to methods of solving the problems of economic co-operation and development was well known. It had been set forth, in

particular in the joint statement by eight socialist countries on the Second United Nations Development Decade<sup>1</sup>, the declaration by the socialist countries at the third session of UNCTAD<sup>2</sup>, the statement by nine socialist countries on the first review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade<sup>3</sup>, and the statement on promoting the development of co-operation in economic, trade, scientific and technological matters on the basis of equality<sup>4</sup>. Those documents indicated radical means of correcting existing injustices in the international capitalist division of labour. Implementation of the proposals made would facilitate the speedy establishment of a new international economic order.

30. Special attention should be paid to the need to adopt a "unified approach" to the economic and social development of the developing countries. The Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council had concluded that such an approach was of great significance, although at its twenty-ninth session the General Assembly had unfortunately been unable to complete its consideration of the topic. In its resolution 1747 (LIV) the Economic and Social Council drew attention to the close link between the implementation of the goals of the Second Development Decade and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and it stressed the importance of a unified approach. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 7 (XXIV),<sup>5</sup> the Commission for Social Development had drawn attention to the need to identify the fundamental reforms essential to the development of the developing countries. It was obvious that economic development could not be separated from social development or stand in opposition to social progress. Development must be directed towards an improvement of the living conditions of the majority of the population and not of a privileged minority. For example, Soviet development plans laid down not only the targets of economic growth but also a broad programme of economic measures. It was the task of Soviet planning organs to ensure that the distribution of the national income guaranteed the improved welfare of the whole people.

31. The forthcoming mid-term review and appraisal exercise should have a practical rather than an academic value. It would be incorrect to rely on formal quantitative indicators to the detriment of analysis of the real causes of the economic difficulties of the developing countries. The so-called "universal" quantitative indicators of economic growth did not necessarily indicate changes in the position of individual developing countries in the international division of labour or improvement in the social and economic situation of the working masses of the population. Accordingly, the analysis of real trends in the situation of the developing countries and assessment of the optimum

balance between economic growth and social justice must be a priority task in the review and appraisal exercise.

32. Sections in the final document on that exercise should be devoted to the planning of social and economic development, the training of national cadres, progressive taxation, the just distribution of national income and—most important—the promotion of the State sector and State social and economic planning. Those problems were viewed as secondary in the existing draft report prepared by the Secretariat. Special attention should be paid to measures for the improvement of agriculture and of the food situation in the developing countries, strict control of the activities of transnational corporations, and implementation of social and economic reforms. The Secretariat documents, in particular document E/CN.5/519, which was before the Committee under agenda item 82, had many substantial methodological shortcomings: they were all based on the capitalist method of economic management, on the principles of the market economy. Yet practical experience in international economic relations demonstrated that economic growth could best be achieved when relations were based on planning. The document on review and appraisal must take that fact into account.

33. His delegation also wished to make it clear to those who might try to push through the Assembly the idea of equal and joint responsibility and the doctrine of the interdependence of a united world, who talked tendentiously about the notion of solidarity and even spoke of the special responsibility of all industrially developed countries, that it viewed all such arguments as an attempt to cover up the fundamental gap between socialism and imperialism and to transfer the historical responsibility of the exploiters to those countries and peoples which bore no responsibility for the economic backwardness and disadvantaged position of the developing countries.

34. The Soviet Union had always supported the progressive aspirations and legitimate interests of the developing countries. It would continue to make every effort to ensure the adoption of decisions designed to promote the development of international co-operation in the interest of the social and economic progress of all countries, regardless of their level of development and of differences in social and economic systems.

35. Mr. YANNOPOULOS (Greece) said that the implementation of the fundamental structural changes in international economic relations agreed upon at the seventh special session should be the dominant theme of the work of the Second Committee. Efforts should be made to sustain the political momentum gained during that session, to build upon the co-operation and conciliation that had developed and to enlarge the area of agreement. In order to close the gap in *per capita* incomes between the poor and rich nations, the rules and actions governing international economic relations had to be modified. The world was in the midst of a new development crisis, and gains in the exports and industrial production of the developing countries had been brought about accidentally, as a result of booming conditions in developed market economies during the first half of the Development Decade. Such asymmetrical interdependencies were bound to perpetuate the extravagant use of the world's resources by a minority, and were contrary to the aim of ecodevelopment.

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 42, document A/8074.*

<sup>2</sup> *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.D.4), annex VIII.G.*

<sup>3</sup> A/9389, of 6 December 1973.

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 12, document A/8963, para. 38.*

<sup>5</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3, chap. I, sect. B.*

36. The prolongation of the current economic crisis rendered extremely problematic the accomplishment of the modest targets of the International Development Strategy in the second half of the Decade. The international adjustment process was putting a disproportionate strain on the balance of payments of the developing countries, thus seriously hampering their development effort.

37. The first half of the Second Development Decade had been a partial failure: the planned target of world agricultural production growth had not been attained, and the food crisis, an employment crisis and an income distribution crisis had resulted. Development strategies, by focusing primarily on aggregate income targets, had led to an inadequate growth of employment opportunities and a worsening of the income distribution within the developing countries. A unified approach to development was essential. The elimination of regional, income and other social disparities should form an integral part of any development strategy, as should the maintenance of a proper balance between industrial and agricultural production growth. In the reformulated International Development Strategy it was imperative to establish new institutions of rural development capable of promoting employment-oriented production structures, while institutional reforms for the international transfer of technology should encourage the reversal of the current trend for more capital-intensive technologies and products. The World Bank could be invited to study more intensively the experience of those few countries which had managed to combine high rates of growth of industrial production and exports with a rapid increase in industrial employment.

38. The aims of the International Development Strategy relating to trade policies and transfer of real resources had not all been accomplished. Escalating rates of duty on processed products continued to be a major obstacle to the diversification of the economies of the developing countries. Many developed countries still placed quantitative and related restrictions on exports from developing countries. He emphasized that no progress had been made regarding the systematic introduction of adjustment assistance measures. The reluctance of rich countries to commit themselves to official development assistance targets was discouraging. Since the majority of those countries gave little consideration to the needs of the developing countries, it was the task of the international community to intensify efforts to mobilize public opinion for development.

39. A re-examination of the International Development Strategy was justified because of the need to adapt it to the requirements of the new international economic order, because of the recent changes in the world economic situation which revealed fundamental weaknesses in the Strategy, and because of the growing awareness that the basic premise of the Strategy, founded as it had been on the almost exclusive pursuit of a single quantitative target, might have been wrong. That premise tended to encourage material consumption and a development process depending on the constant creation of insatiable wants without respect for the provision of minimum standards of living for the poor.

40. In order to strengthen the International Development Strategy, industrialization and diversification of the production basis of the developing countries should remain a basic

aim. Such long-term policies should be supported by appropriate short-term arrangements to reduce the impact of any prolonged and severe recessions in the world economy on the developing countries. That demanded the introduction of global countercyclical policies which would reduce the disproportionate cost of adjustment that recession-induced deficits imposed on the developing countries. That could be done by strengthening the compensatory financing facility of IMF along the lines suggested at the seventh special session. That facility should be established without prejudice to the implementation of the integrated commodity programme whose objectives were broader than the aim of export earnings stabilization.

41. To accelerate the process of industrialization in the developing countries and to create a more rational international division of labour, it was essential to implement in the developed countries a series of systematic policies for the redeployment of industries and productive activities in which developing countries had comparative advantages. Although that process had already begun, pressures by organized interest groups led to the subsidization of inefficient industries in developed countries. Only a generous and imaginative policy of adjustment assistance measures could help in the redeployment of production activities that were urgently needed to increase employment opportunities in the developing countries. Industrialization could not proceed without the simultaneous development of complementary human resources. The brain drain showed few signs of deceleration; no form of compensation for the loss inflicted on the developing countries was being seriously considered by the international community. Migration of unskilled labour could be an excellent way of providing technical assistance if temporary migrants were offered the opportunity to acquire skills appropriate to the development needs of their home countries. Instead, they were offered low-grade jobs with limited potential for skill acquisition.

42. The design of such policies did not lessen the need for collective self-reliance by developing countries. Co-operation among developing countries should be seen not merely in terms of countervailing power but also in terms of improved opportunities for trade expansion in the form of regional integration schemes which could result in a considerable expansion in the trade between developing countries.

43. Discontent with increasing disparities in income levels between countries was likely to become explosive. Only through the new international economic order, established through dialogue and co-operation, could world prosperity and peace be secured.

44. Mr. ŠTRAUSS (Czechoslovakia) said that his country attached great importance to problems of economic and social development and to broad international co-operation, and maintained that continued international détente, consolidation of international peace and security, including effective measures of disarmament, were prerequisites for economic and social progress in all countries.

45. The importance of the mid-term review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy could not be doubted. At the sixth special session, the Czechoslovak delegation, together with the delegations of the other socialist countries, had sup-

ported the efforts of the developing countries to strengthen their independence and to achieve equality in international economic relations. His delegation had actively supported the adoption of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and was convinced that consistent application of the principles contained in those documents would help to end injustice in international economic relations and to ensure equitable participation by the developing countries in the international division of labour. The important Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States had also been adopted with the support of the socialist countries.

46. The Czechoslovak delegation viewed the seventh special session as an important stage in the fulfilment of the intentions of the sixth special session in the struggle for the liquidation of inequality in international economic relations.

47. As a consequence of the continuing economic dependence of many developing countries on the economies of advanced capitalist States, the current economic crisis in the capitalist States had a particularly palpable impact on those developing countries. That was reflected especially in the inflationary growth of the costs of imports, in the consequences of the crisis in the Western monetary system, in the pressure on the balance of payments of the developing countries, the draining of profits from private investments, and in the payment of instalments and interest as a result of the indebtedness of developing countries. Although the prices of some raw materials had increased, the prices of other commodities were lower and the over-all indebtedness of the developing countries had reached unprecedented levels.

48. The economic situations in the developing countries resulted primarily from the protracted social and economic exploitation of those countries by capitalism and imperialism. Although the old colonial world had collapsed and a number of independent States had come into being, neo-colonialist approaches and practices still persisted in the economic sphere through the action of supra-national monopolies which maintained control over vital economic sectors in developing countries and threatened the national sovereignty of those countries.

49. The mid-term review and appraisal provided an opportunity to examine not only the reasons for the slowing down of employment, but also the measures which could promote economic development. In that connexion, international economic co-operation could be developed only under conditions of preserved and strengthened peace and international security. International détente should become a permanent and irreversible process. At the same time, the principle of peaceful coexistence of States with different economic and social systems should be consistently applied. Deepening inflation was largely connected with the arms race and the ever-growing military budgets. The implementation of General Assembly resolution 3093 (XXVIII) would release considerable and urgently needed resources which could be used to overcome some of the current problems of developing countries. It was also necessary to implement a number of principles and proposals contained in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the

Establishment of a New International Economic Order and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States relating especially to the spheres of international trade, industrialization, science and technology, and international monetary reform. Many developing countries were themselves taking measures relating to basic socio-economic structural changes. They were attaching considerable importance to the role played by the State in the management of industrial development, were according a significant place to the public sector, were introducing progressive agricultural reforms and were adopting other measures aimed at a greater equilibrium in the distribution of national wealth.

50. The Czechoslovak delegation regarded over-all integrated national planning as a good approach to development, which could also promote fundamental social and economic structural changes. It would therefore be useful if those questions were further elaborated in the respective United Nations bodies, notably in the Economic and Social Council, as well as in the General Assembly at its future sessions.

51. The Czechoslovak delegation actively supported the demands of the developing countries for a new arrangement of international economic relations based on principles of equality, mutual advantage, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, equitable international co-operation, the right to decide independently on the direction of development, and full sovereignty of each State over its natural resources. It rejected the notion that all States bore equal responsibility for the unfavourable economic situation in the developing countries. That situation, inherited from colonial rule, was being maintained and deepened by the neo-colonial policy and practice of supra-national monopolies and through the unjust international division of labour.

52. Czechoslovakia would continue to do its utmost to promote and expand economic co-operation with developing countries on the basis of equality and mutual advantage. The aid provided by CMEA member States to developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America involved assistance for economic projects as well as credit of approximately 12 billion roubles. The granting of technical assistance occupied one of the most important places in Czechoslovakia's economic relations with developing countries. A decisive part of that co-operation was based on bilateral agreements. Economic and technical co-operation concentrated primarily on the construction of important industrial projects. Czechoslovakia was organizing seminars and symposia, receiving trainees, sending experts to developing countries and granting long-term credit with very low interest rates. In accordance with its possibilities, Czechoslovakia would continue to provide economic and technical assistance to developing countries.

53. Czechoslovakia was ready and willing to develop economic co-operation with all countries regardless of their economic and social systems. The progress of generally beneficial international co-operation would be closely connected with the growing strength of peace and security throughout the world.

*The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.*