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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE THIRD SESSION
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Lake Success, New York
Wednesday, 2 October 1946 at 10:30 am

PRESENT:

THE PRESIDENT: DR. STAMPAR

MR. LEBEAU	(Belgium)
MR. DAVILA	(Chile)
MR. YANG	(China)
MR. ZULETA ANGEL	(Colombia)
MR. PAPANEK	(Czechoslovakia)
MR. HOFFHERR	(France)
SIR G. SHANKAR BAJPAI	(India)
MR. MALIK	(Lebanon)
MR. COLBJORNSEN	(Norway)
MR. FEONOV	(Soviet Union)
SIR George RENDEL	(United Kingdom)
MR. WARREN	(United States of America)
MR. MATES	(Yugoslavia)
MR. PEREZ CISNEROS	(Cuba)

The PRESIDENT: The meeting will come to order.

May I ask the Representative of India to present the Report of the Subcommittee on Refugee Finances.

SIR G. SHANKAR BAJPAI (India): Mr. President, the report has already been circulated to Members of the Council. It is Document E/203 and bears the date, October 1st. It is a long and a full document, and I do not think that it would be necessary for me to do more than draw attention to some of the salient points of the report. The terms of reference of the Committee will be found in paragraph 2. Paragraph 2 (a) refers to Article X of the Draft Constitution. That, it will be the recollection of the Council, was discussed and adopted the other day with the exception of Annexure 2. Annexure 2 in the Constitution, Document E/161, deals with the period for which the Provisional Budget is to be framed. Our Committee has framed a Budget for the period of twelve months, and our recommendation is that the actual period for which provision should be made in 1947 should be left for the decision of the Assembly. That, Sir, disposes of 2 (a).

Now, 2 (b), which is the more difficult part of our work, required us to review the Provisional Administrative and Operational Budgets proposed by the Committee on Finances of the IRO, and matters relating to assistance to the overseas Chinese in the light of later information, and of verbal and written observations submitted by Member Governments.

I think, Sir, that in order to understand our own recommendations properly, it is desirable to draw the attention of the Council to page 10 of the London Report, E/Ref./Finance/23. There, as you will observe, Sir, provision for expenditure is made under three heads: (a) Administrative, (b) Operational-Part 1, and then again, (b) Operational-Part 2. Since the Administrative Budget is, in the last resort, determined by provisions under the Operation Heads, it will be logical to deal with the Operational Budget first. Now, if the Council will turn to Page 5 of Document E/203, they will find under heading (B), the revised figure of expenditure for Operations Other Than Large Scale Resettlement. The London figure was \$193,954,000. The revised figure which we submit for the consideration of the Council is \$149,126,000, roughly a saving of \$44,000,000. I think that calculations on which this saving has been effected will be found in Paragraph 4 on Page 6 of the Report, and I need not go too much into detail.

All that I need say is that this saving has been mainly effected by the assumption that the number of people who will be repatriated, will be much larger, larger by \$150,000 than the figure which was originally taken into account when the London Committee framed its proposals.

As regards large scale resettlement, the Council will observe that there has been a very considerable saving because as against the original provision of \$60,000,000, we estimated a resettlement of something like 100,000 refugees. Provision is made for only 12,500, and the estimated cost is \$3,250,000. It will also be observed, Sir, that according to (b) of our Terms of Reference we were to make provision for overseas Chinese. Under (b), Part 1, of the Operational Budget this has been done, but of course, we have not been able to meet our Chinese colleagues to the extent that they wished. They would have had provision made for the larger number than we have found it possible to accept.

The Council, Sir, will note that there is a longer series of explanatory notes. I have tried to summarize them to the extent that it seemed desirable for purposes of a broad understanding of the Report, and then, Paragraph 10 has a series of reservations which have been made by different Members of the Committee on behalf of their Governments. These reservations, Sir, are almost as long as the Report. In other words, you have a situation where the tail is almost as long, almost as big as the dog, itself. But it occurred to me that it would possibly save time here in the Council if everybody's point of view were clearly expressed, more than if reservations were elucidated now and we would not have to go through these dissents or dissenting points of view.

One further remark, Sir. The Yugoslavian Representative made a point that the Revised Budget was to the extent that he accepted it at all, accepted ad referendum. Everybody in the Committee, and I am sure everybody in the Council, would accept what is accepted ad referendum.

Finally, Sir, I would like to say that although we were a smaller number than the Council, our order, our disputation was no less. We argued

and argued and argued at the seven meetings, as broadly mentioned in the Report, which barely gives an idea of the amount of time and interest that we devoted to this work. I would like to take this opportunity, Sir, finally, to thank my colleagues for the spirit of cooperation in which they worked, and in particular the Secretariat for the extraordinary amount of valuable work that it did in order to facilitate a very complicated and a very contentious task.

(During the above remarks Mr. Loverdos, Representative of Greece, Mr. Riddell, Representative of Canada, Mr. Lev Medved, Representative of Ukrainian SSR, and Mr. Arca Parro, Representative of Peru arrived and assumed their seats at the Council table; Mr. Noel-Baker, Representative of the United Kingdom replaced Sir George Rendell and Dr. Chang, Representative of China arrived and replaced Mr. Yang at the Council table.)

The PRESIDENT: I would like very much to thank the Representative of India for his very fine presentation of the report.

We discussed the matter of refugee finances very broadly at the Sub-Committee meeting, and I do hope, very much, that the Members of the Council at this table will not deliver very long speeches on this subject. It seems to me the best procedure would be to transmit this report, to endorse it and to transmit it to the General Assembly for final decision.

DR. CHANG(China): First of all, may I add my humble words of appreciation for the work done by the ad hoc Committee, under the leadership of our distinguished Indian colleague. I do not have much to say. A few lines have been passed around. May I just call your attention to Page 8? As a matter of fact, this is not a request so much for additional appropriations; it is really a matter of making this report look a little better worded. By that I mean, if you look at Page 8, you will find on the second line "...for the repatriation of 62,911 overseas Chinese." Then it is followed all the way through with this detailed figure, 62,911. For instance, about the middle, that is, the fourteenth line, again you will see that figure. The question has been raised as to how we know the exact figure down to one person, not one more nor one less. I understand this matter was given some attention at the Committee meeting, but later on, due to other things, it was not finally rounded out. So, I suggest something like this: That the figure of 62,911 overseas Chinese, who are desiring to return to their places of habitual residence, be reduced to a round figure, to 60,000. After all, it is a mere rough estimate. The number of registered people in China, wanting to return, seems to be increasing almost from day to day, because the latest figure I got about a week or ten days ago was thirty or forty more than the report received some few weeks before that. So, we cannot estimate the detailed numbers. It does not look well on the report to make the number so detailed, so I suggest that we decrease that estimate to a round figure of 60,000, and add, however, a little on to the other item, namely, the Chinese stranded abroad on account of the war, who desire repatriation to China. The later

figure I have received, in round numbers, is about 10,000 already estimated. They come from different parts, mostly from around China, but also some in Italy, some in Germany. The numbers are now being investigated, the detailed numbers. So, they are really displaced persons also coming within our definition. I am suggesting this little change in the language. I think it will make the report look better. I have already consulted with some of the Members of the Committee, and they seem to agree that this minor change would not really alter the report very much.

The changes then will be as follows. Will you kindly turn to Page 8, line 2? Change the first figure, 3,140,000 -- that is calculated on the basis of 62,911 -- to 3,250,000. You can see that that is changing that figure of 62,911 to 60,000, a round figure, and allowing 5,000^a/round figure, for the stranded Chinese who desire repatriation to China. That is all. So the whole thing should read like this: You see, the second figure, 62,911 is changed to 60,000, and then after the words "overseas Chinese", at the end of the second line, you add these words "...and 5,000 Chinese stranded abroad on account of the war, who desire repatriation to China."

If you like, we can add to these few words, "...who desire repatriation to China." Then, at the beginning of line 14, change the figure 62,911 to 60,000, so that it is just round figures. Then, at the end of the paragraph, at the end of 5(a), add the following: "With reference to 10,000 Chinese stranded abroad, the ad hoc Committee is of the opinion that roughly half of the number may be transported back to China during the first financial year. Figuring on the lowest average cost of transportation at \$50.00 per person, an item of \$250,000 is included in the provisional budget." In other words, it is counting on the same average.

The whole suggestion is to round the figures out, instead of having just to say "nine hundred eleven." Nobody knows, and I think at this moment the registered people, perhaps, is already 27 more -- I do not know. Also, to take into account that there are such people who are being registered and being prepared to return from abroad. The rough figure I have received is around 10,000, so we say about 5,000 may be taken care of during the next year. That is all, Mr. President.

MR. HOFFHERR (France) (Interpretation from French): The French Delegation wishes to support fully the remarks of the Representative of China.

MR. NOEL BAKER (United Kingdom): Mr. President, we accept the amendment proposed by our Chinese colleague, provided that we endorse your proposal that the Council should endorse the report. We desire to associate ourselves with the expression of gratitude of the Council to Sir Girja for his services in this Committee which have been very great.

MR. WARREN (United States): Mr. President, we accept the Chinese proposal, and suggest a very slight amendment for clarity in the sentence that is to be added at the foot of Paragraph 5(a), to make it read: "average cost of transportation at \$50 per person, an item of \$250,000." -- this is the insertion, -- "included in the total of \$3,250,000 above, is included in the provisional budget." -- to make it clear that it is not a new item but it is included in the \$3,250,000 above.

Mr. MATES (Yugoslavia): Mr. President, the document we are discussing^{/20} has on Page 5 the budget, but the budget itself as it is represented in this paper has only an indication to parts and sections, and not to items in this budget. I think the Representatives are not familiar with the works of the Sub-Committee, and they will in vain try to find those figures which are being corrected by the Chinese Amendment. I think it would be a good thing that we decide that the budget be drafted for transmission to the General Assembly as a full budget with the items. All the details we have had at our disposal in the work of the Sub-Committee is in the white paper, restricted, 26 September 1946, where the budget was on three pages. I don't think that it is a very difficult task because all the necessary calculations must have been made in the summary budget already.

Sir G. Shankar BAXI (India): Mr. President, I should like to say that I am speaking not in my capacity as Representative of India, but as Chairman of the Committee.

I think that our Yugoslav colleague is perfectly right in making the broad point that we did not go into the budget item by item, and that therefore these modifications which are indicated in the report do not convey a complete picture of what will emerge as a result of our labors.

But with regard to that, I would like to draw his attention to the passage on Page 2 where we say that, "The Committee wishes to emphasize that the substitution of revised estimates^{is} without prejudice to other sections of the Report of the Committee on Finances of the IRO, not directly affected by the amount of the estimates. This report must be read in conjunction with Document E/Ref. Fin/...". I'm afraid this is abra-cadabra, but I can't help it -- "... which was not included in its entirety in the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Committee."

So, I think my colleague may rest assured that when the paper ultimately goes to the Assembly, the insertion of modifications in the other budget to the extent that the details are affected by what we have stated, that indicator will be carried out.

Dr. CHANG (China): Mr. President, I appreciate the remarks of my distinguished colleagues; especially do I appreciate and accept the correction suggested by the United States Representative. I think it does make it clearer, although, as you may see, as amended, it would read, you see, like this: The first two lines: "\$3,250,000 for the repatriation of 60,000 overseas Chinese, and 5,000 Chinese stranded abroad on account of the war, who desire repatriation to China."

So, it is also very clearly stated, it is not in addition to the budget at all. But the United States Representative did make this clear. So I accept his alteration. The last line of my amendment, instead of "is included in the Provisional Budget," is to read: "is included in the amount \$3,250,000, as mentioned above." That is quite acceptable, and that does make it clearer.

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MR. FEONOV (Soviet Union) (Second interpretation; original in Russian):

Mr. President, the Representative of the Soviet Union asked that certain reservations be noted in the report to the Council, and these reservations are recorded on page 3, in paragraph 10 (a).

I wish to say also that the Soviet Delegation does not oppose the report as a whole, although it reserves the right to express its opinion as regards the obligatory contributions. In this respect, the position of the Soviet Delegation remains the same as that taken during the discussion of Article I in connection with the discussion of the status of the International Refugee Organization.

We wish also to reserve our right in respect to the question of contributions to the administrative budget of the Organization. We have not yet had time to receive instructions upon this subject from our Government, but we wish to reserve the right to state changes in our attitude on this question to the General Assembly, when the time comes, if that becomes necessary.

With these reservations, Mr. President, we shall vote in favor of the report.

MR. WARREN (United States): Mr. President, the United States Delegation is prepared to accept the report as a whole, with one amendment.

If the Members of the Council will look at page 4, paragraph (f), they will find an explanation of the United States amendment, which is that on page 5, part "Large Scale Resettlement Operation" be amended to read as follows: "Cost of Resettlement Activities; \$5,000,000," omitting any specific reference to the number of displaced persons and refugees who are to be resettled.

This had long discussion in the Sub-Committee on Finances and, because of a parliamentary tangle into which we got, it became necessary for the United States Delegation to make a reservation on the matter, for the reasons set forth on page 4, paragraph (f), and that reservation, as you will note, was supported by the Governments of the United Kingdom, Peru, France, China and Norway, which, with the United States, made a majority of the Sub-Committee.

I therefore move, Mr. President, that part II, "Large Scale Resettlement Operations", on page 5, be amended to read: "Cost of Resettlement Activities, \$5,000,000."

The PRESIDENT: May I ask the Representatives to submit their nominations for Commissions? Yesterday I said this was to be done at 11:30, and it is now 11:30, and I have received only a very few names.

MR. FAUSTO SOTO (Chile): Mr. President, I support the amendment proposed by the United States Delegation. The principal reason that the Chilean Delegation has for supporting this amendment is that it is impossible to determine the number of refugees who can be resettled. It is necessary to make, first, a very careful study before establishing, a priori, what is the number of refugees that will be resettled this year, during the first year of the Organization.

Mr. Perez CISNEROS (Cuba)(Interpretation from French): Mr. President, the Cuban Delegation wishes also to express its approval of the report now before us. However, in accordance with the reservation which it has already made in connection with the statutes of the International Refugee Organization and particularly Article XIII, it wishes to reserve the position of the Cuban Government as regards the whole procedure for the collection of the funds for the administrative and operational expenditure of this Organization.

Mr. MATES (Yugoslavia): Mr. President, I am speaking of the United States amendment. In the draft, or better to say the report of the Sub-Committee, we find the cost of the resettlement of 12,500 displaced persons and refugees. The question has been raised whether we can give a figure at all. It was understood in the Sub-Committee and the Sub-Committee understood it, that all figures concerning movement of displaced persons and refugees are estimates. It is quite clear that they cannot be but estimates because they make reference to something which we hope will happen in the future, and we cannot tell in advance exactly what will happen in the future.

Now, this particular figure has been based on reports submitted to the United Nations Organs by Governments who have already expressed the wish to accept or to admit people under large scale settlement operations. So far, we have been informed by the Sub-Committee that only one definite proposal has been made, and it was the proposal of the Brazilian Government. This proposal of the Brazilian Government was for a settlement under Part 2 of the budget, namely, on large scale settlement operations of 7,000 people. This figure of 7,000 has been confirmed and conveyed to the Sub-Committee by Representatives of the IGC, and especially by one of the Representatives who has been in Brazil and who has been not only in the capital of Brazil, but who visited also the places where those people will have to be resettled.

Now, the figure of 12,500 was a very optimistic estimate that this generous act of the Brazilian Government will be followed by others, and that we shall almost double the figure which is here. Now that is the story of this figure which should disappear according to the United States amendment.

I think that it is not wise to make this figure disappear, because it will be a guidance to the Organization and the administration of the future Organization to know how to dispose of the fund which might be either 3,125,000 or 4,000,000 or 5,000,000. That is not essential, but the essential is to have a guidance, and when one part of these people come to be moved, the administration should know what part of the general budget can be used for such purposes, because we could come into a very difficult situation that either we do not give to those people who are moved sufficiently for their needs in the measure we can do according to the budget, or on the other side, to give to the first settlers too much and then later in the year, the rest of them will be in a difficult position.

In any case, the figures of estimates here are accepted as estimates and the average per capita expense is also only an average, but just to have a guidance for the administration it is necessary to have such averages.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any more speakers on this subject?

Mr. ZULETA ANGEL (Colombia)(Interpretation from French): Mr. President, I want to say just two words. On Page 3, paragraph 10(b) of the report we read, "The Delegate for Yugoslavia stated that he had participated in the work of the Committee on the understanding that all decisions were at ad referendum with full liberty of action for his Government to raise other points in future discussions and in regard to the IRO itself. This is also the position of the other Members of the Committee".

On the understanding, Mr. President, that this is also the position of all the Members of the Council and not only of the Committee, the Representative of Colombia approves the report.

The PRESIDENT: I think we have now to decide, it seems to me, that all Members of the Council agree that the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Refugees Finances, and the report E/203 should be transmitted to the Assembly for final decision. Of course, with the understanding that all reservations already mentioned in this report and stated here during our discussion,

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should be also transmitted to the Assembly. It is with this understanding
the report of our Sub-Committee is approved.

The PRESIDENT: I understand that the amendment made by the Chinese Delegation is also approved.

MR. WARREN (United States): Is that also true with respect to the United States amendment?

The PRESIDENT: Is the amendment of the United States approved?

MR. MATES (Yugoslavia): Mr. President, I have made objections to the United States amendment, but as this question is going to the Assembly, it would appear that I am putting in question the unanimity of this Council, which has so often been in unanimity. I would feel very awkward in such a position, and I do not press the point.

The PRESIDENT: The United States amendment is approved.

MR. DAVILA (Chile): Mr. President, in view of your words that it is necessary to put on record the objections, I should like to give the same decision as the Representative of Colombia, referring to paragraph (e), page 3 of Document E/203.

The PRESIDENT: So, with this understanding, the report is approved and will be submitted to the Assembly.

The item on refugee interim arrangements is the next item. I have prepared a special resolution and I will submit it to the Council tomorrow morning.

Now, the next item is the Council action on resolution to assist FAO. I am informed that the Secretariat was not able to get in touch with Professor MacIntosh. Perhaps, they will be able to do that very soon.

REPORT ON THE TRANSFER OF NON-POLITICAL FUNCTIONS AND
ACTIVITIES OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

We will now take up Item No. 3, Report on the Transfer of Non-Political Functions and Activities of the League of Nations. This is Document E/177.

MR. HOFFHERR (France) (Interpretation from French): Mr. President, the French Delegation has put down an amendment regarding the transfer to UNESCO of the property rights of the League of Nations in the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation in Paris. This document is numbered E/204, dated the 1st of October, 1945, issued on the 2nd of April 1946 to the Assembly of

the League of Nations. The General Assembly decided upon the transfer to UNESCO of the property rights of the League of Nations in the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, but the General Assembly did not include the functions to be taken over from the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation. We ask, therefore, for your approval of the transfer to UNESCO of the property rights of the League of Nations in the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation in Paris. We have received from the representative of UNESCO an assurance that all the property transferred to the Institute in accordance with an agreement of 1934, will be restituted. We ask for your approval of this also.

The PRESIDENT: Any speakers on this subject?

MR. NOEL-BAKER (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I confess I am taken by surprise by this document, which I received about seven minutes ago. But I would like to ask one question. Is it the intention of this resolution that the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation should be retained in existence, or is it to be absorbed into UNESCO?

(During the above remarks Mr. Warren, Representative of the United States left the table and was replaced by Mr. Penrose.)

The PRESIDENT: I must explain to the Members of the Council that I read Document E/177, and the French Representative presented his resolution, but this is a completely new resolution and we have to decide if it is acceptable or not. We are discussing now Document E/177.

MR. NOEL-BAKER (United Kingdom): Mr. President, if we may deal first with 177, as I understand it, all we have to take note of is the matter, and so dispose of it, and I therefore propose that.

The PRESIDENT: Yes. The Council takes note of Document E/177.
Action taken by the Secretary-General.

Now Document E/204 is a new Resolution presented by the French Delegation. According to the rules, such resolution must be circulated twenty-four hours before we are going to discuss it. The Council can decide that the discussion can take place immediately, of course. It depends on the attitude of the Council.

MR. NOEL-BAKER (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I think this is an important matter. I naturally approach any proposal from the French Government and any proposal concerning UNESCO in the most friendly possible spirit, but I think that if any Delegation were to request a twenty-four-hour delay under the rules, it would be necessary to accord that. For my part, I want more time to study it in order to understand its ramifications, and I suggest that if a Delegation asks for a full delay, we might perhaps put it at the end of our Agenda for today, and if we can ^{first} take care of the list of items that I hope ^{we will,} we can take care of it then.

The PRESIDENT: Anyway, we must give the Delegation time to read this Document.

We will now consider the proposal of the Representative of Lebanon, Item D.

MR. MALIK (Lebanon): Mr. President, our Resolution is to be found in Document E/133 Rev. 1. In presenting this Resolution, I want to make a few remarks.

The Statistical Commission has been instructed by the Economic and Social Council to assist it in the development of national statistics and

the improvement of their comparability, in the coordination of the statistical work of specialized agencies, in the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat, and in promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally.

It seems desirable to consider whether the Council could facilitate the agreements and understandings which will be necessary to effectuate this assignment by sponsoring and supporting a World Statistical Congress in Washington and New York in September, 1947.

A Joint Resolution of the Congress of the United States in 1939 authorized the President of the United States to invite the International Statistical Institute to hold its Twenty-fifth Session in that country in 1940. Because of the outbreak of the war, it was necessary to defer the Session until it should be possible to resume international statistical relations. This time is now here, and preparations for the Session, to meet from September 13th to 25th, 1947, are now actively in progress.

The Executive Committee of the Inter-American Statistical Institute, organized in 1940, has also voted to hold its First General Assembly in conjunction with the Twenty-fifth Session of the International Statistical Institute.

The meetings of these leading international organizations of professional statisticians will be of much importance for the work of the Economic and Social Council, which directed the Statistical Commission "to formulate recommendations concerning the methods by which the activities of quasi-governmental and non-governmental statistical organizations may be related to those of the United Nations in fostering international cooperation in the improvement of statistics." Both Institutes will consider their appropriate functions within the international statistical system that the United Nations seeks to establish. Their meetings are expected to resolve many of the issues which the Statistical Commission, under the Council's instructions, must consider.

Meanwhile a number of the governmental and non-governmental organizations having statistical interests are considering holding sessions of

their statistical agencies in conjunction with those of the International Statistical Institute and the Inter-American Statistical Institute. These include a number of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Since many of the same personnel are expected to participate in more than one of the sessions, the saving in time, cost and individual convenience which may be attained from interrelated arrangements for these gatherings are obvious. It is not expected, however, that such arrangements will in any way impair the complete autonomy of each of the participating organizations and groups.

The resolution submitted to the Council requests the Secretary-General to consult with the appropriate authorities of any governments or organizations concerned as to the desirability and practicability of coordinating these gatherings to serve the ends of the United Nations, as set forth in the terms of reference of the Statistical Commission. For convenience, the aggregate of the sessions to be conjoined have been referred to as a World Statistical Congress.

There remains one point for me to make clear, mainly as to why we are interested in this question. My country, Mr. President, is most anxious to associate itself with every activity, national or international, which aims at the acquisition of free dissemination of knowledge and truth. We have many other interests, economic, social and political, but our interest in education, in science, in knowledge, is paramount and of long standing. Now, statistical science is one reliable method of acquiring important information about mass phenomena. We are therefore interested in promoting the coordination under the United Nations of the activity of the many international statistical changes to the end that the methodology of this science be progressive and be perfected.

We believe that the proposed congress will be helpful in that direction.

Thank you.

(During the above remarks, Mr. Davila, Representative of Chile, arrived and replaced Mr. Fausto Soto at the Council table.)

MR. FEONOV (Soviet Union) (Second Interpretation; original in Russian): It is impossible, of course, Mr. President, to object to international cooperation in the field of statistics. This is a very valuable and important subject, and the proposal of the Representative of Lebanon that we should sponsor a World Statistical Congress is aimed at international cooperation in this field, and therefore is a valuable suggestion.

But we must take account the practical considerations too. While desiring to further international cooperation in this field, we must take account of existing circumstances. I have already said how desirable it is that we should further international cooperation in this field, and hence an International Congress, but I think it is impossible for us now, at this stage, to take a positive decision and to attempt to fix a time for the proposed Congress. Many of us are very busy, indeed, and spend our time going from one conference to another without having any opportunity of going home. We have reason to believe that ^{at} the beginning of next year there will be very many international conferences, particularly of specialized agencies.

I think, therefore, that it would be wise to refer this question of an International Statistical Congress to the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council, so that the Commission can report to the Council at its next session.

I suggest that we might direct the Statistical Commission to discuss this question with the Secretary-General, who will be in a position to know how much work there is waiting for us next Autumn. Having made this consultation, the Commission may be able usefully to make a recommendation to us regarding this proposal of the Representative of Lebanon.

MR. PATINO (Peru): Mr. President, just a few words to support the resolution of the sponsorship of a World Statistical Congress made by the Representative from Lebanon.

Peru started back in 1942 on preliminary work in order to take a

continental census in all the American countries until 1950. That was at the International Demographic Congress held in Mexico. Later on the idea grew up and a great deal of work has been undertaken.

The International American Institute is responsible for the work of that census. That is why the Peruvian Delegation is very much interested, and thinks that a World Statistical Congress will help the development of our common task, and carry on a job that North and South American statisticians have studied four years ago, especially in the field of methodology and stabilization of data. It will give us very valuable technical information. That is why we shall vote for the proposition made by the Representative of Lebanon.

MR. PENROSE (United States): Mr. President, the United States strongly supports the resolution of the Representative from Lebanon. The report of the Statistical Commission adopted by the Council at its Second Session, proposed the development of a coordinated international statistical system. The Council recognized that such a coordinated system is necessary in order to provide the information needed by the United Nations, by the Economic and Social Council, by its Commissions and Sub-Commissions, by the specialized agencies, and by the Member Governments represented in the United Nations. Accordingly, the Council directed the Commission to formulate recommendations concerning the methods by which the activities of quasi-governmental and non-governmental statistical organizations may be related to those of the United Nations in fostering international cooperation in the improvement of statistics. The two most important of these non-governmental and quasi-governmental organizations, the International Statistical Institute and the International American Institute, are to meet in Washington in September 1947.

As a result of the need felt by statisticians for closer international understandings and more effective working relationships in their field, numerous other international groups are proposing to schedule statistical meetings of their own at the same time and place. Thus there is in progress a unique union of international statistical meetings. This will give the occasion a much wider scope than it had when the Congress of the United States, in 1939, adopted a joint resolution authorizing the Government to extend the forthcoming invitation.

It seems appropriate to the United States Government that the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Statistical Commission, should explore the possibility of coordinating the various meetings which are in prospect, in the form of a World Statistical Congress, under the sponsorship of the Economic and Social Council. We believe that such a Congress, if it is found practicable, would provide a most useful opportunity to advance the aims of the Council, which have been embodied in its instructions to the Statistical Commission.

Finally, regarding the point raised by my Soviet colleague, I fully appreciate the considerations that he has put forward, but I would point out that the resolution as drafted appears to be very much in line with his desires. It does not fix a time or make any definite commitment even to hold the meeting. I would draw attention to the terms of the effective part of the resolution, which asks the Secretary-General, "in consultation with the Statistical Commission, to explore with those responsible for the organization of the above meetings, and with the appropriate specialized agencies, the practicability and desirability of coordinating the arrangements being made for our statistical meetings scheduled for the latter part of 1947, etc."

In light of the terms of this resolution, I hope that the Representative of the Soviet Union will be able to accept this resolution, which does not commit the Council to the actual calling of a Congress, but which requests the Secretary-General to explore, with the interested persons, the practicability of holding such a conference.

Sir G. Shankar BAJPAI (India): Mr. President, my intervention will be very brief.

One reason for my speaking is to dispell any misconception such as there might be that there are good neighbors only in America. There are good neighbors also in Asia, and it is a neighborly act that I am doing for my friend -- and, as it happens, my physical neighbor -- the Representative of Lebanon on the left.

But the point of importance, Mr. President, is one of even greater importance than geographical propinquity or neighborly friendliness. There is a feeling abroad that statistics is one of those abstruse sciences in which only mathematicians are interested; that it has no practical value; and that, in any case, Europe, with the great advances that it has made in modern times in mathematics and other sciences, is the only country which has any contribution to make to the study of the subject. I am sorry that I used the word "Europe"; I should have used the word "West," because the United States of America, and America generally, shares in this advancement of knowledge.

The position, Sir, is that statistics -- and we have had something to do with that in India -- is not only a developing science but a science with a very definite practical application, especially to certain problems of vital and agricultural statistics, and so on, in Asia.

Now, it is true that we are setting up a Statistical Commission. But that Statistical Commission will have a membership of only twelve. It is true that there is an International Institute of Statistics; it is also true that there is an Inter-American Institute of Statistics. But that does not mean, really, that we have any global organization at the moment which provides adequate representation and opportunities for the study of all the countries that are interested in this very important subject. From that point of view, Sir, I submit that it is of the utmost importance that we should aim at the organization of a World Statistical Congress.

It is true that we are now multiplying the number of commissions and committees and congresses and conferences, but complexity and specialization are the mark of our modern world and, really, I think that it would not be adding too much to the number of commissions or committees or conferences or congresses if we were to take a step in the direction suggested by our colleague from Lebanon.

As regards what the Soviet Representative had to say about the practical difficulties of multiplying these conferences and not coordinating them, I should like to draw the attention of the Council to what has already been stated by the Representative of the United States -- namely, that we are not at this stage giving a mandate that a certain thing be done at a certain time. We are merely suggesting that the question of convening such a conference for the purpose of coordinating the work of other international agencies be studied by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Statistical Commission.

(During the above remarks, Mr. Carlos Blanco, Representative of Cuba, replaced Mr. Cisneros; and Mr. Lopez, Representative of Colombia, replaced Mr. Zulata, Angel, at the Council table.)

MR. YANG (China): Mr. President, it appears to me that we can very easily support this resolution proposed by our Lebanese colleague for three very simple but very evident reasons.

The first is that the substantive part of this resolution only calls for exploration of certain possibilities which appear to be desirable. The Economic and Social Council is not ignored at all because it is stated in the very first line, this exploration is to be conducted in consultation with the Statistical Commission.

The second very evident fact is that if this World Congress can be brought about, it would possibly decrease the number of conferences or congresses. We are not promoting any new line, but as stated in the proposed resolution, just to coordinate the arrangement being made for the latter part of 1947. If this is done, it will also promote the spirit of international cooperation which is very desirable.

And finally, a third very evident and simple reason is that in promoting this World Congress on the conditions mentioned in the resolution, we are as a Council carrying out the functions of coordination of the activities of specialized agencies and other organizations. So, it seems to me very desirable that this resolution be adopted.

Mr. LEV MEDVED (Ukrainian SSR) (Second interpretation; original in Russian)

We shall today, Mr. President, decide upon the Membership of Commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and in particular, of the Statistical Commission. I think it would be right to refer this question raised by the Lebanese Representative to our Statistical Commission. The opinion of our Statistical Commission on the question of a Statistical Congress would, of course, be of very great importance and even decisive for us. We should not attempt to prejudge the opinion of our Commission on this subject as regards the time at which the Congress should be called or the subjects which should be laid before the Congress. It is to be presumed that at the Congress many questions regarding the science of statistics, practical questions, will come up for discussion. These questions will require previous discussion and consideration by the Statistical Commission, which should prepare reports to this Council on this subject. The time envisaged in this proposal would be too short to allow our Statistical Commission to make the necessary inquiries. It is appropriate that a Statistical Commission should be responsible for the organization of the Congress and should take the lead in the Congress; but for this, it must have time. Otherwise, it would simply be among those invited to a congress, which would be an American Congress.

So, Mr. President, I think that we should try and insure that the data received by this World Congress and considered by this World Congress should be representative of the whole world and that as many States as possible should be enabled to participate. The present situation is, however, that certain American countries have long been preparing the most complete and detailed data, and other countries will have to wait with their preparations and collection of data until our decision has been taken. That would place them in a very difficult position indeed. I submit, therefore, that if this Congress is really to have the advantage of complete world-wide statistical data, our Statistical Commission should be given time to consider the matter and report at once. We should not now attempt to fix either

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the date of the Congress or the problems which the Congress is to discuss.

The PRESIDENT: I must remind the Members of the Council that this document, E/133 is a revision and is quite different from the original Lebanese proposal. It is exactly in line with the ideas expressed by the speakers. Therefore, I see no difficulty in accepting the proposal of the Lebanese Representative because he simply asks "...The Secretary-General, in consultation with the Statistical Commission, explore ..." -- there is nothing binding this Economic and Social Council. We are not even sponsoring the conference. So therefore, I believe that we should accept this proposal of the Lebanon Representative.

MR. FEONOV (Soviet Union) (Second interpretation; original in Russian):
Reading the revised text of the draft proposal put forward by the Lebanese Delegation, Mr. President, it is clear that the Secretary-General shall explore the question with the Statistical Commission of convening an International Statistical Congress.

On the other hand, the draft does clearly contain the idea that this exploration is closely bound up with the possibility of calling a Statistical Congress in the Autumn of 1947. I objected to this formulation because I wanted to leave a maximum possibility to the Secretary-General and the Statistical Commission to decide freely as to the date of the convening of the proposed Statistical Congress. If, after a careful study of the situation, they were to find that there were other conferences to which greater priority should be accorded, the Secretary-General and the Commission could then recommend that the Statistical Congress be held at a later date than that proposed. That was my purpose in recommending that the Secretary-General should study the question with the Statistical Commission.

The Soviet Delegation's proposal, therefore, would be formulated as follows: That the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Statistical Commission, should explore the possibility of calling a World Statistical Congress and that the Economic and Social Council should instruct the Statistical Commission and ask the Secretary-General to report to it at its next session in January on the result of their inquiry into the possibility of calling a World Statistical Congress in the Autumn of 1947.

MR. MALEK (Lebanon): Mr. President, I heard with interest the suggested amendment to my resolution and I must personally thank the Representatives of the Soviet Union and the Ukraine for their kind support, at least, of the desirability of holding a Statistical Congress. They seemed to be in doubt about its practicability, but you will observe as so many speakers have said, that both of these possibilities are included in the terms of our resolution so that precisely the difficulties feared pertaining thereto were intended to be taken into account by the terms of our resolution. What we are simply asking is for the Secretary-General precisely to do this sort of thing which the

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Representative of the Soviet Union and the Representative of the Ukraine have been asking us to do, namely, to report to us in four months or five months from now about the possibility of holding such a Congress. I cannot, for my part, accept the wording of the Soviet Delegation because the whole idea of our suggestion is to see whether we can seize the golden opportunity that will take place next year on the occasion of the holding of so many international conferences on this subject -- whether we can seize that golden opportunity and transfer it into a real world conference. So I think that is an inseparable part of the intent of the resolution. Therefore, I do not find myself able to accept the amendment of the Soviet Delegation.

MR. NOEL-BAKER (United Kingdom): Mr. President, so far as I am concerned, the Resolution presented by the Lebanese Representative is quite acceptable, and, indeed, I think I share what I understood to be your view, that in its present form, in the revised form, it meets, in very considerable measure, the objections which have been put forward.

I do not know whether it would be possible for you, Sir, to suggest conversations between one or two of the Delegations with a view to seeing if a text can be prepared that would suit everybody, for us to consider this afternoon. If that is a good proposal, I would put it forward. But if the majority of the Council think, as I believe it is quite likely they will think, that it is best to go forward with just the Lebanese Resolution, I would accept that solution.

In any case, Mr. President, we are, all of us, very grateful to our Lebanese colleague for the interest which he has taken in this matter, and I want, in a very few words, to say why I believe that statistical work is absolutely vital to the success of this Economic and Social Council. It must be. By common agreement, it is the foundation of any policy for full employment.

Of course, we all know that some people believe that there are going to be slumps and booms of the kind which happened in the past, and it is alleged that some Governments are even founding their general policy on that assumption. We do not believe that, and, as a Council, we are all pledged, everyone of our Governments is pledged, to the belief that by international cooperative action, slumps and booms can be prevented. To accept any other view would, in my humble estimation, be to sign the death warrant or to commit suicide for this Council.

There is an immense field, as other speakers have said this morning, for progress, nationally and internationally, in statistics. The national organization of statistics ought to be, so far as possible, now carried forward on common principles, and that national progress organization ought to be very closely coordinated with what is done internationally here, through the United Nations and through the agencies. As to the

agencies, cooperation between them and the central services of this Secretariat, ought to be, in my view, so close that they are practically one great international service.

Sir, I make these observations, because I hope every Representative at this table will make it his personal business to ensure that his Government give due importance to this matter and make every effort to help in every way.

I would like to end by congratulating the Secretary-General on having secured some of the leading authorities in the world on Governmental statistics to help him in this work and on the progress towards a sound foundation which they have already made.

MR. OWEN (Assistant-Secretary-General in charge of Economic Affairs):
Mr. President, may I speak one word on this subject.

As I understand the Resolution which is before us, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Statistical Commission, is merely required to explore with those responsible for the Organization the possibility of convening a conference. We are asked to explore the practicability and the desirability of holding such a conference at a particular time. If the Secretary-General, after holding these consultations, decides that it is not practical or desirable to hold a conference at this time, he will so report to this Council.

I should have thought that with that reservation clearly written into this Resolution, the fears of the Soviet Union in this regard should be wholly met.

SIR G. SHANKAR BAJPAI (India): I would say this, Mr. President, that not only is that the safeguard of practicability and desirability, but even if the Secretary-General finds it is desirable, it could be found that it is not practicable, and report accordingly.

The PRESIDENT: I think, after so many speakers, we can now decide on the Lebanese proposal.

MR. FEONOV (Soviet Union): Mr. President, I think it would be better if I read the text proposed by the Soviet Delegation. It is very short.

"The Economic and Social Council, having considered the suggestion made by the Representative from Lebanon on sponsoring the World Statistical Congress, and having in mind the existence of various statistical organizations, it requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Statistical Commission, to explore the desirability of holding an international statistical conference. The Council instructs the Statistical Commission, and asks the Secretary-General, to inform the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its meeting in January, 1947, about the issue of the exploratory work in this respect."

The reason for such a resolution, Mr. President, is this: It seems to us that the amended Resolution proposed for our consideration inseparably ties the suggestion with the fact that some statistical conferences ^{are} / to be held in the Autumn of 1947. Our idea is that the Statistical Commission and the Secretary-General should come to their recommendations without any dependence on that fact. The proposed conferences in the Autumn of 1947 should not be considered the only reason for holding an international conference, if such decision is taken at a later stage.

The coordinating functions of the Statistical Commission, itself, may sometimes lead to recommendations to hold such conference. Therefore, our suggestion is to give full possibility to the Statistical Commission and to the Secretary-General to consider this matter independently from the fact that some statistical meetings will take place in the Autumn of 1947. They may decide, in the light of the facts available, whether it would be advisable to call this conference in the Autumn of 1947, or, perhaps, in the Spring of 1948, or, perhaps, they may inform us of their views as to the desirability of the calling of this conference at all, because, as I stated, we must consider not only the desirability but the possibility as well.

THE PRESIDENT: I will read the Soviet proposal, and we will vote on it. This is the amendment to the resolution: Requests the Secretary-General, in full consultation with The Statistical Commission, to explore the desirability of holding an International Statistical Conference. The Council instructs the Statistical Commission and asks the Secretary-General to inform the Economic and Social Council, for consideration at its meeting in January 1947 -- I think at the next Session -- about the issue of the exploratory work in this respect. The Economic and Social Council having considered the suggestions made by the Representative of Lebanon on sponsoring the World Statistical Congress, and having in mind the existence of world statistical organizations, requests -- and so forth.

We have to vote now. We will now vote on the Soviet amendment, according to our Rules of Procedure.

MR. MALIK (Lebanon): I repeat simply in one word, Mr. President -- this is on an entirely different thing from our proposal -- that this makes it so general that it would replace it entirely, whereas our whole idea is to tie up the exploratory work of the Secretary-General precisely with the happenings of next autumn, and therefore, we cannot accept this part of the amendment.

THE PRESIDENT: Those in favor of the Soviet amendment should raise their hand.

Those not in favor?

...(The vote was taken by a showing of hands; four in favor of the amendment and fourteen against)...

The amendment is not carried. Therefore, the proposed resolution of the Representative of Lebanon is accepted.

MR. FEONOV (Soviet Union): Mr. President, it seems to me that if the amendment is defeated, then the resolution itself should be put to a vote.

The PRESIDENT: All those in favor of the Lebanese proposal will please raise their hands. (Fourteen votes in favor.)

All those against? (Two votes opposed.)

The proposal is carried.

The next Item on the Agenda is the Norwegian proposal relating to Consolidated Budget and Common Fiscal Services for the United Nations/Specialized Agencies.

MR. COLBJORNSEN (Norway): Mr. President, the question of establishing a consolidated budget, or a general budget, and also common fiscal services for the United Nations and the specialized agencies is, to my mind, an important one, but it is at the same time a very comprehensive and difficult matter. It is a thing in which, I think, many of my colleagues are interested and might like to study or examine.

The Secretariat, I take it, is naturally interested in the matter, as it has already been raised by the Preparatory Commission, and it is also referred to in a positive sense in the draft agreements with the specialized agencies, which we have concluded.

It is, of course, in the last instance a matter for the General Assembly, and possibly the question has come up for some sort of preliminary consideration already in connection with the General Assembly meeting in a couple of weeks time. The Assembly will presumably set up an Advisory Committee on Administrative Budgetary questions, which surely also, I think, will pay attention to the matter.

The Council Members have had before them Document E/142, dated the 16th of September, containing a Norwegian notification of a proposal on the matter. Naturally, I should have liked to have had the matter considered now and to argue the whole matter further, expanding the condensed statements of our document. But, alas, Mr. President, we are now in the very late stage of our deliberations, and I must say that I am afraid and reluctant to take up now a discussion which, though it might certainly be very interesting and, I should think, also valuable, might easily occupy several hours of this day

on which we had reckoned to finish this session.

I therefore have come to the conclusion that I should withdraw the matter and refrain from putting forward any Council resolutions. I, however, reserve the right to raise the question again and have it discussed at a further Council session when we have more time at our disposal and, if needed, when we can discuss the matter in a more thorough and satisfactory manner than would be the case if we proceeded with it today.

With these words, Mr. President, I ask that the Norwegian proposal relating to the consolidated budget and common fiscal services for the United Nations and specialized agencies be withdrawn from the Agenda of our present session of the Council.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

MR. NOEL-BAKER (United Kingdom): I want to say, if I may, that I feel particular gratitude to the Representative of Norway for raising this matter, which I think is of fundamental, long-term importance to the work of our International institutions.

I had foreseen the difficulty about time which has led him so generously to withdraw his proposal, and I had thought of suggesting as a possible way out that he might care to make an expanded memorandum, which the Council might agree should be sent to the Assembly for discussion there.

Very long discussions on this are going to be needed over a period of months. It may be years before we reach the final system. But if our Norwegian colleague does not think well of my idea, I should be ready to accept a postponement to the next session, as he proposes, but I should hope that the Governments represented in the Council would be giving close attention to the matter in the interval and would be considering whether this does not mean not only economies, as I think it would, in actual money savings--which is a relatively small matter compared to the stakes involved--but it would be, above all, I believe, the greatest use of the best common services which the Secretary-General is now building up.

Mr. FEONOV (Soviet Union): Mr. President, the USSR Delegation highly appreciates the wise step taken by the Norwegian Representative.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Mr. President, the problem raised by the Norwegian Representative has already for some time been under study in the department concerned, and there have been some meetings between the United Nations and all the specialized agencies about all the main problems, and I think the problem is of such importance that I can offer you or the Assembly a detailed report about this problem.

The PRESIDENT: The meeting is adjourned...

Mr. NOEL BAKER (United Kingdom): I hope the Secretary-General will let us have the memorandum of which he has just spoken.

Mr. LEBEAU (Belgium) (Interpretation from French): The Representative of Norway is, of course, free to submit to the Council any detailed memorandum that he thinks fit on the proposal that he has submitted, but I should oppose, Mr. President, any suggestions that this should be done on the invitation of the Council before the Council has decided the very important questions of principles involved. But on these questions of principles we may find there are important differences between us.

The PRESIDENT: No more speakers please. The meeting is adjourned until 2:45 pm.

(The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.)
