

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Olguin (Argentina) was elected a member of the International Narcotics Control Board.

Mr. Frazão (Brazil) resumed the Chair.

WORKING GROUP ON THE PREPARATION OF A NEW DRAFT INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, ESTABLISHED UNDER RESOLUTION 5 (XXIV) OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

54. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to paragraph 3 of the relevant note by the Secretary-General (E/L.1546), and said that, if there were no objections, he would consider that the Council wished to enlarge the working group to 16 members, as suggested by the Secretary-General.

It was so decided.

55. Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America) pointed out that the membership of the working group was being expanded, although the number of candidatures seemed to have diminished.

56. The PRESIDENT reminded the Council that the members of the working group were to be chosen from among the States belonging to the Commission on the Status of Women in 1974, a list of which was annexed to document E/L.1546.

57. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) read out the following list of candidates: from the African States—Liberia; from the Latin America States—Chile, Colombia and Dominican Republic; from the Western European and other States—Canada, Finland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; from the socialist States of Eastern Europe—Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. There were no candidates from the Asian States.

58. The PRESIDENT stated that, if there were no objections, he would consider that the States mentioned by the Secretary of the Council had been elected by acclamation, and that the remaining seven unfilled seats, including three for the African States, three for the Asian States and one for the socialist States of Eastern Europe, would be filled at the next session.

It was so decided.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

59. The PRESIDENT recalled that at its 1850th meeting, the Council had postponed the election of a

member of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. The seat was to be filled by a member from the Western European and other States. The Netherlands was the only candidate for that seat, and if there were no objections, he would consider that the Council had elected the Netherlands by acclamation.

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

60. The PRESIDENT recalled that, at its 1850th meeting, the Council had postponed the election of a member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The seat was to be filled by a member from the Western European and other States for a four-year term of office. Since there was as yet no candidate for the seat, he proposed that the election should be postponed to the fifty-fifth session of the Council.

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION

61. The PRESIDENT pointed out that seven members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination were to be elected for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1974, and drew the Council's attention to the relevant note by the Secretary-General (E/L.1528).

62. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) gave the following details. There was no candidate from the African States; the two candidates from the Latin American States were Argentina and Haiti; the two candidates from the Western European and other States were France and the United States of America; and the candidate from the socialist States of Eastern Europe was the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

63. Mr. AQUEREBURU (Togo) stated that, since there was no candidate from the African States, Togo wished to present its candidature.

64. The PRESIDENT stated that, if there were no objections, he would take it that Togo and the candidates mentioned by the Secretary had been elected by acclamation, and that the remaining unfilled seat would be filled at the fifty-fifth session.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.

1857th meeting

Friday, 18 May 1973, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Sergio A. FRAZÃO (Brazil).

E/SR.1857

AGENDA ITEM 10

Appraisal of prospective food deficits and food aid needs

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5339)

1. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that the item on the appraisal of prospective food deficits and food

aid needs was of such importance that all should speak out and commit themselves to solving the problem. Moreover, consideration of the item was significant in the context of the self-renewal efforts of the Council.

2. Certain trends were emerging that offered the Council the opportunity to fulfil better than it had in the past the responsibilities assigned to it under the Charter of the United Nations. There was an increasing

realization that many problems were interrelated and that they ignored national boundaries. More and more there was evidence that such problems required study and action in global terms. For example, the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade had marked a milestone in the recognition by Governments of their collective responsibility for the well-being of all. Further evidence of that trend was afforded by the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the work in progress to ensure that the resources of the sea were exploited for the benefit of all mankind, the study of the impact of multinational corporations on development and on international relations, the decision by the Council to review on a regular basis, in all its ramifications, the supply of, the need for, non-renewable resources, the concept underlying the revolving fund for natural resources exploration and the agreement by the Council to consider the concept of collective economic security. Those were promising signs, particularly at a time when internationalism seemed to have lost some of its lustre and to be viewed sometimes with cynicism and disenchantment. The United Nations must be alert to those new and important opportunities and, through them, usher in an era of internationalism, one based more than it had been in the past on equality and collective responsibility.

3. The item under consideration called for global study and global action. In the past 20 years, assessments of the world food outlook had alternated between optimism and gloom. In the late 1950s and early 1960s many of the large food-producing countries had accumulated grain surpluses and had been obliged to undertake deliberate measures to curtail production. The concern experienced in the mid-1960s, when large segments of the world population in Asia had been exposed to acute food shortages, had not lasted long because of the widespread adoption of improved technology based on new rice and wheat seeds, which had offered the promising prospect of the "green revolution". Yet the world was, within the short span of four years, again facing a serious food situation.

4. Such rapidly changing prospects, together with recent events, had again highlighted the precarious margin between food requirements and food production. A relatively small decline in production in 1971-1972, i.e., about 7 per cent for wheat and 1 per cent for rice, had led to sharp increases in import requirements in some major consumer countries. The aggregate carry-over stocks of wheat in the main exporting countries, amounting to 50 million tons in 1970/1971, had fallen to less than 30 million tons in 1972/1973, the lowest level for 20 years. Stocks of other grains and rice had also been depleted in both exporting and importing countries. World prices of wheat had almost doubled in one year. As the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had pointed out in the addendum (E/5050/Add.1) to his report on the subject, at those low levels, food-grain stocks would no longer provide an adequate buffer against the recurrence of any serious crop failures in major producing areas, and the availability of adequate food supplies to millions of human beings would depend on the weather in a single year. It was a dangerous and intolerable situation.

5. While major producing countries had taken steps to increase production and, barring any unforeseen failure, the world might be able to manage in 1973, the fact remained that the international community had not accepted in any meaningful sense the concept of a minimum safe level of basic food stocks. He agreed with the assessment by the Director-General of FAO that the time had come for a new approach to the world's food problem. Consequently, he was gratified that the Council, as the principal United Nations organ in the economic and social fields, had decided to discuss the problem and the concept of minimum world security. He was also pleased that the Economic Committee had recommended a draft resolution for adoption by the Council (E/5339, para. 14, draft resolution II), welcoming the intention of the Director-General of FAO to submit concrete proposals to implement that concept for consideration by the governing bodies of FAO later in the year.

6. In lending his own support to that initiative, he stressed that adequate availability of basic food was a fundamental human right and that an orderly international policy to meet needs in that regard was a vital element of the concept of collective economic security. It was his hope that Governments would recognize their collective responsibility by supporting the initiative and co-operating fully in implementing it. The concept of minimum world food security based on voluntary co-ordination of national stock policies would be an important starting point in tackling the problem, and implementation over the long term would depend largely on the success of efforts to increase grain production, particularly in the developing countries. Increased production was necessary not only to maintain *per capita* food production but also to counter malnutrition by the use of higher quality foods. International efforts had to be directed to meeting not only calorie requirements but also the important qualitative nutritional needs. The United Nations, in collaboration with other organizations in the United Nations system, had been endeavouring for a number of years to draw attention to the imperatives involved in the protein malnutrition confronting large proportions of the population in developing countries. The scientific and technical knowledge required to tackle the protein problem was available; what was still lacking was the political will to ensure that protein nutritional needs were met and not obscured by a preoccupation with the quantitative aspect of food supplies in the developing world.

7. Much greater attention and policy support had to be devoted to the agricultural sector in the developing countries, and the assistance supplied by the developed countries to increase food production would have to continue on an even larger scale. There would be a need for intensified research and training activities relating to agriculture and for basic changes in agrarian and farm structures. The problems of small farmers and of arid areas would have to be identified and tackled. At the third session of the Committee on Natural Resources he had stressed the need for greater international action not only to prevent the further growth of deserts but also to reduce gradually the unproductiveness of arid lands.

8. A severe drought afflicting 2.5 million square kilometres of West Africa and covering large parts of Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger and Chad had had catastrophic results in the form of sharply reduced food production, loss of cattle and

other serious hardships. Incipient signs of the problem had first appeared some five years before. It seemed clear that the United Nations system, which had shown its capacity to react to emergency situations, as in the case of Bangladesh, must be refined and strengthened so that it might respond better to crises that developed gradually over a number of years. A careful review should be undertaken of the effectiveness of whatever early warning systems existed at the time—a review that would seem to be particularly appropriate in the context of the concept of collective economic security. One of the lessons to be drawn from the current crisis was the urgent need to strengthen the ability of the United Nations system to anticipate such situations, so that they could be brought to the attention of the international community when the problems were less grave and solutions could be found more rapidly.

9. The approach to the current crisis must be forceful and cohesive. In view of the magnitude of the problem, it could not be tackled in piecemeal fashion. The need for concerted action had also been recognized by the countries concerned: at a recent ministerial meeting they had decided to establish a Standing Inter-State Committee under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Upper Volta to co-ordinate their action against the drought.

10. Various measures were under way to assist the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, with regard to both emergency and long-term measures. Over the short term, most of the needs fell within the competence of FAO and the World Food Programme. Since the two bodies were already involved in meeting the emergency needs, it was thought that the focal point for co-ordination assistance from and through the entire United Nations system should be centred in Rome. Time was of the essence. The next four weeks in particular were crucial for the short-term operation. He would be meeting the Director-General of FAO in Rome very shortly, and he hoped that agreement could be reached upon an effective, co-operative approach to ensure that the United Nations family of organizations moved quickly and in concert.

11. He welcomed the proposals concerning medium-term and long-term measures in the draft resolution recommended unanimously by the Economic Committee for adoption by the Council (*ibid.*, draft resolution I), which called upon him to organize as soon as possible, in collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations system, the necessary action to respond to the requests of the Governments of the regions with regard to their medium-term and long-term needs. The Council could rest assured that he would fulfil that mandate in the most speedy and vigorous manner possible. Nature had confronted the international community with important new challenges, challenges that also offered special opportunities for Member States to reaffirm through the United Nations their acceptance of collective responsibility for the welfare of all mankind.

12. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Special Representative of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that, following an initial visit to the six countries concerned so that he could acquaint himself with the situation, he had returned to Rome and given a press conference. It seemed that, at that conference, he might well have underestimated the gravity of the situation in the

Sudano-Sahelian area. Technical reports showed, with regard to cattle, for example, that in Mauritania only 500,000 remained out of an estimated 2.4 million head. In Senegal, there were still 650,000 head of cattle in the zone affected by the drought. Almost all the cattle in Upper Volta had moved on to Dahomey and, in certain zones, thousands of head were jammed near wells producing very little water. Feed reserves in the area were almost non-existent. Only a few head remained in Niger and large herds had left Mali, where, for the first time in 100 years, giraffes had been moving southwards across the River Niger. In fact, the Government of Mali, faced with enormous difficulties in distributing a huge quantity of grain for human consumption, was not inclined to request additional amounts for cattle and preferred to abandon the animals.

13. It was difficult to determine the number of deaths among the human population, but the figure was obviously very high. Consequently, food aid was essential, as were rapid transport facilities. Naturally, the most effective means of carrying grain was by air. The information concerning the number and condition of landing strips was inadequate for the moment, and it was more than probable that the six countries affected did not have sufficient stocks of fuel. Again, it would only be possible to use light aircraft because of the size of the landing strips and, in certain areas where the rains had already arrived, airfields without paved runways could no longer be used. At the same time, every effort would have to be made, by using air transport, to overcome the bottle-necks that would occur when food supplies reached the sea ports. It should not be forgotten that some of the countries concerned were among the poorest in the world. In Upper Volta, for instance, *per capita* income was \$60 per annum. Furthermore, the debilitated inhabitants were threatened with epidemics, children would for many years be affected by the consequences of the famine, and the influx of people into the towns would inevitably create an unemployment problem. Without their cattle, some nomads no longer had the means to sustain themselves or indeed any reason to live.

14. He had already consulted, and would continue to consult, Governments and international organizations in his efforts to secure aid for the stricken countries. The European Economic Community (EEC) was to provide an additional 13,000 tons of powdered skimmed milk. Misereor, a charity organization, was providing \$130,000 for the purchase of seeds and transport costs, the Federal Republic of Germany 3 million marks to meet urgent needs, the Netherlands Government 500 tons of high-protein biscuits and air transport to distribute them, while the World Food Programme was co-ordinating the supply of 500,000 tons of grain, including 150,000 tons that were to reach port by the beginning of June. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) would be able to contribute in two ways: by supplying protein-rich food-stuffs and by strengthening action in the area of water supply by paying local labour costs.

15. In respect of co-ordination, a Minister had been appointed in each of the six countries to supervise emergency operations in consultation with the other ministries and aid organizations. National committees would ensure proper dissemination of information and organization of aid. The United Nations was already rendering assistance through its UNDP offices. At the

regional level, co-ordination would be secured through the Standing Inter-State Committee established by a conference of Ministers of the six countries. It was also essential to co-ordinate the activities of organizations and countries already affording, and intending to supply, aid. Such co-ordination was in fact the objective of activities being carried out in Rome by FAO and the World Food Programme, which the Secretary-General had decided to support. There was already a special office in existence and it would be strengthened so as to centralize continuous consultations with recipient and donor countries. The co-ordination machinery for the present emergency phase would have to be adapted in order to assist the medium-term and long-term measures that alone could solve the basic problems of the drought in the Sahelian area.

16. Lastly, he was gratified that, by the draft resolution submitted by the Economic Committee for adoption by the Council (E/5339, draft resolution I), his own action would be supported and strengthened by that of the United Nations and the international community.

17. Mr. LONGERSTAEY (Belgium) said that the Belgian authorities were particularly honoured by the fact that the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations had chosen the former Belgian Minister of Development Co-operation as his Special Representative in connexion with the Sahelian problem. The Special Representative had given the Council an up-to-date account of the tragic situation in the six stricken countries, four of which were among the least developed of the developing countries.

18. In the short term, there were clearly three urgent problems that should be given high priority. The first was food for the population. Although it appeared that the immediate food needs of the population could be met with the assistance already provided or pledged, transport in the interior of the countries and at the ports must be organized. The rainy season generally began in July and many of the roads would then become impassable. The second problem was that of providing feed for livestock in order to save as many animals as possible. The third problem was the amount of seed urgently needed for sowing in June. Even if the rains were normal, unless the countries had sufficient seed, the next crop was bound to fail.

19. Medium-term and long-term action must also be taken to prevent a repetition of the disastrous droughts in the region. Such measures should include, *inter alia*, a survey of climatic conditions in the Sahelian region, action to hold back the encroaching desert, the development of water resources and improvement of animal production. Obviously the assistance offered by the international community, bilateral assistance and the action taken in the countries concerned must be effectively co-ordinated to solve the many problems facing the area. The fact that the six countries had declared the Sahelian zone a disaster area would facilitate the mobilization of United Nations assistance. The Governments of the Sahelian countries had also established a Standing Inter-State Committee to co-ordinate their activities.

20. The European Economic Community (EEC) was providing 13,000 tons of powdered skimmed milk, which would be distributed free to the population in the region; milk was urgently needed because, in many

cases, the drought had decimated the livestock. The milk would be sent immediately by boat to African ports and would be transported to the disaster areas by road, rail or water and, in some cases, by air, using the transport facilities provided by certain Member States. Two hundred tons of powdered milk would be sent immediately by air from Europe to Niamey, Niger, which was the worst affected area. Furthermore, EEC was in the process of organizing emergency food aid, as well as substantial supplies of grain, under the 1972-1973 programme of the second Food Aid Convention and those supplies would be delivered as soon as possible. Belgium was providing an aircraft to fly 18 tons of powdered milk to the area immediately and to ensure local transport for a short period. Belgium was also providing bilateral emergency aid in form of flour and further bilateral aid under the 1972-1973 programme of the Second Food Aid Convention.

21. Mr. FACK (Netherlands) said that it was the Council's duty in the emergency affecting the Sahelian zone to endorse the appeal of the Director-General of FAO to the world community and adopt draft resolution I in document E/5339. The Special Representative of the Director-General had referred to the immediate response of the Netherlands to the appeal and he wished to confirm that, as an emergency measure, the Netherlands was sending 500 tons of wheat biscuits by air and sea to the Sahelian zone.

22. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that his delegation welcomed the appointment of the Special Representative of the Director-General of FAO in connexion with the emergency in the Sahelian zone. In the light of the grave situation described by the Special Representative, the provisions of draft resolution I in document E/5339 did not seem to be sufficiently dynamic. However, it was to be hoped that Governments and United Nations officials would bear in mind the gravity of the situation in seeking ways to solve the problems. It was important that the situation should be brought to the attention of world public opinion. The measures taken by the Council indicated that there was some hope for the future. He agreed with the Secretary-General that the political, economic and social aspects of the problem were interdependent and required an equally dynamic response. The Secretary-General had also referred to the discouraging situation with regard to international co-operation, and to the need for a long-term policy on food problems, which his delegation also advocated. Food was a fundamental right of all peoples according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It should be borne in mind that, apart from the crisis in the Sahelian zone, the world as a whole was threatened with famine. The Secretary-General had referred to the need for countries to take domestic action to deal with the situation; his delegation shared that view but also stressed the need for international co-operation and the will to implement it successfully. Increased production in the developing countries was dependent not only upon domestic measures but also upon more equitable trade arrangements and the elimination of protectionism which was preventing the expansion of the developing countries.

23. Draft resolution II in document E/5339 was closely connected with the concept of collective economic security. The Director-General of FAO had suggested that world food stocks should be constituted and, although the draft resolution did not refer to that point specifically, it was evident from the discussion

in the Economic Committee that the Economic and Social Council hoped that the FAO Council would explore the idea further. Some years ago, the Director-General of FAO had advocated the idea of a world food bank. If such a bank had been established, the present crisis could have been avoided.

24. Mr. TRAORÉ (Mali), speaking on behalf of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian zone thanked the Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Director-General of FAO for drawing attention to the tragedy in those countries. Despite the gravity of the situation, he felt that there was some hope for the future in view of the sympathy expressed by many delegations and the pledges made by the international community as a whole. In October 1972, the Governments of the Sahelian countries had alerted Governments with which they had close relations to the impending crisis. He wished to thank those Governments which had recognized the danger at that time and those which had provided food and transport since then. When the situation had deteriorated further, the Governments of the Sahelian countries had been forced to draw the attention of the international community to the need for food and transport. He wished now to stress the urgent need of the Sahelian peoples for seed and vaccine. As the Special Representative had said, the rainy season had already begun in the area and seed was needed to ensure the best possible crop. Furthermore, the mass migration of the human and animal population might well cause a very serious health situation. He was certain that the efforts of the international community would be appropriately co-ordinated to meet the needs of the population. A remark by the Special Representative had made a particular impression on him; namely, that with the desert advancing from the north and the forest deteriorating from the south, the entire area would be devastated, unless great care was taken to prevent such a situation.

25. The PRESIDENT said that the Council would gladly take any other measures which might be necessary to help the countries in the Sudano-Sahelian zone and drew the Council's attention to draft resolution I in document E/5339.

26. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) said that he had already explained his point of view on the item in the Economic Committee. However, in the light of the Secretary-General's statement, he would like to submit an amendment to paragraph 4 of draft resolution I. In order to broaden the scope of the paragraph, he proposed that it should be amended to read: "*Requests* the Secretary-General to call upon all elements of the United Nations system to respond to the immediate needs . . .".

27. Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America) said that he had had some comments to make on paragraph 4, but the amendment proposed by the representative of Algeria would solve his problems and he hoped that it would be accepted. For many months his Government had given serious attention to the emergency in the Sahelian region and it would continue to do so. A special office had been established in the United States aid organization to deal specifically with the question. His Government would consider any further appeals made concerning the Sahelian region and he would give his authorities a full account of the discussion which had taken place in the Council, including the statement by the Secretary-General and the Special Representative.

28. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that he wished to propose an amendment to the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution I. Obviously the paragraph did not refer to the statement just made by the Special Representative and he proposed that, in view of his commendable efforts, Mr. Scheyven should be mentioned by name. The fourth preambular paragraph should therefore be amended to read "*Taking into account* the information provided in this respect by the Special Representative of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the Sahelian question, Mr. Scheyven, to the effect that . . .".

29. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in principle, his delegation had no objection to the amendment proposed by the representative of Chile, except with regard to the reference to the name of the Special Representative. It was not usual to include a name in a draft resolution and he therefore hoped that the representative of Chile would not press for the inclusion of Mr. Scheyven's name.

30. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that he would withdraw the reference to Mr. Scheyven's name.

31. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution I would therefore read: "*Taking into account* the information provided in this respect by the Special Representative of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the Sahelian Question, to the effect that . . .".

32. The PRESIDENT said that he would take it that the Council adopted draft resolution I, as amended by the representatives of Chile and Algeria, without objection.

*Draft resolution I, as amended, was adopted without objection.*¹

33. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to draft resolution II in document E/5339.

34. Mr. RABETAFIKA (Madagascar) said that the crop failures which had occurred in Asia owing to droughts and floods were not limited to South Asia alone. He therefore proposed that the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution II should be amended to read ". . . following recurring crop failures in vulnerable areas in Asia, Central America . . .".

35. Mr. ABHYANKAR (India) said that he had no objection to the amendment but felt that the original reference to "South Asia" was more factually accurate, since the recent droughts had occurred precisely there.

36. Mr. RABETAFIKA (Madagascar) pointed out that the crop failures referred to in the fifth preambular paragraph had resulted not only from droughts but also from floods, such as the recent one in the Philippines. He therefore preferred the more general wording he had proposed.

37. Mr. HAMID (Sudan), Mr. MAHMASSANI (Lebanon), Mr. VERCELES (Philippines), Mr. FASLA (Algeria), Mr. AL-HADAD (Yemen) and Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan) supported the Malagasy amendment.

38. Mr. ABHYANKAR (India) said that the point made by the representative of Madagascar was well taken; however, he would suggest that the words

¹ Council resolution 1759 (LIV).

“crop failures” should be replaced by “natural disasters”.

39. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) supported by Mr. SINGH (Malaysia), favoured retaining the words “crop failures” on the grounds that the term “natural disasters” would be too broad and that the draft resolution was specifically concerned with food deficits and food aid needs, of which crop failures were the immediate cause.

40. Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan) drew attention to an omission in the first preambular paragraph of a reference to General Assembly resolution 2682 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, which the sponsors had agreed to include when the draft resolution had been considered by the Economic Committee.

41. The PRESIDENT noting that there appeared to be agreement in the Council concerning the retention of the words “crop failures”, proposed that the Council should vote on draft resolution II as amended by the representative of Madagascar and including the reference to which the representative of Pakistan had drawn attention.

Draft resolution II, as amended, was adopted by 22 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.²

42. Mr. LISOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the reservations concerning draft resolution II that his delegation had expressed in the Economic Committee still stood.

Mr. Scott (New Zealand), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Collective economic security: preliminary consideration of the concept, its scope and potential practical implications

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5344)

43. The PRESIDENT drew attention to paragraph 5 of the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 7 (E/5344), containing a draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council. The draft decision had been adopted unanimously by the Economic Committee, and if there was no objection he would take it that the Council also wished to adopt it unanimously.

The draft decision was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Natural resources

(a) Report of the Committee on Natural Resources;

(b) Question of the establishment of a United Nations revolving fund for natural resources exploration

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5346)

44. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on item 5 (E/5346). The last paragraph contained two draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Council.

45. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) read out a correction to paragraph 14 of the report.

46. Mr. OLIVERI LÓPEZ (Argentina) said that paragraph 8 of the report did not give an accurate account of what had happened in the Committee and requested a correction.

47. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretary would consult the representative of Argentina and the other delegations concerned with a view to making the necessary corrections.³

48. Mr. LISOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that a number of delegations had requested the Secretariat to provide a statement of the financial implications of operative subparagraphs (d) and (e) in part B of draft resolution I.

49. Mr. AHMED (Director, Resources and Programme Planning Office) said that, as the representative of the USSR had pointed out, certain questions had been raised concerning the financial implications of draft resolution I.

50. With regard to part B of the draft resolution, the timing of the third session of the Committee on Natural Resources had made it possible for the Secretary-General to include a modest provision in the 1974-1975 programme budget proposal to initiate work relating to subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c), based on the recommendations, contained in the report of the Committee on Natural Resources (see E/5247, para. 45). Subparagraphs (d) and (e) had, however, been added in the Economic Committee and therefore no specific provisions had been made in the programme budget, although the intent of those subparagraphs could be regarded as being closely connected with the matters covered in subparagraphs (a) to (c).

51. An *ad hoc* expert group would be convened in 1973 from within the approved budget to determine the approach to be used and to elaborate a detailed programme of activities for achieving the objectives of all five subparagraphs. Taking into account the findings and recommendations of the expert group, the Secretary-General would submit for the consideration of the Council at a subsequent session a precise programme of work together with an indication of the resources required for the implementation of the recommended programme.

52. With regard to part C of the draft resolution, particularly the interrelated operative paragraphs 3 and 5 (b), the Secretary-General intended to undertake consultations with Member States on ways and means of conducting the preparations for the proposed United Nations water conference by means of a note verbale. That approach would not require additional resources. The Secretary-General had also been requested in paragraph 5 (b) to explore the possibility of convening regional conferences or seminars and to report on the matter to the fifty-fifth session of the Council. Such a report, if it was to take into account the views of Member States, as requested, and those of the regional economic commissions, could not be ready in time for the fifty-fifth session. The Council might wish to consider changing that deadline to the fifty-sixth session, as was the case for the report requested under paragraph 3.

53. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) drew attention to an error in paragraph 27 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/5346): his delegation had with-

³ The corrections were incorporated in the printed version of the report (E/5346/Rev.1).

² Council resolution 1760 (LIV).

drawn its first, second and third amendments but not the fourth. It had, however, accepted the proposal of Trinidad and Tobago in lieu of its fourth amendment.³

54. Mr. LISOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the Director for his statement. His delegation was categorically opposed to convening an *ad hoc* expert group to determine the contents and scope of the studies requested in part B. The present resources of the Resources and Transport Division were more than adequate for that purpose. It would set a very bad precedent indeed to establish yet another expert group to do the work that should be done by the Secretariat.

55. Mr. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil) thanked the Director for his statement, which had made it clear that the Secretary-General regarded the requests made in the operative paragraph of part B of the draft resolution as an integrated whole. His delegation fully supported the Secretary-General's decision to convene an *ad hoc* expert group. The developing countries attached great importance to achieving the objectives of part B, and his delegation attached special importance to the assessment of technologies requested in subparagraphs (d) and (e).

56. Mr. NDUNG'U (Kenya) said that his delegation had no objection to extending the deadline in paragraph 5 (b) of part C to the fifty-sixth session of the Council, as the Director had suggested.

57. Mr. AHMED (Director, Resources and Programme Planning Office) thanked the representative of Kenya for supporting his suggestion. With regard to part B, he reiterated that the *ad hoc* expert group to be convened in 1973 would be financed from available resources; provisions to that effect had been included in the budget submitted to and approved by the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

58. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that his delegation likewise had no objection to deferring the report requested in paragraph 5 (b) of part C to the fifty-sixth session.

59. The PRESIDENT said that there appeared to be general agreement on the desirability of amending subparagraph 5 (b) of part C along the lines suggested by the Director. He would take it that the Council adopted draft resolution I, as amended, without objection.

*Draft resolution I, as amended, was adopted without objection.*⁴

60. Mr. OLIVERI LÓPEZ (Argentina), referring to part C of the draft resolution, expressed pleasure at the Council's acceptance of his Government's invitation to hold the United Nations water conference at Buenos Aires in 1977. His delegation looked forward to participating in the preparatory work and would do its utmost to ensure that the conference was a success.

61. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft resolution II.

62. Mr. FIGUEROA (Chile) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution II in the Economic Committee but would vote in favour of it now as an expression of its support for the establish-

ment of the revolving fund. It was to be hoped that a final decision on the matter would be taken at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly. He emphasized the importance his delegation attached to subparagraph 1 (i) concerning the rate of repayment and the total sum to be repaid.

63. Mr. TRAORÉ (Mali) said that his delegation would abstain in the vote for the reasons he had explained in the Economic Committee.

64. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote in the Economic Committee but would vote in favour of the draft resolution on the present occasion. However, it still had serious reservations with regard to subparagraph 1 (i).

65. Mr. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil) said that his delegation would abstain in the vote because the draft resolution did not clearly specify that the resources to be contributed to the fund should be additional to current commitments; because it did not provide clearly for a repayment ceiling; because no provision was made for preferential treatment of the least developed countries and the land-locked developing countries; and because it did not clearly indicate that any assistance provided through the fund must be subject to national laws and regulations.

66. Mr. ZAGORIN (United States of America) said that his delegation would abstain for the reasons it had stated in the Economic Committee.

67. Mr. WANG Tzu-chuan (China) recalled the reservations his delegation had expressed in the Economic Committee with regard to the draft resolution.

68. Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) said that his delegation would abstain for the reasons it had stated in the Economic Committee.

69. Mr. KARHILO (Finland) said that his delegation would abstain because, as it had explained in the Economic Committee, it was opposed to the establishment of a revolving fund for natural resources exploration.

70. Mr. GATES (New Zealand) recalled that his delegation had voted for the draft resolution in the Economic Committee although it had had some reservations, the substance of which was reflected in the Committee's records.

71. Mr. TEMBOURY (Spain), recalling the reservations his delegation had expressed in the Economic Committee, said that he would nevertheless vote in favour of the draft resolution as an expression of solidarity with the fund's supporters.

At the request of the representative of Malaysia, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution II.

In favour: Algeria, Bolivia, Burundi, Chile, China, France, Haiti, Japan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Zaire.

Against: None

Abstaining: Brazil, Finland, Hungary, Mali, Mongolia, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Draft resolution II was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*⁵

⁴ Council resolution 1761 (LIV).

⁵ Council resolution 1762 (LIV).

72. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) recalled that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution in the Economic Committee. He agreed with the representative of Brazil, however, that it was regrettable that it did not provide for preferential treatment for the least

developed countries and the land-locked developing countries. He hoped that that deficiency would be remedied when the resolution came before the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

1858th meeting

Friday, 18 May 1973, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Sergio A. FRAZÃO (Brazil).

E/SR.1858

AGENDA ITEM 8

The impact of multinational corporations on the development process and on international relations (E/5334 and Corr.1, E/5351)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5351)

1. Mr. STAVROPOULOS (Legal Counsel) said that the titles listed for Mr. L. K. Jha in paragraph 8 of the progress report of the Secretary-General (E/5334 and Corr.1) included the title "Governor of Jammu and Kashmir". During the discussion of item 8 at the 632nd meeting of the Economic Committee, the representative of Pakistan had requested that a foot-note be added to the effect that the legal status of Jammu and Kashmir remained to be determined. Following a discussion in the course of which the representative of India had stated that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India and that he would object to the addition of any foot-note, it had been decided, at the request of Pakistan, to refer the matter to the Office of Legal Affairs.

2. The Office of Legal Affairs considered that the Secretariat could include in its maps and publications explanatory foot-notes of the nature indicated when it had itself compiled the information concerned and was responsible for it. The Secretariat would not, however, consider it appropriate to alter, add to or delete information supplied to it in a *curriculum vitae* by the party concerned. That did not imply any position on the part of the Secretariat with respect to the information supplied in the *curriculum vitae*.

3. Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan) pointed out that his delegation's purpose in raising the question had been to ensure that the information contained in the report did not reflect the position of the Secretary-General with respect to Jammu and Kashmir, and it was happy to note that the Legal Counsel had confirmed that that was the case.

4. As the Legal Counsel had said, the Secretariat did include a foot-note in maps and publications it prepared, stating that the legal status of Jammu and Kashmir remained to be determined in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council on the question of Kashmir. That was what had been done, for example, in the *Demographic Yearbook* and the *Statistical Yearbook*, which showed that that was the position of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Secretariat with respect to the legal status of Jammu and Kashmir.

5. The Secretary-General should ensure that in all documents prepared by the Secretariat or for which it was responsible, wherever a reference was made to Jammu and Kashmir, that position was clearly and categorically reflected.

6. Mr. JAIN (India) said that his delegation had followed the statement of the Legal Counsel with interest, since it confirmed its view regarding the inadmissibility of including the foot-note suggested by the representative of Pakistan. He repeated that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India and drew attention to the very clear-cut and precise formulation of the Legal Counsel's statement. That statement had referred to the general practice followed by the Secretariat and not to the kind of foot-note suggested by the representative of Pakistan, who had attempted to mislead and confuse the Council by giving his own interpretation of the Legal Counsel's statement as having been specifically addressed to the question of Jammu and Kashmir. Actually, the statement showed that in many cases, the practice followed by the Secretariat was not to include such foot-notes.

7. Mr. WANG Tzu-chuan (China) said that, in the view of his delegation, the position of Pakistan was correct and reasonable. The United Nations Secretariat should carefully carry out the resolutions of the Security Council with a view to avoiding confusion.

8. The PRESIDENT drew attention to paragraph 5 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/5351), which contained a draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council.

9. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that a question as important as that of the impact of multinational corporations on the development process and on international relations ought to have been discussed in depth in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly, because the Council was still not sufficiently representative, many countries not yet having ratified the relevant amendment to the Charter.

10. In view of the profound effect of the problem on the national life of Chile and its international relations, he was tempted to reiterate his views on the subject, but he would refrain from doing so to avoid the difficulties of reopening the debate, provided other delegations did likewise.

11. Reviewing the draft decision on which the Council was requested to act, he said that a foot-note might be added referring to the summary records of the Economic Committee that contained the observations men-