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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Agrarian Reform

Bolivia, Cuba and Mexico: joint draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 401 (V) of 20 November 1950, 524 (VI) of 12 January 1952, 625 A (VII) of 21 December 1952, and 826 (IX) of 11 December 1954, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 370 (XIII) of 7 September 1951, 512 C (XVII) of 30 April 1954, 649 B (XXIII) of 2 May 1957 and 712 (XXVII) of 17 April 1959 on agrarian reform,

Recognizing the importance to certain under-developed countries of the transformation of their agrarian structure, in order:

- (a) to improve the combination of the factors of production, the mobility of labour and the technical skills of the rural population, thus raising the level of agricultural productivity,
- (b) to secure a more satisfactory distribution of agricultural income and to raise levels of consumption and saving among rural inhabitants,
- (c) to create and extend the domestic market for various industrial and agricultural products,
- (d) to achieve the conditions necessary for industrial development, the diversification of agriculture and the balanced integration of industry with agriculture,

Noting that certain countries are at present carrying out different programmes of agrarian reform tending towards the achievement of the above objectives,

Recalling in addition operative paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 712 (XXVII), which requests the Secretary-General "to prepare the report on the progress of land reform for the Council in 1962 along the lines of the prospectus contained in paragraph 57 of the report submitted at the present session, taking into consideration the sources of information listed in paragraphs 59 and 60 of the report and the views which Members may express in the Council and the General Assembly",

1. Declares that it will continue to support those Member States which are carrying out their agrarian reform in conformity with the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, the regional economic commissions, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the other organs and agencies of the United Nations, in consultation with Member States, to consider the best ways in which the United Nations can continue to give increasingly effective support to the land reform programmes put into operation by its Members;

3. Recommends that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development give renewed attention to these programmes and, in conformity with operative paragraph 4 of resolution 826 (IX), "give sympathetic consideration to loan applications from under-developed countries for development projects which are designed to implement their programmes of agrarian reform, including projects designed to bring new lands under agricultural cultivation, and invites the Bank, consistent with its maintenance as a self-supporting entity, to consider making any such loans on terms of interest and amortization designed to place the smallest feasible burden on the borrowing countries";

4. Reiterates the hope that, in accordance with operative paragraph 5 of the same resolution, "high priority will be given" by the Technical Assistance Board and the other organs and agencies concerned "to requests for United Nations technical assistance for the purpose of studying or carrying out land reform programmes";

5. Expresses the hope that the Special Fund, together with any new organs which may be set up by the United Nations or any of its agencies, such as the International Development Association, will, in the spirit of this resolution and of earlier resolutions on the same subject, offer the greatest financial support possible, on the most favourable terms compatible with their resources, to projects connected with the execution of agrarian reform programmes by countries members of such organizations;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, the regional economic commissions, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the other specialized agencies concerned, in consultation with Member States, to report to the Economic and Social Council at its session in 1962 on the measures taken by the United Nations to assist Member States in carrying out their land reform programmes, and requests the Council in turn to report to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and the above-mentioned organizations, to examine the results of the land reform programmes in the under-developed countries in the light of the report submitted by Members, and the effects which the programmes have had on the economic development of those countries, and to report to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session, making appropriate recommendations, and to the Economic and Social Council in 1962.

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