

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VERCELES (Philippines)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the election of the Rapporteur was again postponed because there were no candidates.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/36/3 Add. 2, Add. 3, Add. 6, Add. 28 and Add. 30, A/36/138, 148, 187, 236, 305 and Add. 1 and 2, 342, 421 and 513; #/1981/54)

2. Mr. FONTAINE (International Telecommunication Union), referring to the possible proclamation of 1983 as World Communications Year, said that at its session in June 1981 the Administrative Council of ITU had unanimously agreed that the Union should be responsible for coordinating the preparations and the launching of the programme for the World Year. The targets set for the Year - to enable all countries to undertake an in-depth review and analysis of their policies on communications development and to stimulate the accelerated development of infrastructures in that area - constituted a unique event in themselves, since for a whole year they would enable communications directors and users to concentrate on studying the selection and development of suitable infrastructures. That would help to improve international coordination and a cooperation, particularly at the mid-point of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

3. For its part, the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session in 1981, had recommended in resolution 1981/60 that 1983 should be proclaimed World Communications Year, provided that all preliminary arrangements for its financing from voluntary contributions had been finalized before the adoption of the final decision. That requirement had been met, as could be seen from the fact that voluntary contributions in cash and in kind currently totalled \$3,612,000. Of that amount, 16 countries had contributed a total of \$687,000 in cash, and three countries had given \$2,550,000 in kind. In addition, the Universal Postal Union had contributed \$25,000 and UNESCO had provided \$350,000 for an experimental radio broadcasting project.

4. The \$687,000 contributed in cash were enabling ITU to organize the celebration of the Year without using the regular budget, thus fulfilling the requirement laid down in that regard by the ITU Administrative Council when it had established the figure of \$500,000 in cash as the amount needed to ensure the financing of the various administrative and operational expenses for the Year. Of that amount, \$200,000 were for the services of two travelling advisers for one year; \$75,000 were for the provision of assistance in the organization of seminars on the development of infrastructures; \$100,000 were for publications of the national committees; and \$125,000 for the secretariat of the Year, which was located at ITU headquarters. Other budgetary options had also been approved, ranging from \$500,000 to \$1,500,000, in anticipation of future cash voluntary contributions.

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(Mr. Fontaine, International Telecommunication Union)

5. With regard to the voluntary contributions in kind amounting to \$2,550,000, he recalled that in the programme of action submitted to the Economic and Social Council that sum had been allocated to experimental infrastructure projects designed to serve as an example for the future execution of similar projects. In response to specific requests from Governments, a repertory of such projects had been prepared; it included a description of the project, its cost and duration, which varied from a few months to several years. Such projects were of interest to all countries, since their range extended from the national to the regional and world-wide. For the time being, it was planned to use the \$2,550,000 for the execution of experimental telecommunications projects in rural areas and the installation of infrastructure in countries which had none. Several countries had already announced their desire to participate in experimental projects, and their contributions in kind would be added to the aforementioned \$2,550,000. It was therefore reasonable to suppose that the proclamation of the Year and the conclusion of the studies being made in several countries would provide for the World Communications Year a budget in cash and in kind equivalent to \$3,612,000.

6. With regard to preparations for the Year, at the national level 61 countries had already appointed a correspondent and planned to appoint national committees for the Year. To that end, a "Guide to the Year" was being prepared so that those responsible for the celebration of the Year or the national committees could prepare and launch their programmes. In addition, the Universal Postal Union had reported that more than 50 countries planned to issue stamps to commemorate the World Year, and if the national legislature gave its authorization, a surcharge would be added to the face value of the stamp in order to facilitate the financing of the national programmes. At the international level, UNDP, the regional economic commissions, FAO, ICAO, WMO, WHO, IMCO, UNESCO and UPU were working together in an interagency committee which had drawn up a plan of action for the World Year that had already been submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

7. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the work of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions in 1981 had been complicated by the deterioration in the international situation caused by the imperialist circles. That situation had coincided with the hardening of the position of the major Western Powers with respect to the just demands of the developing countries concerning the transformation of international economic relations. The analysis of the existing situation in the economic and social sphere which had been made in the Economic and Social Council was generally accurate, and its conclusions had once again confirmed that the economic development prospects of all countries, including the developing countries, depended on the strengthening of peace, the consolidation of detente and the halting of the arms race. At the same time, the results could not be described as encouraging with regard to the attainment of the main objectives of the socioeconomic activities of the United Nations, since the work of the Economic and Social Council had been devoted to questions of a secondary nature. For example, no resolutions had been submitted on such important topics as the living

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(Mr. Fontaine, International Telecommunication Union)

conditions of the Palestinian people and the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, which together with the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order was the focal point of all the United Nations work on the transformation of international economic relations on a just and fair basis. It should be noted, however, that useful decisions had also been adopted, such as the decision based on the draft resolution submitted by Mongolia on the role of the State sector and the resolution on the implementation by United Nations organizations and specialized agencies of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

8. The adoption of those decisions showed that the causes of the deadlock in the work of the Economic and Social Council in other areas should be sought not in the membership of the Council, as some delegations claimed, but in the political position of those who fully accepted the economic relations of the capitalist sector, based on inequality and exploitation. The Soviet Union was convinced that the Economic and Social Council, with its existing membership and with the powers set out in Chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations, could perform perfectly the role of principal socioeconomic organ of the United Nations, and that in order to increase its efficiency it was necessary to implement Council resolution 1622 (LI).

9. As for the other decisions of the Economic and Social Council concerning the activities of the Second Committee, his delegation was greatly concerned at the drafting of a code of conduct on transnational corporations. The work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct was in fact being blocked by the main western Powers, the defenders of the great monopolies, which were seeking to secure for their transnational corporations, the same conditions as those which the developing countries offered to their own national corporations, and to prevent the Governments of such countries from exercising complete control over the activities of the transnational corporations, including the right to nationalize private property. It was obvious that the activities of the transnational corporations had a truly catastrophic impact on the economies of the developing countries. According to UNCTAD data (document TD/B/D.3/158), during the period 1970 to 1978 the total volume of profits which the transnational corporations had derived from their direct investments and had remitted to the countries of origin amounted to \$75,400,000, increasing the flow of investments during that period by \$25,200,000. The Western monopolies also engaged in other forms of financial plunder, such as the transfer of profits from portfolio investments and the utilization of transnational corporations to carry out financial operations of various kinds, in particular by the application of transfer prices. Accordingly, it was particularly disturbing to see the attempts being made to use the United Nations and its specialized agencies to serve the interests of the Western monopolies thereby adding a further obstacle to the achievement of the legitimate demands of the developing countries concerning the establishment of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis.

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(Mr. Fontaine, International Telecommunication Union)

10. The Soviet Union attached great importance to the thorough consideration of the unified approach to development analysis and planning and to the international exchange of the experience gained by various countries. The General Assembly had recognized the importance of such an approach in its resolution 3409 (XXX), decision 34/419, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and the International Development Strategy. The Economic and Social Council had done likewise at its first regular session of 1981. Nevertheless, at the second session of the Council, his delegation had pointed out that the report of the Secretary-General on a unified approach to development analysis and planning did not comply fully with General Assembly decision 34/419 which requested the Secretary-General to submit practical conclusions and recommendations on the application of a unified approach. That element should be included in future reports of the Secretary-General and the General Assembly should reaffirm at the current session, the need to pursue activities in that area, pursuant to the decision adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1981.

11. At its second session, the Council had recommended that the General Assembly should proclaim the Year 1983 as World Communications Year, provided that all preliminary arrangements for its financing from voluntary contributions had been finalized before the adoption of the final decision (resolution 1981/60). His delegation hoped that, before taking a decision on the matter, the General Assembly would receive a document from the International Telecommunication Union showing that such financing was available.

12. It should be pointed out that some of the documents issued by the United Nations Secretariat containing specific recommendations regarding the economic development of the developing countries frequently adopted a unilateral approach and limited themselves exclusively to the capitalist economy, ignoring the wealth of experience of the Socialist countries. The report on the results of the 1980 International Symposium on the Mobilization of Personal Savings in Developing Countries (A/36/239) was one of those which suffered from that shortcoming. The conclusions and recommendations of that Symposium seemed to stray from the principal theme: the mobilization of personal savings in developing countries as one of the most significant ways of mobilizing internal resources for development purposes. In the view of his delegation, the comment that any significant improvement in the growth prospects of many developing countries would require substantially increased foreign financing of their capital formation was simply an attempt to replace the recommendations concerning the mobilization of internal resources by the imposition of foreign private sources of finance with all the negative consequences that that entailed. Furthermore, the conclusions and recommendations of the Symposium ignored the rich experience which the Soviet Union and other socialist countries had of the mobilization of personal savings and which might prove very useful for the developing countries in solving their economic problems; the conclusions and recommendations which incorporated that experience could become a working tool for policy-makers and officials of savings and loan institutions in the developing countries.

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(Mr. Fontaine, International Telecommunication Union)

Finally, it was hard to accept the idea put forward in the report concerning the establishment of an advisory committee on the mobilization of personal savings, under the auspices of the United Nations, in order to facilitate coordination of action and the exchange of ideas and information in that field; that task could perfectly well be carried out within the framework of symposia and seminars.

13. As for the draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly, by the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1981/61) concerning the global Strategy of Health for All by the Year 2000, he pointed out that, owing to the great importance of that strategy, its practical implementation should be directed at training qualified national medical personnel in the developing countries, creating State health systems based on the latest progress in medicine and the providing free medical treatment to the broad working masses. The strategy could be effectively implemented only if progressive socioeconomic changes were carried out in the developing countries, if the national income was distributed equitably, if State social security systems were introduced and if effective measures were taken to bring about peace, halting the arms race and bring about real disarmament.

14. Considering that the report of the Secretary-General on the world population situation in 1981 (A/36/117) took practically no account of the experience of the socialist countries in that field, he wished to point out that the Soviet Union attached great importance to population problems and to cooperation in that field, that it helped developing countries to train national personnel in the area and that it was prepared to continue cooperating with interested developing countries. In the USSR, the Communist Party and the State paid great attention to population problems in the interest of the Soviet people. Thus in the 1970s the Soviet State had carried out a wide-ranging programme which had led to an increase in the minimum wage, in basic pensions and in the number of scholarships for students; in addition, new housing units had been built the total area of which was greater than the total area of urban housing at the start of the 1960s. Accordingly, implementation of the social programme adopted at the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the arrangement to increase State aid to families with children and the improvement of pension services for the population would be very significant for the Soviet people.

15. Mr. SILWAL (Nepal) extended his delegation's condolences to the delegation of Egypt on the tragic assassination of President Anwar Sadat. Turning to the report of the Economic and Social Council, he said that Council resolution 1981/60 on the World Communications Year was of particular interest to Nepal. Because of the high cost of the transport system and the difficult terrain, communication was important in linking the various regions of the country. Increasing emphasis had therefore been laid, in the sixth five-year plan, on the development of a communications infrastructure which had become a pressing need for Nepal. The Government's policy had been to develop urban and rural communications systems and telephone service and international trunk services by satellite. UNDP, the

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(Mr. Silwal, Nepal)

International Telecommunication Union and some multilateral financing agencies such as the World Bank were participating in some projects which were being executed or in the pipeline. Bilateral assistance had also been helpful in broadening the country's communications system.

16. Another subject of vital importance for all the developing countries was the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000, which formed part of the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and which had as its basis the 1978 Alma Ata Declaration on primary health care. The General Assembly had also recognized by its resolution 34/58 that health was integral part of development. In the view of his delegation, the main elements of the health strategy were, on the one hand, the application of a health technology that was scientifically sound, adaptable to local circumstances, acceptable to all concerned and easy to maintain with the country's resources and, on the other hand, community involvement in health planning. His delegation fully endorsed the recommendation contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/61.

17. His delegation attached great importance to the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action and to the monitoring, review and appraisal of the Plan as provided for in Council resolutions 1981/28 and 1981/29. Like many other developing countries, Nepal had adopted population programmes and policies as vital components of its social and economic development. Although its population programmes had so far been limited to the provision of family planning services, emphasis was beginning to be placed on the systematic involvement of all relevant government ministries in population activities. The Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-1985) specifically mentioned the link between population factors and environmental degradation. Finally, his delegation wished to reiterate its support for the convening of a World Population Conference in 1984. Such a Conference could give greater impetus to the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action and contribute to its review and reappraisal.

18. Mr. SOBHAN (Bangladesh) extended his delegation's condolences to the delegation of Egypt for the tragic death of President Anwar El Sadat. With regard to the report of the Economic and Social Council, his delegation was particularly concerned at the refugee situation in the Horn of Africa. The harsh climatic conditions and drought in the area, aggravated by food shortages, compelled the population to live in sub-human conditions. The efforts made to provide assistance under the auspices of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were commendable, but the resources so far made available continued to fall short of requirements. His delegation appealed to all countries to contribute generously so that the recommendations of the follow-up missions sent to the region could be implemented.

19. His delegation was equally concerned at the plight of the Palestinian refugees. Nearly two million people were homeless and lived in sub-human conditions. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near

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(Mr. Sobhan, Bangladesh)

Eat had carried out its mandate commendably but its income was insufficient to maintain even minimum services at established levels. In 1980, the Agency's income had fallen \$20.7 million short of its budget of \$211.3 million, showing that urgent steps must be taken to increase its resources.

20. Population problems were also of special interest to Bangladesh, one the most densely populated countries in the world. It was clear from the report of the Secretary-General on the world population situation in 1981 (A/36/117) and the statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities that population projections for the first quarter of the twenty-first century were alarming. It was anticipated that by the year 2025, the population of Africa would have tripled, that of South Asia would have doubled, that of Latin America would have increased by 150 per cent and that of China by a little below 50 per cent. As a result, Governments must make increased efforts to curb population growth. The holding of a World Population Conference in 1984 was extremely important in that connection and his delegation supported whole-heartedly the convening of such a Conference.

21. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities played an important role and it was therefore alarming that its programming should have been reduced because of lack of resources. Although the Fund's income had increased by 12 per cent, there had been a shortfall of \$12 million below the 1980 approval authority of \$135 million. The Executive Director had reported that that situation would worsen because of exchange rate fluctuations. That would have an adverse effect on the country programmes that the Fund had been financing, and it was therefore vital that donor governments increase their support for the Fund at the pledging conference to be held in November.

22. With regard to the part played by the regional economic commissions in the development process, those commissions could contribute particularly to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1980s. His country, which was served by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, believed that ESCAP must be revitalized so that it could play a fuller role in the development process of the region, which had 55 per cent of the world's population and 75 per cent of the population of the developing countries. That clearly called for increased resources for ESCAP and his delegation hoped that the Second Committee would be able to give due consideration to that matter.

23. Mr. BAGBENI (Zaire) extended his delegation's condolences to the people and Government of Egypt for the tragic death of President Anwar El Sadat. With regard to the item under consideration, the oil-importing developing countries had been affected by the unfavourable movement of prices on the international market, which had caused a decline in their real percapita income that would continue to worsen. In 1990, there might be more than 800 million people living in conditions of abject poverty. His delegation recognized that the economic

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(Mr. Bagbeni, Zaire)

crisis was universal but believed that it should encourage all States to seek a new approach to international economic relations. States must work together on the basis of international harmony, complementarity and solidarity. The desire to achieve that objective was reflected in Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/64 which reiterated the need to strengthen international economic cooperation for development within the multilateral framework of the United Nations system. To that same end, the Committee for Development Planning and the Administrative Committee on Coordination had been requested to assess the prospects of the world economy. His delegation hoped that all Member States would endorse that resolution and would undertake to implement it efficiently.

24. Another problem of special concern to his delegation was the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council as referred to in Council resolution 1981/84. The international economic situation no doubt demanded the renewal and revitalization of that organ, the functions and position of which in relation to the other principal organs of the United Nations, such as the General Assembly and the Security Council, were clearly defined in the Charter of the United Nations. Before considering any recommendation to amend the Council's mandate, however, the Committee should study why the Council had been weakened.

25. In the section of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (A/36/3/Add. 6, Chap. VI), there were two resolutions (1981/67 and 1981/68) geared towards the establishment of an integrated transport and communications network in Africa in support of the accelerated development of the African region. Additional resources would have to be mobilized for the implementation of the programme for the Decade and he hoped that the Executive Secretary of ECA would do all he could to maintain the necessary coordination between funding agencies and African countries in ensuring the successful implementation of the programme for the first phase of the Decade. His delegation also hoped that the reports of the technical consultative meetings held at Yaounde and Abidjan would be considered by the Second Committee before the end of the current session.

26. With regard to Council resolution 1981/68, which dealt with the particular problems of Zaire with regard to transport, transit and access to international markets, his delegation wished to express its gratitude to the 14 countries which had sponsored it, thereby showing their solidarity. The particular difficulties which Zaire was facing in those areas had led the Government to get in contact, as early as February 1977, with the international community through ECA. As a consequence, ECA adopted a resolution that had been ratified by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in its fifth session and then adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 34/193). Since there had been no perceptible progress in the implementation of that last resolution, at its thirty-fifth session the General Assembly had adopted resolution 35/59, strengthening the resolution of the previous session. The Fifth Committee, for its part, had made available to ECA, in 1979, the necessary resources to send two experts to Zaire to carry out preliminary studies on transport problem (A.C.2/34/53).

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(Mr. Bagbeni, Zaire)

However, such a mission had never been realized. Lastly, at the recent session of the Economic and Social Council, a resolution had been adopted with concrete provisions for resolving that problem (resolution 1981/68), to which his delegation assigned the highest priority, because the expansion of its trade, an increase in its exports and the growth of its production depended on the transport infrastructure. Accordingly, he requested the support of all Member States and the organizations of the United Nations system for the speedy implementation of the resolutions relating to the particular problems of Zaire in that area.

27. With regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and its rational liberation movement by the specialized agencies and the international institutions related to the United Nations, his delegation, which had sponsored Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/54 on that question, hoped that all the specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations would, without delay, grant full membership to the United Nations Council for Namibia, increase their support for the oppressed people of South Africa and mobilize public opinion against apartheid.

28. Miss BALI (India) expressed her delegation's condolences to the people and Government of Egypt on the tragic death of President Anwar El Sadat. Referring specifically to population questions, she pointed out that, in the report of the Secretary-General on the world population system in 1981 (A/36/117), attention was drawn to the decline in fertility in the developing countries, although in absolute figures, there had been a considerable population increase in those countries in recent decades. The projections made in the United Nations system showed that it was possible that the world's population might reach the level of 10,500 million inhabitants in the year 2110, of whom 9,500 million would live in what were now the developing countries. The Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) had indicated that the situation might improve if existing population programmes were applied effectively. To that end, the assistance of the international community was of capital importance. In developing countries like India, population policies were closely linked with general development efforts in the economic and social spheres. India, which had been one of the first countries to take measures for population control through family planning with voluntary participation, had backed its programmes with an infrastructure of health and education services and had made efforts to change other factors which affected the fertility rate; namely, employment, income distribution, the status of women and agrarian reform. While positive results had been obtained, much remained to be done. India appreciated United Nations efforts in that context, and in particular those of UNFPA. Regretably, UNFPA's activities were hindered by lack of adequate resources. Accordingly, her delegation hoped that during the pledging conference to be held in November, all the necessary efforts would be made to overcome that difficulty.

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(Miss Bali, India)

29. She noted with interest the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council concerning the strengthening of measures relating to fulfillment of the World Population Plan of Action and the programme of work in the field of population and trusted that a world population conference would be convened in 1984, since that was essential to the implementation of the 1974 World Population Plan of Action.

30. Her delegation was also interested in assistance to the Palestinian people, because India had always shown its solidarity with that people and supported the mandate entrusted to the specialized agencies and other organizations for determination of the economic and social problems affecting them. Such efforts should continue and increase. India supported Economic and Social Council 2026 (LVI), which recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as the representative of the Palestinian people and noted with satisfaction the fact that, according to the annual report of the Secretary-General, progress had been made in the implementation of that resolution.

31. It should also be pointed out that Israel was continuing to disregard the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council calling upon that country to withdraw from the occupied territories. Another cause for concern was Israel's plan to construct a canal and tunnel project from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea for the production of hydroelectric energy. That plan not only reflected open disregard for a series of international provisions but also violated the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to sovereignty over its national resources.

32. With regard to the question of the Transport and Communications in Africa Decade, her delegation shared the disappointment of her sister countries in Africa at the global level of financial resources made available so far, which was lower than that necessary to finance the subregional programme, and she hoped that the financing organizations and donor countries would increase their financial support to the Decade's regional and subregional projects.

33. Referring to the note by the Secretary-General concerning the report on the global strategy for health for all in the year 2000 (A/36/148), she expressed her confidence that due consideration would be accorded to the strategy and that the necessary resources would be provided to make it a reality, with the close cooperation of the United Nations system.

34. With regard to the developing countries, while the basic responsibility for their development lay with them, one could not ignore the essential and indispensable role which the international community, and, in particular, the developed countries must play in order to support the individual and collective efforts of the developing countries to achieve self-sufficiency, with full respect, at the same time, for the principles of the sovereignty and independence of nations and the right of every country to choose its own style of development without external pressures.

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35. Miss TALLAWI (Egypt) said that she supported the role of the Economic and Social Council, as one of the main organs of the United Nations, in holding back the trend to centralize questions in the General Assembly. Because the General Assembly agenda had been overfull, that trend had prevented arrival at positive solutions on some issues.

36. With regard to the World Economic Study, 1980-1981, her delegation, which had spoken earlier of its negative aspect, stressed some positive aspects of that study, such as the emphasis placed on the dimensions and risks of economic problems, the statement that States should receive assistance in order to reduce their economic instability and promote international peace and the proposal on the promotion of special drawing rights made by the International Commission of 25.

37. The Economic and Social Council had also referred to certain resolutions, such as that concerning decentralization of the activities of the regional economic commissions, which her delegation endorsed. On the question of population, she supported Council resolutions 1981/28 and 1981/29 relating to the fulfillment of the World Population Plan of Action and the work programme in the field of population, as well as the idea of holding a world population conference in 1984, even though opinions on the subject differed. Such a conference would be of great value because countries would be able to share experiences and study methods of tackling problems such as the danger inherent in the population explosion.

38. In connection with the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the 1980 International Symposium on the Mobilization of Personal Savings in Developing Countries (A/36/239), and in particular the conclusion noted in that report that, despite the unprecedented financial flows from developed to developing countries recorded since the Second World War, domestic savings had financed the bulk of investment in developing countries in that period, she pointed out that it was necessary for development that, alongside domestic savings, there should be a continued increase in the flow of capital from the developed to the developing countries.

39. As to the question of sovereignty over national resources, she referred to Israel's plan to build a canal and tunnel connecting the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea, passing through the Gaza Strip. Her delegation was vehemently opposed to that project, which it regarded as contrary to international law and an obstacle to the efforts being made to achieve peace in the region. However, it warmly welcomes the resolution of the Economic and Social Council concerning the rights of the Palestinian people and trusted that other bodies would follow the policy pursued by UNDP and UNICEF, both of which had directed efforts towards executing a large number of projects in Gaza and on the West Bank.

40. Lastly, in connection with documents A/36/538 and A/36/421 which contained the results of the two Islamic conferences, held in Mecca and Baghdad respectively, her delegation reaffirmed its opposition to the paragraphs of those documents which attacked Egypt and demanded that the Rapporteur of the Committee should record that opposition in the Committee's report.

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41. Mr. SALLU (Sierra Leone) said that it was becoming increasingly difficult for developing and low-income countries which, like his own, could be classified as least developed and most seriously affected, to attain their development targets in such fields as health and transport and communications, to mention just a few. In the view of his delegation, the adoption of the Global Health Strategy for All by the Year 2000 constituted the clearest identification by the international community of one of the most crucial areas of man's survival on earth. His country was proud to have contributed towards the adoption of the Strategy. Of the goals defined in it, access for all to primary health care was of vital importance for the developing countries. His Government had made considerable efforts in that field, particularly in rural areas. His delegation accepted the view that only participation, especially from the rural population, and the application of a technology which was in harmony with that environment, could result in a successful health policy for development. He warmly congratulated the Director-General of WHO and his staff for their work in drafting and finalizing the Strategy. What was required at present was political commitment to endorse it and to ensure that its goals were realized to the fullest extent possible. He hoped that the Strategy would not suffer the fate of other proposals which after being adopted by the United Nations, had failed to receive the support necessary for their implementation from the very nations which had produced them.

42. His delegation's preoccupation with the problems of transport and communications was no less serious, bearing in mind the precarious situation prevailing in his country in those two sectors. That was why it continued to view with satisfaction the declaration of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and echoed the statement made by the Heads of State of African countries and reflected in the Lagos Plan of Action to the effect that, with the aid of transport and communication, the immense potential of the continent could be exploited rationally with some chance of complete success. His delegation had followed with interest the progress made so far in the implementation of the first phase of the Decade and strongly supported the appeals made in the pertinent resolutions of the OAU, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for additional financial resources to enable the Economic Commission for Africa to fulfill its obligations as lead agency for the Decade. It also appreciated the role played by the United Nations Development Programme in attaining the goals of the Decade.

43. In his delegation's opinion, the proclamation of 1983 by the General Assembly as World Communications Year should help to focus the attention of the international community on the needs of the poorer nations in the development of their communications sector. In that regard it supported the proposal made by the representative of Nigeria that the International Telecommunication Union should explain to the Committee the plans or actions which would be prepared or adopted in preparation for the World Communications Year.

(Mr. Sallu, Sierra Leone)

44. It was right to have placed special emphasis in the Decade on the needs of the land-locked, least developed countries, owing to the economic difficulties encountered by that group of countries simply by reason of their geographic location. In that connection, the efforts of the front-line States to free themselves from the economic blackmail of racist South Africa should be supported. It was also important to give greater attention in the Decade to the training of adequate and qualified personnel so that projects might produce satisfactory and long-lasting results. Lastly, his delegation expressed its sincere appreciation and thanks to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and his staff for the exemplary part which they had played in the implementation of the first phase of the Decade, and called for continued financial support to the Commission, to enable it to live up to its responsibilities towards Africa.

45. Mr. DORADO (Philippines) said that he believed that Chapter II of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/36/3/Add. 2) provided a useful framework for delineating the main tasks of the Second Committee during the current session. While the report painted a bleak picture of the prospects for the next decade, his delegation considered that an undue preoccupation with such matters might divert attention from more urgent tasks.

46. In the World Economic Survey 1980-81, a deterioration in terms of trade of over 5 per cent had been forecast for 1981. Developing countries were having to provide more and more of their primary commodities in order to acquire a constant volume of imports. Those facts highlighted the need for governments to take action to stabilize international commodity prices. Only 53 countries had so far signed the Agreement establishing the Common Fund, which had been adopted in June 1980, and only 11 countries had ratified it. His delegation reaffirmed its commitment to the idea that the Common Fund should commence operations on or before 3 March 1982. As a concrete manifestation of that commitment, he reiterated his Government's offer of Manila as the permanent headquarters of the Common Fund as well as its pledge of substantial contributions to the Second Account.

47. The difficulties in commodity trade were further compounded by continued pressures for more protectionist measures in the area of manufactured exports. There were indications that the major importing countries were seeking unacceptable limits on the exports of developing countries in order to accommodate increased trade in textiles among industrialized countries. Estimates showed that 3 to 5 per cent of world trade was being adversely affected by import restrictions introduced or threatened by the industrialized countries. All those facts seemed to contradict the observation of the Director-General of GATT that the marked slowdown in the growth of world trade in 1980 reflected reduced global demand and not a general swing to protectionism. The Committee should consider ways of rolling back the protectionist tide, including action to ensure that the ministerial meeting in 1982 of the GATT Contracting Parties would result in agreement to end protectionism. Reduced protectionism was a necessary condition if the exports of developing countries were to grow at rates comparable to those of the 1970s.

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(Mr. Dorado, Philippines)

48. The measures to stem protectionism complemented measures to achieve a global balance between the demand for and supply of energy. There was a clear need to expand cooperation between petroleum-exporting and petroleum-importing developing countries because it appeared that with such cooperation, an annual real increase in oil prices of no more than 3 per cent over the decade of the 1980s was sustainable and supportive of a modest growth of 5.7 per cent by developing countries.

49. The World Economic Survey showed that global agricultural and food production had stagnated in 1980. The immediate consequence of that fact was a growth of more than 8 per cent per annum in the food imports of the developing and centrally planned economies. Cooperation in solving widespread hunger and malnutrition was a vital area in which immediate measures were needed. His delegation intended to present more detailed proposals on that issue when the Committee moved on to consider agenda item 69. This delegation also supported the Economic and Social Council's view that the adoption and implementation of national food strategies was a basic commitment to solving hunger and malnutrition, especially in developing countries.

AGENDA ITEM 71: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued) (A/36/3.Add. 5 and 33; A/36/14, 31 and 69)

- (a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research: Report of the Executive Director;
- (b) United Nations University: Report of the Council of the United Nations University;
- (c) Unified Approach to Development Analysis and Planning: Report of the Secretary-General.

50. Mr. SCHWEISGUT (Austria) extended the deep condolences of his Government to the Government and people of Egypt on the tragic death of President Anway El Sadat. Regarding the subject under discussion, he said that Austria contributed both to the General Fund of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and to the United Nations University and had established fruitful cooperation with both institutions, as was evident from the fact that to date, 39 Austrians had participated in UNITAR training programmes and that the Austrian Government had hosted annual seminars on multilateral diplomacy and the new international economic order. On the whole, the Austrian delegation was satisfied with the quality of the Institute's research work, particularly in the field of international economic cooperation with regard to the Project on the Future.

51. During the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Austrian delegation had voted in favour of resolution 35/53B which, among other things, gave the Institute a grant-in-aid from the regular budget of the United Nations and requested the Executive Director to take further steps with a view

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(Mr. Schweisgut, Austria)

to enhancing the effectiveness of the Institute, reducing its costs and increasing its resources. His delegation was pleased to note that serious efforts were being made to comply with that requirement as proved by the reduction in the size of UNITAR's Geneva Office, the organizational merger between the Department of Research and the Department of the Project on the Future and increased reliance on special purpose grants. Nevertheless, the Institute's financial situation was far from being bright and an increase in voluntary contributions would be needed to attain a balanced budget in 1982. In view of the budgetary constraints prevailing in most countries, such an increase was unlikely to be sufficient; it would therefore be necessary to set priorities among the Institute's projects and avoid expansion in areas of lesser importance.

52. His delegation recognized that there was a danger that the activities of the United Nations University might overlap with those of other organizations in the United Nations system and it had therefore noted with interest the proposed reorientation of the University's activities in order to make them both more relevant within the United Nations system and more responsive to the mandate of the University.

53. Ms. COURSON (France) expressed the deep sorrow of her delegation to the Egyptian delegation on the tragic death of President Anwar El Sadat.

54. Her delegation welcomed the measures taken by the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in pursuance of resolution 35/53B of the General Assembly. The Executive Director had reduced the deficit of the Institute from US \$646,000 to US \$312,000 in 1981. Nevertheless, the Institute had once again had to request a grant from the United Nations. That action went against the basic principle that the administrative expenses of organs financed from voluntary contributions should not be defrayed from the regular budget of the United Nations. In spite of that reservation, the French delegation would not object if, for a second time, and on an exceptional basis, a grant-in-aid was made to the Institute to cover its 1981 deficit. However, there could be no justification for another budget deficit in 1982 for, if there were such a deficit, it would be tantamount to institutionalizing the financing of the Institute's expenses from the regular budget of the United Nations. Her delegation was therefore pleased to hear that the Executive Director planned to present a balanced budget in 1982.

55. The future of the Institute was far from being assured and it would probably be necessary to plan on reducing its activities and its personnel costs as recommended by the Administrative Management Service of the United Nations. With regard to income, the question of the administrative expenses involved in studies and projects carried out by the Institute would have to be examined more thoroughly in order that they might be reimbursed according to the criteria applied by the United Nations. It would also be desirable to see the number of donors increase because currently only 30 countries contributed to the General Fund. An urgent appeal would have to be made both to the developed countries and

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(Ms. Courson, France)

to the developing countries which were in a position to do so, to contribute or to increase the amount of the contributions they had already made. Only through the combined efforts of Member States and the administration of the Institute could the Institute's financial situation be placed on a sound footing once more.

56. Mr. WUJEK (Poland) said that the new approach taken by the management of the University in adopting a longer planning perspective and broadening its initial three programmes was a constructive one. The complexity of the modern world necessitated that any analysis of specific problems be done in a global context; global problems should be dealt with comprehensively and systematically. Poland had followed with interest the development of the University's activities, particularly in the sub-programme of problems of developing in which several Polish experts had participated. He hoped that the existing links of cooperation between Polish Scholars and the University would be further strengthened and diversified. Through such cooperation, especially between developed and developing countries, an international institutional network, which offered good prospects for expanding the University's activities, was being established. For Poland and for many other countries, that network for mobilizing human and material resources enabled them to contribute their share to the present and future work of the University. In practice, it amounted to an increase of the resources acquired through direct voluntary contributions to the University.

57. The University should promote and coordinate world-wide research in selected programmes, develop and strengthen relations with universities and research centres all over the world, and coordinate its activities and cooperate with other United Nations agencies as FAO, UNESCO and WHO in order to avoid duplication of efforts. He hoped that the University would play the role of intellectual leader in the academic community and that under the aegis of the University, a world alliance of academic and research institutions could be established which would lead to the application of a multi-disciplinary approach to research and the sharing of experiences among countries with different socio-economic systems.

58. With regard to the report of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, his delegation felt that the Institute had made satisfactory progress in its training and research activities in the past year. It particularly welcomed the work related to the establishment of the new international economic order; it felt, however, that the corresponding studies should be undertaken in a way which would be of more practical use for delegations involved in the negotiations on the new mechanism which would govern international economic relations. It also drew attention to the General Assembly resolutions on the examination of long-term trends in economic development.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.