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President: Mr. Ismat T. KITTANI (Iraq).

AGENDA ITEM 37

Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development (*continued*)*

1. The PRESIDENT: I should like to make a very brief statement on developments with regard to the consideration of agenda item 37, which, as members will recall, remains open on the agenda.
2. Having consulted, upon my return to Headquarters, as many representatives as I could—and first of all, Mr. Naik, a Vice-President of the Assembly, whom I had requested to follow matters up—I regret to inform the Assembly that there have been no perceptible developments in the negotiations since the end of last month when, as I understand it, the Group of 77 had put forward new proposals in writing.
3. In view of that lack of progress towards agreement, I simply want to say that, of course, should agreement emerge, I shall be willing, as I have stated before, to reconvene the Assembly on very short notice. Meanwhile, I would again make a very strong appeal to all those concerned to redouble their efforts and to speed up their consultations so that—as we hope—this matter may be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

AGENDA ITEM 60

- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (*continued*):***
- (b) **Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

4. The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that the General Assembly, in its decision 36/462, of 16 March 1982,

referred to the financing of UNRWA and decided to suspend temporarily the consideration of the item. I should like at this juncture to report briefly on the progress achieved so far in this regard.

5. The Commissioner-General of UNRWA has informed me that, although the Agency still needs additional contributions to cover the cost of keeping all its schools open until the end of the year, there has been sufficient recent improvement in the Agency's financial situation to enable him to defer the feared closure of schools beyond the end of May 1982. The Commissioner-General has emphasized that in doing so he is taking a deliberate financial risk to avoid the grave consequences that would ensue if he were to close any of the Agency's schools. He feels able to make this decision on the basis of the response so far to the appeals made on behalf of UNRWA and because he believes there are signs that further financial improvements might occur. Pledges made in response to the special appeals have reduced the deficit relating to the education programme from \$20 million to \$12 million, and some donors have indicated their intention to substitute cash for commodities.

6. The Commissioner-General wishes to stress, however, that efforts to raise additional funds should not be relaxed. The schools' deficit is not yet fully covered, and there remains an urgent need for \$9 million for repairs and replacement of Agency premises and equipment, as well as an eventual requirement of up to \$22 million for cost-of-living increases in staff remuneration.

7. I am sure all members would welcome this decision by the Commissioner-General while, at the same time, recognizing the risk he has taken in making it. I would therefore join with the Commissioner-General in reiterating the appeals that have already been made on behalf of UNRWA, and would urge Governments to respond generously.

AGENDA ITEM 70

Operational activities for development (*concluded*):*
(h) United Nations Children's Fund

8. The PRESIDENT: In connection with agenda item 70 (h), I have received from the President of the Economic and Social Council a letter [A/36/872], transmitting a draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund". That letter stated that the Council would be holding elections to the Executive Board of UNICEF during its current session, and that, as it was important for the expanded Board to begin its work as soon as possible, the President of the Council hoped that the General Assembly would deal with this matter at its earliest convenience. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to consider at this meeting the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council?

* Resumed from the 106th meeting.

* Resumed from the 103rd meeting.

It was so decided.

9. The PRESIDENT: I therefore invite members to turn to the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in annex II to document A/36/872. I should like to inform the Assembly that the Council adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 36/244).

10. The PRESIDENT: I call now on the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

11. Mr. SHEDOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (*interpretation from Russian*): As Chairman of the group of Eastern European States, I should like to make the following statement. With regard to the resolution just

adopted by the General Assembly, the Eastern European group, in a spirit of constructive co-operation and readiness to seek compromise solutions, did not impede the adoption by consensus of the resolution on enlarging the Executive Board of UNICEF to 41 members. The Eastern European group proceeded from the premise that it was necessary to have unity of action in the interest of carrying out the humanitarian mandate of UNICEF. At the same time, we should like to stress that the formula adopted for enlarging the UNICEF Executive Board does not fully reflect our group's legitimate interests.

12. On the basis of that consideration this decision, in the view of the Eastern European group, is in no way, and cannot be viewed as, a precedent within the framework of the United Nations system.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.