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President: Mr. Hernán SANTA CRUZ (Chile).

Present: Representatives of the following countries:

Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Iran, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies:

International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Production and distribution of newsprint and printing paper: consideration of the resolution adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its sixth session (E/2052, E/2052/Add.1 and Corr.1) (*concluded*)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the fact that the joint draft resolution submitted by the Belgian and French delegations (E/L.271) had been re-issued as document E/L.271/Rev.1, incorporating the amendments (E/L.278) jointly submitted by Canada, India, Sweden and the United Kingdom. There were two errors in the text of document E/L.271/Rev.1: the phrase "and uses of forestry resources", in section B, paragraph 1, should be inserted after the words "in forestry development" instead of after the words "for increasing the production,"; also, the introductory words of section C should read: "*With a view to keeping the problem under continuous review*" instead of "*The Economic and Social Council*".

2. Mr. REYES (Philippines) said that the action of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in proposing the inclusion on the Council's agenda of the problem of the shortage of

newsprint and printing paper was highly commendable, and it was right that the Council should have adopted the proposal. He recalled that resolution 33 in annex C to the Final Act of the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information, held in 1948, had taken cognizance of UNESCO's research work in connexion with newsprint and had drawn the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the dangers which the shortage of newsprint and the inequitable distribution of available supplies involved for the freedom of information. At its ninth session, the Council had taken note of UNESCO's activity in bringing the serious shortage of newsprint to the attention of the United Nations. At its fourth session, the Sub-Commission on the Freedom of Information and the Press had likewise drawn attention to the threat to freedom of information constituted by the shortage of newsprint, in opening the way for governments to control the Press by newsprint allocations.

3. In a wider field, it was clear that any inadequacy in the volume and quality of information material hampered progress in education and culture and impaired international understanding. The experience of his own country amply illustrated that point. Although in the Philippines elementary education was free, the high cost of printing and paper made it impossible for the Government to supply advanced text-books and supplementary educational material, free of charge in the high schools, and the high retail price of such material was prohibitive to many students. Since 1939, the Philippines Government had been endeavouring to promote the development of the national language: the re-printing of the classics in inexpensive editions was an important part of that programme, the progress of which had been impeded by the shortage and high cost of newsprint and paper.

4. Turning to the draft resolution before the Council, his delegation would have preferred the retention of paragraph 1 (a) of section B of the original draft resolu-

tion (E/L.271), because of the great importance which his Government attached to the development of substitute raw materials as an aid to the solution of the paper shortage. In that connexion, it was significant that the General Conference of UNESCO, in section II of the operative part of its resolution (E/2052/Add.1), made specific reference to the matter of technical research in the use of substitute materials as one of the ways by which the world production of newsprint and printing paper could be raised, a point stressed by the Director-General of UNESCO in an appeal to Member Governments. In fact, his delegation felt so strongly on that point that it had intended to propose an amendment to the draft resolution referring to technical assistance in developing substitute raw materials, in section B, paragraph 3, of the original draft resolution (E/L.271).

5. The interest of the Philippines in the possibilities of increasing production by recourse to substitute raw materials was based on the fact that considerable progress had been made in the manufacture of newsprint from a sugar by-product, and the Philippines, as was well known, was one of the world's larger sugar producers. His Government felt that, with some aid under the expanded programme of technical assistance, that potential source of newsprint could be so developed as to make a substantial contribution in the fairly near future to alleviating the present acute shortage. Tests carried out at the United States Forest Products Laboratory, Wisconsin, had indicated that the process to which he had referred was capable of producing newsprint quite as satisfactory as that presently made from wood-pulp, and at no greater expense.

6. The absence of specific reference to substitute raw materials in the revised draft resolution meant that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was requested to continue its studies and researches in forestry development and in the uses of forest products alone, no account being taken of the potentialities of non-ligneous sources of newsprint material. That might in practice assist those countries which had access to substantial supplies of wood-pulp but would be no help to countries which had no access to such supplies.

7. His delegation preferred the original text of section B, paragraph 4. UNESCO had made considerable and sustained efforts in the collection of the information referred to. For example, as far back as 1948, the Conference on Freedom of Information had taken note of the conclusions reached by UNESCO on the basis of its enquiries, conducted in 1947, into the situation regarding paper supplies and inadequacy of information facilities in twelve war-devastated countries. Paragraphs 2 (i) and (iv) of the Director-General's memorandum (E/2052/Add.1) indicated that UNESCO had all along done useful work in that direction, and it seemed logical and desirable that it should be requested to continue along those lines. The problem would surely be much more easily solved on the basis of information collected by UNESCO and made available to Member Governments.

8. His delegation fully agreed with the Canadian representative's view that the ultimate solution lay in expanded production. But it submitted that that was

an additional reason why no method which might lead to that result, whether carried out in the countries where large-scale production was already established or in those in which potential resources could be tapped through the provision of technical assistance, should be neglected.

9. Mr. GLESINGER (Food and Agriculture Organization) said that the Director-General of FAO had asked him, first to convey to UNESCO FAO's appreciation for its initiative in connexion with the newsprint and paper shortage, and secondly, to inform the Council that any request for action by FAO, resulting from the present discussions, would be most favourably considered.

10. He believed that a short review of the world wood-pulp and paper situation might be of assistance to the Council. In 1949, a conference on paper and pulp held under the auspices of FAO and the Canadian Government had indicated the probability of a shortage by forecasting that world requirements in wood-pulp, which had increased from 24 to 28 million tons annually in the period from 1937 to 1949, might be expected to attain approximately 37 million tons in 1955. It was likely that output in a number of countries would rise as a result of those increased requirements, but the estimated required annual increase of wood-pulp, amounting to between 1 and 1½ million tons, was clearly a formidable figure to meet. The difficulty would lie, not only in the provision of capital, but also in the availability of raw materials. It was precisely owing to the vital factor of raw materials supplies that FAO's policy had been to follow closely the trends of the world situation with regard to all available sources of raw materials.

11. It had to be remembered that newsprint could not be considered in isolation from other wood-pulp requirements—packaging, for example. Furthermore, pulp for both paper and packaging was derived from similar round-woods which were also extensively used to make pitprops. Only some two weeks previously, the Timber Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) had recommended to governments that the provision of pitprops should be regarded as a priority. There was thus clearly a conflict between the rival claims of the mines and the paper consumers, a conflict which emphasized the need to study the question on the basis of all the relevant factors.

12. FAO's approach to the situation was threefold. First, systematic studies were carried out to estimate present and future requirements in the major forest products. Those studies were performed on a regional basis and usually in close co-operation with the United Nations regional economic commissions. For example, the first progress report on a study carried out in co-operation with ECE had been submitted to the eighth session of the Timber Committee to which he had just referred. That report indicated that small-timber requirements would rise some 6 per cent by 1960. Careful organization and adjustment would be required in view of the likely effect of that increase. A second, and even more important study on the prospective future production and consumption of wood-pulp in Latin America, had been proposed by the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) at its fourth session. An estimate

would be made of over-all needs and production potentialities in Latin America; the comparative merits and drawbacks of various sites in the region for the establishment of newsprint and wood-pulp industries would be examined and an attempt would be made to evolve a suitable methodological approach to the problem. Thirdly, on completion of the study in Latin America, similar work would be undertaken in the Far East in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE).

13. In the second place, FAO's approach to the problem was based on the consideration that, as had been made clear at the conference held at Montreal an immediate increase in productive capacity was essential irrespective of the provisions of long-term development plans. An immediate increase in production, however, was beset with serious difficulties, of which the chief was the insufficiency in Europe and North America of conifers, normally regarded as the principal source of wood-pulp. The effects of that shortage could be counteracted by the use of conifers growing outside Europe and North America, for example in Central and South America and in the Far East. The difficulty could be further overcome by reducing production waste and by the use of low-grade woods which would normally be rejected for pulping. A third remedy was the use of other species of timber for pulping, and a fourth was research on the use of straw, bamboo and sugar waste—i.e., in the application of substitute raw materials, to which the Philippines representative had referred. FAO believed that it was possible to produce good newsprint by the process mentioned by that representative. For the study of problems involved in the use of new raw materials, a special Technical Committee on Wood Chemistry had been established as long ago as 1947. The membership of the committee included leading experts in wood chemistry, and at its next session, to be held shortly, it would consider methods of pulping tropical timber and the manufacture of pulp from cellulose materials other than wood. The results of that session should throw considerable further light on the use that could be made of such materials.

14. Thirdly, specific action had been taken under the expanded programme of technical assistance. A number of governments had submitted requests for technical assistance in connexion with wood-pulping and with forest industries in general. Thus far, agreements had been signed with Burma, Chile, Mexico, Pakistan and Paraguay, to all of which countries at least one expert had been assigned to advise on questions of pulping and on integrated forest industries including pulping. In some countries the experts had already started work; in Chile, for example, two experts had for several months past been engaged on the development of forest industries on the basis of studies earlier conducted by the Chilean Government and on implementing plans drawn up by the Chilean Government together with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development with the object of establishing timber industries in Chile.

15. In the case of India, where the shortage of paper was extremely acute, the technical assistance agreement provided an expert to advise on the establishment of a

pulp and paper factory in the foothills of the Himalayas. Pulp could be produced in that region without application of new techniques owing to the similarity of timber growing there to that found in the Lower Alps. Transport had provided the only serious problem in the Indian scheme, and another expert had been provided under the technical assistance programme to advise on such difficulties.

16. Thus it could be said that FAO had already taken action along the lines of the draft resolution before the Council. That action, as he had indicated, could be divided into three phases: first, an estimate of long- and short-term requirements and supplies; secondly, the organization of research on particular technical problems; and thirdly, technical assistance in giving practical effect to the results of that research and in implementing plans in under-developed countries.

17. Mr. STERNER (Sweden) expressed his entire agreement with the Canadian representative's statement at the preceding meeting. The consumption per head of newsprint was a reliable guide to standards of living, and the extremely wide limits within which consumption varied showed clearly that action should be taken. For that reason, his delegation welcomed UNESCO's initiative and the draft resolution submitted by the Belgian and French delegations. It was evident, however, that the wide discrepancies in consumption standards constituted a long-range problem which could not possibly be solved overnight. In addition, there was at present a short-term problem that called for speedy action. In that connexion, the Belgian representative had referred to the question of prices. He agreed that that was a problem, but, as the Canadian representative had pointed out, it was one which extended to commodities other than newsprint and paper. The Belgian representative had also expressed the belief that increases in prices were due to export taxes. He (Mr. Sterner) was of the opinion that a misunderstanding had occurred in that respect. As far as Sweden was concerned, no export tax was levied; exporters had to pay a certain sum per ton into a special fund, most of which was later returned to them while the balance was contributed to various social services and development work connected with forest industries. But he would stress that the amounts paid into the special fund did not increase export prices. It was rather the other way round, in so far as the increase in prices had forced Sweden to adopt that system in order to minimise the increase in raw material prices and other production costs, thereby facilitating such downward adjustments in export prices as might result from a future change in the market.

18. As the Canadian representative had stated, the key to the problem was increased production. Sweden was doing its utmost in that respect, but was faced with a serious difficulty in that its supplies of raw materials were limited. Whereas the former large stands of virgin timber had at one time permitted Sweden's timber resources to be overworked, present small reserves meant that available supplies had to be exploited with care. It was clear that the main expansion had to come from countries where large timber reserves still existed. Furthermore, although it was economically advisable to

situate new processing plant in countries where raw material was available, it was probably uneconomical to do so in areas remote from the sources of supply.

19. With regard to the revised draft resolution (E/L.271/Rev.1) he wondered whether the Belgian and French representatives would agree to the deletion from the English text of the words "the distribution of" in section A, paragraph 1. It had been the intention of the sponsors of the joint amendments (E/L.278) that the words in question should be deleted, but perhaps that intention had not been very clearly expressed.

20. His only other comments on the revised draft resolution related to section C, in which his delegation, in association with others, would prefer that the words "each year" be replaced by the words "in 1952". With the knowledge that it was always possible at any time to place the item on the Council's agenda, it seemed superfluous to stipulate that it should automatically be included every year.

21. The Philippines representative had looked askance at some of the amendments accepted by the Belgian and French delegations. The Swedish delegation, however, thought that they were useful and enhanced the value of the resolution. While he agreed that UNESCO had done excellent work in connexion with the newsprint and paper situation, it was certainly open to question whether UNESCO was the proper organ to measure demands on a specific industrial market, and in making clear that that was not intended, the revised text marked a distinct improvement.

22. There was a school of thought which considered that FAO should devote attention to the industrial and processing aspects of agriculture and forestry, and there was another school which believed that it should not. His delegation believed that the Council could not express an opinion on that matter, which would be more appropriately decided by Member Governments of FAO itself.

23. With reference to the point raised by the Philippines representative in connexion with substitute raw materials, he would not oppose the inclusion of a specific directive that attention should be given to their development.

24. There seemed a considerable hope that the revised joint draft resolution would be adopted by both consuming and producing countries. If such an agreement were achieved it would be a valuable weapon in the struggle against the shortage of newsprint and printing paper.

25. Mr. GRAY (United Kingdom) said it was unnecessary to emphasize the extreme importance of the question. The Council's thanks were due to UNESCO for having formally called attention to it.

26. He would remind the Council that the United Kingdom's supplies of newsprint fell very far short of requirements, and for many years past newspapers had been rationed to six-page issues, whereas before the Second World War issues of twenty pages had been common. It was unnecessary to point out that that restriction of space placed most undesirable limitations on news and its proper presentation and discussion. While not imme-

diately seeking to return to pre-war conditions, the United Kingdom Government was anxious to remove as far as possible the worst features of the present situation.

27. His Government appreciated the various efforts that had been made to ease the situation, but felt that the problem was so acute that further action was required and his delegation hoped that the draft resolution before the Council would be adopted as part of such action. The United Kingdom had taken part in other international discussions designed to alleviate the shortages and was still engaged in such discussions in the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) and the International Materials Conference.

28. His delegation had joined with others in proposing detailed amendments to the original joint draft resolution. He believed that those amendments in no way impaired its usefulness, and he was pleased to see that in the main they had been accepted. Some of the co-sponsors of the proposed amendments had signified their willingness to accept the French representative's suggestion made at the preceding meeting modifying the original amendment 5. His delegation was also prepared to accept it on the understanding that its meaning was that FAO was being asked to continue its present work in that particular field. The United Kingdom fully agreed that FAO should carry on that activity provided that could be done in the light of its other commitments.

29. He fully endorsed the Swedish representative's remarks on the undesirability of UNESCO's assessing the situation from a semi-technical point of view. It was in any case necessary to avoid duplication of effort and, as the Canadian representative had pointed out, the International Materials Conference was in the process of making a comprehensive survey of requirements.

30. While appreciating the Philippines representative's concern with regard to the importance of substitute raw materials, he could assure him that it had certainly not been the intention of the authors of the amendments to suggest that FAO should not provide any information available in that field.

31. Mr. KRISHNAMACHARI (India) said that India's paramount interest in the paper situation could be well judged by the fact that, in approximate terms, India consumed only as much paper per annum as the United States of America consumed in a single day. He did not of course regret that consumption attained such large proportions in the United States of America, but he did feel that countries in the same position as India had a right to feel dissatisfied with the enormous discrepancy to which he had referred, and which, as the representative of FAO had indicated, might be expected to increase in geometric progression.

32. It was difficult to determine where the main responsibility lay for attempting a solution of the problem. He himself did not think that it could well be entrusted to UNESCO; the most that UNESCO could do was to co-ordinate efforts. Certain delegations had taken exception to the original draft resolution, since it sought to place upon FAO responsibility which those delegations believed the Organization should not be asked to

accept. In his opinion, however, that was a somewhat narrow way of looking at the matter, and, particularly after hearing the FAO representative's statement, he did not think it would be wrong to request FAO to assist in raising production of newsprint by any means in its power. It seemed that those means might to a large extent be confined to the provision of technical advice, but that was no argument against enlisting the Organization's assistance. Therefore, while he had largely accepted the views of the authors of the amendments to the joint draft resolution, he would not agree to placing restrictions on FAO's activity with regard to the paper shortage. It should be allowed to contribute to a solution by any methods which it found practicable. If it were proved that FAO's preoccupation with the subject had a detrimental effect on its activities in other directions, then of course he would agree that the situation would have to be reviewed. Assuming FAO to be committed to the task to the full extent of its available resources, the question still remained as to what further arrangements would be necessary. In the revised draft resolution, an effort had been made to indicate what action might be taken by the specialized agencies and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, but it was apparent that the scope of their contribution could not be precisely delimited.

33. He was inclined to believe, therefore, that the matter would have to be treated empirically and largely on the basis of governmental initiative, supplemented by action by the Council.

34. He fully agreed with the views expressed regarding the desirability of making no hard-and-fast provision for the inclusion of the item on the agenda of future sessions of the Council. There was always the possibility that the problem would be solved more rapidly than had been expected, particularly since powerful interests were tending to that end. He would propose that provision should be made to bring up the subject once more on a specific date, after which it could be examined at intervals as and when necessary.

35. He recalled that, in his statement at the 517th meeting during the discussion of UNESCO's report, he had suggested that UNESCO should mobilize all its propaganda resources in support of the view that countries using large quantities of newsprint should voluntarily restrict their consumption in favour of States with more urgent and unsatisfied requirements. He was fully aware that that was asking much, and he was certain that the powerful Press interests in the United States of America would never permit the United States Government to take any step in that direction. Nevertheless, the appeal should still be made as there was always a hope that it might not fall entirely on deaf ears.

36. Mr. DONOSO (Chile) said that, after reading the report of UNESCO on the shortage of newsprint and printing paper, the Chilean delegation had immediately declared itself in favour of the Council taking measures to put an end to the crisis. He represented a country which produced paper, though not in sufficient quantities to meet its total requirements and which therefore had to import the balance.

37. He did not wish to repeat the pertinent arguments concerning the importance of paper in ensuring freedom of information and in the advancement of culture put forward by previous speakers, which he endorsed as justification of the Council taking action. Up to the present it had been the constant concern of the Chilean Government to obtain the quantities of paper required and it had granted the same preferential rates of exchange for importing paper as those granted for foodstuffs and primary commodities.

38. The representative of FAO had given particulars of the collaboration between his Organization and the Chilean Government for developing the wood-pulp industry in Chile by making use of the great conifer reserves in the southern part of the country. He (the Chilean representative) for his part would like to emphasize the interest taken in the matter by the Economic Commission for Latin America. He hoped that in the future Chile would become a producer of wood-pulp and that the industry would be established on such a scale as to make it possible for Chile to become an exporter.

39. The Chilean delegation supported the revised joint draft resolution (E/L.271/Rev.1). Nevertheless, as the shortage of paper was so acute and would be increased by the consumption of wood for other purposes, he agreed with the Philippines representative that FAO should concern itself not only with the increase of production and the utilization of forest resources but also with the utilization of raw materials other than those at present used in the manufacture of wood pulp. Hence he joined with the Philippines representative in thinking that the original text (E/L.271) of section B, sub-paragraph (a) should be incorporated in the revised draft resolution.

40. Mr. MEYKADEH (Iran) said that his delegation had welcomed the action taken by UNESCO to stimulate production and to ensure a fair distribution of newsprint and printing paper, the shortage of which was a serious impediment to the publication and dissemination of the printed matter necessary for the development of education, educational reforms and the spread of culture. He specially thanked the representative of FAO for his statement, which justified the hope that the present crisis might be overcome.

41. He also pointed out that his Government was making considerable efforts to combat illiteracy and to make education generally available but was heavily handicapped by the high cost and shortage of paper. He was therefore in favour of any measures which might increase the production of paper, reduce its price and ensure fair distribution. He thought that the joint draft resolution would serve to achieve that purpose and his delegation would therefore vote for it. He also supported the amendments (E/L.278) proposed by Canada, India, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

42. Mr. CABADA (Peru) said that his country had vast forests in the Amazon region, which could be an enormous source of raw materials for the manufacture of wood-pulp. Although the trees in those forests were not conifers, they were suitable for the manufacture of wood-pulp and the experiments made had been successful. UNESCO and

FAO had already concerned themselves with the utilization of the inexhaustible forest resources of the Amazon region.

43. As the Chilean representative had already pointed out, the original draft resolution (E/L.271) had rightly suggested the possibility of using substitute materials to increase the production of wood-pulp. Such materials could undoubtedly be provided in abundance by the trees of the Peruvian forests, which could be used as a substitute for conifers.

44. Mr. REYES (Philippines) wished to make it clear that, if the authors of the draft resolution would not be prepared to accept the inclusion of a request that aid for developing substitute raw materials should be made available under the programme of technical assistance, the Philippines delegation would itself formally submit an amendment to that effect.

45. His delegation supported the Chilean representative's proposal to re-insert the original text of section B, sub-paragraph (a). It also preferred the original text of paragraph 4 in that section and would abstain from voting on that paragraph in the amended text.

46. Finally, with regard to paragraph 3, he wished to add the words "the development of substitute raw materials" after the words "including reafforestation".

47. Mr. LUBIN (United States of America) said that the United States Government was keenly aware of the acute world shortage of newsprint. To the Indian representative's doubt whether the United States Government would be in a position to reduce the country's consumption of newsprint, even if it so desired, because it would bring it into conflict with the Press, he would reply that the last three presidential elections had been fought and won in spite of overwhelming Press opposition. That was an indication that, if the issues involved had popular support, it was by no means impossible to challenge the supposedly all-powerful United States Press. He would also remind the Indian representative that, at the recent International Materials Conference, it had been the United States Government's appeal to American publishers which had resulted in the provision of nearly the whole of the newsprint received by the countries which had benefited, among them India. The United States Government would continue to take all possible steps in the same direction, but it had to be remembered that the country imported 80 per cent of its newsprint.

48. His delegation would support the revised draft resolution, with the exception of the provision for the annual submission of a report to the Economic and Social Council. In that connexion, he preferred the alternative proposal by which the report should be submitted in 1952 only.

49. Mr. KAYSER (France) felt that he need not comment on each paragraph of the revised draft resolution (E/L.271/Rev.1). He was happy to be able to accept most of the amendments submitted jointly by the delegations of Canada, India, Sweden and the United Kingdom, none of which weakened the original text and several of which added a useful element of precision.

50. He would not refer again to the causes of the shortage of newsprint and printing paper, since the time for "full-dress debates" was past. Moreover, the documents published by UNESCO, by the producing and consuming countries, by the Newsprint Association of Canada and the American Newspaper Publishers Association, gave full information on the dangers and the development of the crisis, the main features of which the Indian representative had brought out. He (Mr. Kayser) agreed with that analysis.

51. Yet, he felt it to be his duty to deal briefly with the effects of the scarcity of newsprint and printing paper, which was responsible throughout almost the whole world for a reduction in the number and size of newspapers or an increase in their price. It was stated in UNESCO's report that the publication of eight-page newspapers was a luxury in most countries.

52. With regard to the increased cost of newspapers, the Chairman of the Newspaper Publishers' Association of Copenhagen had stated that its effect was to deprive the man in the street of his newspaper, which represented a real danger for democratic countries. He himself would point out that in France during the nineteenth century the reduction in the cost of newspapers and the launching of the penny press had marked the beginning of the effective participation of the masses in the political life of the country and had paved the way to France's greatest democratic achievements.

53. The demand for paper would increase still further as a result of both the growth in population and the campaign against illiteracy. Unless remedies were quickly found the present bad situation would worsen. It was because the French delegation was fully aware of the political and social consequences of that situation that it had joined with the Belgian delegation in raising the question of the paper shortage in UNESCO and, hence, in the Council.

54. On behalf of the French delegation, he accepted the amendments proposed during the discussion and he hoped that the Belgian delegation would also do so, for it was important to impress public opinion and to obtain a unanimous vote.

55. As to paragraph 3, the French delegation appreciated the attitude adopted by Canada and the United States in the Woodpulp and Paper Committee of the International Materials Conference, and recognized the efforts they had made.

56. With regard to section B of the draft resolution, the statement by the representative of FAO and the ensuing discussion demonstrated that the Council relied on that Organization to follow up current studies and to carry out the instructions which it had received from the Council. He would ask that an addition be made to the text defining the responsibility of FAO with regard to "the measures which it deems useful to take for increasing the production . . ."

57. As for the proposal by the Chilean and Philippines representatives that the original text of section B, sub-paragraph (a), should be re-introduced in the draft resolution, he considered that the new text would enable FAO to proceed with the work it had begun in that field.

If, however, the Chilean and Philippines representatives pressed their proposals they would have the support of the French delegation.

58. Replying to a question by the Philippines representative in connexion with paragraph 4, he said that he thought the revised draft resolution was an improvement on the original one in that respect and in no way weakened the force of its provisions. UNESCO would choose, in the light of its possibilities and in accord with its Constitution, the appropriate means of drawing the attention of public opinion and of Member States to the newsprint and printing-paper question with a view to a solution being found.

59. The French delegation was not entirely convinced by the argument put forward with regard to section C in the course of the discussion. If it accepted the text submitted by the delegations of Canada, India, Sweden and the United Kingdom, it would be because there was likelihood that new procedures might be envisaged for inclusion of items on the agenda, within the framework of the re-organization of the Council and in the light of the desire that the agenda should not be overloaded at future sessions. The French delegation therefore reserved the right to request the Council at one of its sessions in 1952 to reconsider the question of the periodicity of the Secretary-General's reports.

60. As for its proposal that the Secretary-General should report to the sixth General Assembly, the French delegation agreed to withdraw it, since it feared that the first measures the Secretary-General would take, pursuant to the resolution, would not have taken effect by the time the General Assembly met. Any Member State could, however, ask for the question to be placed on the agenda of the General Assembly or raise it during the discussion of the Council's report.

61. If the Council were to fulfil its duties under the Charter, it must take effective action to meet the shortage of newsprint and printing paper; indeed, if no remedy was found, freedom of information might be endangered. Shortage of paper might result in government allocation of paper and, once government intervention had occurred, it was impossible to know how far it would go. Furthermore, if the price of newspapers continued to rise and their number and size decline, the ownership of the newspapers would be reserved to a few privileged persons, the right to print and publish would be increasingly restricted. Where, then, would the freedom of the Press be? There was one still graver aspect: fundamental education, which was one of UNESCO's primary priorities, might be endangered. Indeed, according to the calculations of UNESCO, even if 5 per cent of the illiterates in the world were taught to read, it would be impossible, owing to the existing shortage of paper, to meet their elementary needs. A crusade against ignorance could not be successfully carried through without books, writing material and newspapers.

62. He accordingly requested the Secretary-General to use the utmost energy and ingenuity at his command to persuade both the competent bodies and Member States to co-ordinate their activities in order to deal with

the crisis. He thought that the joint draft resolution offered a minimum programme and that the Council, if it failed to adopt it, would be open to the accusation of having seen the danger without daring to do anything to avert it.

63. Mr. REYES (Philippines) thanked the French representative for having found it possible to include the Philippines delegation's amendment referring to substitute raw materials. He proposed, therefore, that section B, paragraph 1, be amended to read as follows: "The Food and Agriculture Organization to continue its studies and research in forestry development and uses of forestry resources, to indicate the measures which it deems useful to take for increasing production including the use of substitute raw materials, and to make its knowledge and experience in these fields available to governments and inter-governmental organizations on request for efforts to overcome the shortage of newsprint and printing paper". He was satisfied with the explanation given by the French representative with regard to section B, paragraph 4, and would therefore accept the paragraph as amended. He would support the revised draft resolution as amended and expressed the hope that it would obtain the unanimous approval of the Council.

64. The PRESIDENT noted that further amendments submitted to the revised joint draft resolution (E/L.271/Rev.1) had been accepted by the French and Belgian delegations. Section B, paragraph 1, had been amended as stated by the Philippines delegation, and section C had been amended by the substitution of the words "*With a view to keeping the problem under continuous review*" for the words "*The Economic and Social Council*", and the words "in 1952" for the words "each year". He accordingly, put the revised joint draft resolution (E/L.271/Rev.1) to the vote.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Activities of the Secretary-General under Council resolution 345 (XII) relating to conservation and utilization of non-agricultural resources (E/2038)

65. The PRESIDENT called the Council's attention to the report (E/2038) of the Secretary-General on activities undertaken under Council resolution 345 (XII) relating to the conservation and utilization of non-agricultural resources, and in particular to paragraph 14 of that report recommending that, unless the Council had other suggestions, it should merely take note of the report.

66. Mr. KAYSER (France) considered it essential to raise again the important question of the translation of documents into French, in particular the summary records and reports of the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources, which were already printed in English. He would be glad if the representative of the Secretary-General would, following up the undertakings given at the twelfth session, be kind enough to inform him as to the position in the matter.

67. The PRESIDENT said that that point had been raised on various occasions in the Council and in the General Assembly in view of the fact that the under-developed countries which were not English-speaking or French-speaking were precisely those which would most benefit by the results achieved by the conference.

68. He stressed the fact that the conference had been held more than two years previously and that benefits which might have ensued therefrom had been hindered by the material delay in publishing the documents. He believed that, although it was true that some delegations might have raised the question in the administrative bodies of the United Nations on which they were represented, the Secretary-General also had the responsibility for requesting any additional funds which might be necessary to that end.

69. Mr. OWEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs) said that to his regret little could be added to the remarks he had made at the previous session. The printing and the publication of the documents of the conference had taken longer than had originally been thought, and there had been a tendency to subordinate the publication of those documents to that of matters currently before United Nations organs. He noted, however, that the production of the volumes had progressed and that all the English volumes would have appeared before the end of the year. The French volumes would be published by the end of the year with the exception of two which would appear early in 1952. He regretted that it had not been possible to issue them more speedily.

70. With regard to the translation of the conference's documents into Spanish, he would give the Council information on that point as soon as he was able to obtain it.

71. Mr. KAYSER (France) thanked the representative of the Secretary-General for the explanations he had given and, while expressing his pleasure that a start had been made with the publication of one document in French, regretted that the Secretariat had not been in a position to do more. It was considered in his country that the documents in question were of particular importance, as the work of the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources was of great interest to French scientists and experts. He hoped that the French delegation's wishes would be fully met at the next session of the Council.

72. Mr. ITURRIAGA (Mexico) also expressed regret that the documents of the conference had not been published in translation, as they would have been a most valuable contribution to knowledge in his country.

73. Mr. HUYBRECHTS (Belgium) endorsed the French representative's observations. Following the explanations that had been given by the Secretary-General's representative, however, the Belgian delegation would not press the point.

74. Mr. OWEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs) said that the statements made in the Council at the present meeting

would provide him with valuable assistance in advancing a claim for higher priority to be allotted to the publication and printing of the documents of the conference.

75. Mr. CABADA (Peru) wished, in connexion with the conservation and utilization of non-agricultural resources, to lay particular emphasis on the fact that his delegation considered that hydraulic energy as well as mineral wealth, forest land and agricultural and cattle resources, constituted wealth belonging to each State, and that consequently they were the exclusive property of the country or countries in which they were located. No measures concerning those resources or sources of water, such as rivers, lakes and glaciers, could therefore be undertaken without the full agreement and participation of the country concerned. Action taken in any other circumstances would constitute interference in the sovereignty and heritage of States and would violate the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

76. His delegation, which fully appreciated the attitude shown in the past by the Secretary-General in connexion with those principles, was convinced that they would be taken into account when any plan on the subject under consideration was drawn up.

77. Mr. BUTLER (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was grateful for the valuable report submitted by the Secretary-General and fully supported the arrangements described therein. The arrangements concerning the study of iron ore had been well conceived. The report was consistent with the recommendations of Council resolution 345 (XII) and his delegation would support the proposal to take note of the report. His delegation had also noted that, in accordance with that resolution, further reports on the subject would be submitted to each session of the Council.

78. His delegation emphasized the importance of keeping in mind the relationship between the value of the work and its cost. The extent of the funds to be allocated for the study of iron ore resources for 1952 should not be taken for granted until the matter had been considered by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, in the light of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

79. Mr. HUYBRECHTS (Belgium) began by giving an historical survey of the question before the Council, and analysed the report submitted by the Secretary-General (E/2038) in pursuance of Council resolution 345 (XII). In his view, the Secretary-General's proposal that iron ore be selected as the first resource for study was extremely judicious, and he approved of the measures recommended with a view to the gradual establishment of general principles.

80. His delegation considered that the proposed studies, in the case of iron ore as well as mineral fuels and fertilizers, formed an excellent supplement to the programme of international co-operation for the conservation of the soil, forests and other resources of vital importance for agriculture and food supply. The action undertaken for the conservation of agricultural products should now be extended to cover the utilization of non-agricultural

resources. The rational utilization of natural resources was as essential as the application of measures against waste in the interests of their conservation. The Belgian delegation was confident that new sources of energy and new methods of utilizing natural resources could be found, and that they would provide the means of solving the disquieting and increasingly intricate problems facing the world.

81. Although the programme outlined in the report appeared ambitious and extremely wide in scope, the Belgian delegation was in favour of undertaking it, especially as the expenditures required in 1951 were covered by the budget.

82. Mr. LUBIN (United States of America) supported the proposal that the Council should take note of the Secretary-General's report. He agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the choice of iron ore resources as a first subject of study was wise, since such a study would be most valuable and could be completed at a minimum cost. It was a significant instance of how benefit could be drawn from the extensive work done by the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources. He hoped that the study on iron ore would be completed in the near future along the lines suggested by the Secretary-General. He assumed in that connexion that the United Nations would co-operate closely with the International Geological Congress in order to ensure the fullest possible use of existing data and to avoid duplication of work.

83. Referring to part A of the report, concerning the survey and inventory of non-agricultural resources, he suggested that the Secretary-General should give next priority to a study of such resources as copper, lead, zinc, mineral fuels and fertilizers, in view of their close connexion with basic economic development. He believed that the possibility of duplication of work with the International Materials Conference with regard to those resources would not arise, since the scope and intention of the two programmes were different in that the International Materials Conference was concerned with the short-term problem of allocating supplies, whereas the Secretary-General had been called upon to institute long-range studies.

84. His Government believed that the proceedings of the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources should be published at the earliest possible moment. He had been pleased to note the statement by the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs that the documents would be published at the end of the year, and hoped that they might appear at an even earlier date. He understood that some loss might have been incurred through a delay in their publication, as those documents represented an important compendium of recent research on the subject as well as suggestions for further research which might profitably be undertaken.

85. Mr. BERLIS (Canada) said that his delegation commended the soundness of the scope and timing of the plans proposed by the Secretary-General in implementation of the Council's resolution. His delegation understood that full advantage would at all stages be taken

of the work of the regional commissions and the specialized agencies in the field of non-agricultural resources.

86. His delegation would support the proposal that the Council take note of the report.

87. Mr. HADI HUSAIN (Pakistan) noted with satisfaction the Secretary-General's report. Pakistan was not directly concerned in the question of iron ore but would take a closer interest in studies on mineral fuels and fertilizers.

88. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was prepared to vote on a draft resolution taking note of the Secretary-General's report.

89. Mr. McDOUGALL (Food and Agriculture Organization) called attention to the fact that, in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report, water resources were referred to as non-agricultural resources. That did not appear to him to be strictly accurate, since, for instance, watershed control was largely agricultural.

90. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council

"Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on activities under Council resolution 345 (XII) relating to conservation and utilization of non-agricultural resources."

The resolution was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Factors bearing upon the Establishment of an Economic Commission for the Middle East (E/2118)

91. The PRESIDENT said that requests had been received from the Governments of Egypt, Israel and Syria that they be allowed to take part in the debate on the item under consideration, as they were directly concerned in the establishment of an Economic Commission for the Middle East.

It was unanimously agreed that the requests should be granted.

92. The PRESIDENT announced that he had received communications from the Governments of Iraq (E/L.180), Lebanon (E/C.3/L.12), Syria (E/L.178) and Yemen (E/2118), none of which was a member of the Council, that consideration of the establishment of an economic commission for the Middle East should be deferred until a subsequent session of the Council.

93. Mr. KHOSROVANI (Iran) formally proposed that consideration of the establishment of an economic commission for the Middle East should be deferred until a subsequent session of the Council in view of the requests which had been received by the Council to that effect.

94. He wished to emphasize the fact that those requests should not be construed as a lack of interest on the part of countries in the region in the establishment of such a commission, and that they should not be taken to mean

that those countries believed that an economic commission for the Middle East was undesirable. Since the Council's last decision to defer discussion of the item, circumstances had not altered sufficiently to warrant any change. The majority of governments in the region believed that full co-operation between all countries in the Middle East was not possible in the prevailing circumstances. He hoped, therefore, that his proposal would meet with the approval of the Council.

95. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Iranian proposal should be fully debated by the Council, since non-members of the Council had requested to take part in the discussion. If his suggestion was adopted, he would refrain from applying rule 49 of the rules of procedure to that particular question.

The President's suggestion was adopted.

96. Mr. BUTLER (United Kingdom) said that it had always been a principle of his delegation that the initiative in calling for the establishment of regional commissions should in every case lie with the governments of the regions concerned. The Council should consequently take into account the communications it had received asking for consideration of the establishment of an economic commission for the Middle East, to be deferred until a subsequent session, in view of the wishes of a majority of the Middle East States which would be members of such a commission if and when it was established. His delegation would accordingly support the Iranian proposal.

97. His delegation was pleased to note that a large part of the work which would fall to the economic commission for the Middle East, if and when it was established, was at present being carried out by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and that that agency was rapidly extending its operations.

98. Mr. KAHANY (Israel) thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity of submitting his Government's views on the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee.

99. Israel had not yet become a Member of the United Nations when the *Ad Hoc* Committee had recommended the establishment of an economic commission for the Middle East. Such a commission had then been advocated by the same countries which subsequently, and without ever clearly stating their reasons, had never ceased urging its postponement. At that time, Israel had been, as it continued to be, in favour of the establishment of such a commission, provided always that all the States in the region participated in it on an absolutely equal footing, and that its headquarters were set up in a country guaranteeing freedom of access and the free exercise of their functions to the representatives of all the States concerned.

100. His country, which had regained its independence only three years ago, occupied only a very small area of the Middle Eastern region—20,850 square kilometres—but was engaged in a vast work of economic reconstruction. He described some of the features of that work, the fruit of the superhuman efforts of three generations of pioneers. A country lacking water and naturally

poor had now been transformed to such an extent as to be able to deal with mass emigration, thus making a decisive contribution towards the solution of an international problem the full extent of which the world had come to realize only after the massacre of 6 million European Jews by the Nazis. The population of Israel had more than doubled since the proclamation of independence in May 1948, and to-day exceeded 1,500,000, including Arabs. Agricultural production had increased by 80 per cent and industrial production by 40 per cent. Similar progress had been achieved in housing, the modernization of roads and seaports, the development of merchant shipping and aviation, and in the organization and improvement of public state services in the field of education, health, social insurance, police and so on.

101. The State of Israel had scarcely come into existence when it had had to face unprovoked military aggression from all sides, launched by a general coalition of its Arab neighbours, in flagrant violation of the solemn resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1947. Israel had received no assistance from the United Nations; it had defended itself single-handed against an enemy superior in numbers and equipped with an abundance of modern weapons, and had emerged victorious from that terrible trial at the cost of heavy losses in men and material.

102. Since the conclusion of the armistice agreements binding the parties to refrain from any future recourse to force and to engage in peace negotiations, the State of Israel had given many proofs of its eager desire to honour all the pledges contained in the agreements and to negotiate an honourable peace with its neighbours. The Arab States, however, insisted on regarding the armistice merely as a breathing-space during which, while preparing a new military adventure, they were endeavouring to strangle Israel economically. To carry out unhindered other forms of aggression, they had stubbornly opposed any kind of peace negotiations with Israel for two and a-half years, and had built up a so-called legal case to prove that they were still at war with Israel and were therefore merely exercising their rights as belligerents. In addition, the jurists of those countries, regarding the very existence of the State of Israel as aggression against the Arab peoples, did not hesitate to claim that their governments were acting in self-defence. That argument, absurd as it was, had been recently used again by representatives of the Arab countries in the Security Council, which had rejected it as completely unfounded in law or in fact.

103. Notwithstanding the economic war being waged against Israel by the States of the Arab League, and despite the systematic opposition of those States to the establishment and normal operation of an economic or any other regional commission for the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, Israel had continued, and would continue, to support any attempt at reconciliation. The economic war waged against Israel by its neighbours would not prevent it from in any way continuing its work of national reconstruction which was its chief concern and would require the efforts of several generations. The whole Israeli people was ready to face the tremendous sacrifices

entailed in that work, which was bound ultimately to benefit the whole of the Middle East.

104. He emphasized that the consolidation of peace in the Middle East was of primary importance for Israel, and that his people wanted the closest possible co-operation with their immediate neighbours. The people of Israel certainly did not expect to be received immediately with open arms by its Arab cousins, and it knew that its dynamic action and revolutionary approach in the social field would earn it determined enemies, amongst those who maintained their hold on the masses only by means of the still almost feudal system of their national economy and by the dominance of religious fanaticism. Nevertheless, it remained convinced that the Arab nations would end by realizing that Israel had only one ambition: to develop the country so that it could support an ever-increasing number of Jews, and to live in peace with all its neighbours. The boycott by which the Arab countries were endeavouring to annihilate Israel was doing more harm to them than to Israel, and causing the Israelis to organize their economy in such a way that the country might finally become independent of all trade with its Arab neighbours.

105. In conclusion, he said that Israel did not agree with the Arab countries which claimed to speak on behalf of the majority of the Middle Eastern nations. On the contrary, it considered that the situation in the Middle East called urgently for the establishment of a regional commission which would take account of the vital interests of all the peoples in that area, and foster economic, social and cultural co-operation between them. Apart from serving the cause of peace in that part of the world, such co-operation would provide a solution for many political problems, including that of the refugees, whose sufferings were the doing simply and solely of the Arab leaders. He knew that the Council could hardly impose co-operation on those who clearly refused to be a party to it, but he believed that the States represented on the Council could not remain indifferent to a situation which in the long run must seriously injure their own interests also.

106. AZMI Bey (Egypt), thanking the Council for permitting him to take part in the discussion, said that the question of the deferment of the establishment of an economic commission for the Middle East was of immediate concern to Egypt, which had taken the initiative in proposing the establishment of such a commission at the second session of the General Assembly.

107. Since then, however, events in that part of the world had prevented its being regarded as a homogeneous unit, and the States concerned were not prepared to work together. Since there was no immediate prospect of any change in the situation, Egypt and the Arab States proposed that the question of the commission's establishment be deferred.

108. Furthermore, he considered that the question of deferment was *res judicata*, since the Council had already agreed at the present session to postpone the establishment of an economic commission for Africa for the same reasons as those now put forward by Egypt and the Arab States. He would recall the observations of the French

representative at the 492nd meeting that, unlike Latin America, Africa was not a geographical entity, and that the countries concerned did not wish such a commission to be set up. The Council's rejection of the Philippines proposal (E/L.183) that an economic commission for Africa be set up had been based on that argument. At the 493rd meeting, the United Kingdom representative had supported the French standpoint, stressing that the Council had always taken the views of governments into consideration before taking a decision with regard to the establishment of regional economic commissions, quoting in particular the case of the Middle East, and that those views should play the preponderant part in the Council's decision in that respect.

109. The Middle East States considered that the time was not ripe for the establishment of such a commission. The position of the States Members of the Arab League was well known. As to the other States—apart from Turkey, which had not made known its views—they had supported the position of the Arab countries.

110. Referring to the Israeli representative's statement concerning the terms on which Israel would agree to participate in the economic commission for the Middle East, he pointed out that it was precisely because of those terms—namely, that all States in the region should be represented on the commission and that its headquarters should be set up in a country guaranteeing access and the free exercise of their functions to the representatives of all countries—that the governments of the Middle East States doubted the advisability of setting up such a commission at the present time.

111. In support of that view, he would refer to a communiqué issued by the Imperial Embassy of Iran in Cairo, published in the newspaper *El Ahram* of 10 September 1951, which stated that the Iranian Government had decided not to take part in the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, thereby endorsing the decision of the Arab and Moslem Governments not to be present at a conference which might be attended by a representative of Israel. The same newspaper had published a cable from Karachi to the effect that the Executive Committee of the Moslem World Congress had recognized that a state of war existed between Egypt and Israel.

112. Finally, *Le Monde* of 12 September had reported, in connexion with the meeting of the Conciliation Commission for Palestine in Paris, that the Arab representatives would refuse, as at Lausanne and Geneva in 1949 and 1950, to take their seats at the same table as the Israeli representatives.

113. All those facts clearly demonstrated that the present position in the Middle East made co-operation between the States of that region impossible, and that the wishes of the Middle Eastern countries were very clearly apparent: they did not desire for the moment the establishment of an economic commission.

114. Mr. RAO (India) said that the question of the establishment of an economic commission for the Middle East had been on the Council's agenda since the eighth session and that its consideration had been deferred time and again. His delegation had agreed to such a proce-

ture, since it had hoped that some agreement would eventually be reached on such a commission in the context of the establishment of other regional commissions. That, unfortunately, had not proved to be the case.

115. At the eighth session, the Lebanese Government had opposed the establishment of an economic commission for the Middle East on the grounds that existing conditions in the region did not provide a satisfactory basis for such action, and the Iranian delegation at the present session had opposed discussion of the item on similar grounds. However, the Israeli Government had actively supported the establishment of such a commission. The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Factors bearing upon the Establishment of an Economic Commission for the Middle East had not given an opinion on the matter, and the Co-ordinating Committee had not so far had an opportunity of taking a decision. At the same time, several governments were opposed to the establishment of a commission and desired the question to be deferred further.

116. His Government would adhere to the views it had already expressed at previous sessions. Although the activities of the commission would be confined to the Middle East, the Indian Government maintained substantial trade relations with those countries and would be prepared to co-operate actively for an improvement of economic conditions in the region. Co-operation was, however, lacking among the countries of the region themselves and, unless a majority of their governments requested the establishment of a commission, the Indian Government was not in a position to press the point. It was clear that, as sovereign States were opposed to the establishment of a commission, it could not be brought into being.

117. He would not discuss certain aspects of the establishment of an economic commission for the Middle East, such as the seat of headquarters, as they were contingent issues and would necessarily also have to be deferred. On the procedural question, he believed that it would be desirable for the Council to decide whether it would in fact be appropriate to place the item on the agenda of a subsequent session, or whether the item should not be raised again unless a specific request were made to that effect.

118. The PRESIDENT announced that the Iranian delegation had submitted the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council:

"Decides to postpone to a subsequent session the consideration of the question of the establishment of an economic commission for the Middle East;

"Requests the Secretary-General, until such time as the commission is established, to continue to give consideration to the economic changes in the Middle East in his annual report on the world economic situation."

119. He informed the Iranian representative that the two parts of the draft resolution were incompatible and that, on a point of substance, he would be compelled to rule the latter part of the draft resolution out of order.

120. Mr. KHOSROVANI (Iran) stated that, if the latter part of his delegation's draft resolution was not procedurally correct, he would request that it be mentioned in the record that it was the wish of all countries in the Middle East that the economic changes in that region be fully discussed in the annual world economic report prepared by the Secretary-General. On that understanding, he agreed to withdraw the second part of his draft resolution.

121. Mr. HADI HUSAIN (Pakistan) said that the Israeli representative's statement had clearly been made in a bellicose spirit. In spite of that, he himself would approach the subject from an objective and realistic point of view. It was clear that an economic commission for the Middle East could not be established against the will of the majority of countries of the region. Should such a commission be established as a result of the political manoeuvres of one country in the region, a country which, moreover, had not been recognized by the governments of the region or by other governments whose views were of importance, it would be unable to perform any useful functions whatsoever.

122. If, as the Israeli representative had stated, Israel was interested in the economic development of the area, it could contribute to such development by generating as a first step an atmosphere of co-operation. It could, moreover, enter into bilateral agreements with countries in the region and thus contribute to its general economic development.

123. His delegation therefore believed that consideration of the establishment of an economic commission for the Middle East should be re-introduced in the Council's agenda only when a specific request was made to that effect. If the Iranian proposal had been made in that sense, his delegation would support it as it stood. Otherwise, it would welcome the inclusion of a suitable reference to that point.

124. The PRESIDENT explained that, if the Iranian draft resolution were adopted, the Secretary-General would not re-introduce that item into the provisional agenda unless he deemed it appropriate in view of a change in circumstances, or unless any delegation specifically requested its inclusion. Furthermore, if the item appeared in the provisional agenda, it would be for the Agenda Committee to make whatever recommendation it thought fit to the Council regarding its inclusion in the agenda of the session in question, and subsequently for the Council to take a decision concerning that recommendation.

125. Mr. KHOSROVANI (Iran) agreed with the President's interpretation of his draft resolution.

126. Mr. DE BEAUVARGER (France) said that the effectiveness of the regional economic commissions depended in the first place on the unanimous consent of the States interested in their establishment. Since, in the case in point, that essential condition was absent, his delegation would support the Iranian draft resolution.

127. Mr. BERNSTEIN (Chile) said that the Chilean delegation had consistently supported the establishment

of an economic commission for the Middle East since the second session of the General Assembly. It continued to deplore the fact that prevailing political conditions were preventing its establishment.

128. The Chilean delegation had taken note of the opposition expressed by the Arab States, which constituted a majority in the region. However, in spite of the friendship between his country and the Arab States, he could not agree that they were fully justified in opposing action which would be beneficial to the Middle East and to the world as a whole. His delegation felt strongly that economic co-operation in the Middle East should also be extended to Israel, which was a Member of the United Nations. However, realities must be faced and it would obviously be impossible for the Council to impose a regional commission in an area where the great majority of the countries concerned did not desire it. The Council therefore had no alternative but to postpone consideration of the establishment of a commission.

129. He expressed the hope that the conditions which were at present preventing the establishment of the Commission would rapidly disappear and that the countries of the region would appreciate to the full the

importance of the economic development of the Middle East in the general context of world economic development and the need for establishing peaceful international relations in keeping with the spirit of the Charter. In the circumstances, his delegation would be obliged to vote in favour of the Iranian draft resolution.

130. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that the Soviet Union delegation had come prepared for a full consideration of item 16 of the agenda, and pointed out that the proposal to defer discussion had been submitted only at the last minute. Although anxious not to hold up the work of the Council, his delegation suggested that the decision on the Iranian draft resolution be held over until the next meeting. He would like, in fact, to have an opportunity of consulting the other members of his delegation on a matter of importance which, in his view, went to the very heart of the problem.

131. The PRESIDENT agreed that the decision on the Iranian draft resolution should be deferred until the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 7.15 p.m.

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