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OFFICIAL RECORDS

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NEW YORK

President: Mr. Rachid DRISS (Tunisia).

AGENDA ITEM 11

Science and technology (continued):

(a) Future institutional arrangements for science and technology (continued)* (E/4959, E/4989, chap. VII)

1. Mr. AVESEN (Norway) noted that the Economic and Social Council appeared to be on the verge of reaching general agreement on the need for an intergovernmental body to deal with science and technology and on the proposition that its membership should be larger than that of the Council itself. His delegation believed that the new body should be a standing committee on the Council rather than an organ that would report directly to the General Assembly, because the Council had a special responsibility for co-ordination activities, because science and technology had a crucial role in the Second United Nations Development Decade and finally because a sessional committee with the same composition as the Council would not satisfy the legitimate wishes of the developing countries for greater representation.

2. With regard to the terms of reference of the new body, it was important to prevent overlapping and duplication. At the same time science and technology were cross-sectoral and the language of the terms of reference should be broad enough to enable the new body to become involved in matters that affected science and technology but were not purely and simply developmental issues. Subject to the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, to be held at Stockholm in 1972, he hoped that the terms of reference of the new body would also include the environment.

3. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's support for the Yugoslav proposal (1754th meeting) that an *ad hoc* working group should be established to consider the matter further and report to the Council at its fifty-first session, on the understanding that it was without prejudice to any decision the Council might take at the current session.

4. Mr. RABETAFIKA (Madagascar) agreed with the view that the future institutional machinery for science and technology should not be considered in isolation from the specialized agencies or without bearing in mind the need for permanent co-ordination. He also agreed with the Pakistan suggestion that whatever machinery was agreed upon should be within the bounds of what was reasonable. His delegation felt, for instance, that terms of reference similar to those of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the

Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would be too broad for the proposed intergovernmental committee on science and technology, whose main task would be co-ordination. Because of the cross-sectoral nature of its functions, which had been aptly referred to by the Soviet delegation, the intergovernmental committee should confine itself to laying down guidelines and formulating policy, and should not engage in operational activities, which belonged to the specialized agencies.

5. Since co-ordination was its primary role, the Council should have a close bond with the new body, and the latter should be a down-to-earth working body rather than solely a deliberative organ that might be accused of further splintering the United Nations decision-making process.

6. His delegation hoped that the new body would be an intersessional committee of the Council, so as to reflect the developing countries' wish to participate in decisions concerning science and technology. As such, it would not have to have the same membership as the Council itself. Notwithstanding the foregoing, he did not object to the arguments in favour of the new body being a direct subsidiary of the General Assembly, since that would also enable a larger number of developing countries to participate in it. In any event, he hoped that the new body would succeed in lifting itself out of routine work to a sufficient extent to be able also to develop a political role.

7. His delegation could support the Yugoslav proposal to establish an *ad hoc* working group to draw up draft terms of reference and make suggestions with regard to the level of representation and the relations between the new body and other intergovernmental organs concerned with science and technology, as well as with the Council itself. Such functions were not in his view appropriate for the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development. Having considered the views of the *ad hoc* working group, the Council could then decide which organ should establish the new body as its subsidiary. Although it was difficult to examine the terms of reference before such a basic decision had been made, such a course of action would have to be taken in the case in point in order to ensure that the Council maintained its prerogatives without damaging the interests of the developing countries. There would, of course, be less need for the establishment of a working group if a consensus were to emerge in the course of the Council's debate.

8. Mr. AYOUB (Tunisia) reminded the Council of its resolution 1544 (XLIX), in which it had already taken a decision in principle on the need for improved institutional arrangements for science and technology. That need had also been recognized by the Administrative Committee on

* Resumed from the 1754th meeting.

Co-ordination (ACC) and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, and many of the Member States that had replied to the Secretary-General's questionnaire on the subject had indicated that they felt the existing machinery was inadequate. Unfortunately, no consensus appeared to be emerging either in the Council or in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) on the question of whether a sessional committee or an intersessional committee of the Council or a new General Assembly body was the best solution, and that was due to the rigid position adopted by some delegations, which would not help the Council to achieve positive results. The fact was that the majority of Member States, whether or not developing countries, felt that the Council did not adequately represent the membership of the General Assembly, and the problem was really of a political nature.

9. His delegation agreed with Pakistan that it was important to avoid conflict between the proposed intergovernmental committee and other General Assembly bodies, such as the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed. Its terms of reference should therefore be restricted to science and technology in so far as they affected development. It would of course need expert assistance, and the best solution was probably to change the Advisory Committee into a smaller and more flexible body, with *ad hoc* groups to deal with special subjects. Since some of the matters to be dealt with by the new committee would go beyond the scope of the Council, it might be desirable for it to report to the General Assembly through the Council. Such a solution might also perhaps produce a majority decision on the issue or even a consensus in the Council.

10. He agreed with the Yugoslav suggestion to set up an *ad hoc* working group to consider draft terms of reference for the new intergovernmental committee, although such a procedure would turn out to be unnecessary if members of the Council agreed to go to the root of the problem at the current session. He hoped that delegations would continue to hold informal consultations on the subject with a view to reaching an early decision.

11. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) said that the Council was in agreement on one fundamental point: that there was an urgent need for co-ordination of United Nations activities in the field of science and technology. Hence some form of intergovernmental co-ordinating machinery must be established. Moreover, all members of the Council were in duty bound to try to relate programme priorities more closely to the budget. At the outset of the Second Development Decade, it was clear that future demands on the system could not be met if the present organizational fragmentation was allowed to continue.

12. Countries should try to take due account of the political and economic interests of all others and should recognize the need to secure the co-operation of international scientific opinion, without which efforts at the political level would have little significance. With respect to the institutional machinery that would best serve those requirements the goal was clear but the way to reach it strewn with obstacles. Some had proposed the establishment of a standing or intersessional committee of the Council on questions of science and technology because of

the Council's role, under Chapter X of the Charter, as co-ordinator of United Nations activities in the economic, social and related fields. Admittedly, the Council was at present going through a difficult time, but his delegation did not believe that the best interests of Member States would be served by an attempt to divest it of a responsibility which clearly fell within its co-ordinating function. The establishment of such a committee under the Assembly would weaken the Council, perhaps irreparably. Moreover, the Council had already built up a relationship with other intergovernmental bodies and with the specialized agencies which the General Assembly did not have. To give the Council a co-ordinating role in the field of science and technology would hardly be tantamount to bypassing the Assembly, for the Council was required to report to the Assembly. To reverse the process would be to put the cart before the horse. Lastly, any attempt by the Council to improve its organization and effectiveness would be nullified if it was undercut in the field of science and technology. In that respect, he could not help but consider it inconsistent to support, on the one hand, measures to improve the work of the Council and, on the other, to support a proposal that would circumvent the Council in the field of science and technology.

13. His delegation preferred to uphold the Council's role in a field so clearly related to its terms of reference under the Charter and supported the establishment of a standing committee of the Council on science and technology. An advisory body having the necessary technical competence should be associated with the standing committee. His delegation found considerable merit in the suggestion made by the United States delegation that such a body could be composed of panels of experts corresponding to the *ad hoc* working groups of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, although it felt that the Advisory Committee itself, with some modifications to its present terms of reference, could also perform that function. The United States proposal could no doubt be somewhat amended in order to reach general agreement. In that connexion, he stressed that the Advisory Committee should remain a subsidiary body of the Council.

14. In his delegation's view, a standing committee of the Council, whose membership need not be restricted to that of the Council, would go far towards meeting the objections to the effect that the Council did not adequately represent the membership of the United Nations. At the same time, its size should not be determined by numerical considerations but by the need for effective performance and real results.

15. The Council should give serious attention to the procedural proposal made by the Yugoslav delegation concerning the establishment of an *ad hoc* working group to consider the scope, terms of reference and composition of the new body on science and technology. The creation of such an interim preparatory body, however, should leave open the options before the Council regarding future institutional arrangements.

16. Mr. QUARONI (Italy) said that his delegation shared the view expressed by those speakers who saw the main problem as one of co-ordinating work that had already been performed or which existing organizations were in the

course of carrying out. At the tenth session of the Trade and Development Board, it had supported the establishment of a new UNCTAD intergovernmental group responsible for the transfer of technology and it believed that a more thorough, specific and perhaps even further-reaching co-ordination process was required in view of the Second Development Decade. It was of paramount importance that a greater number of the less developed countries should have the easiest possible access to the benefits of science and technology.

17. Since the Council's immediate objective was to ensure the application of science and technology to development, his delegation tended to agree that any new body with responsibility in the field should be an organ of the Council. The whole question was, of course, closely linked with the current discussions on the reorganization of the Council the purpose of which was to reinvest it with the prestige and authority in economic and social matters to which it was entitled. The arguments in favour of making the new body dependent upon the General Assembly were unconvincing, and such a procedure would deprive the United Nations of the expertise that the Council was able to contribute as a result of its access to expert bodies and individuals. The General Assembly would be better served if carefully prepared decisions on the more important problems were submitted to it by the Council. He advocated such a procedure not only because it would enhance the Council's prestige but also because it was important that the implications and advantages of developments in science and technology should be evaluated in a serious and effective manner.

18. The question as to whether a sessional or an intersessional committee of the Council was the more appropriate form for the new body to take was one that should be settled, having regard to the requirements of the developing countries. The most flexible solution would be perhaps to combine the two—ending up, by way of compromise, with a body larger than the membership of the Council itself. At present, his delegation had no firm position on the subject.

19. On the other hand, it did see merit in the Yugoslav proposal to set up an *ad hoc* working group to go more thoroughly into the various aspects of the problem. If no solution were found during the current session, it would be essential to ensure that all the necessary groundwork was prepared in time for the fifty-first session.

20. Mr. SHAHI (Pakistan), referring to the comments made by the delegations of Greece and France on his own delegation's statement concerning the proposal to establish an intergovernmental committee for science and technology, explained that Pakistan would be quite content for the new body to be a subsidiary organ of the Council rather than of the General Assembly, if there was a genuine willingness to consider the enlargement of the Council's membership. His delegation could not be accused of sophistry, because the two proposals it had made were alternatives, and he hoped that it would be possible for the developed and the developing countries to reach a compromise on the subject. He drew attention to a number of bodies active in the economic and social fields, and dependent either on the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council, which had larger membership than the

Council itself. That situation appeared to indicate an implicit desire to enlarge the membership of the Council on the ground that the present membership was inadequate to satisfy the aspirations of the developing countries. There were precedents for a total membership of up to 86, without undermining the principle of equitable geographical distribution. When the expansion of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-bed had been discussed, a number of Western countries had argued that a small committee could not deal adequately with the many individual problems that were likely to arise. After protracted negotiations, the Committee had been enlarged to 86 members.

21. There were several other arguments for enlarging the Council. The People's Republic of China, if it became a Member of the United Nations, would surely have to have a seat on the Council. Japan, with the world's third largest gross national product and its promise to contribute 1 per cent of its gross national product in aid by 1975, also deserved representation on a regular basis. It could be argued that the People's Republic of China and Japan should both sit on the Council on a quasi-permanent basis, as was quite rightly the case of the United Kingdom and France. If they did only three seats would remain for the rest of Asia.

22. His delegation was most anxious to strengthen the Council and believe that it would be more dynamic and more efficient with a larger membership. Furthermore, it would remove the need to have discussions about the merits of establishing subsidiary bodies with larger membership than the Council itself. In that connexion the USSR proposal deserved support.

23. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that the representative of Pakistan had raised a number of serious questions concerning subsidiary bodies. He had rightly said that the Council had established a number of subsidiary bodies which were larger than itself, and indeed nothing prevented the Council from establishing bodies composed of more than 27 members which would report through the Council to the General Assembly. If the Council established subsidiary bodies which were not within its administrative jurisdiction and it came to act as a rubber-stamp committee, the enlargement of the Council would become pointless. The correct course would be to strengthen the functional commissions of the Council, by conferring on them the right to establish their own subsidiary bodies. The supporters of an enlargement of the Council would then have created the necessary conditions for such a course. However, if the Council were to establish committees which would report directly to the General Assembly, its own role would decline in importance and it would be impossible to expand the scope of its activities vis-à-vis the General Assembly. There was a contradiction in the arguments used by those who supported an enlargement of the Council between their objective and the means employed to attain that objective. He had therefore used the word "sophistry" to describe those arguments. Since it was generally considered that the Council should be preserved, the Council should establish representative bodies to consider the question of its enlargement, if necessary, as an end in itself and not as a means to an end.

24. Mr. SHAHI (Pakistan) agreed that the Council should be strengthened and should establish subsidiary bodies

while the question of enlargement was being considered. A standing committee of the General Assembly had been proposed simply because some delegations had thought that there was no real possibility of enlarging the Council.

25. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would assume that the Council wished to defer taking a decision on the question until a subsequent meeting.

It was so decided.

**(b) Application of computer technology to development
(continued) (E/4800, E/4800/Summary)**

26. Mr. GROS (France) said that his delegation wished to make some observations concerning the principal conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 29 and 30 of document E/4800. There was a need for further explanation of conclusion I and the four recommendations relating to it, which involved action at different levels. Conclusion II was all very well but it was essential that the developing countries should possess the information necessary to attain the objective set forth in it. That fact should be stated explicitly. The establishment of the international advisory board referred to in recommendation 7 would be premature. As paragraph 37 of the report indicated, much more information on computer installations and applications in the developing countries would be needed if a detailed and meaningful picture of the results and needs for the use of electronic computers in accelerating the process of economic and social development was to be achieved. That view had been supported by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST). A second report on the situation of the developing countries was therefore necessary. The Secretariat should also give some clarification of the meaning of the words "be encouraged" in recommendation 8. The "international professional organizations" referred to in recommendation 10 were dominated by the professional organizations of one country. It would be dishonest to establish direct relations with professional organizations which actually represented major international companies. The recommendation should therefore be reworded: technical assistance and information dissemination activities should be conducted through a body such as ACAST, which was composed of independent experts who were not subject to commercial pressures.

27. Mr. GRESFORD (Director for Science and Technology) said that the brisk demand for the report on the application of computer technology for development (E/4800) was indicative of the growing recognition of the importance of the subject. It was therefore all the more essential that the recommendations contained in the report should be sound and capable of producing the desired results.

28. The report was the outcome of considerable efforts by the United Nations, governmental experts, the international professional community and ACAST. Particular care had been devoted to the wording of the report and the judgements expressed in it. Although it was now over one year old, it reflected the best information available at the time of publication. Computer technology was growing

very rapidly and the pace of change could be expected to continue and even accelerate in the future.

29. Reference had been made to the effect of computer technology on employment. Careful consideration had been given to that question in formulating the recommendations contained in the report. Although little conceptual work had been done on the question, the report reflected a close examination of the available material. The *Ad Hoc* Panel of Experts, ACAST and Secretariat all agreed that more work should be done on the question. The Secretariat has been working in close contact with the relevant organizations within the United Nations family and with the international professional organizations referred to by the French representative. In many sectors, the assistance of such organizations was of the greatest importance to the work of the Secretariat. He fully appreciated the reservations expressed by the French representative, but considered that the situation did not call for any formal change of approach. The French representative had suggested that contact with such organizations should be maintained through a body such as ACAST. That course had effectively been followed in the production of the report and all information had been carefully weighed by ACAST and the *Ad Hoc* Panel of Experts.

30. The question of the generation of equipment to be used in the developing countries had also been considered very carefully. It should be pointed out that the respective importance of the topics covered in the report should not be gauged by the number of pages devoted to them. Chapter VII, for instance, although very short, was extremely important.

31. It had been suggested that a specific recommendation should be included in the report for the encouragement of the establishment of independent judgement capability. The establishment of such capability was a theme which underlay the whole report and formed the basis for recommendation 5 in paragraph 29.

32. The international advisory board on the application of computer technology for development referred to in recommendation 7 would require careful study from the point of view of both desirability and feasibility. In that connexion, he drew attention to the views expressed by ACAST as set forth in paragraph 6 of annex II of the report.

33. The answer to the question raised concerning recommendation 8 was to be found in the whole context of the report, which insisted that the developing countries should be encouraged to make the efforts referred to in recommendations 1 to 5 in conjunction with the relevant United Nations agencies.

34. It would be useful to conduct further case studies of particular developing countries, or, alternatively, the Secretary-General might be requested to prepare a further report on the present position of the developing countries on the question. The compilation of that information would make it possible to draw more precise conclusions.

35. At the present time, ACAST considered its work on computer technology as completed. However, in view of

the opinions which had been expressed in the debate, it was clear that computer technologies for developing countries would be an area in which the Council and successors to ACAST would have to devote particular attention in the future.

36. The PRESIDNET declared closed the general debate on the question. Delegations would be free to comment on any draft resolutions that might be submitted.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries (E/4798, E/4820 and Corr.1 and Summary, E/4820/Add.1 and Corr.1, E/4948 and Corr.1, E/L.1379)

37. Mr. HOWARD (Deputy Director, Social Development Division) said that the report of the Secretary-General (E/4820 and Corr.1) had been prepared with the co-operation of UNITAR, the specialized agencies concerned and other organizations of the United Nations system. The compilation of the report had proved to be a difficult exercise, for reasons well known to the Council. Statistics on the international movement of trained personnel were meagre. There was a lack of statistical data on departures from developing countries; consequently, most studies were based on the immigration statistics available for a few developed countries. The greatest obstacle to a clearer understanding of problems associated with the outflow of trained personnel could be said to be the lack of comprehensive data on return flows. Consequently, it was not now possible to measure the net gains accruing to developed countries from the outflow, on the one hand, and the net losses of developing countries, on the other. There were also substantial differences of opinion concerning the effects of the "brain drain". Such differences arose from the assumptions made in assessing the harmful and beneficial aspects. It had nevertheless been possible to assemble interesting and relevant assessments of the problems associated with the outflow of trained personnel in the five countries covered in the report.

38. The first report on the question,¹ which had provided a very preliminary picture, had been considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session. The chief problem faced in the preparation of the first report had been the lack of information concerning the size, composition, causes and consequences of the outflow from the developing countries.

39. In an effort to obtain a more complete picture, the General Assembly, in resolution 2417 (XXIII), had requested the Secretary-General to go beyond the mere use of the very incomplete available sources in clarifying the problem, by carrying out, in consultation with the Governments concerned, selective studies of a few developing countries that were seriously concerned with the "brain drain" problem. In particular, it had been requested that its consequences for the economic development of those countries be assessed and that appropriate recommendations be submitted for practical action to deal with

the problem at both the national and international levels. The recommendations of the Secretary-General were to be compatible with and relevant to the framework of the proposed Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

40. As the Council had been informed, the execution of the country studies had been delayed by the difficulty of finding resources with which to finance them. That, in addition to the fact that the report had had to be completed and processed in time for the forty-ninth session of the Council, had allowed very little time for the organization of the field studies, their implementation, the thorough revision required to correct faulty statistics and reconcile inconsistencies, the convening of a meeting of the authors and other experts to discuss the country studies and assess their implications, and the holding of interagency consultations.

41. Although the authors had based their studies on a uniform, detailed outline, their contributions had differed in form and scope; it had therefore been decided to prepare, as the main body of the report, document E/4820 which represented a synthesis of the five country case studies and contained a concluding section of suggestions and recommendations. The individual country studies appeared in summarized form in document E/4820/Add.1 and Corr.1.

42. In the past two years, more extensive work had been undertaken, in particular the survey of the international movement of professionals, which was being conducted by UNITAR. In view of the shortage of data and the complex nature of the problems associated with the outflow, more studies were needed at the national level. During the next few years Governments might wish to assess the nature and consequences of the outflow of trained personnel from their countries. That was particularly urgent if existing problems were to be tackled effectively at all levels. The country studies submitted by the Secretary-General could provide a model for similar studies that would require modest resources and could be carried out in a relatively short period of time. Although the advice of outside experts might be required in some cases for the organization of such studies, the experience of the five country studies now before the Council showed that they could be effectively executed by nationals who had had experience with the problem. The Secretariat would of course provide guidance for the design, organization and implementation of such additional studies.

43. The developed countries could provide resources for research in both the developed and the developing countries. More could be done to identify and analyse the manpower shortfalls in the developed countries in certain categories of professionals and technicians which attracted personnel from the developing countries. Developmental aid could also be increasingly channelled towards the solution of problems which, in part, accounted for the outflow.

44. The report of the Secretary-General indicated that, while there were no simple over-all solutions to the problem, significant progress could be made within the present decade in resolving their more extreme manifesta-

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, agenda item 47, document A/7294.

tions. Although those problems needed to be tackled on many fronts, there might also be a need for a more active dialogue between national leaders and youth designed to bring about a greater measure of agreement on national goals and objectives with a view to undertaking necessary changes in systems of education and training, manpower utilization and other aspects of national life that were linked to the outflow.

45. Mr. SZALAI (Deputy Director of Research, United Nations Institute for Training and Research) said that the report contained in document E/4948 supplemented that in document E/4798, which had been submitted to the Council at its forty-ninth session. Both reports related to a multinational comparative survey being conducted by UNITAR on the outflow of trained personnel to developed countries.

46. It must be borne in mind that even aggregate statistics concerning the migration of professionals were extremely deficient at the present time. Demographic aggregate statistics were of little use because they could not explain why a certain percentage of persons studying in developed countries decided to remain abroad and why others decided to return to their native countries. Very little was known about the reasons for outflows and return flows. If undue constraints on the free movement of individuals were to be avoided, much more information concerning motives would have to be obtained. Consequently, the UNITAR study differed from previous studies in a number of important respects. It consisted of a questionnaire survey of a large number of persons—students in developed countries, stay-ons, returnees and their employers—and covered five developed countries and fifteen developing countries. UNITAR was grateful to the Governments concerned, which had not only provided assistance, but had also allocated resources to domestic institutions co-operating with UNITAR in conducting research. The survey had covered such questions as the educational history and plans of the individuals concerned, their choice of country, their social and educational life in the countries of study, and the circumstances surrounding students' decisions to return to their native countries. In four countries UNITAR had already completed field work on student and returnee studies. In many others, field work was in progress and covered a large number of people. He hoped that UNITAR would shortly be able to submit an analytical report based on the results of field studies and containing not only statistics, but also an insight into the reasons underlying outflows and return flows. In that regard, UNITAR was endeavouring to fulfil the aims expressed in the relevant Council resolution and the report of the Secretary-General.

47. Mr. LEGNANI (Uruguay) said that the "brain drain", which was a matter of great concern to the developing countries, was largely due to the same causes and had the same effects in all the developing countries. Such factors as unemployment, low wages, the desire for further education, a lack of future prospects, poor conditions of work, inadequate scientific or technical development, insecurity due to social and political upheavals caused the outflow of technical and scientific personnel to countries where more favourable conditions prevailed, and those countries encouraged the "brain drain" in order to fill their own development needs. That created the paradoxical situation

in which the developing countries were subsidizing the development of the developed countries. Although some technicians returned to their countries of origin, or sent remittances home, the outflow of personnel from the economically weakest countries represented a net loss of the resources invested in education and technical training and, hence a stagnation of their development potential.

48. The developing countries could not improve public administration, agriculture, trade or health, nor could they make their industries more productive or increase employment or carry out other measures planned for the Second Development Decade unless they had the necessary know-how, and that presupposed technical training. Attempts to alleviate the problem of outflow of trained personnel from the developing countries would not of course solve all the complex problems of underdevelopment, but they would undoubtedly help.

49. His delegation was opposed to immigration policies which would obstruct the freedom of movement of individuals, since it believed that the right of human beings to move peacefully from one country to another was a basic human right whose exercise, as his country's Constitution provided, should be subject to no restrictions other than those necessary for reasons of health or security. Hence, his delegation would prefer other measures to prevent or remedy the damage caused to the developing countries by the "brain drain".

50. His delegation supported most of the suggestions and recommendations made in the Secretary-General's report but wished to make the following observations. First, an exchange of information among countries about the measures adopted and the results achieved in arresting the "brain drain" would be of great value, and the United Nations should transmit such information to Member States. Secondly, education should be geared to the needs of the country concerned in order to relate training to employment opportunities. Such education could include the scientific and technological knowledge necessary to transform the economic and social sector to which it would be applied. Moreover, an attempt should be made at serious vocational guidance to ensure that individuals found themselves in the most congenial profession. Thirdly, scientists and highly qualified personnel should be encouraged to return to their home countries through special allocations and benefits. Fourthly, technical assistance to developing countries should be increased. Furthermore, instead of being discouraged by the problem of the "brain drain", the developing countries should encourage the training of specialized personnel through the establishment of incentives and good working conditions which would tend to retain those who were best able to contribute to the progress and well-being of the country.

51. Instead of attracting technical and specialized personnel from the developing countries, the developed countries, in which conditions for the training of personnel were most favourable, should provide technical assistance, under the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)), to offset or remove the reason for the migration of technical personnel to the developed countries. Such assistance should be rendered through

United Nations agencies. The developing countries should be informed of how and where they should apply for such assistance and the conditions on which it was granted.

52. The most effective measures to combat the "brain drain" were laid down in the Strategy for the Second Development Decade. If the industrialized countries diverted the resources they were now spending on armaments to development on a world scale, the gap between the developed and the developing countries could be reduced and the world's unity restored.

53. His delegation would support any draft resolution compatible with the ideas he had put forward in order to staunch the "brain drain" from the developing countries and to stimulate the training of a larger number of technicians in such countries.

54. Mr. FILIMONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that his delegation had explained in detail its position on the Secretary-General's report on the "brain drain" (E/4820 and Add.1) at the forty-ninth session.² However, despite the interesting reports prepared for the Council's present session and the great amount of work that had been done on the question, his delegation nevertheless felt that the Council did not yet have sufficient material for a thorough appraisal of the problem. The Secretary-General's report contained new data on the damage done to the developing countries as a result of the "brain drain": it showed that the proportion of non-returnees to the five developing countries studied was very high, and that the outflow of trained personnel amounted to an average of from 20 to 30 per cent with the highest percentage occurring among scientists, engineers, doctors and junior medical personnel.

55. The outflow from the developing countries could not be considered a normal phenomenon resulting from the operation of the laws of supply and demand. It could hardly be regarded as normal when a country having a low national income and limited resources made great efforts to train the personnel it needed only to lose them to another country with a high national income, large capital resources and a trained labour force. His delegation hoped that the study being prepared by UNITAR would make good the deficiency of the Secretary-General's report, which gave no information on the enticement of the developing countries' specialists by Western countries.

56. In appraising the effects of the "brain drain", it should be kept in mind that it had both short- and long-term effects. A committee of the United States Congress had come to the conclusion that migration did no short-term damage to developing countries but could have very serious long-range effects. At the present time the developing

countries, particularly because of inadequacies in their system of planning, were sometimes unable to use all their specialists. Since most development plans were long-range, the "brain drain" could seriously undermine their implementation. There could be no question that the "brain drain" was slowing down the economic development of the developing countries.

57. It was sometimes said that some Western countries also suffered from the "brain drain", but a distinction had to be made between real damage and losses which could be made up. The economically developed countries had financial and other resources to compensate for the loss of their scientific and technical personnel, who were often replaced by experts from the developing countries. The developing countries had no such reserves.

58. In his delegation's view, the Council's recommendations on the problem should not be addressed only to developing countries; the developed capitalist countries should also be asked to take serious action. For example, the immigration laws in those countries favoured the entry of foreign technicians. Even a former United States Secretary of State had once said that, skilfully directed, immigration could be one of the most important resources of the nation.

59. His delegation had submitted the draft resolution (E/L.1379) to the Council at its forty-ninth session and was resubmitting it to the present session, as it had lost none of its topicality. The draft resolution called for a study of the dimensions of the influx of foreign specialists from the developing countries to the developed capitalist countries and also for an assessment of the advantages those countries derived from their employment. In his delegation's opinion, the Council should state that every developing country which suffered loss through the outflow of trained personnel to developed countries was entitled to compensation from the developed countries concerned for the economic loss caused by that process. That question was not of course a simple one and it undoubtedly required further study by the United Nations and specialized agencies. For example, as one United States professor had said, there were many ways in which such compensation could be made: through subsidies to the developing countries; through increased assistance to education in such countries; and through temporary supplemental technical assistance. Moreover, some States of the United States were being compensated, in the form of tax abatements, for population loss caused by migration to other States. That principle could well be applied to developing countries. In his delegation's view, the adoption of the draft resolution would be a substantial contribution to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

² E/AC.6/SR.518.