



SECOND COMMITTEE  
26th meeting  
held on  
Monday, 1 November 1982  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 26th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FAREED (Pakistan)

later: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 71: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/36/419/Add.1 [71 (c), (g), (h), (i), (j), (n), (o), (p)], A/36/477; A/37/8, A/37/15 (Vol. I and II), A/37/25, A/37/38, A/37/47, A/37/119 and Add.1, A/37/196, A/37/197, A/37/238, A/37/347 and Corr.1, A/37/373, A/37/394, A/37/395, A/37/396 and Corr.1, A/37/397, A/37/415, A/37/424, A/37/439, A/37/518, A/37/527 and Add.1; A/C.2/37/4, A/C.2/37/5, A/C.2/37/L.4, A/C.2/37/L.7)

1. Mr. RAMOS (Cape Verde) noted the profound disarray currently afflicting the world economy. The ills of the industrialized countries - inflation, unemployment, decline in growth, uncertainty of recovery - were matched by those of the developing countries, which in addition were obliged to make difficult adjustments. It was the most vulnerable among them, the least developed, which experienced the greatest impact of an unjust system detrimental to all, including to those with the ability to change it but without the necessary political will. The efforts of the least developed countries were hindered by a whole range of factors, some of them natural and some arising from the economic situation, in particular reductions in capital flows. According to the International Development Strategy, the per capita income of the least developed countries should double by the year 2000. That objective was not in the least extraordinary, since it was quite possible that in real terms that would leave them in the same position as today. Their rate of growth was low, indeed negative. As the Secretary-General had stressed in his report on long-term trends in economic development (A/37/211), it was the negative consequences of the "low growth scenario" which were the most disturbing.

2. By the end of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, five more African States would have joined the ranks of the least developed countries. More than half of the member States of OAU would then fall into that category, a sad reflection on the economic state of Africa - a continent with vast potential, but which had been shamelessly exploited. If a new international economic order were established, Africa should find its rightful place in it. That had been the aim of the Heads of State and Government in adopting the Lagos Plan. Food and agriculture enjoyed a high priority in the Plan, and every effort would be made to achieve self-sufficiency in that regard. Yet in order to overcome natural obstacles and acquire the necessary financial and technical capacity to that end, increasing and continuous aid was needed from the international community. The community had often demonstrated its awareness of the deterioration in the food situation in Africa and of the fact that the nutritional level of Africans had fallen below the essential minimum. It was to be hoped that that interest could be translated into action.

3. The Second Committee had before it a report on the special needs of island developing countries (A/37/196) and on international aid to such countries. Such aid should be increased. It was necessary to consider in detail the problems common to those countries, in particular: natural disasters, disadvantageous climatic factors, small domestic markets and, in the case of archipelagos, their dispersed territory and the distance between islands. The sixth session of the

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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should provide an opportunity for such consideration.

4. The Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries was an important instrument for multilateral co-operation. The meetings of the consultative groups and the round tables for donors and recipients which were scheduled would provide an opportunity to establish the needs and potential of the parties concerned. For its part, within the framework of the new Programme and assisted by UNDP, Cape Verde had organized, in June 1982, a round table meeting attended by 23 countries, 23 international organizations and 8 non-governmental organizations. The Prime Minister, Mr. Pedro Pires, had reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Government and people of Cape Verde for development, but had stressed Cape Verde's expectation of international aid in promoting stable, programmed, rational development, adapted to the imperatives of the process of establishing viable production structures. Reduced dependence, increased self-sufficiency; such were the hopes which the new Programme inspired. UNDP, in particular, had been entrusted with realizing them. Its efforts should thus be supported, in particular through contributions to the Special Measures Fund for the least developed countries.

5. He welcomed the encouraging statement on the revitalization of international co-operation delivered by Mr. Jean-Pierre Cot, the official in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for co-operation and development, before the Second Committee. He trusted that the Committee would propose solutions to facilitate the launching of the global negotiations and the attainment of a consensus on the establishment of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development.

6. Mr. Papadatos (Greece) took the Chair.

7. Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan) welcomed the contribution made by the report of the secretariat of UNCTAD on trade and development (A/37/518) to the understanding of the crisis affecting the world economy and of development problems. Recession, inflation and unemployment were afflicting the developed countries, while the prices of the primary commodities exported by the developing countries had never been so low. While the potential existed for injecting new dynamism into the world economy through resource transfers, financial flows and particularly official development aid were diminishing. Against that background, the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development assumed particular importance. It should provide Governments with an opportunity to assess the magnitude and impact of the crisis and to agree on concrete actions: massive flows of financial resources to developing countries, debt relief, trade liberalization, full implementation of the integrated programme for commodities, and an increase in technical co-operation activities among developing countries. Attention should also be focused, with a view to expediting matters, on the progress made in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, and efforts should be made to reach agreement on the final provision of the code of conduct on the transfer of technology and on specific measures to mitigate the adverse effect of

(Mr. Birido, Sudan)

such transfers, particularly the brain drain. The resolution recently adopted by the Trade and Development Board on economic co-operation between developing countries was very significant. It reaffirmed the principle of national and collective self-reliance and the responsibility of developing countries for their own progress. It also recalled that the developed countries and international organizations had an important role to play in that regard, and clearly defined the role of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries and the mandate of UNCTAD in that respect.

8. He welcomed the efforts made by UNIDO to promote industrialization in developing countries. That organization's technical aid programme had increased from \$24 million in 1974 to \$88.5 million in 1981, and that record figure was to be increased to \$92.5 million in 1982. UNIDO had come to occupy the position of third largest executing agency for projects financed by UNDP without any noticeable increase in staff resources. His delegation was gratified that the provisional agenda of the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO took account of the priority areas of industrial development. Nevertheless, emphasis should be placed on the following: mobilization of financial resources, redeployment of industry, industrial processing of raw materials, accelerated development of human resources, strengthening of scientific and technological capabilities of developing countries, the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and special measures for the least developed countries. The proposal to establish an international bank for industrial development, which the Sixth Conference of African Ministers of Industry had unanimously supported, was an important initiative. It was to be hoped that the Second Committee would give the Secretariat a mandate to take the necessary steps to implement it. The measures taken by the secretariats of UNIDO, ECA and OAU to elaborate and co-ordinate activities under the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa were commendable. Africa was the least developed of the developing regions of the world and all countries, as well as the United Nations system as a whole, had an obligation to contribute to its industrialization. The technical assistance provided by UNIDO to the Namibian and Palestinian peoples should be increased and channelled through SWAPO and PLO, their sole legitimate representatives.

9. With regard to science and technology for development, he regretted that, despite protracted and arduous negotiations, in which the Group of 77 had shown great flexibility, no agreement had yet been reached on the Financing System, although it was due to start functioning on 1 January 1983. Some developed countries, after undertaking to contribute to the System and after the volume of resources required had dwindled to \$100 million a year, questioned even the principle of establishing it. The Sudan, for its part, was ready to contribute its share of the core resources and urged all those countries which were holding back to do the same. In that connection, he welcomed the valuable efforts of the ministerial goodwill mission.

10. On the question of the environment, he expressed satisfaction at the work of the UNEP Governing Council session of a special character, in the course of which President Nimeiri had indicated his interest in protection of the environment in its widest sense. Desertification was a major problem for the Sudan, which

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accordingly welcomed the efforts of UNEP and UNDP in the Sudano-Sahelian region. The UNDP projects, supported by donors such as the Netherlands and Sweden, made it possible not only to combat the advance of the desert but also to promote rural development and the participation of women in development. Unfortunately, the resources of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office were not commensurate with the needs, and it was to be hoped that donor countries would show generosity in contributing to the Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian activities at the next pledging conference.

11. Lastly, he thanked the Secretary-General for his important report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories (A/35/238), which confirmed that employment opportunities had declined since the occupation because of the structural changes imposed by the integration of the local economy into that of Israel. The policy of the occupying Power regarding land and water use, education and health, its systematic recourse to collective punishment and deportation and its denial of freedom of movement, association and expression, weighed heavily on the Palestinians, who lived in conditions of insecurity and frustration. Nevertheless, that policy, which was no different from that of the racist régime of South Africa, would not stifle their aspirations. In any event, there could be no lasting peace in the Middle East until the Palestinian people recovered their inalienable rights, including their right to establish their own State under the leadership of PLO.

12. Mr. KOH (Singapore) said that the world economic crisis, marked by high rates of inflation and unemployment and serious indebtedness on the part of certain developing countries and some socialist countries, had alarmed the Governments of the world by its seriousness, its proportions, and its resistance to traditional solutions. There had even been suggestions of a collapse of the international economic system installed after the Second World War, although, despite its faults, it had functioned relatively well for almost 40 years.

13. Many developed countries viewed the concept of "economic interdependence" with scepticism because, in the past, it had tended to mean demands by the developing countries for the transfer of resources from North to South without reciprocity. The current economic crisis, however, which assailed both North and South, gave the developing countries an opportunity to demonstrate to the leaders and citizens of the developed countries that economic interdependence could mean mutual benefit. In that connection, he referred to the plan put forward by the Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Dr. Kreisky, whereby the surplus production capacities of the industrialized countries would be used to produce the capital goods so sorely needed by the developing countries. That plan, which was expected to cost about \$200 billion, would be spread over 15 years, the underlying logic being the transformation of the needs of the developing countries into outlets for the products of the industrialized countries. The accelerated growth that would result in the developing countries would be the locomotive that would pull the developed countries out of the recession in which they were floundering. The delegation of Singapore appreciated the logic of the proposal but thought that it should be subjected to further analysis. First, it must be translated into sound and practical programmes and, secondly, the leaders of the industrialized countries and the developing countries must be persuaded to support it.

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(Mr. Koh, Singapore)

14. A large number of developed countries, unable to cope with the impact on their economies of the loss of their comparative advantage over the developing countries in some industrial sectors, instead of making the structural adjustments required, had resorted to one form or another of protectionism against the manufactured goods exported by the developing countries. They had also erected a whole range of non-tariff barriers in order to circumvent the GATT regulations, so that exceptions to GATT were fast becoming the rule. The delegation of Singapore trusted, in that connection, that the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting of GATT would be able to roll back the tide of protectionism and reaffirm the international community's commitment to an open trading system. It realized, however, that, faced with unemployment and many companies going out of business, the trade unions in the developed countries were putting pressure on their Governments to impose protectionist measures against imports from the developing countries. It was necessary, therefore, for the representatives of developing countries to establish a dialogue with the trade union leaders and consumer movements of the industrialized countries. Thus, they could draw the attention of the latter to the fact that protectionism was forcing them to pay higher prices in order to subsidize non-competitive industries in their own countries, and of the former to the studies of OECD, a number of European countries and the United States, showing that developed-country exports to the developing countries had created more jobs than had been lost through imports from these countries, and emphasizing that the loss of jobs affected declining sectors whereas job creation took place in expanding sectors with high technology. The trade union leaders should also be shown that, unless the developing countries could export their goods to the developed countries, they would not have the means to import the capital goods manufactured by the latter.

15. Recalling that the international community had established the Integrated Programme for Commodities in order to combat fluctuations in commodity prices, he announced that the Government of Singapore had decided to sign and ratify the agreement setting up the Common Fund, despite its reservations regarding the method of calculating the assessed contributions to the Fund.

16. The Soviet Union and its socialist allies had so far maintained that the obligation to help the developing countries rested solely on the Western industrialized countries, which had exploited them in colonial times. It was time for the developing countries to reject that erroneous argument. First, some Western industrialized countries had never colonized any country in the third world. Secondly, the moral obligation of the rich to help the poor countries sprang from human solidarity and was not based on past exploitation of the recipient countries by the donor country. The developing countries should also demand that the socialist countries untie their aid and channel a substantial part of their economic assistance through multilateral institutions. He also hoped that the socialist countries would play a part in the North-South dialogue commensurate with their economic weight and political influence, and no longer content themselves with giving rhetorical support to the developing countries.

17. Although it was impatiently awaiting the launching of the global negotiations,

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the delegation of Singapore believed that it would be wise to study first what changes of attitude and institutional reforms must be considered in order to ensure their success. In that connection, it drew attention to the report of a Commonwealth group of experts entitled "The North-South Dialogue: Making it Work", which contained many suggestions on how the United Nations could prepare itself to play the central negotiating role in the global negotiations.

18. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) said that more than a year had passed since the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, but that the institutional and financial problems relating to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action had not yet been solved. Certain positive elements relating to the supply and demand of hydrocarbons gave the impression that there was less need to achieve transition to new energy sources, but that was not true. The latest study by the secretariat of the International Energy Agency (IEA) revealed that the world economy remained vulnerable to oil supply disruptions, and IEA predictions indicated that by the mid-1980s, the oil market was likely to be disrupted when the growing global demand for oil was frustrated by falling production. That was why no effort should be spared to achieve an orderly and peaceful transition to an economy increasingly based on new and renewable sources of energy.

19. The General Assembly was scheduled to take a decision at its current session on institutional arrangements relating to new and renewable sources of energy, but the financial and institutional environment in which the United Nations existed today was not favourable. As a representative of one of the major contributors to the United Nations budget, he was aware that available resources had to be utilized rationally and was firmly opposed to the proliferation of funds and institutions. However, flexibility and far-sightedness were required to enable the United Nations to cope with the changing socio-economic situation, especially with a problem as important for all of mankind as new and renewable sources of energy. Delegations must therefore reach a well thought-out decision on the institutional arrangements, keeping in mind that decision's long-term implications.

20. With regard to the intergovernmental body, he said that he had never understood why the mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources could not be revised so that it could carry out that function. The resistance to that solution might simply be due to unnecessary apprehension on the part of some delegations. In view of the historical importance of the Nairobi Programme of Action, his delegation had proposed the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental committee under the General Assembly's authority, which could be called the "Committee on Natural Resources and New and Renewable Sources of Energy", and the discontinuance of the existing Committee on Natural Resources. If that suggestion was accepted, the committee on new and renewable sources of energy should be convened biennially, alternately with the committee on natural resources. That proposal would preserve the prestige of the Nairobi Programme of Action without causing financial problems, but irrespective of the form of the intergovernmental body, there would be no substantive difference. His delegation was therefore prepared to negotiate with other delegations so that the General Assembly could reach agreement on the issue at its thirty-seventh session.

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(Mr. Taniguchi, Japan)

21. The intergovernmental body would not be able to function at its best without effective secretariat support. Secretariat support should therefore serve the five functions of co-ordination, policy planning, technical co-operation, establishment of consultative mechanisms for financing and preparatory work for the intergovernmental body. In view of the number of United Nations organs and agencies dealing with new and renewable sources of energy, co-ordination would be the most vital function of the secretariat. As indicated in paragraph 63 of the Nairobi Programme of Action, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation would be entrusted with the task of co-ordinating the contributions of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system within the framework of his mandate as defined by the General Assembly in its resolutions 32/197 and 33/202. To enable it to fulfil that task, the Office of the Director-General should be strengthened. In the absence of a large secretariat, the ad hoc working group of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, which had played an important role in the preparations for the meeting of the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, should be retained and enlarged.

22. Policy planning should be the responsibility of the Office of the Director-General in co-operation with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. The technical co-operation function should be assumed principally by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme and other related agencies, under the supervision of the Director-General. His delegation requested the Secretariat to furnish information on how many experts on new and renewable sources of energy were now working for the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. That information would help in determining the role to be played by the Department and the size of the new secretariat staff. With regard to the fourth function, his delegation hoped that the document it had submitted at the meeting of the Interim Committee would be useful in developing consultative mechanisms. The Interim Committee had requested the Secretary-General to submit to the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly recommendations on the most effective arrangements for secretariat support for consultative mechanisms. That support should be provided by the new secretariat to be established for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, since financing was closely linked to policy planning and technical co-operation. That approach would also contribute to the optimal co-ordination of activities and to limiting operating costs.

23. In order for the secretariat to be able to perform those five functions effectively, its staff must be large and highly qualified. To avoid being over-ambitious, the secretariat should start with a small but highly capable staff which could be enlarged at a later stage on the basis of the expansion of projects and programmes undertaken in implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action. The Secretariat should be under the supervision of the Director-General, but its technical co-operation function should be carried out by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. Since the Director-General could not supervise the secretariat unassisted, he should be helped by a high-ranking official who would act as his special representative in charge of implementing the Nairobi Programme of Action and co-ordinating and promoting United Nations



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activities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. On the basis of those suggestions, his delegation was prepared to consult with all interested delegations so that the General Assembly could make the best possible decision on that important issue at its thirty-seventh session.

24. Mr. TETTAMANTI (Argentina) said that, as statistics showed, international trade was nearly at a standstill. The deterioration of the world economic situation had spurred most of the developed countries to adopt recessionist policies which had serious consequences for the developing countries and protectionist practices which violated the principles of free trade that the developed countries advocated. Those difficulties were compounded by the steady deterioration of the terms of trade of most of the developing countries and the instability of the primary commodity markets. The international economic crisis hit the developing countries hardest, preventing them from achieving independent economic development and perpetuating injustice in international economic relations. Moreover, the growing trade conflicts among certain developed countries could have an adverse effect on the external trade of the developing countries, which were increasingly defenceless against the new restrictions imposed by the developed countries. Many meetings, such as the upcoming Ministerial Meeting of GATT and the sixth session of UNCTAD, would provide opportunities to deal with those problems, but they would not serve any purpose if the need to change the existing international economic order and to establish a new order which benefited all countries continued to be ignored as it had been thus far.

25. His country therefore attached tremendous importance to the preparation of the meetings he had mentioned at the national, regional and international levels, and had offered to host the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 to prepare for the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. In that respect, it was especially important that the Common Fund for Commodities, the Agreement on which had been signed by his country on 22 September 1982, should go into operation as soon as possible.

26. His country was very much interested in the activities of UNEP which, over the decade 1982-1992, was to focus its attention on three major areas and was to stimulate and co-ordinate the assessment of environmental problems of world-wide concern and initiate and co-ordinate international co-operation to deal with such problems: promote and co-ordinate appropriate policies and programmes for rational resource and environmental management in the framework of economic and social development, giving particular attention to the needs of the developing countries; and promote and co-ordinate activities in the fields of information, education, training and the preparation of national guidelines, specially for developing countries, as well as further development of environmental law and guidelines and methodologies for environmental management and, at a later stage, to provide financial assistance to carry out those activities.

27. In addition, UNEP's activities should be decentralized for the benefit of the developing countries. The regional offices should be responsible for the programming and evaluation of regional projects. In that regard, decision 10/2 adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP at its tenth session was particularly important.

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(Mr. Tettamanti, Argentina)

28. Within the context of horizontal co-operation, his country had offered a long-term line of credit at low interest rates to developing countries in order to provide them with technical assistance in the field of the environment.

29. It would continue to support the activities of the Commission on Human Settlements and supported decision 5/14 adopted by the Commission at its fifth session and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1982/154 on the holding of an International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

30. The Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 1982/50 on its revitalization. That question was extremely important if the United Nations was to be able to deal with the problems of international economic co-operation and development on the basis of the provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and of the precepts of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. It was in that spirit that his delegation would participate in the consultations that would take place to consider the various aspects of the implementation of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197.

31. With respect to new and renewable sources of energy, during the current session the final agreement should be adopted on the establishment of an intergovernmental body within the United Nations to deal specifically with that matter and to guide and monitor the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 36/193. In the course of the current session additional financial resources would also have to be mobilized as recommended by the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy at its meeting held in Rome in June 1982.

32. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was particularly important in solving the current crisis in the world economy. The Buenos Aires Conference had opened the door to technical co-operation among developing countries and the meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-Up and Co-ordination Committee held recently at Manila coincided with the first anniversary of the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action.

33. In that respect, mention should be made of the resolution adopted by the Trade and Development Board at its twenty-fifth session in which it had called upon UNCTAD to support co-ordination activities among developing countries. However, many developed countries had failed to appreciate the role they were called upon to play in that field, and it was unfortunate to note that those countries had the bad habit of going back on the commitments they had already undertaken.

34. Mr. SCHUMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that the various reports before the Committee under agenda item 71 (c), including the second report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on trade and development (UNCTAD/TDR/2), the report on world inflation and development (A/37/518) and the note of the Secretariat on protectionism and structural adjustment (A/C.2/37/L.4), once again proved that there was a vicious circle between the well-known negative aspects of the

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capitalist system, namely the so-called free market economy, and the unequal treatment meted out to the developing countries within the world capitalist economic structure. The dependence of those countries was rendered even more acute by protectionist measures, export of inflation, currency devaluation, exchange rate fluctuations and various forms of trade discrimination. That situation called for an urgent restructuring of international economic relations on democratic lines to allow the developing countries to participate on an equal footing in the international economy.

34a. His country attached considerable importance to the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development because it shared the view of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and of many delegations that, without substituting for global negotiations on international economic questions, it could contribute to the search for solutions and thereby represent a first step towards the recovery of the international economy. The session should make it possible to adopt practical measures to remove the obstacles to international trade, to combat protectionism, and to promote mutually advantageous trade relations between States with different social and economic systems, to benefit East-West trade in particular. The session should also give due attention to trade-related aspects of disarmament, support for national liberation movements, the safeguarding of the achievements of peaceful co-operation resulting from détente in international relations, as well as the rejection of threats posed to international trade as an instrument of peace by confrontation and breaches of agreements already concluded.

35. Together with the other members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, his country was prepared further to develop existing links with the capitalist countries on the basis of equality and mutual advantage. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the parties to the Warsaw Treaty, who had met in Moscow in October 1982, had spoken out resolutely against any action liable to jeopardize existing treaties and agreements, the European political dialogue, and the contacts and trade, economic, scientific and technological ties established in recent decades or to constitute interference in internal affairs and to discriminate against the socialist countries.

36. With regard to international financial and monetary matters, a democratic restructuring of the international financial and monetary system was imperative; the holding, under United Nations auspices, of a world conference on those questions, open to all States on an equal footing, could be envisaged.

37. Turning to the question of the reverse transfer of technology, he said that the recent meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Feasibility of Measuring Human Resources Flows had been a failure because the delegations of certain OECD member States which used the services of skilled personnel from the developing countries had refused to accept recommendations for stopping or even restricting that reverse transfer of technology.

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38. Aware that the brain drain problem was linked to the restructuring of international economic relations on democratic lines the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Germany expected the United Nations and all the organizations of the United Nations system to pay very close attention to that particularly reprehensible form of neo-colonialism. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic had referred to the matter in his statement to the eleventh special session of the General Assembly on 4 September 1980. Steps should be taken within the framework of the United Nations system to mitigate the adverse effects of the brain drain on the developing countries and to provide adequate compensation. The work started in UNCTAD on guidelines and standards for measuring human resources flows and formulating criteria for identifying the negative effects of the brain drain on the developing countries should be continued.

39. Turning to the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Human Settlements, he said that the delegation of the German Democratic Republic endorsed the reports on the session of a special character and the tenth regular session of UNEP's Governing Council, and the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fifth session. It endorsed the activities of both organs concerning the relationship that should exist between specific subjects relating to the environment and human settlements and fundamental problems linked to the survival of human society, such as the effects of the arms race on the environment and the need for the adoption of effective disarmament measures. It also endorsed decision 10/7 of the UNEP Governing Council on the impact of apartheid on the environment and resolution 5/19 of the Commission on Human Settlements on assistance to the victims of apartheid and colonialism, as well as the maintenance of assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories with a view to improving their living conditions (A/37/248).

40. Commenting on the activities undertaken as a follow-up to the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, he said that the German Democratic Republic was committed to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action with due regard to the comments made by the socialist States when the Programme was adopted and at the session of the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held at Rome in June 1982. It would continue to carry on a variety of activities to assist the developing countries to exploit their energy potential. It had doubts as to the role of private capital in implementing the Nairobi Programme of Action, since the Nairobi Conference had been an intergovernmental conference. Priority with regard to energy production, including activities to exploit new and renewable sources of energy, should be given to the public sector of the economy. The Programme must not be allowed to serve as a testing ground for the transnational corporations.

41. After reaffirming his country's support for the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s on behalf of the least developed countries, and referring in that connection to the statement published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic on 20 October 1982, on the occasion of United

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Nations Day and World Development Information Day (A/C.2/37/5), he said that it was regrettable that certain Western countries and international financial institutions had reduced or cut off assistance to some progressive least developed countries on purely political grounds.

41a. He objected to the slanderous remarks made by the United States representative at a previous meeting of the Committee about the socialist system and the co-operation of the socialist States with the developing countries. Sixty-five years after the victory of the great October Socialist Revolution and after more than three decades of dynamic and stable development on the part of the member States of the socialist community within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance the achievements of socialism and its historical superiority could not be dismissed out of hand. Nor could there be any dispute as to the real facts concerning the effective economic support given to the developing countries by the Soviet Union and the other socialist States.

42. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium), recalling that the Danish representative had already stated the views of the members of the European Community on the agenda item, said that he would only make a few specific comments.

43. Regarding the need for concerted international action to put the world economy back on the track of steady expansion, he noted that the current economic crisis had gripped virtually the whole world, was afflicting countries with different economic systems, and was failing to respond to all the conventional remedies. A concerted effort was needed to solve international problems and stem the mounting wave of despair, particularly since the interests of North and South were not actually in conflict.

44. The world economy had grown steadily more interdependent over the past 10 years. The slowdown of economic activity and the disarray in the international monetary system had seriously affected the volume of financial transfers from the rich to the poor countries. The result was a further deterioration in the economies of the least developed countries, already seriously affected by the mounting oil bill. That interdependence should encourage all countries to regard the recovery of the world economy as a vital objective grounded in the common interest. Belgium, like its fellow members of the European Economic Community, was firmly in favour of launching the global negotiations and initiating a dialogue that would take into account the interests of all the groups concerned. As the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs had recently suggested, the dangerous antagonisms between nations must be replaced by new forms of co-operation that would make it possible to overcome the crisis and inaugurate an era of shared responsibility in an interdependent world. Accordingly, there must be collective action, based on mutual understanding, in those areas where a contribution could be made to the recovery that was essential.

45. At a less general level, attention should be directed to the question of the orientation of operational activities and the difficulties encountered by a number

(Mr. Pirson, Belgium)

of bodies and institutions, in particular UNDP. The reasons behind the apparent disenchantment of some States with the multilateral development assistance agencies should be identified and multilateral official development assistance should be made a more effective instrument. As far as the Financing System for science and technology for development was concerned, the Belgian Government intended to contribute together with its partners in the European Economic Community to the successful conclusion of the negotiations.

46. The Committee would be required to follow up the reports on new and renewable sources of energy, in particular the recommendations of the Interim Committee. In that connection, his country would have preferred to consider the problem of energy in all its aspects, since new and renewable sources of energy would cover only a very small part of world energy needs in the near future.

47. Belgium regarded the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s on behalf of the least developed countries, as particularly important. Its official assistance to the least developed countries was close to the target of 0.15 per cent of GNP established at the Paris Conference in 1981, and for 1982 would be about 0.62 per cent. In 1981, official development assistance had amounted to more than 21 billion Belgian francs, or about \$575 million. In the same year, public and private resources transferred to the developing countries had been over \$2.8 billion, which represented 2.93 per cent of GNP. He suggested that the major contributors should agree to break down their statistics so that the international community could better evaluate and appreciate their efforts.

48. Turning to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, he said that the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, referred to in resolution E/1982/50, would enable the Council to provide better co-ordination of the activities of the institutions of the United Nations system. The methods of work of the Second Committee should be reviewed and the Belgian delegation was ready to play an active part in that review. A more rational division of work in the economic and social field was imperative so that the same questions were not dealt with by special conferences or the governing bodies of United Nations organs, by the Economic and Social Council, and by the General Assembly.

49. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should concentrate essentially on issues of greatest interest to Member States, namely, substantive activities and operational programmes or activities, and cut down the numerous consultations by subsidiary organs on questions affecting staff interests.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.11 entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation"

50. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that Burundi, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Niger, Romania and Viet Nam had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation" (A/C.2/37/L.11).

51. Mr. HOUNGAVOU (Benin) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.11, in his capacity as President of the General Conference of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACTC). Its object was to clarify the areas of co-operation between the United Nations and ACTC proposed by the Secretary-General in his report (A/37/290) and to complement those proposals.

52. Introducing the different parts of the draft resolution, he pointed out that in operative paragraph 1 of the French version the words "prend acte" should be replaced by the words "prend note". The draft resolution was straightforward and non-controversial and its aims were in conformity with the objectives of the United Nations and with the observer status and the activities of the Agency. The Agency had long and sound experience of development matters, in particular with respect to science and technology for development, training, new sources of energy, combating desertification and technical assistance. The Government of Benin trusted that the Committee would give favourable consideration to the draft resolution and that it would be adopted unanimously.

53. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee) suggested that the report mentioned in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution should be submitted to the Economic and Social Council alone, which might, after considering it, wish to submit it to the General Assembly for action, in accordance with the Council's decisions on rationalizing its activities. Accordingly the sponsors of the draft resolution might consider amending operative paragraph 3 to read: "Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on this subject to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983 and requests the Council to submit a report on this subject to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session".

54. Mr. HOUNGAVOU (Benin) said that he wished to consult the sponsors of the draft resolution before expressing an opinion on the Secretary's proposal.

Draft decision A/C.2/37/L.16 entitled "Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989"

55. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, introduced the draft decision entitled "Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989" (A/C.2/37/L.16) and said that the question had been thoroughly debated by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-second session and the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982.

56. Mr. IVERSEN (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the members of the European Economic Community, said that the position of those countries on the medium-term plan had not changed. In their opinion, it was entirely inappropriate to consider questions of trade between socialist countries and developed market economy countries in the context of UNCTAD Programme 5 on trade among countries having different economic and social systems. That was a subject for the Economic Commission for Europe. Paragraphs 16.69, 16.70 and 16.74 of the proposed medium-term plan were therefore unacceptable. As to draft decision A/C.2/35/L.16, if the text was to reflect to some extent the views of the members of the European Economic Community, the words "and reservations" should be inserted after the word "views" in the penultimate line.

57. Mr. MILLER (United States of America) said that Programme 5 in chapter 16 of the proposed medium-term plan had not been subject to the same negotiations as the rest of the plan and there had been no consensus on it. His delegation was therefore opposed to its inclusion in the plan in its present form. It was the Economic Commission for Europe, not UNCTAD, that should be discussing the question of East-West trade. UNCTAD was responsible for dealing with questions relating to the developing countries' trade and development. It would therefore be entirely out of place to take up its time and resources solely to meet the wishes of the Soviet Union and its socialist allies.

58. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of his own delegation and those of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, said that those delegations would have no objection to a decision by the Committee recommending that the General Assembly should adopt the sections of the proposed medium-term plan which had been submitted to it, with the revisions proposed by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council, since, generally speaking, those sections reflected the main trends in United Nations social and economic activity. The delegations concerned would, however, have reservations on certain questions and considered, in particular, that the inclusion of a chapter on energy in the medium-term plan was unjustified. That question had always been considered in the context of the development of natural resources and there was no reason to adopt a new practice, particularly if it meant setting up a new body or a new unit in the Secretariat.

59. He also criticized attempts to use certain activities to allow foreign private capital to enter developing countries. That applied particularly to the UNIDO System of Consultations and various other programmes in the medium-term plan. He also pointed out that the plan by no means precluded duplication of activity.

60. With regard to UNCTAD Programme 5 on trade among countries having different economic and social systems, his delegation considered that the text of the programme as proposed by the Secretariat was fully consistent with UNCTAD's terms of reference. The efforts of certain States to prevent consideration of the problems of East-West trade ran counter to the decisions of the intergovernmental organs of UNCTAD and the interests of the majority of the member States of UNCTAD. The medium-term plan was merely a programme-planning instrument and should not give rise to any supplementary appropriations.

61. Mr. CARLSON (Canada) and Mr. TAKASU (Japan) associated themselves with the reservations of the representatives of Denmark and the United States of America.

62. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) said it had been agreed that the members of the Second Committee would be given an opportunity to make general comments on relevant sections of the medium-term plan, before the latter were sent to the Fifth Committee, but were not expected to debate individual programmes, which had been discussed in informal consultations and would be dealt with in detail in the Fifth Committee. He wondered whether the words "views expressed" in draft decision A/C.2/37/L.16 did not in fact cover all the views and reservations and suggested that the draft decision could be adopted as it stood.



63. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan), Vice-Chairman, said that during the informal consultations delegations had indeed agreed that a general debate was unnecessary, since it would be a duplication of the discussion in the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. However, in the light of the letter from the President of the General Assembly contained in document A/C.2/37/L.12, the Second Committee would have to make a clear recommendation to the Fifth Committee concerning the action to be taken in respect of the chapters of the medium-term plan which had been referred to it for consideration.

64. With regard to the wording of the draft decision, since there had in fact been reservations - although initially there had appeared to be none - it would be better to revise the text by inserting the words "and reservations".

65. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica), while not opposing the adoption of the draft decision, asked that the words "the members of the Committee" should be replaced by the words "some members of the Committee".

66. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan), Vice-Chairman, suggested that, in the circumstances, the Committee should adopt the draft decision as amended by the representative of Jamaica.

67. Draft decision A/C.2/37/L.16, as amended, was adopted.

68. Mr. VELLOSO (Brazil) said that his delegation reserved its right to revert to the question when it was considered by the Fifth Committee. He hoped that in the future the members of the Second Committee would be more careful before approving a text during informal discussions.

AGENDA ITEM 73: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.13 entitled "United Nations University"

69. Mr. SCHMID (Austria), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/37/13 entitled "United Nations University" on behalf of the sponsors, which now included Bangladesh, China, France, Sierra Leone, Singapore and Thailand, said that the draft resolution was somewhat more comprehensive than those of previous years and reflected the general sense of satisfaction with the development of the University which had been expressed during the debate on item 73.

70. The preambular part of the draft resolution expressed the General Assembly's appreciation to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Government of Japan. Concerning paragraph 1, he said that the report of the Joint Inspection Unit was most encouraging. The following three paragraphs dealt with the programme orientation of the University in the framework of the medium-term perspective. Paragraph 5 stressed the important opportunities for greater collaboration between the University of the United Nations system, on the one hand, and between the University and international academic and scientific organizations, on the other. Paragraph 6 focused on the University's potential for increased decentralization, while paragraph 7 welcomed the increased attention given by the University to the dissemination of knowledge on global problems. With reference to the appeal for generous contributions addressed to all Member States in paragraph 9, he said that

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(Mr. Schmid, Austria)

because the pledges of contributions to the Endowment Fund so far announced had fallen far short of the original target additional financial resources were clearly needed. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.13 would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.14 entitled "Expression of appreciation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research"

71. Mr. SALLU (Sierra Leone), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.14 on behalf of the sponsors, which now included Bangladesh, China, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tunisia and Uganda, said it was entirely appropriate that the Second Committee should express its appreciation in clear and unanimous terms to the Executive Director of UNITAR on the occasion of his departure. Since Mr. Davidson Nicol had assumed that office, many programmes had been implemented, of which perhaps the most important had been the Project on the Future, through which UNITAR had attempted to study the problems of the future. UNITAR had also sought solutions to problems in a number of fields, created effective institutions, organized important seminars and studies, published valuable publications and participated in many international conferences. The States Members of the United Nations should be proud of the work done by UNITAR under Mr. Davidson Nicol's direction, and it was for that reason that it seemed appropriate to express sincere appreciation to him on the eve of his departure.

72. As the draft resolution was in no way controversial and was not without precedent, the sponsors hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

73. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics) said it was doubtful whether draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.14 complied with the wishes of the General Committee, which recommended every year that time should not be lost in expressions of appreciation and other flowery rhetoric. Many officials had left the Organization but no delegation had ever suggested such a draft resolution. A procedure for expressing proper appreciation to senior officials for the services which they had rendered to the Organization should perhaps be established and applied as a matter of routine. The Chairman could, on behalf of a Committee, make a statement which would be reflected in the summary record of the meeting. Such a procedure would in no way diminish the authority or prestige of the person concerned and would have the advantage of not delaying the work of the Committee.

74. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would return to its consideration of the draft resolution once delegations had had an opportunity for consultations on the question.

Draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research"  
(A/C.2/37/L.15)

75. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which now included China, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Uganda, said that since its establishment UNITAR had carried out most commendably

(Mr. Fareed, Pakistan)

the function assigned to it, which was to promote goals of the United Nations. To that end, UNITAR had undertaken training and research activities including, in particular, the publication of in-depth studies on future activities, the organization of regional seminars and conferences and the training of diplomats and officials in many fields. Over the years the value of those activities had been recognized by the entire international community.

76. The first three preambular paragraphs were based on the wording of the corresponding paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 36/75 and should not give rise to any difficulty. The fourth preambular paragraph was new and was intended to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the precarious financial situation of UNITAR, while it had managed to achieve a balanced budget for 1982 as a result of staff reductions, the 1983 budget could remain balanced only if all the major donors maintained their contributions at current levels. There was great uncertainty about 1983 contributions at a time when the Institute was unable to make further cuts without jeopardizing its survival. There was accordingly a need to draw attention again to the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendations on the financing of the Institute in paragraphs 109 and 110 of its report (A/35/181) and to paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Secretary-General's related report (A/35/181/Add.1). Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 were similar to those contained in the resolutions concerning UNITAR which had been adopted at previous sessions. It was to be hoped that they would not raise any difficulties. Paragraph 4 was new but simply requested Member States to take advantage of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, scheduled for the beginning of November, to announce their contributions to UNITAR. Paragraph 5 was designed to clarify the implications of the JIU recommendation to provide UNITAR with a core budget from the regular budget of the United Nations. That recommendation had not been considered in depth by the Committee and it was essential, before any recommendation could be made, that the Secretary-General should examine it carefully in all its aspects as well as the feasibility of maintaining the effectiveness of UNITAR.

77. Over the past 17 years, UNITAR had made a valuable contribution to training and research that was relevant to the United Nations. Voluntary contributions to its budget had remained at the level of contributions in 1976 and had not kept up with the rate of inflation and rising staff costs. Unless Member States were prepared to increase their contributions and unless major contributors could guarantee that they would at least maintain their previous contributions, the very existence of UNITAR would be threatened. Paragraph 5 was therefore an attempt to find a long-range solution to the perennial financial problem of UNITAR. He accordingly hoped that all delegations would support the draft resolution.

78. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would resume its consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.15 once delegations had had an opportunity for informal consultations.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.