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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

International Commodity Problems

Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Federation of Malaya, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay: revised joint draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Having in mind the importance of export earnings to the economic development of many countries, in particular the less developed countries,

Appreciating that a more rapid rate of expansion in the export trade of the less developed countries is of major importance for their soundly based economic development,

Considering the serious problems both of a short-term and long-term nature which confront many countries, particularly the less developed countries, as a result of excessive fluctuations in the prices of many primary products and of the impact on international trade in such products of protectionism in its varied forms,

Realizing therefore the urgent need for continuing efforts to bring about more assured conditions for commodity trade and a mitigation of difficulties at present facing many producers of both agricultural and mineral commodities,

Noting ECOSOC resolution 691 A (XXVI) reconstituting the Commission on International Commodity Trade,

Recognizing that as stated in that resolution the development of specific proposals for possible action by Governments with respect to particular commodities continues to be the responsibility mainly of intergovernmental commodity study groups,

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Expressing the hope that the Commission on International Commodity Trade (CICT) will be able to make a greater contribution to the establishment of more assured conditions for international commodity trade,

Recognizing the increasing attention which Governments are giving to commodity problems as evidenced by the work of the Committee on Commodity Problems of the FAO and such developments as the recent establishment of a coffee study group, the meetings on copper, lead and zinc recently convened by the United Nations, the recent renegotiations of the International Sugar Agreement, the discussions taking place towards the renegotiation of the International Wheat Agreement, and the consideration currently being given by the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to the Commodity Aspects of International Trade,

Recognizing further that, for the most part, effective action with respect to given commodities will require the active co-operation of both major producing and consuming countries in their mutual interests,

Noting with satisfaction the growing tendency of Governments to broaden the scope of international study and discussion of commodity problems to cover not only price instability as such but also its underlying causes, economic effects and possible means of dealing with them,

1. Urges Member Governments to continue to examine, on a commodity by commodity basis, the question of what measures may be desirable and feasible in offering solutions to particular commodity problems;

2. Supports the action taken by the Economic and Social Council under resolution 691 (XXVI) for the purpose of making the CICT more effective and its decision to convene the CICT early in 1959;

3. Expresses the hope that countries which do not participate in or co-operate with established international trading arrangements will refrain from the use of trade practices generally considered to be unfair which would impede or prevent the satisfactory working of those arrangements;

4. Appeals to all Member Governments to increase their efforts to promote conditions favourable to the expansion of international trade and, in relation to their commercial policies and trade practices, to take into account any possible harmful repercussions which they might have, particularly on the trade of under-developed countries.