

# **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

## **OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1980**

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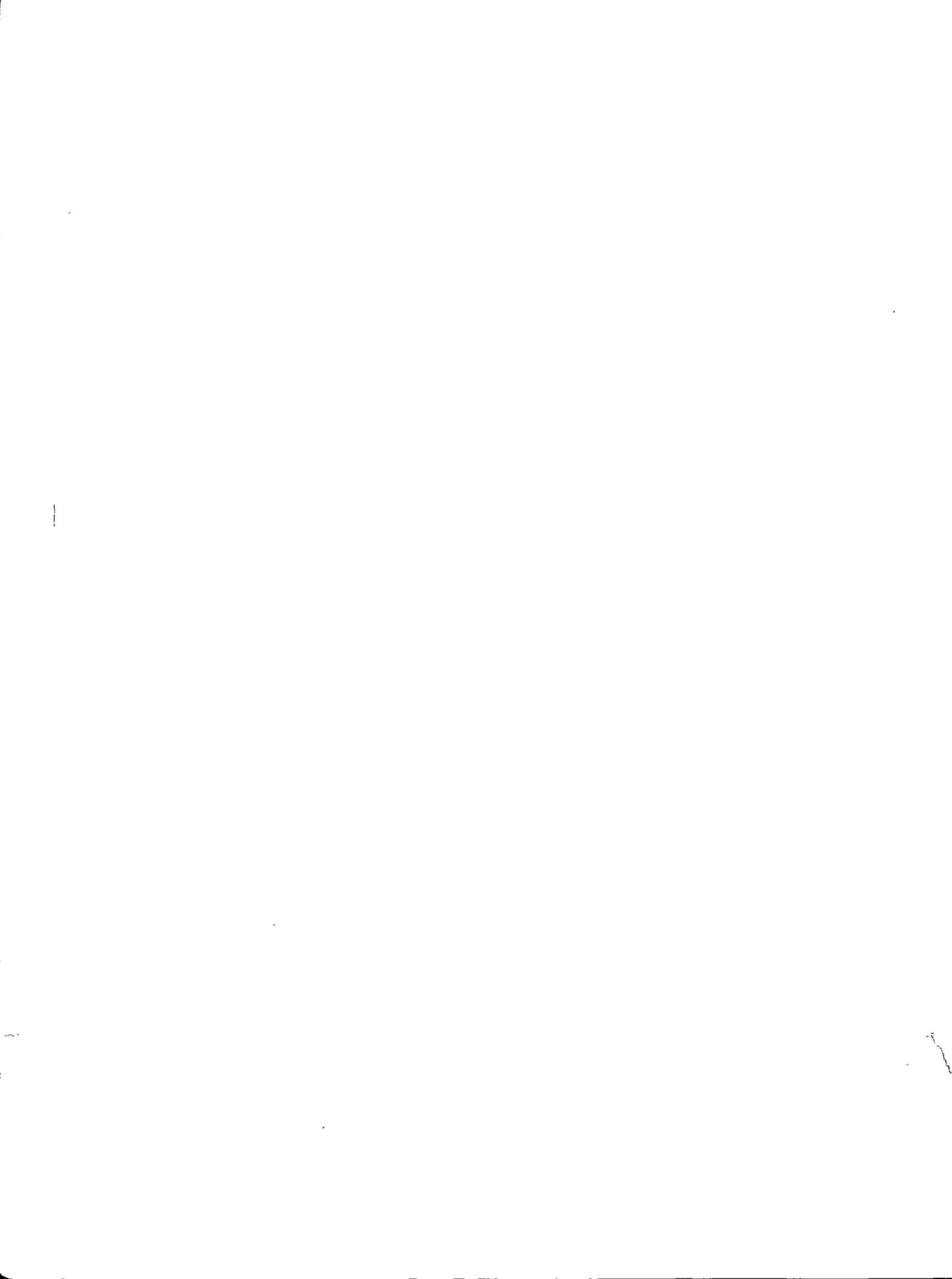
### **PLENARY MEETINGS**

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*Summary records of the meetings held during the year 1980*



**UNITED NATIONS**



# **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

## **OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1980**

### **PLENARY MEETINGS**

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*Summary records of the meetings held during the year 1980*



**UNITED NATIONS**

**New York, 1982**

NOTE

The *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980* consist of the summary records of *Plenary Meetings*, incorporating corrections requested by delegations and any necessary editorial modifications, the *Supplements* (Nos. 1-12) and the *Lists of Delegations*.

The present volume contains the final summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Council during the following sessions:

- Organizational session for 1980 (New York, 5 and 6 February);
- First regular session, 1980 (New York, 8 April-2 May);
- Second regular session, 1980 (Geneva, 3-25 July);
- Resumed second regular session, 1980 (New York, 7 November).

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Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
ADF	Arab Deterrent Force
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDP	Committee for Development Planning
CMEA	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
CORE	common register of development activities
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (of OECD)
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America
ECU	European currency unit(s)
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	gross domestic product
GNP	gross national product
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICEM	Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration
ICPE	International Center for Public Enterprises
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMCO	Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OLADE	Latin American Energy Organization
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
SDR(s)	special drawing right(s)
SELA	Latin American Economic System
SWAPO	South West Africa People's Organization
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
WFP	World Food Programme
WFTU	World Federation of Trade Unions
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

## **AGENDA OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1980**

**Adopted by the Council at its 1st meeting, on 5 February 1980**

1. Election of the Bureau
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Basic programme of work of the Council for 1980 and 1981
4. Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
5. Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions
6. Provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1980

## **AGENDA OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1980**

**Adopted by the Council at its 3rd and 5th meetings, on 8 and 11 April 1980,  
and revised at its 12th meeting, on 24 April 1980**

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
2. Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
3. Special economic and disaster relief assistance
4. Regional cartographic conference
5. Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
6. Human rights questions
7. Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers
8. Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace
9. Social development questions
10. Narcotic drugs
11. Public administration
12. Tax treaties between developed and developing countries
13. Natural resources
14. Elections
15. Humanitarian assistance programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa
16. Humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people
17. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1980

## AGENDA OF THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1980

Adopted by the Council at its 24th meeting, on 3 July 1980

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters\*
3. General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments
4. Special economic and disaster relief assistance
5. Comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development
6. Regional co-operation
7. Transport and Communications Decade in Africa
8. International co-operation in the field of human settlements
9. Food problems
10. Science and technology for development
11. International co-operation on the environment
12. Transnational corporations
13. Industrial development co-operation
14. International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system
15. Proposed medium-term plan
16. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations
17. Assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movement by agencies and institutions within the United Nations system
18. Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region
19. Trade and development
20. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
21. United Nations University
22. United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy
23. Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders\*\*
24. Examination of long-term trends in economic development\*\*
25. Nomination of members of the World Food Council\*\*
26. Elections\*\*

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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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### *Reports brought to the attention of the Council*

Report of the Secretary-General on uses of the sea

Progress report of the Secretary-General on consumer protection

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes

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\* Item considered also at the resumed second regular session, 1980.

\*\* Item considered only at the resumed second regular session, 1980.

## CHECK LIST OF DOCUMENTS

NOTE. Listed below are the documents pertaining to the work of the Council in 1980.

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Observations and references</i>
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E/1980/WG.1/SR.1-21 and corrigendum	Summary records of the meetings of the Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights during the first regular session of 1980		
E/RES/1980/INF.1	List of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its first regular session of 1980		See E/1980/80 at the end of the present check list
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A/34/34	Report of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174	3	<i>Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 34</i>
A/35/3/Rev.1	Report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1980		<i>Ibid., Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3</i>
A/35/6 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2	Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983	15	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 6</i>
A/35/8	Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its third session	8	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 8</i>
A/35/15	Report of the Trade and Development Board	19	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 15</i>
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A/35/231	Distribution of income in the nation-rural-urban differentials: report of the Secretary-General	3	
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A/S-11/1	Report of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174	3	<i>Ibid., Eleventh Special Session, Supplement No. 1</i>
A/S-11/2	Report of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy on its fourth and fifth sessions	3	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 2</i>
DP/435	Review of present practices and proposals for enhancing the collective involvement of the developing countries in the determination of priorities for intercountry programmes and in the identification and initiation of regional projects and activities: report of the Administrator of UNDP	5	
DP/443	The role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries: report of the Administrator of UNDP	5	

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DP/470	UNDP and the new international economic order: report of the Administrator of UNDP	5	
DP/477 and Corr.1	United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration: report of the Administrator of UNDP	5	
DP/484	United Nations Volunteers: report of the Administrator of UNDP	5	
E/1980/3	Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its sixteenth session	3	<i>Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 2</i>
E/1980/26 and Corr.1	Annual report of ESCAP	6	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 6</i>
E/1980/27	Annual report of ECA	6	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 7</i>
E/1980/28	Annual report of ECE, vol. I	6	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 8</i>
E/1980/29	Report of ECWA on its seventh session	6	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 9</i>
E/1980/33	Summary of the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1979: recent economic developments, 1978-1979</i>	3 and 6	For the full text of the <i>Survey</i> , see United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.II.F.1
E/1980/34 and Add.1	Annual overview report of ACC for 1979/80	14	
E/1980/36	Progress report on the implementation of paragraph 34 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197	5	
E/1980/38 and Corr.1	<i>World Economic Survey, 1979-1980</i>	3	United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.II.C.2
E/1980/39 and Corr.1	The effect of continuing currency instability on the budgets of organizations in the United Nations system: statement by ACC	14	
E/1980/40	Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its sixth session	12	<i>Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 10</i>
E/1980/41	Report of the Executive Board of UNICEF	5	<i>Ibid., Supplement No. 11</i>
E/1980/42	Report of the Governing Council of UNDP on its twenty-seventh session	5	Replaced by E/1980/42/Rev.1
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E/1980/82 and Add.1	Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the evaluation of technical co-operation activities of the United Nations system in Sri Lanka (JIU/REP/79/16)	5	
E/1980/82/Add.2	<i>Idem</i> : synthesis of comments of the United Nations system on the report (JIU/REP/79/16)	5	
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E/1980/105	Statement made by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy at the second regular session of 1980 of the Economic and Social Council	3	
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E/1980/107	Letter dated 22 July 1980 from the representative of the United States of America addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council	3	
E/1980/108	Letter dated 24 July 1980 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva, addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council	3	
E/1980/109	Summary of estimates of programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its first and second regular sessions of 1980: report of the Secretary-General		
E/1980/C.1/L.5 and Corr.1	Organization of work as adopted by the First (Economic) Committee at its 8th meeting on 7 July 1980	2	
E/1980/C.1/L.6	Draft resolution submitted by India on behalf of the Group of 77	8	Replaced by E/1980/C.1/L.10
E/1980/C.1/L.7	Draft resolution submitted by India on behalf of the Group of 77	11	Replaced by E/1980/C.1/L.13
E/1980/C.1/L.8	Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1980/C.1/L.6: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council	8	
E/1980/C.1/L.9	Nigeria: draft resolution	7	Replaced by E/1980/C.1/L.18

Document number	Title or description	Agenda item	Observations and references
E/1980/C.1/L.10	Draft resolution submitted by a Vice-Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee, Mr. Lohani (Nepal), as a result of informal consultations held on the basis of draft resolution E/1980/C.1/L.6	8	
E/1980/C.1/L.10/Rev.1	Revised draft resolution	8	
E/1980/C.1/L.11	Draft resolution submitted by India on behalf of the Group of 77	13	Replaced by E/1980/C.1/L.16
E/1980/C.1/L.12	Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1980/C.1/L.7: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council	11	
E/1980/C.1/L.13	Draft resolution submitted by a Vice-Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee, Mr. Z. Lazarević (Yugoslavia), as a result of informal consultations held on the basis of draft resolution E/1980/C.1/L.7	11	
E/1980/C.1/L.14	Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee of ECLA—Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago: draft resolution	6	
E/1980/C.1/L.14/Rev.1	<i>Idem</i> —[same sponsors] and Mexico: revised draft resolution	6	
E/1980/C.1/L.15	Report of the World Food Council: draft resolution submitted by India on behalf of the Group of 77	9	Replaced by E/1980/C.1/L.21
E/1980/C.1/L.16	Draft resolution submitted by a Vice-Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee, Mr. Z. Lazarević (Yugoslavia), as a result of informal consultations held on the basis of draft resolution E/1980/C.1/L.11	13	
E/1980/C.1/L.17	Draft resolution submitted by India on behalf of the Group of 77	10	
E/1980/C.1/L.18	Draft resolution submitted by a Vice-Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee, Mr. Z. Lazarević (Yugoslavia), as a result of informal consultations held on the basis of draft resolution E/1980/C.1/L.9	7	
E/1980/C.1/L.19	Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1980/C.1/L.14/Rev.1: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council	6	
E/1980/C.1/L.20	Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1980/C.1/L.18: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council	7	
E/1980/C.1/L.21	Report of the World Food Council: draft resolution submitted by a Vice-Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee, Mr. Z. Lazarević (Yugoslavia), as a result of informal consultations held on the basis of draft resolution E/1980/C.1/L.15	9	
E/1980/C.1/L.22	Draft decision submitted by India on behalf of the Group of 77	12	
E/1980/C.1/L.23	International agreement on illicit payments—United States of America: draft resolution	12	
E/1980/C.1/SR.8-21 and corrigendum	Summary records of the meetings held by the First (Economic) Committee during the second regular session of 1980 of the Economic and Social Council		
E/1980/C.3/L.1	International years and anniversaries: note by the Secretariat	14	
E/1980/C.3/L.2	Organization of work as adopted by the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee at its 4th meeting, on 4 July 1980	2	
E/1980/C.3/L.3	Algeria, Barbados, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Lesotho, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zambia: draft resolution	16 and 17	
E/1980/C.3/L.4	Algeria, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Lesotho, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, United States of America, Zaire and Zambia: draft resolution	18	
E/1980/C.3/L.6	United Nations Children's Fund—Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sweden, Thailand, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zambia: draft resolution	5	
E/1980/C.3/L.7	International years and anniversaries—Ireland, Mexico, Sweden and Zambia: draft resolution	14	
E/1980/C.3/L.8	Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates and Zambia: draft resolution	18	
E/1980/C.3/L.9	Co-operation in the uses of the sea and coastal area development—Malta: draft resolution	14	
E/1980/C.3/L.10	Role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries—Bulgaria, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Hungary, Mongolia and Poland: draft resolution	5	
E/1980/C.3/L.11	Consumer protection: draft decision proposed by the Chairman of the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee	14	
E/1980/C.3/L.12	World Communications Year—Development of communications infrastructures: draft decision proposed by the Chairman of the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee	14	
E/1980/C.3/L.13	High-level Meeting on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries—Argentina, Romania, Spain and the United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution	5	

Document number	Title or description	Agenda item	Observations and references
E/1980/C.3/L.14	Assistance to drought-stricken areas in Djibouti, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda—Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates and Uganda: draft resolution	14	
E/1980/C.3/L.15	Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination—Ethiopia and Kenya: draft decision	14	
E/1980/C.3/L.16	Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1980/C.3/L.14: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council	14	
E/1980/C.3/L.17	Operational activities for development—Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden: draft resolution	5	
E/1980/C.3/L.18	Report of the Governing Council of UNDP—Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Senegal, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution	5	
E/1980/C.3/L.19	World Communications Year: development of communications infrastructures—Barbados, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan and United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution	14	
E/1980/C.3/SR.1-18 and corrigendum	Summary records of the meetings held by the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee during the second regular session of 1980 of the Economic and Social Council		
E/1980/INF.6 and Add.1 and 2	List of representatives to the second regular session of 1980		
E/1980/L.41 and Add.1	Calendar of conferences and meetings: note by the Secretariat	2	
E/1980/L.43 and Corr.1	Sixth session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control: note by the Secretariat	2	
E/1980/L.44	Extract from the report of CPC on its twentieth session	14	
E/1980/L.45	Extract from the report of the Executive Board of UNICEF	5	
E/1980/L.46	Extract from the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its sixth session	12	
E/1980/L.47	International co-ordination to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations—Australia, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden: draft resolution	3	
E/1980/L.47/Rev.1	International efforts to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations— <i>[same sponsors]</i> : revised draft resolution	3	
E/1980/L.48	Assistance to refugees in Somalia—Burundi, Djibouti, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia: draft resolution	3	
E/1980/L.48/Rev.1	<i>Idem</i> — <i>[same sponsors]</i> : revised draft resolution	3	
E/1980/L.49	Review of the economic situation in Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Tonga, with a view to the inclusion of those countries in the list of the least developed countries—Bangladesh, China, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan and United Republic of Tanzania: draft decision	2	
E/1980/L.49/Rev.1	<i>Idem</i> — <i>[same sponsors]</i> : revised draft decision	2	
E/1980/L.49/Rev.2	<i>Idem</i> — <i>[same sponsors]</i> and Uganda: revised draft decision	2	
E/1980/L.50	Assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia—Algeria, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mongolia, Nepal, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia: draft resolution	3	
E/1980/L.50/Rev.1	<i>Idem</i> — <i>[same sponsors]</i> and Liberia: revised draft resolution	3	
E/1980/L.51	International efforts to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations—Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1980/L.47/Rev.1: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council	3	
E/1980/L.52	Humanitarian assistance to the refugees in Djibouti—Bangladesh, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Lesotho, Somalia and Sudan: draft resolution	4	
E/1980/L.53	Situation of refugees in the Sudan—Australia, Bangladesh, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Morocco, Nepal, Somalia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution	4	
E/1980/L.54	Situation of refugees in Africa—Burundi, Djibouti, Lesotho, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia: draft resolution	3	
E/1980/L.55 and Corr.1	Programme budget implications of draft decisions II and III contained in paragraph 20 of the report of the First (Economic) Committee (E/1980/96): statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council	12	

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Observations and references</i>
E/1980/L.56	Improvement of communication between ACC and intergovernmental bodies (General Assembly resolution 34/214): draft proposal by Mr. J. L. Xifra de Ocerin, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, in the light of informal consultations	14	
E/1980/L.57	Note by the Secretariat	2	
E/1980/L.58	Organization of the work of the resumed second regular session of 1980 of the Economic and Social Council: note by the Secretariat	2	
E/1980/NGO/4	Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	11	
E/1980/NGO/5	Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	16	
E/1980/NGO/6	The importance of international co-operation in savings mobilization programmes: statement submitted by the International Savings Bank Institute, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category II	3	
E/1980/NGO/7	The new international development strategy: statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women—Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, World Federation of United Nations Associations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category I; Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, Associated Country Women of the World, Catholic Relief Services—United States Catholic Conference, Inc., Christian Democratic World Union, International Commission of Jurists, International Council of Jewish Women, Lutheran World Federation, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations, World Association of World Federalists, World Jewish Congress, World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category II; World Peace Council, an organization on the Roster	3	
E/1980/NGO/8	Statement submitted by the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category II	9	
E/1980/SR.24-45	Provisional summary records of the 24th to 45th plenary meetings, held by the Council during its second regular session of 1980		The final texts of the summary records are to be found in the present volume
E/C.10/66	Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régimes in that area—In-depth analysis of the role of transnational corporations in the industrial, military and nuclear sectors of South Africa: report of the Secretariat	12	
E/C.10/74	Progress made towards the establishment of the new international economic order—The role of transnational corporations: report of the Secretariat	12	
<b>Resumed second regular session, 1980</b>			
E/1978/8/Add.29	Reports submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX) by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning rights covered by articles 6 to 9	5	
E/1980/81	Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes		
E/1980/110	Letter dated 24 July 1980 from the representative of Poland to the President of the Economic and Social Council	24	
E/1980/111 and Add.1	Annotated list of items to be considered at the resumed second regular session of 1980: note by the Secretariat	2	
E/1980/112 and Corr.1	Report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its sixth session	3	
E/1980/L.42	Elections: note by the Secretariat	26	
E/1980/SR.46	Provisional summary record of the 46th plenary meeting, held by the Council during its resumed second regular session of 1980		The final text of the record is to be found in the present volume
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E/1980/80 and Add.1 and 2 and Add.2/Corr.1	Resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council, 1980: organizational session for 1980 (decisions 1980/100-1980/110), first regular session of 1980 (resolutions 1980/1-1980/42 and decisions 1980/111-1980/149), second regular session of 1980 (resolutions 1980/43-1980/70 and decisions 1980/150-1980/187) and resumed second regular session of 1980 (decisions 1980/188-1980/193)		<i>Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplements Nos. 1, 1A and 1B and corrigendum</i>

# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

## ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1980

Summary records of the 1st and 2nd plenary meetings, held at Headquarters,  
New York, on 5 and 6 February 1980

### 1st meeting

Tuesday, 5 February 1980, at 11.30 a.m.

*Temporary President:* Mr. Henry Van Hien SEKYEI (Ghana).

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.1

#### *Opening of the session*

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the organizational session for 1980. He welcomed the new members and, at the beginning of a very important year of United Nations activities in the field of international economic and social co-operation, wished success to all delegations in their work.

#### AGENDA ITEM 1

##### Election of the Bureau

2. Mr. BHATT (Nepal), speaking on behalf of the group of Asian States, nominated Mr. Andreas V. Mavrommatis (Cyprus) for the office of President.

*Mr. Andreas V. Mavrommatis (Cyprus) was elected President by acclamation.*

*Mr. Mavrommatis (Cyprus) took the Chair.*

3. The PRESIDENT expressed appreciation for the honour bestowed upon him and his country and paid a tribute to the outgoing President.

4. The Council's organizational session for 1980 was taking place in a situation of renewed political tensions. That was most regrettable, for economic and social conditions were usually the first to suffer as a result of changes in world trade and economic relations and of increased military expenditure. The Council must do its best to face that situation and bring about the fullest possible contribution of the economic and social work of the United Nations to the restoration of an atmosphere of peace and co-operation among all nations. The Council's enormous programme of work to a large extent reflected the increased number and complexity of world economic, social and

human rights affairs. Year after year, new items were added to the agenda, and none of the old items disappeared. The Council must always keep in mind its essential task, as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations, of reviewing the major problems of the world economy and society and recommending appropriate action. He was concerned at the bottle-neck which was developing in the review of the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and hoped that the Council would consider that matter. The Council's task was to organize a programme for 1980 and 1981 which could be implemented with maximum efficiency and benefit for international co-operation. There were some new ventures which could arouse interest all around the world and bring the peoples of the United Nations closer to one another, such as the International Year of the Disabled, in 1981, and the World Assembly for the Elderly, in 1982.

5. Under rule 18 of its rules of procedure, the Council was required to elect four vice-presidents. He had been informed that, on the basis of informal consultations among the regional groups, the following members had been nominated to serve as vice-presidents for 1980: Mr. Dimiter Kostov (Bulgaria), Mr. Enrique Jorge Ros (Argentina) and Mr. José Luis Xifra de Ocerín (Spain). The nomination of the group of African States would be made at a later stage.

*Mr. Dimiter Kostov (Bulgaria), Mr. Enrique Jorge Ros (Argentina) and Mr. José Luis Xifra de Ocerín (Spain) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/1980/2)

*The agenda was adopted.*

## AGENDA ITEM 3

**Basic programme of work of the Council for 1980 and 1981 (E/1980/1)**

6. The PRESIDENT suggested that, after hearing an introductory statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters, the Council should listen to any general comments and proposals that members might wish to make and should then hold informal consultations with a view to formulating a text on the programme of work for 1980 and related matters which the Council would formally consider and approve.

*It was so decided.*

7. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that the draft basic programme of work of the Council for 1980 and 1981 (E/1980/1) had been prepared in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and with the directives given to the Secretariat by the Council. The main conclusion that could be drawn from the programme of work was that in 1980 the Council would function outside the mainstream of the policy-making and decision-making processes in the economic field. It was, in a sense, a body in search of a role, despite the efforts that had been made by all delegations ever since the Council's eighth session and throughout the 1970s. He recalled that in 1971 the Council had adopted a number of decisions about organizational matters, notably resolutions 1621 (LI) and 1622 (LI), aimed at improving the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly; in 1973, a group of Western and developing countries had proposed a number of measures to rationalize the Council's work which had been unanimously adopted by the Council in its resolution 1768 (LIV), and those measures had been endorsed and elaborated upon in the decisions on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations contained in General Assembly resolution 32/197. In 1979, the Council had confessed to the General Assembly its inability to implement the provisions of that resolution. In that connexion, he drew attention to Assembly decision 34/453, reproduced in the annex to document E/1980/1 together with a draft resolution containing an amendment to the Charter of the United Nations which would broaden the membership of the Council, which constituted the latest approach to the strengthening of the Council's role and work. Some fundamental political decisions could be expected in the context of the global negotiations and the formulation of the new international development strategy. It was to be hoped that such decisions would define clearly the future activities of the Council. In the mean time, the Council would have to carry out a thorough review of its programme of work. It had to decide what to do with the 92 topics in the draft basic programme of work for 1980 and the 72 documents it had requested, 27 of which were reports of intergovernmental bodies which were related to or subsidiary to the Council.

8. There were three main questions which the Council could review. First, it could consider how it could effectively assist the General Assembly in rationalizing its work and preparing for its discussions in the light of the Assembly's decisions on the subject. In view of the difficulties encountered in 1979 in considering emergency and relief assistance to individual countries, the Council could prepare for the consideration of that subject by holding discussions in the summer oriented towards the discussions to be held at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly; it could also consider ways of dividing that work between the Council and the Assembly in the future. Secondly, the Council could consider certain sub-

stantive aspects of the relationship between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, since it had traditionally and constitutionally been the main channel between them. Because of the proliferation of bodies in the economic and social fields, the Council was no longer the only body which requested assistance from the specialized agencies, and new arrangements should therefore be devised for seeking such assistance and rationalizing it. It was important to associate the agencies in all relevant aspects of future negotiations. The Council could carry out that work in connexion with its discussions on co-ordination. The Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174, in considering new procedures, could study the question of how the specialized agencies would be involved in the work of the organizations with which they had long specialized experience. Thirdly, in connexion with the work of the regional commissions, the Council would in 1980, for the first time, receive a new type of report on regional co-operation providing a broader perspective on the work of the commissions and on consultations between Governments and secretariats. If the regional commissions were to continue to provide an input and if communications between Government bodies and the regional commissions were to be the source of inspiration they had been in the early days of the United Nations, new procedures and approaches would have to be devised to maintain a dialogue.

9. Turning to the draft basic programme of work of the Council (E/1980/1) and referring to question 14 (World social situation) of the annotated list of questions, he recalled that in 1979 the Secretariat had indicated to the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly that documents had to be submitted very early in the year if they were to be considered by the Council and had suggested that, as far as possible, those Committees should try to reduce the number of documents which were sent through the Council to the General Assembly. Since the report on the methodology for the preparation of the report on the world social situation and the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development which had been requested by the Third Committee required very extensive consultations with the specialized agencies, it would not be possible to complete the document in time for consideration by the Council at its first regular session of 1980. The Secretary-General was therefore seeking authorization to submit the report directly to the General Assembly.

10. Under question 59 of the annotated list of questions, and in connexion with the need to reduce the volume of documentation, he noted that the seventh report on progress in land reform was to be submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1526 (XV) of 15 December 1960. In 1979, the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development had taken place and a Programme of Action had been adopted setting out institutional arrangements for its implementation. Moreover, a task force had been established which regularly reported to the Council on its work. Thus, the Council could perhaps decide to discontinue submission of those reports, which had been requested almost 30 years ago. He had been informed by the organizations concerned that in any case the report would not be ready in 1980. If the Council took a decision to that effect, a consequential change would be needed in connexion with question 60; the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the joint planning exercise on rural development could be considered in connexion with question 13.

11. Turning to question 1 (Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination), he recalled that in 1979 the Council had decided to establish a working group of the

whole to assist it in evaluating the activities of the Decade and that subsequently the General Assembly had adopted resolution 34/24, the annex to which contained a detailed programme of activities for the rest of the Decade. The Council might wish to consider whether it would still require the assistance of a working group of the whole.

12. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the discussions at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly had shown that the crises in the world capitalist economy were having an extremely adverse effect on the socio-economic development of the developing countries and were undermining their efforts to overcome their economic backwardness and achieve genuine economic independence. At the same time, the opponents of international détente were engaged in stepping up the arms race and were following a policy of blackmail and the threat of the use of force, gross violation of international treaties and agreements, interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the undermining of everything that had been achieved over the preceding two decades in strengthening international peace and understanding. Mr. L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, had recently said that it was the common goal of the peoples of the world to overcome the tension which was again overshadowing international relations and to prevent the imperialist forces from undermining the advances achieved in détente. The normalization of the international situation, the ending of the arms race and the implementation of practical measures in the sphere of real disarmament were of priority importance in ensuring peace and security throughout the world and in accelerating the socio-economic progress of all countries, including the developing countries. In turn, progress in the sphere of restructuring international relations would help to deepen and extend international détente. If that goal was not achieved, the long-term programmes, strategies and decisions on the restructuring of international economic relations and the radical improvement of the socio-economic situation of the developing countries would not come to fruition.

13. Since the Council's programme of work for 1980 and 1981 was extensive, it was essential to identify the most important and urgent aspects of that programme and concentrate on them. Those aspects included questions of strengthening the sovereignty of States over their natural resources, overcoming the adverse consequences of the activities of transnational corporations and working out a code of conduct for such corporations, introducing progressive socio-economic changes and democratic agrarian reform, strengthening the State sector, industrializing the economy, introducing co-operation in agriculture, training skilled national personnel and halting the "brain drain", adopting a unified approach to development analysis and planning, and carrying out long-term economic planning and forecasting. Experience had shown that the solution of those problems would enable the developing countries to overcome their economic backwardness, eliminate starvation, poverty and illiteracy, and achieve real progress in economic, social and cultural development. The essential role of the Council and of the other economic and social bodies of the United Nations was to do everything possible to help the developing countries to solve those problems and at the same time help to implement the progressive provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,<sup>1</sup> the Declaration on the Establishment of a New

International Economic Order,<sup>2</sup> the Declaration on Social Progress and Development<sup>3</sup> and other important decisions. There could be no weakening of the anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist thrust of those documents; at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the neo-colonialist forces had tried to undermine confidence in them and belittle their significance, and there were even some developing countries which were prepared to forget them.

14. The coming year would be one of great activity in the economic field, and the decisions taken by the various bodies scheduled to hold meetings in 1980 would determine the extent to which they would influence the nature of the future work of the United Nations in the economic sphere. It was important that the Council should fulfil the tasks entrusted to it under the Charter as the United Nations body with primary responsibility for the socio-economic work of the United Nations. Efforts must continue to strengthen the directing and co-ordinating role of the Council in the system of the economic and social bodies of the United Nations so as to increase efficiency and avoid overlapping, parallelism and unjustifiably high expenditure. The Council must pay constant attention to further enhancing the effectiveness of its own work and of the economic and social activities of the United Nations as a whole. His delegation confirmed its willingness to continue to participate in discussions on the further reasonable restructuring of those sectors and on enhancing the effectiveness of their work. It confirmed the position it had put forward at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly that any restructuring must be carried out on the basis of consensus, taking into account the views of all the parties concerned. The consensus achieved in the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System must be maintained.

15. His delegation shared the concern about the declining effectiveness of the Council, which was caused not by the composition of the Council but by the position of certain countries which for a long time had been following a policy of by-passing the Council even though it had primary responsibility for United Nations activities in the economic and social fields. Experience showed that the proliferation of new bodies and the transfer to them of functions of the Council was unjustified. The problem lay in the essentially unchanged political position taken by a certain group of countries. His delegation believed that the Council, with its existing membership and terms of reference as defined in Chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations, was fully able to discuss and decide upon all questions linked with the restructuring of international economic relations on a democratic, just and equal basis. It could not agree with the proposals to eliminate some of the subsidiary bodies of the Council, including the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the Committee on Natural Resources, which had worked well and, in particular, had served the interests of the developing countries. Efforts to improve the Council's work must be undertaken in conjunction with consideration of the question of further improving the organization of the work of the Second Committee of the General Assembly; Council resolution 1622 (LI) must be implemented. All those questions required careful study, and attempts to adopt hasty decisions would do more harm than good.

16. The restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat had not yet led to any improvement in efficiency or to any reduction in unjustified expenditure; instead, new and

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX).

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 3201 (S-VI).

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

expensive bureaucratic structures had emerged which were unnecessary and increased parallelism and duplication of work. The situation with regard to documentation for sessions of United Nations bodies had further deteriorated. Moreover, the restructuring that was being carried out was infringing the interests of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, which were virtually deprived of the possibility of participating in the implementation of United Nations decisions in the economic sphere. His delegation condemned any attempts to create obstacles to the recruitment and promotion of nationals of socialist countries in the Secretariat. It continued to believe that enhancement of the effectiveness of the socio-economic activity of the United Nations must be sought not by creating new divisions and posts but by making maximum use of existing resources in the Secretariat and through a more rational distribution of human and financial resources and maximum economy.

17. The Council must seriously concern itself with the timely preparation of documentation for sessions of major economic and social bodies of the United Nations and particularly for the Council itself, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly. It was intolerable that the work of bodies such as the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should be paralysed through the fault of the Secretariat. In the Second Committee, the documentation for many important items had been submitted during the last days of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The administration of the United Nations Secretariat should provide a more detailed account of the situation in the United Nations with regard to documentation and should take administrative steps against chiefs of section who failed to carry out their duties. His delegation had doubts about the suggestion that the report under question 14 of the annotated list of questions should be submitted directly to the Assembly, since the Secretariat had ample time to prepare it for the Council's regular session. The same applied to the suggestion regarding the seventh report on progress in land reform.

18. The consideration of the draft medium-term plan for 1980-1983 would provide the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Council with a unique opportunity to fulfil their functions of strengthening the co-ordination of the work of bodies and organizations both in the United Nations itself and in the system as a whole and of identifying areas of parallelism and duplication and determining outmoded, ineffective or non-viable programmes or elements of programmes; they could then submit to the General Assembly practical recommendations on economies in utilization of the human and financial resources of the United Nations. It was important that the United Nations Secretariat should implement the relevant decisions of the Assembly and submit full and objective information. The document on the subject submitted by the Secretariat in 1979 had shown a lack of seriousness in carrying out an important mandate from the Assembly.

19. In pursuing a policy of expanding co-operation on an equal and democratic basis with all States, irrespective of their socio-economic systems, the Soviet Union constantly took into account the special situation of the developing countries in the world economy and showed an understanding of their special problems and needs. Together with the socialist and developing countries, it was doing everything possible to achieve real progress in restructuring international economic relations on a just, equal and democratic basis.

20. Mr. KAUFMAN (United States of America) said that, in view of his delegation's long-standing position of seeking

to reduce the number of formal statements made in the Council, he would speak very briefly.

21. The Secretariat's introduction to document E/1980/1 made clear the importance of continuing efforts to streamline the Council's organization and make its procedures more efficient. Although his delegation was disappointed at the failure of the second regular session of 1979 to make progress in that regard, the United States intended to continue to work with other delegations and the Secretariat on that important problem.

22. His delegation wished to commend the efforts the Secretariat had made to comply with the Council's resolutions on the control of documentation. It particularly endorsed the Secretariat's suggestion in paragraph 8 of document E/1980/1 that the Council should examine documents to determine their continuing justification, should exercise restraint in requesting documents and should examine carefully such requests from subsidiary bodies. It was difficult to determine the value of documents at organizational sessions of the Council. His delegation therefore urged that documents should also be examined for redundancy and marginal usefulness as they were introduced in the regular sessions. It also suggested that Secretariat personnel introducing documents should indicate whether those documents repeated information that was already readily available.

23. In general, his delegation supported the basic programme of work outlined in document E/1980/1, but it reserved the right to request changes should they later appear necessary. However, it objected to the inclusion of assistance to the Palestinian people under proposed item 15 for the second regular session of 1980 and under proposed item 13 for the second regular session of 1981 (Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations). That inclusion tended to support an inaccurate concept of the status of Palestine.

24. His delegation looked forward to working with other delegations to contribute to the important international activities on economic issues which would be taking place in the following two years.

25. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that the draft basic programme of work of the Council for 1980 and 1981 showed clearly what were the comprehensive political, economic and social questions that had to be solved. The positive results that had been achieved during the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, which, more than preceding ones, had been marked by the quest for international peace and security, would be of importance and help to the work of the Council.

26. His delegation shared the view held by a majority of States that progress in economic and social development could only be achieved in a climate of peace, security, détente and disarmament. Without serious and effective steps towards halting the arms race and bringing about disarmament, progress in the economic and social development of peoples would be obstructed. Putting an end to the arms race and achieving real progress in the field of disarmament, thus releasing additional means for promoting economic and social progress, were currently the most important tasks to be resolved in international politics. The resolute defence of peace and the advancement of the process of détente were of primary importance at that time because everything else was contingent upon them. That was all the more true since, currently, influential imperialist circles had caused a noticeable deterioration of the international situation.

27. His delegation was deeply concerned about the massive attempts of those circles to push the United Nations back to the era of "cold war". Such attempts endangered further steps towards the restructuring of international economic relations on a democratic basis and seriously called into question the positive results achieved in preparing for global negotiations and elaborating a new development strategy, as well as the successful outcome of the eleventh special session of the General Assembly on economic questions. In order to avert the negative consequences of such an adventurous political course, there was a pressing need resolutely to oppose the schemes of the adversaries of détente. There was therefore a need to give greater consideration to the interrelationship between détente and disarmament, on the one hand, and economic and social development, on the other, and to set priorities accordingly.

28. The draft basic programme of work for 1980 and 1981 formed a sound basis for the Council's work. His delegation was prepared to participate in a constructive discussion with regard to increasing the effectiveness of the activities of the United Nations system, including simplification of the structure of the Council itself. In that context, it attached importance to the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 34/212, paragraph 7. The implementation of that resolution would help to strengthen further the role and significance of the Council within the United Nations system.

29. With regard to certain attempts to revise provisions of the Charter of the United Nations in connexion with the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, his delegation wished to refer to its well-known position as outlined in the statement made by Bulgaria on behalf of the socialist States on 14 December 1979 in the Second Committee of the General Assembly on the occasion of the adoption of the text which became Assembly decision 34/453.

30. Bearing in mind the decisions taken at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Council should pay particular attention to steps aimed at the further intensification of the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, colonialism and *apartheid*. Furthermore, implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>4</sup> should be given the necessary priority. The Council should continue its basic approach to restructuring international economic relations on an equitable and democratic basis and should decide on practical measures in that context. In that connexion, it should be guided by the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States<sup>1</sup> and by other progressive recommendations of the General Assembly. Such an approach would be in full accord with Assembly resolution 33/193 and with the

decisions taken at the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries.

31. The question was, above all, to accelerate the process of restructuring of international economic relations on a democratic basis and to contribute to the removal of all forms of exploitation, discrimination and non-equality, to do away with the negative consequences of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racial discrimination, occupation and aggression, and to guarantee full sovereignty of States over their natural resources and their economic activities. Furthermore, priority treatment must be accorded to the question of limiting the practices of transnational corporations. Projects relating to the role of qualified national personnel in the economic and social development of developing countries and the long-term trends in the development of the world economy should be continued and given substance by the Council. The basic social questions of development, which enabled States to make far-reaching changes for the benefit of their populations, must be given an important place in the programme of the Council. His delegation would endeavour to make a constructive contribution to that end.

32. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that, in view of certain observations that had been made, he wished to clarify some points in his earlier statement. With regard to proposed agenda item 1 for the first regular session (Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination), it should be recalled that in paragraph 2 of Council resolution 1979/3 the Council had decided to establish a working group of the whole to assist it in evaluating the activities of the Decade in the light of the provisions of the draft resolution on the subject recommended by the Council for adoption by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. However, the General Assembly had expanded and modified that draft resolution and had adopted resolution 34/24, to which was annexed a programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade. That programme included the convening of a second Conference, for which the Council would act as a preparatory committee. In the light of that programme, he wondered whether the Council should in fact establish a working group of the whole, since the matter could be considered in plenary and since the Assembly had stated that the Council should plan to begin considering the preparations for the Conference at its first regular session of 1980.

33. With regard to the observation made by the representative of the United States on proposed item 15 for the second regular session of 1980 and proposed item 13 for the second regular session of 1981, those two items had been proposed in accordance with consistent past practice of the Council.

<sup>4</sup> For the text of the Covenant, see General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

*The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.*

## 2nd meeting

Wednesday, 6 February 1980, at 3.20 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.2

### AGENDA ITEM 1

#### Election of the Bureau (*concluded*)

*Mr. Paul John Firmino Lusaka (Zambia) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.*

### AGENDA ITEM 4

#### Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (E/1980/L.1)

1. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to a note by the Secretary-General in document E/1980/L.1 containing several proposals made by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and the Secretary-General regarding the organization of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held at Caracas from 25 August to 5 September 1980. He pointed out that the first word of paragraph 7 (b) should be "Four" instead of "Three".

2. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council approved the revisions to the provisional rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders proposed in paragraph 3 of document E/1980/L.1.

*It was so decided (decision 1980/105).*

3. Mr. SVIRIDOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it would be more appropriate to consider the arrangements for the Sixth Congress at the first regular session of the Council rather than at the current session, which should be devoted to organizational matters. He noted that the relevant documentation had only recently been distributed.

4. With regard to paragraph 8 (a) of document E/1980/L.1, his delegation questioned the authority of the Secretary-General to hold ancillary meetings of non-governmental organizations in conjunction with the Congress; the decision to hold such meetings fell within the competence of those organizations themselves. For the Secretariat to undertake such measures would not be in accordance with the rules of procedure of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and the principles established by the Council with regard to relations with non-governmental organizations.

5. With regard to paragraph 9 of document E/1980/L.1, his delegation felt that the report of the Sixth Congress should be submitted to the General Assembly through the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and the Council, since those two bodies were engaged in the preparations for the Congress.

6. Mr. MUELLER (Executive Secretary of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders) said that the Organization's obligation to hold congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders derived from General Assembly resolution 415 (V) and the annex thereto. In keeping with

established practice, only non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council would be able to hold meetings in conjunction with the Congress. Topics relevant to the discussions of the Congress itself would be considered at those ancillary meetings. The obligation of the Secretariat was limited to ensuring the availability of meeting rooms. As to the report of the Congress, he pointed out that it could be submitted through the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, which was scheduled to meet in the fall of 1980.

7. The PRESIDENT observed that the Council might not have sufficient time to give the report proper consideration at its resumed second regular session.

8. Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that it would be more appropriate for the Council to consider the report of the Congress than for the Committee to do so, since the Council was the larger body. The provisional agenda for the Congress was acceptable to his delegation.

9. Mr. SVIRIDOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was not fully satisfied with the explanation given by the Executive Secretary. Paragraph 8 of document E/1980/L.1 indicated that the Secretary-General proposed to hold, in conjunction with the Congress, ancillary meetings of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council. If such organizations wished to hold meetings, it was for them to do so. His delegation felt that the Secretary-General had no authority to undertake such measures. With regard to the report of the Congress, he felt that that report should be submitted through the Council at its resumed second regular session.

10. Mr. MUELLER (Executive Secretary of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders) said that the Secretary-General would respect the views of the Council if it felt that he should merely facilitate the holding of ancillary meetings of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council. With regard to the report of the Congress, he said that the General Assembly had requested that two parts, concerning capital punishment and the implementation of the relevant conclusions and resolutions of the Fifth Congress, should be submitted directly to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. Otherwise, there would be no difficulty in submitting the rest of the report through the Council.

11. Mr. SVIRIDOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that paragraph 8 (a) of document E/1980/L.1 should be reworded to the effect that the holding of meetings of non-governmental organizations would be decided in accordance with the principles governing the granting of consultative status with the Council.

12. The PRESIDENT said that paragraph 8 would be reworded to reflect the concern of the Soviet representative and the words "through the Economic and Social Council" would be added at the end of paragraph 9, it being understood that only certain parts of the report should be submitted in accordance with legislative authority.

13. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve the provisional agenda and

documentation for the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, together with the arrangements for the organization of the work of the Congress, as set out in document E/1980/L.1 and the annex thereto, with the agreed modifications.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/106).

14. Mr. SVIRIDOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had no objection to approving the provisional agenda drawn up by the Secretariat, on the understanding that the final decision in that regard would be taken by the Sixth Congress itself, in accordance with the established practice for international conferences held under the aegis of the United Nations.

15. Miss LÓPEZ (Venezuela) said that the success of the Congress—to which her country, as host, attached especial importance—would depend on the degree of understanding achieved with regard to the speedy and effective application of practical measures for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. Her country was fully prepared to offer the facilities that the Congress would need to carry out its work; the Venezuelan Minister of Justice had himself discussed the arrangements with the Secretariat. Her Government hoped that the delegations attending the Congress would be represented at the highest level—if possible, by Ministers of Justice.

16. She welcomed the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the item proposed by the Secretary-General and said that her delegation agreed that the report of the Congress should be submitted through the Council at its resumed second regular session.

### AGENDA ITEM 5

**Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (E/1980/4 and Add.1 and 2, E/1980/5, E/1980/12, E/1980/18)**

#### COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

17. The PRESIDENT said that since there were no candidates for the vacancies in the Committee on Natural Resources and the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the elections would be postponed to a subsequent session.

*It was so decided.\**

#### COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL

18. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control Mr. A. Adeyemi (Nigeria) and Mr. Abdel Aziz Abdalla Shiddo (Sudan) for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1980.

*It was so decided.\**

**Ad Hoc INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING**

19. The PRESIDENT noted that there were vacancies for four members from African States, two members from Asian States, one member from Latin American States and two members from Eastern European States in the *Ad Hoc*

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. He said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the candidates submitted: Dominican Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Uganda. He suggested postponing until the first regular session the elections to fill the remaining vacancies.

*It was so decided.\**

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION, POPULATION COMMISSION, COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/1980/4 AND ADD.1 AND 2), SUB-COMMISSION ON ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC AND RELATED MATTERS IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST (E/1980/5)**

20. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to confirm the appointment of the representatives to five of its functional commissions named in documents E/1980/4 and Add.1 and 2 and of the representative named in document E/1980/5.

*It was so decided.\**

21. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council took note of document E/1980/12 and adopted the suggestion made by the Secretariat in paragraph 7 thereof.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/109).

### AGENDA ITEM 3

**Basic programme of work of the Council for 1980 and 1981 (concluded) (E/1980/1, E/1980/L.11 and Add.1)**

22. Mr. NISHIDA (Japan) observed that the economic and social sectors of the United Nations were among the areas to which the Government of Japan gave high priority. The work thus far accomplished by the Council had advanced economic and social development in many parts of the world and had provided his Government with valuable guidelines for its international co-operation with the developing countries and for its future plans for bilateral and multilateral co-operation in the economic and social fields.

23. Concerning the basic programme of work of the Council, his delegation thought that the work of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197 was progressing too slowly; although some progress had been made, the restructuring fell short of what was required for the effective functioning of the United Nations.

24. The Council had taken certain decisions at its second regular session of 1979, such as to shorten each session of the Council by one week and to discontinue the summary records of its subsidiary organs in 1980, which he hoped would contribute to the rationalization of the Council's work.

25. In the calendar of conferences for 1980, the first regular session of the Council overlapped with meetings of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174, the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy, and the Commission on Transnational Corporations. That would undoubtedly create difficulties in working out a schedule that would ensure the most fruitful possible discussions within the shortened

\* See decision 1980/108.

period. Also according to the calendar, there was no interval between the meetings of the Committee of the Whole to be held in New York and the second regular session of the Council to be held at Geneva, which posed a problem in the many instances where the same persons would be participants in both bodies.

26. His delegation thought it preferable that the reports of the Committee on Natural Resources, acting as Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, should be considered at the second regular session of the Council, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 34/190, rather than at the resumed second regular session of the Council, as stipulated under question 86 of the annotated list of questions (E/1980/1) and in draft decision I contained in document E/1980/L.11. If the report had to be considered at the resumed second regular session of the Council, his delegation hoped that the session would be held during the early part of the General Assembly, possibly in October, in order to avoid duplicating the deliberations in the Second Committee of the Assembly.

27. In response to a request from the President of the Council for 1979 concerning the integration of related topics, the Secretariat had combined the questions of assistance to African nations and to student refugees from Namibia, South Africa and elsewhere under the item "Special economic and disaster relief assistance". His delegation, however, had some doubts regarding the effectiveness of having the same item discussed at each session.

28. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) pointed out that the integration of questions under the item "Special economic and disaster relief assistance" had been determined by the General Assembly. The item included not only relief assistance programmes but also special economic assistance programmes, as decided by the General Assembly.

29. Regarding the Japanese representative's comments concerning the calendar of conferences, he agreed that many difficulties remained, even after a certain consensus had been reached on the schedule of meetings. Those difficulties were due to the priorities assigned by the Second Committee of the General Assembly. The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, for instance, could meet only when other groups were not meeting. As for the overlap between the meetings of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 and the second regular session of the Council, the dates of the second regular session could not be changed, but it might be possible to advance the meetings of the Committee of the Whole.

30. One possibility for avoiding stress in 1980 would be not to hold the joint meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) at Geneva. It was no secret that many delegations had been disappointed with the conduct of those meetings in 1979. It had been suggested that instead CPC could meet with its counterparts in the specialized agencies. Alternatively, the meeting of government representatives and representatives of the specialized agencies concerning information systems, which was scheduled for June 1980, could perhaps be held on an experimental basis, and later in the summer the Council could consider a new formula for 1981.

31. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he thought that the Assistant Secretary-General's suggestion to reschedule the meetings of the Committee of the Whole was a good solution. However, he disagreed with

the proposal to drop the joint session of ACC and CPC, as it was the only forum where Member States, through CPC, which generally reflected the views of all, had an opportunity to put proposals to the representatives of the specialized agencies, whose points of view often differed from those of the Member States.

32. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft decisions contained in documents E/1980/L.11 and Add.1, concerning the basic programme of work of the Council for 1980 and 1981.

#### DRAFT DECISION I

33. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland), referring to item 7, entitled "Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace", under section A (Items for consideration at the first regular session of 1980) of document E/1980/L.11, said he hoped that the Council would bear in mind at the start of its first regular session that it might have to consider item 7 late in the session because the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women would not have completed its work until 18 April 1980, and some of its decisions would be relevant.

34. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) observed that, in view of the decision the Council had just taken concerning the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, a new item 21 should be added under section B (Items for consideration at the second regular session of 1980) to be entitled "Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders", and the current item 21 should become item 22.

*Paragraph 1 of draft decision I, as revised, was adopted.\**

*Paragraph 2 of draft decision I was adopted.\**

35. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he wished to propose an amendment to the new subparagraph (j) proposed in document E/1980/L.11/Add.1, which was to be added to paragraph 3 of draft decision I. Subparagraph (j) should contain a reference to the Committee for Development Planning, which was required to take into account both economic and social factors, as well as to the Commission for Social Development.

*Paragraph 3 of draft decision I, as amended, was adopted.\**

*Paragraphs 4 and 5 of draft decision I were adopted.\**

*Draft decision I as a whole, as amended, was adopted.\**

#### DRAFT DECISIONS II, III, IV, V

*Draft decisions II, III, IV and V were adopted (decisions 1980/101 to 1980/104).*

#### AGENDA ITEM 6

##### Provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1980 (E/1980/L.12)

*The provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1980 contained in document E/1980/L.12 was adopted (decision 1980/110).*

\* See decision 1980/100.

*Other matters*

36. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) said that at the current time it was not possible to report on the status of documentation for the twentieth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, since the necessary consultations had not yet been completed. He would be in a position to submit a report on documentation after 25 February, which was the deadline for the submission of documents to the Committee. The following documents would probably be delayed: the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities, the report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation and development, the revised report of the Secretary-General on the costs of public information programmes in the United Nations system, and the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1978-1979.

37. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation could not understand the delay in

preparing the necessary documentation. It had repeatedly pointed out that the unavailability of documents made it impossible to discuss the budget and other important matters. He proposed that the Council should adopt a draft decision along the following lines: "Having heard the report given by the Secretariat on the status of the preparation of documentation for the twentieth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Council requests the Secretary-General to ensure that such documentation is prepared on time".

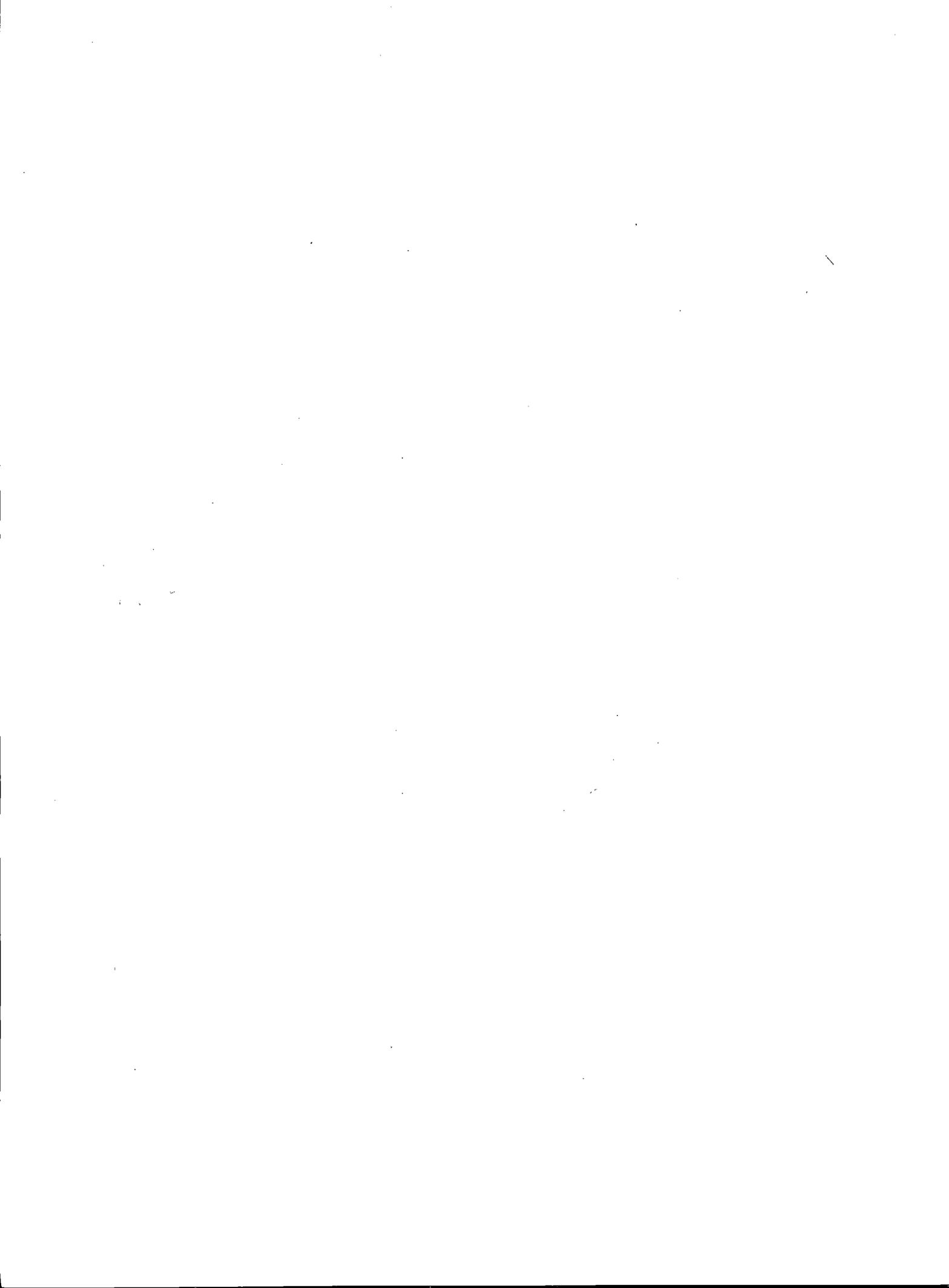
38. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council adopted the draft decision proposed orally by the representative of the Soviet Union.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/107).

*Closure of the session*

39. The PRESIDENT declared the organizational session for 1980 closed.

*The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.*



# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1980

Summary records of the 3rd to 23rd plenary meetings, held at Headquarters,  
New York, from 8 April to 2 May 1980

### 3rd meeting

Tuesday, 8 April 1980, at 11.10 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.3

#### *Opening of the session*

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the first regular session of 1980 of the Economic and Social Council.
2. He observed that the heavy agenda before the Council reflected the difficult, manifold, complex and sometimes stubborn social problems of humanity. The stubbornness of the problems was in some instances geographic, as was illustrated by the question of racial equality, on which remarkable progress had been achieved throughout the world with the exception of southern Africa, so that the Council had to revert to the question year after year. In the area of human rights, similarly, the Council had cause to be proud of having both produced an impressive set of principles and pressed relentlessly to have them implemented, and dissatisfied with the incomplete and slow progress made on such an urgent issue.
3. Only the most difficult social issues were brought before the Council, and it was partly owing to its work that the manifold aspects of mankind's social problems had at length come to be well understood. The International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981 and the World Assembly on the Elderly in 1982 would be further milestones in the global approach of the United Nations to those problems.
4. It was his hope that the current session would be a particularly constructive one.

#### AGENDA ITEM 1

**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/1980/30 and Add.1, E/1980/43, E/1980/L.13, E/1980/L.14)**

5. The PRESIDENT observed that the Council had before it in document E/1980/43 a request for the inclusion of a supplementary item, entitled "Assistance to the refugees in Somalia".
6. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said that late in 1979 the number of refugees in Africa had been reported to

exceed 4 million. The serious implications for the economic and social development of the host countries were obvious. Moreover, such a massive exodus had created a major humanitarian problem which the international community and the Council could not disregard.

7. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had confirmed that Somalia was accommodating the largest refugee population in the world: over 1.3 million people, 750,000 of whom were living in camps and the rest with government-subsidized families. Moreover, the influx of refugees into Somalia was continuing unabated at the rate of 2,000 and sometimes 3,500 per day. His Government had declared a state of emergency in September 1979 and had appealed to the United Nations for immediate relief aid and for the dispatch of an interagency mission to Somalia to assess, in co-operation with UNHCR, the plight of the refugees, identify their urgent needs and recommend a comprehensive programme of assistance.

8. Subsequently, the Secretary-General had brought the findings of that mission to the attention of the Governments and international agencies which might be in a position to assist, and had issued an appeal on 11 February 1980 to all Governments to provide generous assistance to alleviate the sufferings of the refugees in Somalia. Although there had been a generous response to the Secretary-General's appeal, the assistance received still fell far short of the needs of the refugees. The amount needed for 1980 had been estimated at \$120,666,000 by the interagency mission, which had also recommended a programme of assistance to strengthen the social and economic infrastructure of the areas in which the refugee camps were situated, and a development assistance programme of \$20,450,000 to enable the Somali authorities to cope with the massive influx of people. His Government was grateful for the action already taken by United Nations agencies such as UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). On 4 March 1980, UNHCR had launched an appeal for \$80 million to provide

food for the refugees in Somalia, and for \$40 million to cover their other needs.

9. The intolerable conditions confronting the refugees were described at length in the report of the United Nations mission.<sup>1</sup> His Government had made great sacrifices in providing for the refugees, but the country's capacity to absorb them was limited. Prompt, concerted and generous action by the international community was necessary to avert a major tragedy. The Economic and Social Council had a historic responsibility to give its full attention to that tragic problem, with a view to mobilizing the necessary resources to assist the refugees, who were as much a responsibility of the international community as the "boat people" and those who fled from Kampuchea. A determined effort must be made not only to alleviate the suffering of the refugees and save many from certain death, but also to uplift their morale and restore their dignity. In a statement of 20 December 1979 the Secretary-General had well described the emotional and human problems faced by all those obliged to flee their homeland and seek refuge in other countries, and had declared it a duty to assist such persons out of common humanity, regardless of the reason for their flight.

10. In view of the situation which he had described, his Government had requested that a supplementary item, entitled "Assistance to the refugees in Somalia", should be included in the Council's agenda. It was confident that the Council would view the situation with compassion and do its utmost to secure the necessary resources to enable the refugees to enjoy some measure of decent living. His Government was prepared to do whatever it could, but it could not shoulder the burden alone.

11. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said that he was opposed to including such an item in the agenda for two reasons. First, Somalia had not complied with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, which stipulated that any proposal to include a supplementary item in a provisional agenda already considered by the Council had to be accompanied by a supporting statement indicating the urgency of the consideration of the item and the reasons that had precluded its submission before the consideration of the provisional agenda by the Council. The statement of the observer for Somalia fulfilled neither condition. Secondly, the so-called refugees were merely returning soldiers who had been sent to pursue Somalia's expansionist ambitions against Ethiopia, or members of their families. The so-called refugee problem had not existed before Somalia's aggression in 1977.

12. Recent reports indicated that two thirds of Somalia's territory was affected by a severe drought; its people were therefore seeking shelter in relief camps, and Somalia really wanted assistance for its own drought-stricken citizens. Somalia should therefore modify its proposed agenda item accordingly. At previous sessions the Council had adopted resolutions on humanitarian assistance to countries in the Horn of Africa, and the General Assembly had subsequently endorsed them. If the concern of the Somali delegation was purely humanitarian, therefore, the situation in Somalia could be discussed under agenda item 3. In any event, he questioned the figures cited by the observer for Somalia, since the number of inhabitants of eastern Ethiopia was far too small to account for the figure of 1.3 million refugees.

13. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said, with regard to the provisions of rule 12 cited by the Ethiopian delegation, that he wished to seek advice on the procedural issue, but that tragedies did not wait on agendas and timetables. With regard to that delegation's second point, he said

that it was preposterous to refer to those in the refugee camps in Somalia as victims of drought. The Ogaden, or "eastern Ethiopia" as the Ethiopian delegation called it, had a Somali population which had always been treated as second-class citizens.

14. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said that he objected to any discussion of the internal affairs of Ethiopia and its citizens.

15. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said that he objected to the earlier reference by the Ethiopian delegation to "Somalia's aggression". People were seeking refuge in Somalia not only from the Ogaden but also from several Ethiopian provinces. The camps were open to inspection by all concerned, and his Government would welcome any fact-finding mission. He had already made available to members of the Council a number of documents by United Nations agencies verifying the magnitude of the refugee problem. According to UNHCR, as reported in a press release of 17 March 1980, the refugee problem in Somalia was the most serious in the world as far as numbers were concerned: 50 per cent were children under the age of 14 and about 10 per cent were adult males, many of whom were sick, aged or handicapped. UNICEF had stated, in a press release of 28 March 1980, that 90 per cent of the refugees were women and children under the age of 15, many of them suffering from malnutrition and disease and most of them living an extremely precarious existence. Similar alarming reports had appeared repeatedly in the press. The refugees were so described in all documents of the United Nations system and of humanitarian organizations.

16. After a procedural discussion, in which Mr. KANE (Senegal), Mr. WHYTE (United Kingdom), Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic), Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria), Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia), Mr. HOLLAI (Hungary), Mr. NAIK (Pakistan) and Mr. de PINIÉS (Spain) participated, the PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to adopt the provisional agenda (E/1980/30) as it stood, on the understanding that Somalia's request for the inclusion of a supplementary item would be taken up again at the following plenary meeting after consultations with the delegations concerned.

*It was so decided.*

17. The PRESIDENT drew attention to paragraph 2 of document E/1980/L.13, on the organization of the work of the session, which contained proposals for the assignment of functions to the Vice-Presidents of the Council. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council agreed to the arrangements proposed in that paragraph.

*It was so decided.*

18. The PRESIDENT said that the tentative schedule proposed in document E/1980/L.13 had been drawn up bearing in mind the allocation of items and the availability of documentation. The status of the documentation was outlined in document E/1980/30/Add.1.

19. With regard to item 5 (Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), the Council had by its decision 1978/10 decided to establish a sessional working group composed of 15 members of the Council which were also States parties to the Covenant, i.e. three members from each regional group. He suggested that the appointment of members to the proposed Working Group should be completed by 9 April and that the Working Group should meet from 14 to 25 April.

*It was so decided.*

20. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council might wish to determine at the outset of the session which

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently issued as document E/1980/44.

documents it intended to transmit to the General Assembly without debate and without introducing them twice. The two documents which the Council was required to transmit to the General Assembly related to items 8 and 9, which were to be considered in the Second (Social) Committee. He suggested, therefore, that the decision as to whether those documents should be referred to the General Assembly without debate should be left to that Committee.

*It was so decided.*

21. The PRESIDENT reminded the Council that, at its organizational session, it had agreed that as the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women was to meet from 7 to 18 April, the Council would consider as a priority matter any decision addressed to it by the Commission on the Status of Women. Three such draft resolutions which had been adopted by the Commission by consensus were before the Council in document E/1980/L.14. He suggested that the Council should consider those resolutions on 9 April with a view to adopting them by consensus, without prejudice to the

consideration of the full report of the Commission on the Status of Women by the Second (Social) Committee.

*It was so decided.*

22. The PRESIDENT pointed out that in its resolution 1979/3 the Council had decided to establish a working group of the whole, to meet during its first regular session of 1980, to assist the Council in evaluating the activities of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The General Assembly had subsequently considered and adopted a programme for such activities, and the Council might consequently feel that it was unnecessary to establish a working group and that the best course was to deal with the item in plenary. He suggested that the Council should take a decision on the subject when it came to discuss item 2 in plenary. He also suggested that items 3 and 4 should be considered early in the week commencing 14 April, and urged regional groups to do their utmost to submit nominations in connexion with item 14 (Elections) to the Secretariat not later than 18 April.

*The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.*

## 4th meeting

Wednesday, 9 April 1980, at 3.35 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.4

### AGENDA ITEM 1

#### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

##### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

1. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that, as a result of the consultations he had held with the Chairmen of the regional groups, he had decided to appoint the following States as members of the Sessional Working Group: from the Asian States, India and Japan; from the Eastern European States, Hungary, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; from the Latin American States, Barbados and Ecuador; from the group of Western European and other States, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany and Spain.<sup>1</sup> The third member from the Asian States and the third member from the Latin American States would be appointed as soon as proposals had been received from the Chairmen of the respective regional groups. It was especially important that the Working Group should hold organizational meetings even before it was fully constituted and he urged its members to initiate consultations on the appointment of the Bureau and on dates for the consideration of reports.

2. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said that consultations on the members of the Working Group to be nominated from the African States were still in progress. The list of candidates was expected to be available the following day.

##### REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA (E/1980/43)

3. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the request submitted by Somalia (E/1980/43) for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda. Following the consultations he had held the previous day with the representatives of Ethiopia and Somalia successively, both representatives had asked to be allowed time to consult their Governments, but only the representative of Somalia had received instructions thus far. Accordingly, he suggested that the meeting should be suspended so that he could ascertain the latest developments in the matter.

*The meeting was suspended at 3.40 p.m. and resumed at 4.20 p.m.*

4. The PRESIDENT said that his consultations with the representatives of Ethiopia and Somalia indicated that, while the representative of Somalia was prepared to proceed with his request forthwith, the representative of Ethiopia required more time. Accordingly, he suggested that a final decision on the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda should be taken not later than Friday, 11 April.

*It was so decided.*

##### DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

5. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve the proposal made at the preceding meeting to consider that item in plenary starting early the following week and to dispense with the establishment of a working group of the whole.

*It was so decided.*

<sup>1</sup> See decision 1980/111.

## AGENDA ITEM 8

**Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace**

EXTRACT (E/1980/L.14) FROM THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ON ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

6. The PRESIDENT pointed out that, under agenda item 8, the Council would be dealing with several draft resolutions recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women which required immediate action.

7. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) said that, although he would not object to having the Council take action on the draft resolutions, he found the procedure very unsatisfactory. Since it was not a member of the Commission on the Status of Women, his delegation had seen those drafts for the first time only the previous day. Moreover, the extract before the Council (E/1980/L.14) did not provide any information about the discussion or the voting in the Commission. Accordingly, he suggested that the Council should merely take note of draft resolutions III, IX and XIII and transmit them to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.

8. Mr. MAKEKA (Lesotho) supported the comments made by the representative of Ireland. He asked whether the draft resolutions in question were to be adopted as resolutions of the Council, in which case many of the provisions contained therein would need to be redrafted.

9. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) explained that the draft resolutions had been approved by the Commission on the Status of Women for action by the Council; if adopted, they would become resolutions of the Council. A problem arose because the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference was meeting concurrently with the Council and would not have the legal authority to proceed with its work unless the Council acted on the draft resolutions before they were submitted to the Committee. Therefore, he suggested that members of the Council should undertake consultations on the draft resolutions on the basis of document E/1980/L.14, giving priority to draft resolutions III, IX and XIII.

10. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) said that, having participated in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and in the preparation of the draft resolutions in question, she wished to emphasize that draft resolutions III, IX and XIII had been approved unanimously, indicating the importance attributed to them by the Commission. For example, draft resolution III reflected the Commission's concern that the second part of the Decade should focus on the most vulnerable group of women, rural women. The situation of rural women was severely affected by modernization, with its emphasis on export commodities, which reduced the meagre income of women engaged in producing primary commodities.

11. With regard to draft resolution IX, she stressed the growing influence of the mass media on attitudes towards women. The mass media still tended to disseminate a prejudiced, stereotyped image of women, which women in both the developing and developed countries refused to accept. She expressed the hope that that subject would be examined carefully.

12. Commenting on draft resolution XIII, she noted that efforts in the United Nations to combat the problem of prostitution did not appear to have had much effect and that no progress report on the problem had been prepared for submission to the General Assembly. However, prostitution was an especially serious problem because it involved not only women but also very young children, and she therefore expressed the hope that draft resolution XIII would be adopted by the Council.

13. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom) said that the point made by the representative of Ireland was valid. On the other hand, if the Council was to take any action on the resolutions, it must do so in time for the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women to consider the resolutions before completing its work on 18 April. He also thought it unlikely that the Council would have any substantive amendments to make to the text: although there might be minor drafting changes, members would not wish to alter the main thrust of the resolutions. In view of their importance, it would be preferable for the Council to take action at the current meeting. In addition to the three draft resolutions mentioned, the Council should also take action on draft resolutions IV and VI contained in document E/1980/L.14, which were pertinent to the work of the Preparatory Committee.

14. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said that she agreed with the point made by the representative of Ireland; her country also was not represented on the Commission on the Status of Women. While she appreciated the explanation given by the representative of France, she thought it important to establish a procedure which would be satisfactory to all members of the Council without, however, hampering the work of the Preparatory Committee. She therefore felt it would be best to defer a decision to give delegations time to consider the draft resolutions.

15. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) agreed with the representative of Algeria, and supported the proposal of the United Kingdom representative that draft resolutions IV and VI should also be adopted.

16. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom) said that his delegation would not object to a delay, but pointed out that the Preparatory Committee had established a working group to draw up a draft plan of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women. That group would find itself in difficulties at its following meeting, since the resolutions would have no legal status unless they had already been adopted by the Council.

17. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said she had originally intended to present amendments to draft resolution III (E/1980/L.14), but agreed with the representative of Algeria that a postponement was desirable, especially in view of the fact that the Preparatory Committee would be continuing its meetings the following week.

18. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the Council might not have time to consider all five draft resolutions at its following meeting, an open-ended working group could be set up to work out a consensus through informal negotiations, thus simplifying the task of the Council and ensuring completion of its work at that meeting.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.*

# 5th meeting

Friday, 11 April 1980, at 4 p.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.5

## AGENDA ITEM 1

### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (*continued*)

1. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that, after holding further consultations with the regional groups, he had appointed the following members of the Council as members of the Sessional Working Group: Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Senegal and United Republic of Tanzania.<sup>1</sup> The appointment of the remaining member would be announced as soon as consultations with the group of Latin American States had been completed. He hoped the Council would agree that the existence of a vacancy should not prevent the Working Group from embarking on its arduous task.

2. On the general question of the Working Group, he said that he had detected a lack of interest in and willingness to serve on the Group which caused him to doubt whether the right mechanism had been chosen for dealing with the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It might be well for members of the Council to start seriously considering the real problems involved, as it would perhaps be wiser to wait another year before taking a decision on the implementation of the Covenant.

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA (*concluded*) (E/1980/30, E/1980/43)

3. Mr. KANE (Senegal) said that agreement had been reached on the following wording for the title of the supplementary item to be included, as item 15, in the agenda: "Humanitarian assistance programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa".

4. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the agenda as contained in document E/1980/30, with the addition of that supplementary item.

*It was so decided.*

5. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said that the position of his delegation was clear. In the interests of expediting the Council's work, it had not wished to block a decision; however, it reserved the right to state its views on the substance of the matter when the Council considered the new item.

6. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said that his delegation had agreed to the wording adopted because it did not wish to block the Council's work, although it would have preferred its own wording. When the Council came to discuss the item, he was confident that the needs of the

refugees would be taken care of in whatever manner was necessary.

## AGENDA ITEM 8

Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (*continued*) (E/1980/L.14, E/1980/L.17)

7. Mr. XIFRA DE OCERÍN (Spain), Vice-President, drew attention to some corrections in the text of the report of the informal working group (E/1980/L.17) established to consider draft resolutions III, IV, VI, IX and XIII recommended for adoption by the Council by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-eighth session (E/1980/L.14).

8. As indicated in the report, the working group had agreed on a revised text of draft resolution III, but it had not had time to reach agreement on draft resolutions IV and IX.

*Draft resolution III contained in document E/1980/L.17 was adopted without a vote (resolution 1980/1).*

9. Mr. UY (Budget Division, Office of Financial Services) said that a statement of the financial implications of draft resolution IV had been presented to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session by the United Nations Office at Vienna. A subsequent review of that statement at Headquarters had led to the identification of resources already approved under the programme budget for 1980-1981 which could be used. Accordingly, the financial implications were lower than had originally been stated and would amount to approximately \$35,000, consisting of \$6,500 for translation costs, \$1,750 for revision, \$2,000 for typing, \$4,180 for reproduction and \$20,650 for distribution.

10. Mr. DANOVI (Italy) suggested that it might be possible to adopt draft resolution IV by consensus if the new subparagraph which the representative of Yugoslavia in the working group had proposed should be inserted before paragraph 1 (a) were amended to read as follows:

"The present unsatisfactory international economic situation and the existence of inequalities and imbalances in international economic relations which necessitate the establishment of the new international economic order;"

11. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) said that, in a spirit of compromise, his delegation could accept the amendment.

12. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the working group had not responded to his delegation's suggestion that, since it was not clear what was meant by "a sufficient data base", operative paragraph 2 (c) of draft resolution IV should be deleted.

13. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the only reason why the working group had been unable to agree on draft resolutions IV and IX was apparently that it had not had time to consider them, the debate on the item should be suspended and the working group should continue its discussions.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.*

<sup>1</sup> See decision 1980/111.

## 6th meeting

Monday, 14 April 1980, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.6

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### Special economic and disaster relief assistance (E/1980/L.18)

##### ASSISTANCE TO THE DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS OF ETHIOPIA (E/1980/L.18)

1. Mr. BERKOL (United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator) reporting to the Council on behalf of the Secretary-General, recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 34/54 of 29 November 1979, had, *inter alia*, requested the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to continue and intensify their assistance to Ethiopia, and appealed to Governments of Member States and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all voluntary agencies to continue and increase their assistance to the Government of Ethiopia for relief, rehabilitation and recovery of the drought-stricken areas.
2. The most recent official report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Ethiopia, contained in document A/34/198, of 11 September 1979, had described the results of earlier appeals for food assistance, which had met with considerable success. Moreover, the response of the international community to a separate request for transport assistance had been such that the means had existed for the movement of food from the ports to the main centres, although there had still remained a need for further improvement of the facilities for distribution thence to the rural areas. That activity was being assisted by a UNDP-ILO technical support project. The report had also given a brief account of the work of other United Nations agencies. First, it had examined the trends in development aid to Ethiopia, since it was on development that any lasting solution of Ethiopia's current difficulties must chiefly depend.
3. Those difficulties were not caused by drought alone. The problems of pests and locust attacks, continuing soil erosion, inadequate supplies of seeds and fertilizers and lack of an agricultural infrastructure had all been contributing factors, destroying entire crops over large areas or preventing them from being harvested in timely fashion. To those mainly natural hazards must be added the effects of civil disturbances which had continued in the Eritrea, Tigray and Ogaden areas.
4. Because of late and insufficient summer rainfall in the provinces of Wollo and Tigray, the Government had stated a requirement of some 120,000 tons of cereals and 12,000 tons of high protein food in those provinces alone just for the latter half of 1979. Food aid deliveries of all kinds, and for all purposes, had totalled 141,848 tons in the calendar year 1979, excluding commercial imports. While similar failures of the summer rains had occurred in other provinces, some places had received reasonable rainfall, so that the picture, as in previous years, was not altogether dark. That was not to say that a substantial requirement for food aid might not continue; it was still too early to provide a complete assessment of needs in 1980.
5. He recalled that, in a proclamation issued in October 1978, the Government of Ethiopia had announced a transformation of the planning and decision-making structure with the launching of a National Revolutionary Development Campaign and the establishment of a Central Planning Supreme Council "in a determined and concerted drive to revive the national economy by directly attacking the major and fundamental causes of under-development". That body had been endowed "with all the powers necessary to mobilize the human, financial and material resources of the country", and the central structure had been repeated in Development Campaign and Planning Executive Committees at the regional, district and subdistrict levels, with the urban dwellers' associations, peasants' associations and women's associations fully involved at every level.
6. Among the long-term objectives of the campaign were developing the country's productive forces, raising the standard of living and abolishing poverty, ignorance and unemployment. Emphasis had been put on solving basic problems in the agricultural, industrial, trade and social sectors, and especially on achieving self-sufficiency in food production. For the development of agriculture, problems of soil degradation and erosion had received due recognition in the campaign programme, and detailed and very ambitious targets had been established for various soil conservation schemes. During 1979, UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had supported projects in soil and water conservation, cereal seed and quality control, seed processing and land-use planning, with a total value of \$3,060,890. FAO planned to start six new projects in 1980, all of which had a bearing on increasing agricultural productivity either directly or by improving Ethiopian capabilities in that area. The total cost to UNDP for the new schemes would be \$4,595,880.
7. Because of delays in deliveries, some 7,000 tons of food forming part of the activity of the World Food Programme (WFP) in 1979 had not been distributed by the end of that year and were now being utilized by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. Meanwhile, plans for development projects in 1980 included a one-year pilot commitment of \$1.5 million for resettlement of drought victims from Wollo and Tigray to better lands. WFP would continue to expand its assistance to the country's soil and water conservation programme. A project for the rehabilitation of forest, grazing and agricultural lands at a cost to WFP of \$37 million had been approved in 1979. Suitable ways for WFP to assist the Government in its resettlement schemes were being discussed, and an appraisal mission would examine relevant proposals during the visit planned for April/May 1980.
8. As long ago as 1974, the World Bank had made available a Drought Areas Rehabilitation Credit of \$10 million for medium-term and long-term rehabilitation measures in the north-central region of Ethiopia. The medium-term measures, which included improved domestic and public health water supplies, 750 kilometres of access roads and motorable tracks, assistance to establish small-

scale industries and the building of 15 health centres, were now virtually complete. The longer-term measures, including a complete pilot catchment-area rehabilitation scheme covering 40,000 hectares and research into better dryland farming methods, were expected to continue until 1982.

9. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) assistance to Ethiopia focused on two activities: child feeding, which included the provision of food to mothers, and water supply schemes involving both the drilling and digging of wells. In 1979, total UNICEF assistance for the Ethiopian drought emergency programme had been estimated at \$5.6 million, or about \$200,000 more than had been anticipated at the time of writing of the most recent report on Ethiopia. Of that amount, approximately \$1.5 million had been made available to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission for assistance to the drought-affected areas.

10. A project for the training of staff in the operation and maintenance of rural water supply installations had begun in 1978 under the joint auspices of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNDP. It consisted of the services of two experts for two years each and the provision of equipment to the value of some \$52,000 for a training workshop. The workshop, now fully equipped, could accept 35 trainees, who were divided into three classes according to the specific skills required. The project was progressing satisfactorily and was expected to reach completion by mid-1981.

11. According to the most recent reports, the drought situation in the southern regions of Bale, Sidamo and Hararghe was a cause for grave concern. Many of the normally perennial rivers had dried up and losses of human lives and cattle had been reported. An interministerial mission was currently touring the area to assess the situation, and it was expected that its findings would form the basis for an appeal for emergency assistance from the international community.

12. It was all too clear that the factors mentioned at the close of the Secretary-General's report — drought, insect plagues, floods, malnutrition, low resistance to disease and lack of education — would be the constant preoccupations of the Ethiopian authorities for many years to come. If a lasting solution was to be found, additional international assistance would have to be in the area of development, but the continued emergency would require substantial support for the relief of the suffering and hunger of the countless victims of the drought.

13. Mr. OLCESE (Deputy Assistant Administrator, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme) said he would limit his statement to the assistance that the international community was providing to Ethiopia with the involvement of UNDP. As in the past, UNDP assistance over the past year in activities relating to alleviation of the effects of drought had been continued under two projects, both financed from the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries.

14. The first of those projects (ETH/75/025 — Assistance to the settlement and development of vulnerable areas) had been started in 1975 with the purpose of aiding the Government in establishing and developing viable, self-supporting settlement schemes in arid and drought-stricken areas. The people to be settled were normally selected from among those with little or no landholdings of their own, the urban unemployed, nomadic populations and, finally, persons who had been uprooted and displaced as a result of the recent conflict in the Ogaden region. For 1979 alone, expenditures on the project had amounted to more than \$500,000. A joint evaluation had been undertaken earlier in the year and, on the basis of the recommendations of the evaluation team, UNDP was to have been asked to provide

increased financial and technical assistance. It was in that connexion that a request had just been received from the Government for assistance to a new large-scale project entitled "Assistance to the planning and implementation of large-scale settlement for rural development". That project was to be financed from both the indicative planning figure (\$1,870,360) and the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries (\$799,760) and would have a duration of three years, starting in July 1980. The planned total contribution would be \$2,752,700, or an average of close to \$918,000 a year. The principal objective would be to provide assistance to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission in the planning, organization and management of settlements established specifically for people from drought-affected and other vulnerable areas, with a view to promoting agricultural and over-all socio-economic development. The UNDP contribution would provide for about 16 man-years of expert services, the services of seven United Nations Volunteers, the training of Ethiopian nationals in the various technical and managerial skills relating to the implementation of the settlement programme, and the supply of agricultural and transport equipment and other materials.

15. The second project (ETH/77/025 — Logistic and technical support for food aid transport) had been started in 1978. It received financial and material support primarily from individual Governments and aid agencies, and also from such multilateral donors as the European Economic Community and the International Red Cross. The project's principal function was to mobilize and co-ordinate international emergency assistance, particularly the supply of food commodities and their transportation to areas affected by food shortages resulting from the recent drought. Generous contributions of transport trucks, food supplies and cash had been received from such donors as the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, the European Economic Community, the International Red Cross, UNICEF and UNHCR. By the end of 1979 all 163 trucks promised had been delivered, and five additional trucks donated by a non-governmental organization had also been received in the country. All were operating satisfactorily, having transported more than 50,000 tons of cargo between the end of 1978 and 31 December 1979. Of that tonnage, 80 per cent had consisted of basic relief supplies of food, including an emergency allocation by WFP of 10,000 tons of grain. The load factor of the transport operations, in terms of cargo tons per kilometre, was approximately 60 per cent. Considering that the vehicles involved moved cargo in one direction only — to drought-affected areas — and returned to base without a payload, the operation appeared to be fully effective. With ILO as its executing agency, UNDP had been entrusted with responsibility for co-ordinating the delivery, storage and distribution of the inputs of all the donors, for maintenance of the vehicles and related equipment and for co-ordination with the Government of Ethiopia. UNDP was also involved in the provision of technical assistance for the establishment of viable national machinery and capacity for the management, administration and operation of the transport and food distribution services. The Ethiopian Government had responded positively to the involvement of the international community in the drought relief operation; a national Emergency Transport Unit and a Users' Committee had been created to draw up detailed plans for the deployment of the trucks and the movement of food aid and other project materials.

16. Although over the past year or two the quantity and distribution of rain had improved, experience had shown

that drought in the affected parts of Ethiopia came in cycles. The Government had decided to adopt a long-term strategy in protecting the country against the effects of drought whenever it should occur. The establishment of the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, the setting up of the Emergency Transport Unit and the launching of a broad-based settlement programme were a clear illustration of the Government's determination to ensure both the well-being of the population as a whole and balanced development of the country in particular. UNDP was determined to lend maximum support to activities in that field within the terms of its mandate and in accordance with the availability of resources.

17. Mr. JERE (Malawi), introducing draft resolution E/1980/L.18, said that Algeria, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Republic of Tanzania should be added to the list of sponsors. In the seventh preambular paragraph, the phrase "the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator", should be inserted before the words "the United Nations Development Programme".

18. The situation of the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia was already well known to the Council. For six years the Government and people of Ethiopia had struggled, with the assistance of the international community, to counteract the effects of the drought, and had succeeded in saving the lives of several thousand Ethiopians. In seeking a lasting solution to a problem which had become a major source of difficulty for African countries, the Ethiopian Government had spared no effort in trying to improve the conditions of its people in the drought-stricken areas, and those efforts deserved the continuing co-operation of the international community. He therefore felt confident that the Council would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

19. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that his country advocated systematic and purposeful implementation of General Assembly resolution 34/54, of which it had been a sponsor.

20. The Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia had made great efforts to overcome the damage caused by drought in several areas. International relief assistance was an important contribution in support of those endeavours, and it was therefore with close attention that his delegation had taken note of the report of the Secretary-General. The measures so far initiated were no doubt helping to relieve the situation of the people in the drought-stricken areas.

21. During the last three years, his Government had shipped to Ethiopia solidarity consignments to the value of DDRM 45 million. Those consignments had included tractors, medical equipment, medicine, food-stuffs, clothes, blankets, tents, shoes, fabrics and teaching aids. A Party and State delegation, headed by the Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic and General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, had paid an official friendship visit to Ethiopia in November 1979 and had handed over a solidarity donation consisting of stomatological and gynaecological out-patients' departments and other medical equipment.

22. As a result of the treaty of friendship and co-operation between his country and socialist Ethiopia which had been concluded during that friendship visit, bilateral relations would continue to develop and deepen. The German Democratic Republic supported Ethiopia in its heroic struggle to overcome the heritage of the past, to carry through the socio-economic transformations which were under way and to strengthen the national economy. It was convinced that the progress achieved in those endeavours would also help to improve the conditions for countering, even more successfully, natural disasters.

23. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said he wished to emphasize that, in discussions in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, his delegation had never opposed the provision of United Nations assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia. Its only concern was that the aid so extended should not be put to other uses than those for which it was designed. It also felt that there was a need for the Council to be assured that the situation had gone beyond the capacities of the Government of Ethiopia to cope with it.

24. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his country took a sympathetic view of the needs of Ethiopia, especially those resulting from the drought. The economic relations between the USSR and Ethiopia were based on an agreement on economic and technical co-operation signed in 1978. The agreement envisaged the provision of assistance to Ethiopia in the development of the economy, including the industrial sector, the processing of natural resources, transport, communications, agricultural development and the training of technical specialists. Credits under the agreement had financed a petroleum refinery with a capacity of 625,000 tons of oil per year, together with an electricity-generating station producing 13,500 kilowatts.

25. As part of the technical co-operation with Ethiopia, a technical institute with a capacity of 1,000 students had been built and presented to the people of Ethiopia. The institute trained mechanics, textile technologists, operatives for the maintenance of agricultural machinery, analytical chemists for the country's industrial enterprises, electricians and specialists in the mechanized processing of timber. Both Ethiopian and Soviet instructors were employed at the institute, while Soviet teachers also worked at the national university at Addis Ababa and at a number of Ethiopian secondary schools. The USSR had been responsible for the construction of a major hospital at Addis Ababa. The hospital, staffed by Soviet medical personnel, was operating on a permanent basis. A laboratory for phytopathological research had come into operation in Ethiopia in 1977. The laboratory, built at his Government's expense, would be run by Soviet organizations until 1987, when it would be presented to Ethiopia as a gift.

26. Soviet-Ethiopian economic co-operation was currently undergoing further development, and a number of additional economic agreements had been signed. There was provision for assistance in building an oil refinery plant, in carrying out geological exploration work and in the construction of food-industry enterprises, agricultural complexes, refrigeration plants, a centre for the repair and maintenance of agricultural machinery, two 50,000-ton capacity elevators, and also granaries. In some projects, the technical and economic groundwork had already been completed and deliveries of equipment and materials were taking place.

27. An agreement signed on 15 September 1979 provided for co-operation in expanding the oil refinery at Assabedo to an annual production of 1 million tons, in carrying out research projects on petroleum and gas and in preparing the technical and economic groundwork for construction of a factory for the assembly and subsequent production of a variety of agricultural equipment.

28. In general, as Ethiopian officials had stated on many occasions, co-operation with the USSR was playing a major part in expanding production, including agricultural production, which was the main objective of the Ethiopian people. The USSR also supported international assistance to Ethiopia, and hoped that the United Nations would continue to provide such assistance. It therefore supported draft resolution E/1980/L.18.

29. Mr. KANE (Senegal) said that Senegal was in favour of United Nations assistance to Ethiopia in general and, so far as the substance was concerned, of the draft resolution before the Council. However, it had some doubts about the fourth preambular paragraph, in which the determined efforts being made by the Government of Ethiopia were noted with appreciation. It was not within the competence of the Council to make a value judgement on the efforts of any Government; at most, it could take note of them. The wording of the fourth preambular paragraph should be modelled on that of operative paragraph 3, which simply referred to assistance to Ethiopia in its relief efforts, without any mention of political colouration.

30. Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia) welcomed the oral reports of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and of the representative of UNDP, which gave a clear picture of what the United Nations system was doing to assist the Ethiopian Government. His delegation agreed with the comments made by the representative of Senegal and would be prepared to consult with interested delegations, as was the custom in the Council, in order to reach agreement on a text which could be adopted by consensus.

31. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said that his delegation was ready to join in the consensus, in so far as the assistance was being provided on humanitarian grounds. However, the Council should not make value judgements on the development model chosen by particular Governments. Operative paragraph 2 was unacceptable, because assistance should in no case be given to persons displaced by military or other conflicts. His delegation would not be able to support the draft resolution unless certain changes were made in the text.

32. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he failed to understand why political aspects had been drawn into the discussion of the draft resolution. The fourth preambular paragraph had been taken word for word from resolution 1979/2, which the Council had adopted by consensus without any difficulty. The Council had just heard reports on the energetic efforts which the Ethiopian Government was making to overcome the problems caused by the drought, and he did not see why it should not take note of those efforts.

33. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that his delegation would have no difficulty in joining a consensus on the draft resolution, which dealt with aid to persons displaced by war and by natural disasters. However, it saw no reason why the Council should not accommodate those delegations which had some difficulty with the wording of the draft resolution.

34. The PRESIDENT announced that informal consultations would be held in an effort to reach agreement on a text which could be adopted by consensus. He suggested that the list of speakers on the item should be closed at 6 p.m. that day.

*It was so decided.*

## AGENDA ITEM 2

### Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/1980/7 and Add.1 and 2, E/1980/10 and Add.1-3)

35. Mr. PRIETO (Assistant Director, Division of Human Rights), introducing the item, recalled that General Assembly resolution 34/24 of 15 November 1979 and the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial

Discrimination annexed thereto covered a wide spectrum of activities, some of which had special significance. They included annual seminars to be organized at the level of the regional commissions, the seminar to be held on collaboration between transnational corporations and the southern African régimes, the study to be undertaken by the Commission on Human Rights on ways of ensuring the implementation of United Nations resolutions on racial discrimination and the study on the links between the struggle against racism and the struggle for self-determination.

36. He drew attention to paragraph 27 of the programme of activities, concerning preparations for the second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and to paragraph 10 of resolution 34/24, in which the Assembly had requested the Council to submit a report on the evaluation of the activities undertaken in connexion with the Decade. He also drew attention to resolution 14 (XXXVI) of the Commission on Human Rights (see E/1980/13 and Corr.1, chap. XXVI, sect. A), which contained a number of important recommendations, including one on migrant workers and ethnic minorities and a draft resolution for adoption by the Council. In resolution 2 B (XXXII) of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (see E/CN.4/1350), it was recommended that close links should be maintained with UNESCO on matters relating to education and information and with ILO with regard to labour and migrant workers. A seminar on recourse procedures available to victims of racial discrimination had been organized for States members of the European Economic Community, and a round-table meeting had been held on teaching regarding problems of racial discrimination. The reports of those two meetings could be found in documents ST/HR/SER.A/3 and ST/HR/SER.A/5. Finally, a seminar for States members of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on the political, economic, cultural and other factors underlying situations leading to racism, including a survey of the increase or decline of racism and racial discrimination, was to be held at Nairobi from 19 to 30 May 1980.

37. Mr. LOHANI (Nepal) said that racism and racial discrimination had never existed in Nepal, where all citizens enjoyed fundamental rights under the Constitution, irrespective of caste, sex or religion. Nepal had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>1</sup> and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.<sup>2</sup> It condemned the acts of aggression perpetrated by the Government of South Africa against the front-line States, including the latest aggression against Zambia. Like other Member States, it had urged the Security Council to adopt mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa and had supported those against Rhodesia. It reaffirmed its conviction that the policies of racism and racial discrimination in South Africa could only be brought to an end through concerted international action. Accordingly, it appealed to Governments and non-governmental organizations alike to increase their aid to the people of southern Africa and to the liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations. His delegation had noted with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations Council for Namibia to secure South Africa's withdrawal from Namibia. It congratulated the country of Zimbabwe on its forthcoming independence and stressed the need for the

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex.

international community to redouble its efforts to achieve the goals set by the Decade.

38. The PRESIDENT suggested that the list of speakers on the item should be closed at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 15 April,

and that the deadline for the submission of proposals under the item should be 6 p.m. on Thursday, 17 April.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.*

## 7th meeting

Wednesday, 16 April 1980, at 11 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.7

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### Special economic and disaster relief assistance (continued) (E/1980/L.18/Rev.1)

##### ASSISTANCE TO THE DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS OF ETHIOPIA (continued) (E/1980/L.18/REV.1)

1. The PRESIDENT announced that Egypt<sup>1</sup> and India had become sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.18/Rev.1.
2. Mr. JERE (Malawi), introducing a revised version of the draft resolution (E/1980/L.18/Rev.1), entitled "Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia", said that the sponsors had agreed to delete the word "Revolutionary" from the fourth preambular paragraph and to replace the word "war-displaced" by "displaced" in operative paragraph 2 of the original text (E/1980/L.18). It had not been possible to reach agreement on the deletion of the words "and man-made" in the sixth preambular paragraph, as some of the sponsors were not convinced that they should be deleted.
3. Mr. MBAPILA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the nature and gravity of the tragedy in Ethiopia and the efforts the Government was making to tackle it could be appreciated from the oral report made on behalf of the Secretary-General at the preceding meeting on assistance to the drought-stricken areas and from the reports of people who had been in Ethiopia recently. There was an urgent need for the world community to supplement those efforts by giving its assistance, and it was therefore gratifying to see that it was generally agreed that the problem was a humanitarian one. Since draft resolution E/1980/L.18/Rev.1 reflected that agreement, there was no reason why it should not be adopted by consensus in line with the traditions of the Council.
4. His delegation failed to understand the objections raised with regard to the fourth preambular paragraph; it would not be the first time that the Council or the General Assembly had expressed appreciation of action by Governments in various areas of importance to humanity and world peace and harmony. The term "National Revolutionary Development Campaign" was simply the name chosen by Ethiopia for that campaign. But the reason for those objections could to some extent be appreciated. There were people who were afraid of anything revolutionary, whether political, economic, social or cultural revolution or simply revolutionary thought. One sympathized with them, for "capitalism" or "racism" also sometimes aroused fears. The sponsors of the draft resolution were prepared to delete

the word "Revolutionary" from the name of the Campaign, and they thanked their Ethiopian brothers for their spirit of accommodation. The term "war-displaced persons" used in operative paragraph 2 could also be seen in reports by organs involved in giving assistance to Ethiopia. What was important was that war-displacement had affected the performance of those concerned in food production, irrigation schemes and the like. But again, if the problem was the term "war", the sponsors would agree to delete it in the hope that the Council would adopt the revised draft resolution by consensus.

5. Mr. JOSEPH (Australia) expressed support for the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), which played an important part in co-ordinating the dissemination of information and in relief efforts. It could not, however, be said that the Office had really succeeded in meeting world disaster relief needs, nor had it found it easy to assume its proper place as the main United Nations organ in a field which was dominated by long-established institutions and in which the solution of one problem often created a set of new ones. None the less, the Office had made considerable progress in developing its technical capacity to respond in case of disaster.

6. The review of UNDRO operations currently being conducted by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) could be particularly helpful in redefining, and perhaps enlarging, UNDRO's mandate and establishing more clearly the respective roles of UNDRO and of the other United Nations agencies in disaster situations. That did not mean that UNDRO should be the only, or even the main, conduit for channelling assistance to disaster-affected countries; bilateral assistance seemed likely to remain the major vehicle for helping countries to recover from disaster situations. Australia, for its part, had on many occasions been able to move quickly in providing direct assistance and had found it practical to draw on the armed forces for distributing urgently needed supplies. On other occasions, usually when the disaster had occurred on the other side of the world, bilateral efforts would have been less efficacious and relief aid had been channelled through such organizations as the International Red Cross and UNDRO.

7. His delegation supported the draft resolution on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (E/1980/L.18/Rev.1). Australia had provided direct bilateral aid to the Ethiopian Government and would continue to do so in 1980.

8. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said that he viewed assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia from a purely humanitarian standpoint and was therefore prepared to join in the broad consensus on draft resolution E/1980/L.18/Rev.1.

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Council.

9. He noted, however, that in the eighth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was invited to intensify humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa. That provision had not appeared in the corresponding resolution adopted by the Council in 1979 (resolution 1979/2) and should not be included in the text under consideration, since assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia was a matter for UNDR0 and not for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Operative paragraph 2 also mentioned the High Commissioner and, although the full title was not given, it was clear that the reference was to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. There again, it must be pointed out that the subject-matter of the draft resolution fell within the competence of UNDR0 and not UNHCR. If Ethiopia wanted the Council to take action with regard to refugees and displaced persons, it should propose such action under the appropriate agenda item. His delegation also wished to draw attention to the sixth preambular paragraph, which included the words "and man-made". Since the purpose of the draft resolution was purely humanitarian, there appeared to be no need to include terms which had political connotations and were out of place in a humanitarian context. In order to avoid disputes, he urged the Ethiopian delegation to consider the possibility of deleting those words, so that the Council could adopt the paragraph as relating to natural disasters. For the reasons indicated, his delegation also urged the deletion of the eighth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 2.

10. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said that his delegation was prepared to support the efforts to assist Ethiopia in dealing with the drought and in solving related problems. However, it believed that the draft resolution should be clear and precise and should not contain references to man-made disasters, and it therefore proposed the deletion of the words "and man-made" in the sixth preambular paragraph, of the eighth preambular paragraph in its entirety, and of the words "to the displaced persons in Ethiopia" in operative paragraph 2.

11. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said he had listened with great regret to the objections of Somalia and Morocco to certain paragraphs and words in the draft resolution. His delegation could not reply to those objections until it had consulted the other sponsors, but he did feel obliged to recall that Somalia had launched a war of aggression against his country.

12. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia), speaking on a point of order, said he was surprised that Ethiopia should try to introduce polemics into a debate on a humanitarian issue by accusing Somalia of aggression. He requested the President to call on the representative of Ethiopia to refrain from such accusations, which would force Somalia to exercise its right of reply.

13. The PRESIDENT urged delegations to confine themselves to the humanitarian aspects of the issue.

14. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia), explaining why he had had to refer to the war in connexion with the problem of the drought, quoted from a report made to the Economic and Social Council in 1978 by the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who had spoken of the effects of the 1977-1978 Ogaden war on efforts to combat the drought.

15. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia), speaking on a point of order, said that in the report Somalia had not been accused of aggression. Somalia's objection was not to the report but to the accusation made by the representative of Ethiopia.

16. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said that, as a result of the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of resolution 1978/39, Ethiopia had received approximately \$10.5 million in assistance. However, additional funds were needed to rehabilitate the uprooted and settle them permanently.

17. In an article in *The Observer* of 2 March 1980, Conor Cruise O'Brien had referred to the situation of displaced persons in Ethiopia, who were not regarded technically as refugees because they had not crossed international frontiers. Although their resources were very inadequate, the authorities were making efforts to help those people, and there were no signs of recent repressive actions against the civilian population. The belongings which the displaced persons had with them showed that they came from Somalia.

18. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said that the source quoted by the representative of Ethiopia was unreliable. Moreover, the item under consideration concerned disasters and drought, not refugees and displaced persons.

19. The PRESIDENT appealed to the delegations to be brief.

20. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said he assumed the representative of Somalia would not deny that displaced persons were human beings and that the assistance given to them was humanitarian. The term "displaced persons" had been used because it was not customary in his country to treat fellow-countrymen as "refugees".

21. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said that he was not objecting to the terminology used but to the discussion of a subject other than disaster relief.

22. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said that his delegation was prepared to agree to any resolution aimed at providing substantial assistance to Ethiopia so that it could deal with the grave problem created by the drought. He suggested that informal consultations should be held with a view to expediting the approval of such assistance to Ethiopia.

23. Mr. PONCET (France) said that his delegation would join in the consensus if the text of draft resolution E/1980/L.18/Rev.1 were to be identical with that of the preceding year's resolution and referred solely to the problem of the drought. If the question of refugees was to be included, the title of the draft resolution would have to be changed. In his view, the draft resolution should confine itself to immediate humanitarian problems, and informal consultations might help to make the discussions more temperate.

24. Mr. MBAPILA (United Republic of Tanzania) requested a suspension of the meeting to allow informal consultations.

*The meeting was suspended at 11.45 a.m. and resumed at 12.30 p.m.*

25. Mr. JERE (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.18/Rev.1, announced that the following changes had been made to the text: the words "and man-made" had been deleted from the sixth preambular paragraph, and the eighth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 2 had also been deleted.

26. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1980/L.18/Rev.1, with the amendments agreed to by the sponsors, without a vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/2).*

27. Mr. METELITS (United States of America) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution in the hope that it would help to expedite the provision of the assistance which was so much needed by

the defenceless victims of the drought. It was to be hoped that the assistance would be used solely for humanitarian purposes and not for political or other ends, and that those responsible for distributing it would take the necessary precautions to ensure that no favouritism was shown to any social group. His delegation also requested that, in what had now become paragraph 2 of the resolution (former operative paragraph 3), the initial capitals in the words "Resettlement Programme" should be removed in order to avoid confusion with any agency which might have the same name.

28. Mr. EL HASSAN (Observer for the Sudan) commended the delegations which had taken part in the informal consultations for their spirit of accommodation.

29. Mr. ADUGNA (Ethiopia), Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation of Ethiopia, said that a year had passed since the Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia had launched a development campaign, which had already shown encouraging results, especially in the agricultural sector. In 1979/80, cultivated land had increased by 12 per cent over 1977/78, and agricultural production was expected to increase by 8 per cent in the same period. The reforestation and soil conservation programmes carried out with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) had also met with considerable success. It should be pointed out that the agricultural development activity was in conformity with the FAO regional food plan for Africa, which had been emphasized earlier by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development at Rome in July 1979. Agriculture being the main sector of Ethiopia's economy, the Government had intensified its efforts to increase food production and would continue to do so until total food self-sufficiency was attained.

30. The Government had also taken another far-reaching measure to remove one of the major obstacles to the country's development. Recognizing that universal literacy was an essential prerequisite for rapid socio-economic transformation, it had launched a national literacy programme as an integral part of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign. More than 5 million people had already been freed from illiteracy, and in 1980 a plan had been formulated to wipe out illiteracy by 1987.

31. Despite its efforts and the generous response of the international community, Ethiopia was still forced to appeal for more international assistance. Food shortages still persisted, despite the Government's determined efforts to boost food production, and disaster situations were developing in some drought-stricken regions of the country as wells and perennial streams dried up, resulting in the death of thousands of head of cattle. That was bound to have a serious impact on the survival of the nomadic people of the area. However, moving them to other regions where adequate water was available in turn gave rise to another serious problem, namely, overgrazing, which had the same harmful result for the inhabitants.

32. The prime purpose of the Government's Development Campaign was to save people from famine. One of the measures envisaged in that regard was the resettlement of more than a million people to virgin and fertile parts of the north-west, west and central areas of Ethiopia. Close to half a million people had already been settled, but the Government was faced with yet another problem which drew heavily on its meagre resources: the war-displaced people who had been forced to flee their homes and had to be resettled. The number of people, requiring rehabilitation and resettlement had thus been increasing steadily as peace gradually came to the area. While there was no doubt that

the Government's efforts would result in lasting solutions, the emergency needs of the moment called for urgent attention.

33. He hoped that the international community, whose response in the past had helped to save thousands of lives, would once again demonstrate its concern by providing generous assistance to help Ethiopia to meet its urgent humanitarian problem. In that connexion, he would like to inform the Council that arrangements were being finalized to receive in Ethiopia an interagency mission to evaluate the country's immediate and long-term needs.

34. He thanked all friendly countries and governmental and non-governmental organizations which had come to Ethiopia's assistance since the first appeal had been launched in 1974. He also thanked UNDRÖ, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), FAO, UNDP and WFP for their invaluable assistance, and the members of the Council for their understanding and sympathy for the plight of the people in the drought-stricken and war-ravaged areas of Ethiopia.

35. Mr. BAUMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, for the reasons stated by the representative of the United States, his delegation would also like the name of the Ethiopian Government's resettlement programme to be written without initial capitals in the final text of the adopted resolution.

## AGENDA ITEM 2

### Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1980/7 and Add.1 and 2, E/1980/10 and Add.1-3)

36. Mr. ROS (Argentina) said that the imminent entry of the Republic of Zimbabwe into the international community of nations must not detract from the urgency of the task which still remained to be done in Africa and throughout the world to eradicate racism and thereby eliminate a source of injustice, aggression, domination, insecurity and individual and collective fear. Only four years remained of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and one had only to read the Programme for the Decade, adopted in 1973, which was annexed to General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), to grasp the magnitude of the task and the importance of completing it.

37. General Assembly resolution 34/24 of 15 November 1979 established a number of effective measures for combating the factors which went to make up a racist society. The implementation of those measures now depended on the United Nations Secretariat, particularly the Division on Human Rights, which should be given the means to respond to the priority the international community had assigned to combating racism. International peace depended to a large extent on solving that problem.

38. In resolution 14 (XXXVI) of the Commission on Human Rights (see E/1980/13 and Corr.1, chap. XXVI, sect. A), the text of which Argentina had helped to draft, it was recommended that the Economic and Social Council should give special consideration to activities undertaken during the Decade which would affect specific groups. Clearly, the problem of ethnic minorities in Europe and Asia, of migrant workers in Europe and North America and of indigenous peoples in the Americas and the Nordic countries could give rise to both political and humanitarian debate, and the Council would then have to formulate appropriate recommendations in order at all times to adhere to the common objective of eradicating racism throughout the world.

39. The same resolution of the Commission on Human Rights also gave effect to some of the proposals contained in General Assembly resolution 34/24. With regard to the proposal contained in paragraph 24 of the annex to that resolution, in which it was suggested that the Secretary-General should undertake in 1981 a study on the links between racial discrimination and inequalities in the fields of education, nutrition, health, housing and cultural development, his delegation believed that, since the study was to be undertaken in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), the Economic and Social Council should at its

current session be given the information it needed to evaluate the progress made in preparing the study and should recommend ways of defining its most important aspects.

40. His delegation believed that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had sufficient experience to be able to make a valuable contribution, and suggested that the Council should propose to the General Assembly that it invite the Committee also to make its contribution to the Decade.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*

## 8th meeting

Wednesday, 16 April 1980, at 3.20 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.8

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1980/7 and Add.1 and 2, E/1980/10 and Add.1-3)

1. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that his country had followed, with satisfaction and sincere solidarity, the struggle of all peoples against colonialism, racism and *apartheid*. The determination to put an end to the imperialist policy of racism and racial discrimination had become even stronger, as was shown by the clear-cut victory won by the patriotic forces during the elections in Zimbabwe. Just as the German Democratic Republic had supported the struggle of the Patriotic Front for genuine independence, it recognized free, independent Zimbabwe and was willing to develop friendly relations with that country. The recent observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been a manifestation of the peoples' resolve not to rest before the last bastion of colonialism and racism in southern Africa had been removed. It was imperative to eliminate all forms of racist discrimination and oppression, whether in southern Africa or in the Arab territories. The victims of racist discrimination and oppression expected the States Members of the United Nations to take concrete action to enforce the demands contained in the resolutions adopted. They expected the tasks set forth in the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination<sup>1</sup> to be completed.

2. The programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination<sup>2</sup> was designed to achieve the effective international isolation of the *apartheid* régime by means of, *inter alia*, measures by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the mass media to mobilize the public against *apartheid* and racism. His Government would continue its active work for the realization of such measures. It resolutely demanded that all decisions taken by the United Nations on embargoes against

South Africa should be strictly observed. It was actively advocating the creation of conditions to put the peoples of South Africa and Namibia in a position to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

3. The report which the Economic and Social Council had to submit to the General Assembly pursuant to paragraph 10 of Assembly resolution 34/24 should contain an objective evaluation of the activities undertaken and point to obstacles to the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. Long-term preparations for the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should be started. The German Democratic Republic was ready to participate in the preparatory work.

4. The aggressive and terrorist policy of the South African racist régime and its refusal to comply with United Nations decisions on the realization of the right of the Namibian people to self-determination and independence constituted a dangerous threat to the African peoples and to world peace and security. That fact could not be obscured by so-called reforms, which did not change the nature of *apartheid*. Pretoria must not be allowed to use the atomic weapon as a means of exerting pressure.

5. The continued collaboration of imperialist Powers and transnational corporations with the *apartheid* State was an essential cause of the escalation of the racist policy in southern Africa. Thousands of people were killed in southern Africa with the most sophisticated means of warfare of Western origin. Despite the arms embargo, military supplies to the racists continued. Despite the worldwide demand for the isolation of South Africa, certain States constantly increased their trade with that régime. That policy, which contradicted the decisions adopted by the United Nations, must be halted. As a member of the Security Council, the German Democratic Republic stood for the implementation of measures to isolate the *apartheid* régime effectively. His delegation continued to believe that the time had come not only to comply strictly with the prohibition of arms deliveries to South Africa and to extend the relevant provisions of that prohibition, but also finally to apply against the racist régime the sanctions provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Such measures should have been adopted long ago, and any delay

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 34/24, annex.

by the Security Council would only serve to encourage the racists to commit new crimes.

6. In paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 34/24, the General Assembly called upon all States to declare punishable by law any dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred and to prohibit organizations based on racial prejudice and hatred, including neo-Nazi and Fascist organizations. That provision was of great importance since racism, in its most extreme forms, was an integral part of such ideologies. Fascist forces were reappearing in a number of imperialist countries and the activities of neo-Fascist organizations and groupings were increasing. The United Nations, which had emerged as a result of the peoples' struggle against fascism, must resolutely counter that dangerous development.

7. The German Democratic Republic had supplied detailed information on its activities within the framework of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and had reaffirmed its readiness to participate actively in the fulfilment of the Programme for the Decade. It would use all its energy to make a constructive contribution, within the United Nations, to the elimination of racism and *apartheid*.

8. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that, at the outset, his delegation wished to congratulate the people of Zimbabwe on their heroic struggle against colonialism and intolerable conditions of racial discrimination and on their epoch-making victory in that struggle. It was commendable that the independence of Zimbabwe had resulted from a democratic process that did honour to all involved.

9. The martyrdom of Africa, which had been the shame of mankind during the period of slavery, had continued as a result of discrimination, racism and *apartheid*. The Latin American peoples constantly expressed their solidarity with the peoples of Africa. In Ecuador, a country solidly committed to human rights, there were no manifestations of racism or racial discrimination and no discriminatory practices. The Political Constitution, adopted by popular referendum in 1978, expressly condemned all forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism, discrimination or racial segregation, and recognized the right of peoples to free themselves from those forms of oppression. It categorically prohibited any discrimination on such grounds as race, colour, sex, language or creed. Equality before the law was therefore clearly guaranteed by the Constitution. Early in 1979, Ecuador had modified its legislation to include a provision according to which anyone who by any means disseminated ideas based on racial superiority or racial hatred or incited others to racial discrimination was liable to a term of imprisonment of between six months and three years. Public officials were liable to five years' imprisonment.

10. The State guaranteed free education to all inhabitants without any form of discrimination. In schools attended predominantly by indigenous students, Quechua or the appropriate indigenous language was used in addition to Spanish. His Government had ratified the Convention against Discrimination in Education adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris in 1960.

11. Ecuador actively supported and had ratified the various human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>3</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>4</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>4</sup> and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial

Discrimination.<sup>5</sup> The Political Constitution also guaranteed the free and effective exercise of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It was therefore natural that Ecuador should support all regional and international activities to promote the objectives of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It was one of the countries which recognized the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to examine complaints submitted to it concerning racial discrimination.

12. In respect of immigration, no distinctions were made on the basis of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin. Migrant workers and their families were accorded the same treatment and rights as nationals, with the exception of political rights.

13. Ecuador had no diplomatic or consular relations with the racist régimes of southern Africa. In 1966, it had imposed an absolute ban on trade with what had then been known as Southern Rhodesia. It had constantly voted in favour of United Nations resolutions on South Africa concerning economic relations, investments, loans, arms embargoes and other related subjects. Public opinion had been mobilized against the evils of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, and during a recent visit by a mission from the United Nations Council for Namibia, Ecuador had reiterated its opposition to the South African racist régime and the illegal occupation of Namibia.

14. Mr. AHMAD (Pakistan) said that ever since the inception of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Pakistan had been following with keen interest and had been participating actively in all developments aimed at making the Decade a success. It had promptly submitted replies to the prescribed questionnaires and would continue to co-operate in all efforts to implement the programme of activities set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution 34/24.

15. His delegation noted with great satisfaction the positive work done by the various United Nations organs and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It was confident that the Economic and Social Council would continue to give priority to the international struggle against racism and racial discrimination, which were a most abominable violation of human dignity. Pakistan was proud to have always been in the forefront of that struggle. It had been among the very first countries to sign and ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It had provided and was continuing to provide all possible assistance to victims of racism and racial discrimination, and had been regularly providing educational and technical training facilities to students from South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. With all the means at its disposal, Pakistan would continue its political, material and moral support for the liberation movement in Namibia and its solidarity with the African peoples in their struggle against minority rule and *apartheid*. It strongly condemned the continued illegal occupation of Namibia and had been striving to achieve Namibia's transition to independence with the full participation of the sole and legitimate representative of the Namibian people, the South West Africa People's Organization.

16. Pakistan rejoiced over the emergence of Zimbabwe as an independent State, a victory which was the culmination of many years of heroic struggle and sacrifices. It commended the valour, indomitable perseverance and sagacity of Mr. Robert Mugabe, under whose inspiring leadership the people of Zimbabwe had broken the shackles of colonialism and were achieving independence. In view of

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>4</sup> See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

the historic nature of the occasion, the President of Pakistan personally was leading the Pakistan delegation to the Zimbabwe independence celebrations. Pakistan derived satisfaction and encouragement from the fact that the success of the people of Zimbabwe marked a new and decisive phase in the decolonization process in Africa, and looked forward to the day when the Namibian people would also be enjoying freedom and equality.

17. Pakistan totally rejected any form of racial discrimination or prejudice and had taken various legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures to prevent any manifestation of racism and racial discrimination. Islamic values and ideals did not allow any distinction between human beings on grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin. The people of Pakistan were therefore enjoined by their faith to reject and combat racism and racial discrimination in any form. There were no policies, laws, regulations or conventions in Pakistan which could conceivably be considered as encouraging racial prejudice or discrimination.

18. Pakistan had been co-operating unreservedly with the United Nations in its drive against racial discrimination and had always lent its full support to and implemented the various resolutions on the subject. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had commended Pakistan's consistent and scrupulous adherence to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. His country's high-level representation in that Committee was a clear manifestation of an abiding commitment to the struggle to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms.

19. On the occasion of the recent observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the President of Pakistan had emphasized that Pakistan's stand was consistent with the basic principles of Islam, which upheld the dignity of all peoples, irrespective of race, colour and creed. It was the duty of the international community to give maximum moral and material support to the peoples of South Africa and Namibia and to apply maximum pressure against the racist minority régime. A concerted and sincere effort by the international community would hasten the day when racial discrimination and *apartheid* would finally be banished from the continent of Africa and from the entire world.

20. Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria) said that the designation of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had been an important milestone in the history of the United Nations and had highlighted the determination of the international community to put an end to all forms of racial discrimination and injustice. The World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had made a valuable contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Decade with the adoption of the Declaration and the Programme of Action. Positive results had also been achieved by other international forums of recent years, which had affirmed the necessity for the speedy elimination of racial discrimination throughout the world and the need for respect for the dignity of the human person.

21. The efforts which had been exerted, useful as they might have been, had not been commensurate with the expectations of the international community. The agenda of the General Assembly and that of the Security Council were sufficient proof that racist policies and practices created situations which entailed serious political consequences for international peace and security. Undoubtedly, the most abhorrent form of racism and racial discrimination was to be found in South Africa. The racist régime of Pretoria had survived thanks to the political, economic and military

support of certain countries and the solid financial backing rendered by the transnational corporations in the form of heavy investments of foreign capital. The supply of arms to South Africa had not slackened for a moment. The military collaboration with the racist régime in Pretoria had been extended in spite of Security Council resolution 418 (1977). The collaboration of some North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries and Israel with South Africa in the nuclear field had endowed Pretoria with the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons — and not for peaceful purposes. Viewed against the background of the repeated acts of aggression against neighbouring sovereign African States, that fact posed a definite threat to peace and security in the entire world.

22. With respect to Namibia, the economic involvement of the transnational corporations, particularly in the mining of uranium, was in violation of United Nations demands that the natural resources of that country should be preserved for the Namibian people, and had seriously impeded the process of decolonization. The recent events in Zimbabwe confirmed that all colonial peoples were determined to achieve independence and self-determination by any means at their disposal, including armed struggle. It was not sufficient for States Members of the United Nations to espouse the principle of self-determination for the black majority or to recognize that racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* were inconsistent with the pledge under Article 56 of the Charter. No effort should be spared to bring about the complete isolation of the racist régime of South Africa and the strict application by all Member States of sanctions against that régime, since any co-operation with it in the political, economic, military and other fields constituted an impediment to the liberation of southern Africa. The imposition of universally applied mandatory sanctions, as provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter, was the only way to secure South Africa's compliance with the relevant resolutions and to eradicate *apartheid*.

23. Unfortunately, racial discrimination was not confined to southern Africa. The Palestinian people and the Arab population in the occupied territories were subject to mass and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, violations which could not be divorced from Israel's policy to deny the Palestinians their right to self-determination. Furthermore, migrant workers in certain countries were subjected to racial discrimination, in addition to other discriminatory practices.

24. His delegation wished to reiterate its Government's total commitment to the complete elimination of the last strongholds of colonialism, racism and *apartheid*. Bulgaria would continue to render moral, political and material assistance to the national liberation movements in their legitimate struggle for self-determination, independence and social progress. It had consistently supported the objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the efforts of the United Nations to promote international co-operation in ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels. That position was predicated on the basic political concepts of socialism.

25. His delegation pledged its full participation in the activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade and shared the view that the major feature of that period would be the convening of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It was ready to contribute to the success of the Conference.

26. Mr. SAMHAN (United Arab Emirates) said that racism and racial discrimination constituted one of the most important problems facing the United Nations. Although considerable progress has been made in implementing the

objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, racism was still practised in South Africa, Namibia and the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories. Condemnation was no longer sufficient and effective measures were needed to put an end to the criminal policies of the racist régimes. His country had always whole-heartedly supported the legitimate struggle of peoples oppressed by racism and racial discrimination in the belief that fundamental rights and freedoms could never be achieved in the face of continuous oppression, racism and *apartheid*. Only the total abandonment of such repressive policies and the search for solutions through consultations with the leaders of the people concerned on the basis of the principle of human equality could avert tragic developments.

27. Many States had adopted a superficial respectability, paying lip-service to the ideal of a racially integrated society while still providing full support to the oppressive racist régimes in South Africa, Namibia and Israel. His delegation therefore appealed to all States and peoples to lend their full support to the goals of the Decade. In that connexion, the mass media had a crucial role to play in informing and mobilizing public opinion. Furthermore, universal ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*<sup>6</sup> would also be a step towards achieving the objectives of the Decade. His Government, for its part, had ratified both Conventions and had taken steps to ensure that their provisions were applied in letter and spirit, both domestically and in foreign policy.

28. Mrs. ZHANG Zongan (China) said that ever since the adoption of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the struggle against racism had strengthened and developed on a world-wide scale with the achievement of some notable successes. In that connexion, she drew attention to the recent victory of the Zimbabwean people following a protracted national liberation struggle led by the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and other patriotic forces. Praising the support and assistance rendered by the numerous African countries and peoples, especially the front-line States, and by other justice-loving countries and the United Nations, she said that the victory of the Zimbabwean people was not only a collective victory of the African people but also a significant victory for the international struggle against racism. As long as an oppressed nation was united in waging an unremitting struggle with the support of friendly countries and peoples it would certainly win independence and liberation.

29. The victory of the Zimbabwean people would also provide tremendous encouragement to the struggling people of Namibia and Azania. The racist régime of South Africa was now more isolated than ever and the situation was becoming increasingly favourable for the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa for national independence and liberation. However, the South African racist régime remained a dangerous enemy and continued to threaten the independence of Zimbabwe and intensify its oppressive measures against the Namibian people by obstructing the United Nations plan for a peaceful solution of the Namibian question and promoting its "internal settlement" with a view to keeping the territory under long-term illegal occupation. The régime's internal policy was becoming increasingly desperate and repressive with large-scale arrests of political prisoners. However, under the leadership of

their respective national liberation organizations and with the support of the African countries and peoples and all justice-loving countries and peoples of the world, the Namibian people and the Azanian people would certainly win final victory in their struggle for national liberation by persisting in unity and struggle and doing away with hegemonistic meddling and sabotage from outside. The Chinese Government and people had always firmly supported the just struggle of the people of southern Africa against colonialism and racism and for national independence and liberation. The United Nations and all justice-loving countries and peoples should continue to increase their support and assistance until final victory was won by those two peoples.

30. Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the proclamation of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the adoption of the Programme for the Decade by the General Assembly and the many United Nations resolutions aimed at eliminating racism and colonialism had mobilized international efforts to achieve the aims of the Decade. It was a matter of great satisfaction to see that the peoples of many colonial territories had managed through selfless struggle to throw off the hated racist colonialist yoke. The most recent example of such a successful struggle was the victory of the patriotic forces in Zimbabwe. Encouraged by the successes of the national liberation movements, the international community should now redouble its efforts to bring about the speedy elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonialism. However, the racists and colonialists had not given up the struggle and continued to interfere in the affairs of the newly independent States of the region, including Zimbabwe.

31. The most flagrant and inhuman form of racism was the policy of *apartheid* practised by the racist régime of South Africa, which ignored repeated appeals by the United Nations and the entire international community and maintained its misanthropic policy of terror and massive repression, ruthlessly trampling on the basic human rights of the indigenous populations and attempting to force the black Africans into desert-like bantustans. The Pretoria régime was a serious threat to the peace and security of independent Africa, as could be seen from the continuous unprovoked aggressive actions it undertook against Angola, Zambia, Botswana and other African States, as a result of which the Security Council was continually occupied with problems of South African aggression. Furthermore, the racist Pretoria régime continued illegally to occupy Namibia, using it as a staging ground for military action against neighbouring African States.

32. It was clear that the Pretoria Government would not be able to ignore international public opinion and the many decisions of the United Nations so brazenly were it not for the multilateral support and assistance provided by certain Western countries, in particular the member countries of NATO. Those countries were essentially sabotaging the implementation of numerous United Nations decisions aimed at isolating and boycotting the South African racist régime and were thus impeding the achievement of the objectives of the Programme for the Decade. Those same Western countries, in a transparent and hypocritical effort to protect their strategic and financial involvement in South Africa, claimed that legal difficulties prevented them from enforcing an embargo on trade relations between firms in their countries and the racist régime. They also claimed that United Nations measures to boycott the South African racist régime were unsuitable and ineffective. The programme of activities for the second half of the Decade adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/24, again stressed the

<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex.

need for a complete isolation of the racist régime of Pretoria and the strict application by all States of sanctions against that régime. However, as had been confirmed at the recent International Seminar on an Oil Embargo against South Africa, the imperialist monopolies, backed by certain Western countries, not only refused to implement the programme but continued to seek to increase their enormous profits by increasing their deliveries of goods, often of strategic importance, to the racist régime in South Africa.

33. Similarly, Israel continued its expansionist policy in the occupied Arab territories, resorting to massive repression and discrimination against the Arab population and the establishment of illegal settlements, thus driving the Palestinians from their land and destroying Palestine as a nation. Such inhuman measures confirmed the judgement of the United Nations concerning the racist nature of Zionism. Israel continued to ignore United Nations decisions, relying on the continuous support of its partners in the so-called Camp David accords.

34. Racial discrimination was based on the exploitation of man by man and served as a means of strengthening such exploitation. Any effective measures to eliminate racism in all its forms would constitute a valuable step towards respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all as called for in the Charter. The socialist countries had eliminated all such exploitation in their territories and had formed a new system based on the union of all classes and social strata, the *de jure* and *de facto* equality of all nationalities and their fraternal co-operation. The new Soviet Constitution laid down as one of the principles of Soviet foreign policy support for the struggles of peoples for national liberation and social progress. The Soviet Union attached great importance to United Nations measures aimed at effectively combating all forms of racism or racial discrimination and to that end provided comprehensive support to the national liberation movements in southern Africa. The Soviet Union called for an unconditional end to the policies and practices of *apartheid* and the unconditional transfer of power to the indigenous peoples of Namibia and South Africa. The Soviet Union fully supported the Programme for the Decade and called upon all Governments faithfully to carry out its objectives and to apply effective sanctions against the South African racist régime in compliance with Chapter VII of the Charter. In that connexion, he noted that the tireless struggle of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries against racism and colonialism had enjoyed widespread international recognition, in particular the recent meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity.

35. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) said that the recent victory of the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe had been the result of the heroic struggle of the people of Zimbabwe and the solidarity of all peace-loving forces in the world and had dealt a heavy blow to the racist forces in southern Africa. Its significance went beyond the borders of Zimbabwe, since it encouraged the neighbouring people of South Africa and Namibia to persist in their legitimate struggle for independence and human dignity. However, racist policies in southern Africa had not come to an end, as the racist Government of South Africa continued to pursue its policy of *apartheid* and colonialism, subjecting the peoples of Azania and Namibia to the most brutal exploitation, oppression, and humiliation in their home countries. The racist régime survived primarily because of the strategic interests of the imperialistic forces in southern Africa and the greediness of transnational corporations, which in collaboration with the régime were reaping enormous profits by exploiting millions of Africans in South Africa and Namibia. The countries which co-operated and main-

tained relations with the Pretoria régime not only prolonged the suffering of the African peoples but also contributed to a heightening of tension and bloc confrontation in that part of the world, thus threatening international peace and the independence of the sovereign and generally non-aligned States in the region.

36. The Arab inhabitants of the West Bank of the River Jordan were subjected to brutal terror by the Israeli occupation authorities and to arbitrary arrests, detention, torture, expulsion from their homes and confiscation of their property.

37. As a consequence of racial and ethnic intolerance, mass expulsions of members of minority populations had taken place in various parts of the world in recent years, leading to the creation of millions of refugees. Furthermore, migrant workers were constantly subjected to various forms of discrimination with regard to employment, social and health care and education. His country was also strictly concerned over recent manifestations of Fascist and Nazi ideologies. In some countries, the proponents of such racist ideologies were allowed not only to preach their beliefs publicly but also to engage in terrorist activity, which was being used in some circles as a pretext for exerting pressure and for interference in the internal affairs of individual States Members of the United Nations.

38. The United Nations and the international community in general must further intensify their efforts to implement the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The most effective means of achieving that end would be the consistent implementation by all Members of the Organization of the Programme for the Decade and of the United Nations resolutions relating to the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. It was particularly important to ensure more active involvement on the part of those Member States which, for various reasons, were not currently participating in the Programme. Yugoslavia, as a socialist, self-managing and non-aligned country, participated actively in the struggle against racism and all forms of racial discrimination, at both the national and international levels. It contributed regularly to the various United Nations funds for assistance to the peoples of southern Africa and maintained bilateral co-operation with the liberation movements in southern Africa recognized by the Organization of African Unity and with the Palestine Liberation Organization. His delegation fully supported all of the proposals adopted and the activities undertaken recently by the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

39. Mrs. RODRÍGUEZ CALDERÓN (Observer for Cuba) said that racism, racial discrimination, Zionism and *apartheid* were practices based on the current system of international relations, which was, in turn, based on injustice, inequality and oppression. Her delegation called for an end to that system and condemned the alliance between the imperialist Powers and the reactionary, minority and racist régimes which had engendered and sustained it. In that connexion, she drew attention to the decision taken at the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979, condemning a group of Western countries for their direct and indirect contribution to the maintenance of the criminal policies of South Africa<sup>7</sup> and to the statement made by the Cuban Head of State, Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz, at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly.<sup>8</sup> The United Nations system and the

<sup>7</sup> See A/34/542, annex.

<sup>8</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 31st meeting, paras. 2-147.

international community must intensify and combine their efforts to implement all parts of the programme of activities for the second half of the Decade, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 34/24, in particular paragraph 4 of the programme.

40. Racism, racial discrimination, zionism and *apartheid* threatened the welfare and progress of peoples; they constituted a violation of fundamental human rights and threatened friendly relations among peoples and co-operation among nations. The Economic and Social Council must therefore adopt at the current session the necessary measures to begin the preparatory work for the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and assume the role of preparatory committee for the Conference.

41. In that connexion, she drew attention to a valuable resolution recently adopted by the Commission on Human Rights — resolution 14 (XXXVI) (see E/1980/13 and Corr.1, chap. XXVI, sect. A) — in which the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it authorize the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to carry out a study on discriminatory treatment against members of racial, ethnic, religious or linguistic groups, and that, in its evaluation of the activities of the Decade, it consider in particular the impact of those activities on the situation of specific groups such as migrant workers, immigrant communities, indigenous populations and persons belonging to ethnic minorities. She also expressed support for measures aimed at increasing the number of countries ratifying the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. In conclusion, her delegation paid tribute to the victory achieved by the heroic people of Zimbabwe.

42. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that his country had unceasingly provided active diplomatic, moral and material support to peoples struggling to eliminate racial discrimination and *apartheid*. In that connexion, Romania welcomed the recent victory of the people of Zimbabwe. Furthermore, his country respected and applied without reservations the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly relating to specific measures against the colonialist and racist régimes in southern Africa. Further evidence of the support of the Romanian people for the activities of the Decade was the celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March and the celebration of a week of solidarity with the peoples struggling against racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. The guarantee of full equality of the rights of all persons and the complete rejection of any discrimination on grounds of race, nationality, sex or religion occupied a central place in Romanian political, economic, social and cultural life. All States should ratify the international instruments adopted by the United Nations calling for the elimination of racial discrimination and *apartheid* and apply strictly the provisions of those instruments. His delegation also supported the immediate preparation of the second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and hoped that at its current session the Economic and Social Council would determine the most appropriate means of preparing the Conference with the participation of all States in order to achieve the objectives of the Decade.

43. Mr. HOLLAI (Hungary) said that the United Nations and all those who had contributed to the victory of the people of Zimbabwe could be proud that the latter had successfully eliminated racial oppression and colonialism. His Government was ready to recognize the newly independent State and establish diplomatic relations with it. It should be emphasized, however, that the final elimination

of racism and the liquidation of the remnants of colonialism still represented one of the most urgent problems of the day. The most odious and institutionalized form of racial discrimination was *apartheid* and the most extreme manifestation of colonialism was the South African illegal occupation of Namibia. It was therefore imperative to implement the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*.

44. Owing to the co-operation and support of some imperialist States and the insatiable greed of the transnational corporations for profits from the racial oppression in South Africa and Namibia, it was possible for the *apartheid* régime to be maintained and to continue repression and persecution against the black majority. That support from abroad also made possible the maintenance inside South Africa of a policy designed to bring down the peoples' movements and threaten the peace, security and territorial integrity of the independent States of southern Africa. There had recently been many violations of Angola's territorial integrity by South Africa, including bombings. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of Mozambique had similarly been the target of constant and grave acts by the South African régime. Those acts proved that the *apartheid* régime constituted a crime not only against the South African people, but also against mankind.

45. In all international forums, Hungary supported the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination. His Government lent political, material and moral support to the peoples and liberation movements in their struggle against racism and racial discrimination. Hungary had been a founding member of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and had been among the first to accede to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Government and people of Hungary were consistently giving effect to the provisions of those instruments. Hungary had been a firm advocate of the launching of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, had participated in the 1978 World Conference and was making efforts to contribute to the successful implementation of the Programme for the Decade. Any manifestation of discrimination against citizens was alien to the social and political system and the legal order of Hungary. The broadest segments of Hungarian society had been mobilized for action against all forms of colonial oppression and racial discrimination. During the International Anti-*Apartheid* Year, Hungary had carried out a broad programme of action. It was giving concrete material support to the oppressed peoples fighting against racial domination, providing scholarships for students from southern Africa and medical treatment for an increasing number of freedom fighters.

46. Regrettably, there was still no noticeable progress in the internal situation of South Africa and Namibia. However, the latest developments in Zimbabwe confirmed that violence, terror, outside support, hypocrisy and fraud could not prevent the peoples of southern Africa from shaking off the fetters of racist slavery.

47. Mr. MBAPILA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the item under consideration was of great importance to his country, which, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and peace-loving countries through-

out the world, had played an active role in the fight against racism and racial discrimination. The latter were his people's principal enemies, and the fight against them, wherever they occurred, was the first priority of his country's foreign policy. In particular, his country, in co-operation with OAU and other peace-loving countries, had fought hard for the liberation of southern Africa. Despite its poverty, it had helped in the isolation of South Africa.

48. At the time of independence, his country had inherited certain elements of racism; segregated schools, for example. Its Constitution was totally opposed to racism and racial discrimination, and his Government's first act had been to abolish such segregation. Racial discrimination, in all its forms, had now been abolished within his country, which was moving towards a classless society, in which the exploitation of man by man would be a thing of the past.

49. His delegation commended those States which had submitted reports in accordance with paragraph 18 (e) of the Programme for the Decade, but regretted that not all States had submitted their reports. He could understand that some poorer countries might have difficulty in finding the resources required to prepare reports; but otherwise there was no excuse. Such States either had something to hide, or considered the reports unimportant. Furthermore, legislation against racism and racial discrimination was, in itself, not enough — it had to be implemented. Tales of racial discrimination in both Western and Eastern countries, by individuals if not by Governments, were legion. He particularly regretted that some States which had submitted reports had not done so under all the headings required.

50. He acknowledged the help given by the socialist and Nordic countries, by the Netherlands, and by some Asian and Latin American countries. In contrast, other countries had been far from helpful.

51. Major capitalist States had direct political links with South Africa. Transnational corporations, encouraged by their respective Governments, flourished at the expense of the oppressed peoples of southern Africa. South Africa could not have defied world opinion, the Charter of the United Nations and the various Security Council resolutions without the political, economic and military support of the West. Such support was instrumental in South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia.

52. When Africa had called for a boycott of the Olympic Games because of South Africa's participation, it had been accused of mixing politics with sports. Now Africa was being asked to mix politics with sports. Yet the Special Committee against *Apartheid* had recently heard from anti-*apartheid* movements throughout the world of continued sports links with South Africa.

53. Despite all the efforts of the United Nations, the fight against racism had not been as successful as his country had hoped. Recent events in Zimbabwe were a part of that fight. He trusted that South Africa, having failed to learn the lesson of Angola and Mozambique, would now learn the lesson of Zimbabwe, and act correctly in Namibia.

54. The enemy, now desperate, was more dangerous than ever, and was carrying out attacks against Zambia, Angola, Botswana and Mozambique to create tension in the region and thus delay independence for Namibia. The writing was, however, on the wall. He appealed to the friends of South Africa to help that country to learn from the lessons of history.

55. Regarding the efforts of United Nations organs and non-governmental organizations to implement the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, he felt that they had done their best under difficult circumstances. They had extended humanita-

rian assistance to the oppressed peoples of southern Africa, had provided training facilities, and had co-operated with the front-line States to meet the needs of persons displaced by war.

56. Of course, there was scope for further action. He regretted that United Nations agencies had been subjected to pressure from some quarters to limit their aid to the fight against racism and racial discrimination. Nevertheless, they had made a valuable contribution, and he appealed to them to continue to do so.

57. He hoped that those countries which had not submitted reports pursuant to paragraph 18 (e) of the Programme for the Decade would soon do so, and that South Africa and its friends would modify their intransigent attitude. Everyone had a moral obligation to fight racism and racial discrimination both at home and abroad. Those States that did not wish to do so should at least refrain from hindering those that did.

## AGENDA ITEM 8

### Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (*continued*)\* (E/1980/L.14 and Add.1, E/1980/L.17/Add.1)

58. Mr. XIFRA DE OCERÍN (Spain), introducing the addendum to the report of the informal working group on agenda item 8 (E/1980/L.17/Add.1), said that the group had been unable to decide whether the annex to draft resolution IV should be deleted or not. Referring to foot-note 6 of the addendum to the report, he observed that the Argentine proposal contained therein had not been opposed by other delegations, and said it had been proposed that if the annex were retained, paragraph 5 thereof should become paragraph 7 and the current paragraphs 6 and 7 should be renumbered 5 and 6 respectively. There had been a complex discussion on draft resolution IX and on foot-notes 10 and 11, but no agreement had been reached.

59. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should first take a decision on those draft resolutions recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1980/L.14) on which agreement had been reached in the informal working group.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

*Draft resolution VI was adopted without a vote (resolution 1980/3).*

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION XIII

*Draft resolution XIII was adopted without a vote (resolution 1980/4).*

60. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the other draft resolutions recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women that had been discussed by the working group.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION IX

61. Mr. ERDŐS (Hungary), referring to foot-note 10 (see E/1980/L.17/Add.1), said that in his view there was a marked difference between the English and French versions of the last preambular paragraph. On the basis of the English text, he would not press for the insertion of the word "certain".

\* Resumed from the 5th meeting.

62. Referring to foot-note 11, he said that the text proposed by Hungary should read "all relevant organizations and other organs of society concerned with this problem". The term "organ of society" was used in the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly. The purpose of the proposal was to improve the text by eliminating an inconsistent and incomplete list.

63. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the fact that the Hungarian representative did not intend to press the proposal contained in foot-note 10 meant that, on the basis of the English text, there was no longer any disagreement concerning the last preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

64. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) said that the explanations offered by the representative of Hungary had confirmed his view that it would be better to leave the text as originally drafted by the Commission on the Status of Women.

65. He pointed out that operative paragraph 1 referred to "those responsible for the content and presentation of material by mass communication media", and it would therefore be superfluous to refer to "competent" or "relevant" organizations in operative paragraph 2. He did not feel that the list in that paragraph should be deleted, nor could he see that anyone could object to it. There had been much discussion in the working group on the word "groups", yet that word appeared in several major international instruments, usually referring to groups against which there had been discrimination. The most recent example of its use occurred in the Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1978. There were good reasons why the Commission on the Status of Women had included the word "groups", and the text should remain as it stood.

66. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) said that her delegation could not accept the amendment proposed by Hungary which represented no improvement and was repetitive. It would have no difficulty in accepting the wording "Encourages all relevant organizations to exercise...", if the Council wished to remove the list from operative paragraph 2. The wording "Encourages all organizations to exercise..." would also be acceptable to her delegation.

67. Mr. FAURIS (France) said it was necessary to retain a list in operative paragraph 2, for no word was comprehensive enough to suffice by itself. The Hungarian proposal was too restrictive, although his delegation would be prepared to accept some modification of the list, perhaps to include a reference to trade unions, for example.

68. Mr. ERDÓS (Hungary) said that his delegation's intention had been to simplify, not to complicate, the text of operative paragraph 2. He agreed with the representative of

Trinidad and Tobago that some general wording would be appropriate, and did not disagree with the remarks made by the representative of France. The list, as it stood, was incomplete, and a more comprehensive expression should therefore be found, covering all institutions which dealt with women in any capacity. Perhaps an expression such as "competent institutions" would be appropriate. His intention had not been to restrict the scope of operative paragraph 2, but rather to make it more universal and to avoid any use of restrictive wording in the form of an incomplete and ambiguous list.

69. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) said that he appreciated the proposal made by the representative of Hungary, but his delegation found the original wording of operative paragraph 2 more acceptable and to the point.

70. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom) said that if it was really the intention of the representative of Hungary to simplify matters, he could not understand why he was pressing his proposal, which had manifestly received little support. He pointed out that operative paragraph 2 had been adopted by consensus by the Commission on the Status of Women.

71. Since the list was considered incomplete, it could perhaps be completed by the insertion of the words "as well as individuals" after the word "institutions". Reference could also be made to other institutions, such as religious organizations. Other delegations might have other suggestions which would produce a fully comprehensive list.

72. The PRESIDENT suggested that the wording "all relevant organizations, institutions and organized groups" would be satisfactory.

73. Mr. ERDÓS (Hungary) said that his delegation had accepted the proposal made by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, and there was therefore no need to return to the original version. As for the suggestion that Hungary had some particular interest in proposing the wording it had put forward, he observed that many other delegations had been quite insistent about the use of particular expressions, without having supported their positions with cogent arguments.

74. The proposal that other bodies could be referred to in operative paragraph 2 could be carried to extremes. The United Nations had 152 Members with a multiplicity of institutions, and only a general expression could be acceptable to all. He did not wish to press the proposal made by his delegation, but some other general formula had to be found. That being so, he could not accept the President's suggestion.

75. The PRESIDENT said that he would withdraw his suggestion.

*The meeting rose at 6.29 p.m.*

## 9th meeting

Thursday, 17 April 1980, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.9

### AGENDA ITEM 8

Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (continued) (E/1980/L.14 and Add.1, E/1980/L.17/Add.1)

DRAFT RESOLUTION IX (concluded)

1. Mr. ERDÓS (Hungary) proposed that paragraph 2 of draft resolution IX contained in the report of the informal

working group on agenda item 8 (E/1980/L.17/Add.1) should be amended to read: "Encourages all relevant organizations, institutions and other associations to exercise their influence on those responsible to achieve the aforementioned aims;"

2. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the amendment proposed by the representative of Hungary.

*It was so decided.*

*Draft resolution IX, as amended, was adopted (resolution 1980/5).*

**DRAFT RESOLUTION IV (concluded)**

3. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) pointed out that the word "international" had been omitted before the words "economic relations" in paragraph 1 (a) of draft resolution IV contained in document E/1980/L.17/Add.1.

4. The PRESIDENT pointed out that, in the same paragraph, the word "necessitates" should read "necessitate". He drew the Council's attention to foot-note 5, relating to the deletion of the annex to the draft resolution.

5. Mr. RANGACHARI (India) said that his delegation had actively sought the inclusion of the annex in the belief that it would be useful to provide some broad outline on the basis of which the Preparatory Committee could draft the Programme for Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women. He hoped the Council would decide to retain the annex.

6. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to retain the annex to draft resolution IV.

*It was so decided.*

7. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that her delegation would like to retain the amendment it had proposed to paragraph 5 of the annex, the wording of which was contained in foot-note 6 of document E/1980/L.17/Add.1. She further suggested that the amended paragraph 5 should be placed after existing paragraphs 6 and 7 of the annex.

8. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the amendment proposed by the representative of Argentina.

*It was so decided.*

9. Miss CABRERA SILVA (Mexico) said that her delegation had proposed the inclusion of a reference to food in paragraph 1 of the annex but was prepared to support the adoption of the resolution as it stood.

10. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution IV, as amended.

*It was so decided.*

*Draft resolution IV, as amended, was adopted (resolution 1980/6).*

11. Mr. SVIRIDOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not objected to the adoption of draft resolution IV on the understanding that the measures it called for would be implemented within the limits of the approved United Nations budget and with funds from voluntary sources.

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

**Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued) (E/1980/7 and Add.1 and 2, E/1980/10 and Add.1-3)**

12. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) said that, as his delegation represented a country and came from a region where racial discrimination, in the wake of foreign occupation, was still practised, it condemned, through word, vote and deed, the immoral, illegal and dangerous manifestations of racism, whether based on race, colour, sex or religion. His Government's position on the specific items covered by the questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General was set out in document E/1980/10; its basic position, however, was that only concerted international efforts and, above all, the

full implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, Declarations and Conventions could bring about the elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

13. The implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination<sup>1</sup> and the attainment of its objectives required measures to ensure the further effective international isolation of the racist régimes: the sanctions imposed by the Security Council should be strictly adhered to and be complemented by mandatory actions.

14. It was also imperative to give more effect, in terms both of universality and of efficacy, to the relevant international Conventions. The practical implementation of their provisions and not the mere adoption of resolutions, declarations and conventions would bring about the ends they were designed to achieve. Consequently, he wished to emphasize the importance of the machinery required for their application. His delegation believed that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Commission on Human Rights were accomplishing a great deal and should intensify their efforts. Moreover, the machinery for monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>2</sup> should be the subject of intensive consideration by the Council.

15. He extended his Government's warmest congratulations to the newly independent State of Zimbabwe and expressed the hope that, in other parts of the world where majority rule was still denied, justice would soon prevail and equality would be acknowledged in law and practice. He hoped that Namibia would soon attain independence and, in that connexion, restated his Government's support of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and praised the efforts of the United Nations Council for Namibia in mobilizing world public opinion.

16. He reiterated his Government's support of and commitment to the Maputo Declaration of Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia, the Lagos Declaration for Action against *Apartheid* and the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. He expressed solidarity with the front-line States of southern Africa in their struggle for the eradication of the odious doctrine of *apartheid*. His Government strongly opposed the separation of ethnic groups on the basis of racial criteria and the establishment of so-called independent communities, because they were aimed at dispossessing the majority of the population of their inalienable rights over a united country; his delegation could not accept "bantustanization" in South Africa or anywhere else in the world.

17. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Ghana) said that his delegation had repeatedly expressed serious concern at the failure of the international community to work effectively towards the attainment of the objectives outlined in the annex to General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII). The information analysed in the Secretary-General's report (E/1980/10 and Add.1-3) had been supplied by a relatively small number of Governments, but it gave the impression that some genuine attempt was being made to take measures to prohibit or prevent any manifestations of racism and racial discrimination. On the other hand, collaboration on the part of a number of States with racist régimes, especially those in southern Africa, continued.

18. Many Member States had indicated, in response to the questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General, that they made substantial contributions to the funds established by

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex.

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

the United Nations, or direct contributions, to aid the victims of racial discrimination and *apartheid*. His delegation appreciated that form of assistance but was dismayed by the arguments defending continued collaboration with southern Africa. Legal arguments were frequently advanced as impediments to effective implementation of General Assembly decisions and resolutions and certain Member States found it difficult, if not impossible, to prevent their nationals from having contacts in various fields with racist régimes, for fear of laying themselves open to charges of unwarranted infringement of their rights as citizens. Nevertheless, where the political will existed, States could always take steps to ensure that their nationals complied with certain measures considered to be in the national interest. His delegation, therefore, expected States to take appropriate action for the total eradication of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*.

19. With regard to the evaluation of activities undertaken in connexion with the Decade, he said that the Council's decision to dispense with the establishment of a working group of the whole (4th meeting) prompted his delegation to ask how the evaluation envisaged in General Assembly resolution 34/24 was to be undertaken. The Council should give consideration to that question and to the preparation of the report it was to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 34/24.

20. In paragraph 40 of document E/1975/15, the Secretary-General had indicated that, in response to appeals for voluntary contributions in support of the activities envisaged in the Programme for the Decade, the Governments of Iraq and the United Arab Emirates had contributed \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Generous contributions to the international fund provided for in paragraph 17 of the Programme for the Decade would be a major support for the attainment of the goals of the Programme. The establishment of such a fund would not be an unnecessary duplication of existing United Nations funds but an essential complement to the existing programme, especially if designed for the benefit of specific projects. The Council should give serious consideration, in that respect, to the effective implementation of paragraph 17 of the Programme and, in particular, to the recommendation contained in paragraph 39 of the Programme of Action adopted in 1978 by the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.<sup>3</sup>

21. The Programme envisaged a second World Conference at the end of the Decade and preparations for that Conference should be started at an early stage to ensure its success; consideration might be given to establishing a preparatory sub-committee of the Council, which would submit periodic reports to the Council.

22. It was time for the Council to take a decision on the matters covered by the programme of activities contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 34/24, in order to give guidance to the bodies and institutions that might be involved in the implementation of the Programme for the Decade. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 14 (XXXVI) (see E/1980/13 and Corr.1, chap. XXVI, sect. A), had recommended that the Council should authorize the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to have a study prepared on discriminatory treatment at the various levels of the administration of criminal justice proceedings, in the light of the comments made in the Sub-Commission at its thirty-second

session. It had also recommended that the Council should authorize the Sub-Commission to designate a special rapporteur from among its members to carry out a study on the various factors underlying situations leading to racism and racial discrimination. Those studies would constitute an important contribution to the realization of the objectives of the Decade and he hoped that the Council would unanimously adopt the decisions recommended by the Commission on Human Rights.

23. He drew the Council's attention to paragraph 69 of document E/1980/10, in which it was stated that the Government of Cyprus believed that only concerted international efforts and full implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions would bring about the end of racism and racial discrimination. The action advocated in that paragraph should be undertaken by all Member States of the United Nations and by the entire international community if the goals and objectives of the Decade were to be attained.

24. In conclusion, he extended his delegation's congratulations to the Government and people of Zimbabwe, whose achievement of independence was yet another signal that the days of racist régimes, especially in southern Africa, were numbered; he also conveyed his delegation's felicitations to all those who had made that victory possible.

25. Mr. MAPP (Barbados) drew attention to the Lusaka Declaration of the Commonwealth on Racism and Racial Prejudice,<sup>4</sup> in which the Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries had unanimously declared their resolve to work for the eradication of all forms of racial discrimination. His Government had consistently demonstrated its total opposition to all forms of racism, racial prejudice and racial discrimination, whether open or subtle, and supported all efforts to eliminate them from the face of the earth; it was resolved to continue that policy.

26. As the Chairman of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* had observed, the policy of *apartheid*, a detestable, dehumanizing form of institutionalized racism, was being pursued relentlessly, in defiance of world opinion and continued resistance by the oppressed. However, *apartheid* would ultimately be unable to resist the tide of freedom approaching the borders of South Africa. Token changes by the Pretoria Government deceived no one and could not drown out the voices of those who continued to fight with courage and determination. As had been the case with the system of slavery, in which the quest for economic gain had stifled moral principles, the system of *apartheid* would also inevitably devour those who sought to perpetuate it.

27. Barbados had voted in favour of the text adopted as General Assembly resolution 34/24 and would continue to support the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination as well as any action taken to implement the Programme for the Decade speedily and effectively. However, he stressed that the issues involved took various, subtle forms. For example, in some developing countries where a minority ethnic group exercised economic but not political control, an escalation of racial unrest and aggression was apparent. In certain multiracial societies, when a majority which had previously suffered under discrimination came to power, some of the fundamental principles for which they had previously struggled were abandoned. In contrast, he noted with pleasure the statesmanlike policies adopted by the Government newly installed in Zimbabwe in order precisely to avoid those pitfalls. Barbados extended congratulations to the new Government and to the people of Zimbabwe.

28. In the final analysis, concrete action was what counted and the fight against racism, like charity, must

<sup>3</sup> See *Report of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 14-25 August 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XIV.2), chap. II.

<sup>4</sup> See A/34/439-S/13515, annex.

begin at home. One of the problems in newly independent countries with multiracial communities was the tendency of people to overreact in the knowledge that the great principles of dignity, racial equality and racial harmony had traditionally been defended with blood, sweat and tears against the forces of greed, prejudice and ruthless materialism: the greater the economic prize, the greater the abandonment of those principles. Therefore, it was important to be aware of the danger inherent in all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

29. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said that the international community, and in particular the African peoples who had suffered from the evils of colonialism and foreign exploitation, welcomed the independence of Zimbabwe as a triumph of the sacred right of peoples to self-determination and independence over the forces of aggression and foreign exploitation and of the ideals of justice and the genuine decolonization of Africa. The victory of the people of Zimbabwe strengthened the hope of other African peoples, victims of racism and racial discrimination, for their own liberation.

30. The independence of Zimbabwe would surely have a profound effect on the people of South Africa, who were the victims of the most odious form of foreign domination and the most abominable form of racism, namely, *apartheid*, a crime against humanity. Despite the international community's constant concern about the fate of those people, the Pretoria régime continued to flout the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.<sup>5</sup> Recently, that régime had even escalated its policy of oppression by making additional arrests of South African patriots, stepping up trials that were a travesty of justice and increasing the number of concentration camps throughout the country.

31. With the aim of intimidating neighbouring countries, the *apartheid* régime had also engaged in deliberate acts of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola and, as was reflected in the recent Security Council debate, against Zambia, which it wished to "punish" for its solidarity and support for liberation movements in Namibia and Zimbabwe.

32. However, that tragic situation could not have reached the proportions it now had without the continuing support of certain Western countries acting in defiance of decisions adopted by the General Assembly and in defence of their own selfish interests. In connexion with the Decade, the General Assembly had already emphasized the need to isolate the *apartheid* régime and had urged all Member States strictly to apply sanctions against racist régimes, "since any co-operation with them in the political, economic, military and other fields constitutes an impediment to the liberation of southern Africa" (resolution 34/24, annex, para. 3).

33. Her delegation had already stressed the collusion that existed between the racist *apartheid* régime and the Zionist régime, which employed similar methods in its policy of repression, even extermination, of the Arab people of Palestine. In addition to United Nations documentation on that matter, reference had been made at the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to the close collaboration between those two racist régimes. One could not condemn the racist policies of South Africa while overlooking its natural ally in a part of the world that was particularly dear to Algeria.

34. Unfortunately, other forms of racism and racial discrimination were being practised elsewhere in the world. In that connexion, the situation of migrant workers offered a

telling example and was a subject of constant concern to her country.

35. She expressed the hope that, by the end of the Decade, a positive evaluation could be made of the progress each Member State had pledged to make in combating racism and racial discrimination. Accordingly, her delegation was in favour of convening the Second World Conference in 1983 in order to find concrete ways and means of implementing the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations.

36. The Economic and Social Council would continue to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) by co-ordinating the Programme for the Decade and evaluating activities undertaken during the Decade, in the context of the guidelines recently laid down by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 34/24.

37. Mr. OZADOVSKY (Observer for the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) noted that the recent victory of the patriotic forces in Zimbabwe represented a significant contribution to the realization of the goals of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

38. It had been through the joint efforts of the socialist and the developing countries that General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) had been adopted and that the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade had been endorsed in 1979. He also drew attention to the important rôle played in that connexion by many United Nations bodies, in particular the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, of which his delegation was a member.

39. Despite the struggle of progressive forces throughout the world against racism and racial discrimination, many people continued to be victimized by those policies. As was apparent from the documentation submitted to the Council at its current session, many countries had still not joined in the measures taken and the activities being conducted in connexion with the Programme for the Decade and had not become parties to many international instruments ensuring human rights and freedoms. Their failure to do so revealed their true position and policy on the question of racism and racial discrimination. As several representatives had noted, in particular the representative of Algeria, States that gave political, economic, financial or other support in order to maintain the South African racist régime in power must share responsibility for the persistence of racism. Those Western countries that supported the *apartheid* régime were enabling South Africa to pursue its racist policies and to suppress the basic human rights of the indigenous population.

40. Racial discrimination was an anachronism in the contemporary world. The example of the socialist countries, in which hundreds of nationalities lived together in equality and co-operation, showed that there were opportunities to end policies of racism and racial discrimination. The year 1980 was particularly significant, because it marked the 110th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, who had founded the first socialist State. In that connexion, he noted that the Soviet people were particularly proud of the fact that, throughout their history, they had constantly advocated the progress of democracy, freedom, the independence of peoples and respect for human rights, as well as the elimination of racism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

41. The Ukrainian SSR was strongly in favour of the complete and rapid elimination of racism and racial discrimination and of the strict implementation of the Programme for the Decade. He pledged his country's full

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

support to the developing countries in the realization of their legitimate aspirations to self-determination and its support for any effective measures taken in connexion with the Decade, especially during the second half. During the second half of the Decade, the United Nations should step up its information activities on the objectives of the Decade without exceeding its budgetary limitations.

42. The struggle against *apartheid* and racial discrimination should also be reflected more fully in the work of the United Nations Secretariat and of the specialized agencies and should be taken into account in the preparation of radio programmes and films. The activities of the Department of Public Information were extremely important, because they could help to educate the public with a view to intensifying the struggle against racism and racial discrimination.

43. Mr. SORENSEN MOSQUERA (Venezuela) said that his delegation was particularly pleased to participate in the discussion on the occasion of the independence of the great people of Zimbabwe, who had fought so heroically to overcome racial discrimination and colonialism.

44. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), and in accordance with the spirit of equality deeply rooted in the Venezuelan people, Venezuela had consistently condemned all segregationist practices. That spirit was reflected in the Venezuelan Constitution, which prohibited all discrimination on the basis of race; sex, religion or social status. Venezuela had also supported all initiatives aimed at achieving that goal within the United Nations system: it had participated in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and had supported the establishment of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, urging that it be given the means necessary to enable it to play a role in the implementation of the Programme for the Decade.

45. He reiterated his delegation's solidarity with all people suffering from the institutionalized discriminatory practices of minority, racist Governments, including *apartheid*. As the Secretary-General had observed during a special meeting of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* held in 1979, in observance of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, so long as there was racial discrimination there could be no stability in any country: it was an anachronism at a time when the tide of history was sweeping the world towards racial equality.

46. In conclusion, his delegation wished to urge all countries to spare no effort to bring the reprehensible, inhuman and abominable practice of *apartheid* to an end before the end of the Decade.

47. Mr. HEPBURN (Bahamas) extended his Government's congratulations to the people of Zimbabwe on their independence and noted that, despite the problems confronting them, nothing could replace dignity, self-confidence and human integrity.

48. His delegation found the work of the Council, its subsidiary bodies and the non-governmental organizations, as described in documents E/1980/7 and Add. 1 and 2, to be particularly impressive, because they had apparently set specific goals, either explicitly or implicitly, and had then done their utmost to achieve those goals. In that connexion, he stressed that the Council, meeting as the working group of the whole called for in Council resolution 1979/3, paragraph 2, should seriously consider the possibility of explicitly encouraging all organizations working to achieve the objectives of the Decade to adopt—if they had not yet done so and if only on an experimental basis for the remainder of the Decade—precise, time-limited target activities for the implementation of the Programme for the Decade in areas in which they had special competence or expertise.

49. Nevertheless, the Council could not carry out its mandate without the active co-operation of all Member States at both the national and international levels. Although the Bahamas had ratified only the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>6</sup> among the primary international legal instruments on human rights, it recognized the general importance of all those instruments for the success of the Decade. It had not ratified them because the Constitution of the Bahamas already established the basic precepts contained in those instruments. Moreover, the Bahamas had consistently given moral and material support to the victims of human rights violations, both at home and abroad, for example by assimilating and extending fundamental rights and freedoms to immigrants and by providing material support to national liberation movements in southern Africa.

50. He stressed that all racial tension evident in the Bahamas was largely the result of imported influences, for example, of the policy to divide and rule followed during the colonial era and, more recently, of the presence of many immigrants and expatriates who, after arriving in the Bahamas, refused to treat his country's human resources as favourably as they did its natural and commercial resources. In that connexion, his delegation strongly endorsed the recommendation contained in resolution 8 (XXXV), paragraph 3 (c), of the Commission on Human Rights<sup>7</sup> that the Council should ensure the "proper focus on the social, economic, cultural, political and other roots of racial discrimination". A study on that subject and the follow-up action were important because, without an objective analysis of the influence such forces exerted on persistent racism and racial discrimination, national and international legislation would be to no avail.

51. Mr. FAURIS (France) said that his Government was continuing to participate in the Decade on the basis of the original Programme contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), without regard for any elements that had been added subsequently.

52. He emphasized that racial discrimination was held strongly in check in France and that the system of *apartheid* was contrary to the basic principles and legal order of French society. Discrimination and intolerance manifested themselves throughout the world in various forms and even where their presence was not evident, their reappearance was always possible. The fact that his Government had international relations with a given country in no way implied that it approved of its régime when the latter practised discrimination, intolerance or persecution.

53. At the national level, specific legal machinery was indispensable to the struggle against racism and one of the most striking contributions of the Programme for the Decade to that struggle was the legal one. His Government had adopted specific anti-racist laws, in compliance with a fundamental requirement of the Programme; with such rigorous legislation, his Government had sought to provide a legal framework within which the competent authorities could examine recourse procedures invoked by persons who claimed to have been victims of racial discrimination. Actions could be brought not only by the victims of racial discrimination but also by any association established for at least five years whose intention to combat racism was set out in its statutes. He expressed his delegation's concern at the attitude of certain States which, having adopted the Programme for the Decade, considered themselves to be free from any manifestation of racism and consequently

<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

<sup>7</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/36)*, chap. XXIV, sect. A.

abstained from adopting laws to prohibit racism and to provide effective recourse procedures. It was not acceptable that States which fully publicized legal decisions punishing racial discrimination, in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, should be accused of racism precisely because they were implementing the relevant legislation.

54. The efforts made by his Government to mobilize public opinion and institute anti-racist education were bearing fruit. The young were far less racially prejudiced than their elders, which augured well for the elimination of racism.

55. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's profound satisfaction at Zimbabwe's attainment of independence and extended its congratulations to the Government of Zimbabwe, particularly its Prime Minister, and its appreciation to the United Kingdom authorities for the role they had played. He expressed the hope that people in other areas of southern Africa would soon benefit from the democratic process which had triumphed in Zimbabwe.

56. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) noted with great pleasure that the current meeting of the Council coincided with the birth of the independent State of Zimbabwe. It had been an honour for his Government to be represented at Salisbury on the occasion of that historic event, which was undoubtedly a highlight of the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Paying a tribute to all those who had helped to make possible the victory of the democratic process in Zimbabwe, he expressed the hope that the example of that country would contribute to the peaceful realization of independence and self-determination for all the peoples in the region.

57. The international community should seek the greatest possible measure of agreement in identifying the specific evils reflecting racism and racial discrimination to be opposed and the practical form that opposition should take. Such agreement was vitally necessary if the aims and objectives of the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination were to be fully realized. Similarly, there must be co-operation on all sides to ensure the effectiveness of action which might be undertaken at the current session of the Economic and Social Council.

58. His country remained committed to the aims and objectives of the Decade and had participated in the regional seminar on recourse procedures available to victims of racial discrimination, held at Geneva in July 1979, within the framework of the Decade. The seminar had provided an opportunity for an exchange of views which had proved useful for an understanding of the various methods employed in the member countries of the Economic Commission for Europe to protect victims of racial discrimination. The success of the seminar derived in no small part from the commonsense manner in which the discussions had been conducted, and he hoped that a similar atmosphere would prevail in the deliberations of the Council.

59. Mr. LIVERMORE (Observer for Canada) briefly reviewed the background to the declaration of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the various concerns expressed by Governments in that connexion. It had in fact become clear that, in order to attain the objectives of the Decade, additional action and measures and programmes extending beyond 1983 would be needed. Moreover, the consensus existing at the beginning of the Decade had been lost, and division had arisen over the inclusion of certain concepts, which some delegations believed to be extraneous to the agreed purposes. In his delegation's opinion, one of the principal aims during the current year, as a follow-up to the International Anti-

*Apartheid* Year, should be to re-establish the consensus with regard to future programmes, activities and policies.

60. However, despite those difficulties, undeniably positive developments had taken place during the Decade. In Zimbabwe, the international community had witnessed events unparalleled in the history of decolonization: a minority régime yielding, through negotiation, to international demands for responsible government and an electoral process supervised and monitored by outside authorities as a guarantee of the integrity of the results. Surely all Governments were pleased to welcome Zimbabwe into the family of independent States and, presumably, to membership in the United Nations in the near future.

61. With regard to Namibia, on which United Nations-sponsored negotiations were continuing, the Secretary-General, the front-line States, SWAPO and the five Western negotiators had reaffirmed their commitment to a just settlement, based on Security Council decisions. However, progress depended upon the Government of South Africa and upon the Namibians themselves. The recent election in Zimbabwe had provided a useful demonstration that the electoral process, far from being a potential threat to security, could resolve situations in a peaceful and just manner and could facilitate efforts to bring together diverse elements of society. However, it was equally clear that, should South Africa reject such a process, the probable alternatives were increased violence and isolation by the international community. Endless discussion was no substitute for meaningful action and significant progress was essential for the continuation of negotiations.

62. Although the main focus of the Decade had been on international action, particularly in southern Africa, the programmes for the Decade at the national level had been equally important. Racism was not only a set of legal barriers and express actions; it also consisted of entrenched and ingrained attitudes, many of which derived from societal norms of behaviour, and no society was completely free of the ignorance and misconceptions that gave rise to racism.

63. The elimination of racism required an integrated approach that included efforts to change attitudes and specific, practical, legal guarantees to protect the victims of discrimination. In Canada, both the federal Government and the provincial authorities had launched programmes dedicated to the elimination of discriminatory attitudes. In addition, human rights legislation had been adopted in every Canadian legal jurisdiction to provide legal recourse against all forms of discrimination.

64. One of the most important activities of the Decade at the national level, which deserved greater publicity and attention, was the seminar on recourse procedures for victims of racial discrimination, held at Geneva in July 1979. The seminar had concluded that, notwithstanding the existence of legal guarantees against discrimination, adequate recourse procedures were needed to ensure that legal provisions were actually applied. Such procedures would necessarily vary from State to State, depending on the legal system and on social traditions. The seminar had also specified the elements it considered instrumental in making such procedures effective for all members of society. In his delegation's opinion, it was of major importance in the United Nations system that the seminar had recognized that such procedures were essential for combating discrimination. His delegation believed that the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar should be followed up in the context of the continuing activities during the Decade and, where possible, extended to other relevant areas, such as discrimination on the grounds of sex, religion, language or political and other opinions.

65. Mr. MARDOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the struggle for the total elimination of the breeding grounds for racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, to eliminate all the vestiges of the system of colonial oppression, to end the infringement of equal rights and to achieve the independence of peoples, was among the most important of international objectives. The consistent struggle to eradicate racism and racial discrimination played a vital role in the over-all struggle for peace and international co-operation, for the freedom and independence of peoples, for ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms and for socio-economic progress.

66. By proclaiming the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the United Nations had expressed its firm resolve to bring about the complete and final elimination of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. Implementation of the aims of the Decade was currently a task of the first importance for the international community, and required, as never before, the joint action and effort of all the Member States of the United Nations.

67. His country noted with satisfaction that the beginning of the second half of the Decade had been marked by the resounding victory of the patriotic forces of Zimbabwe in the general election held in that country. That victory was an appropriate conclusion to the heroic struggle which the people of Zimbabwe had waged for many years to achieve freedom and independence and to eliminate the racist régime. That struggle, led by the Patriotic Front, had enjoyed the support of the socialist countries and of all the progressive forces of the world.

68. While welcoming the victory of the people of Zimbabwe, it was none the less necessary to point out that serious obstacles to the achievement of the aims of the Decade remained. One such obstacle was the criminal policy of *apartheid* and colonialism practised by the racist régime of South Africa as a matter of Government policy. The existence of the racist régime of Pretoria, which was still cynically ignoring all United Nations decisions intended to bring to an end the inhuman policy of *apartheid* and racial discrimination, to end the illegal occupation of Namibia and to ensure observance of the right of peoples to self-determination, was a serious threat to the countries of Africa and to peace and international security. The United Nations had insistently urged States to make every effort to isolate the South African racist régime completely and to curtail all co-operation with it in political, economic, military and other fields.

69. However, the imperialist monopolies, and certain Western countries whose protection they enjoyed, were continuing to sabotage all United Nations decisions in that matter, including the Programme for the Decade, and were indeed strengthening and extending their co-operation with the South African racists. The most dangerous form which that co-operation assumed, particularly in view of South Africa's acts of aggression against neighbouring States and against the African national liberation movements, was the continuing military collaboration of a number of Western countries with the South African racists, a collaboration which included the creation of a South African nuclear capability. The specific examples given in the statement of the Director of the World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa at the 25th meeting of the Security Council Committee Established by Resolution 421 (1977) concerning the Question of South Africa<sup>8</sup> showed that the Security Council's embargo on arms to South Africa was not working at all, because in those areas where it had applied, the South African régime,

together with its allies, had been able to use devious routes, often with the connivance of high-level Government officials, to secure ammunition and equipment.

70. The attempts made at various times in the United Nations by Western countries, and particularly by the United States, to prove the "impossibility" of applying the sanctions and other decisions approved in the United Nations with regard to the *apartheid* régime in South Africa, were totally unconvincing and inconsistent. Representatives of those countries were continuing to impede the adoption of decisions providing for effective measures to suppress South Africa's aggressive policy. At the same time, they were acting as direct accomplices of the South African racist régime in carrying out massive repression against the patriots of Namibia and South Africa through acts of aggression and provocation against Angola, Zambia and other neighbouring African States.

71. As a number of previous speakers had noted, Israel's policy of massive repression with regard to the Arab people in the occupied Arab territories, and in Israel itself, was a source of deep concern to the international community. That repression, together with the establishment of new Israeli settlements and other actions infringing the legal rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to establish their own independent State, were a clear indication of the racist character of Zionism.

72. Racism and racial discrimination were still used in the exploitation of man by man, and continued to cause suffering to millions of workers in a large number of countries. Migrant workers and their families in a number of capitalist countries were exposed to various forms of discrimination. Hitherto, many Western countries had not complied with the important provision of the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination contained in paragraph 15 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 34/24, which stated: "All States should adopt, as a matter of high priority, measures to declare punishable by law any dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred and to prohibit organizations based on racial prejudice and hatred, including neo-Nazi and Fascist organizations and private clubs and institutions established on the basis of racial criteria or propagating ideas of racial discrimination and *apartheid*."

73. Western countries were still refusing to become parties to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*<sup>9</sup> and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>6</sup> both of which had an important place in the combined efforts of States to implement the Programme of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

74. In his country, as in all the republics of the Soviet Union, all traces of racial discrimination and national inequality had been totally eliminated. The principle of the equal rights of citizens was affirmed in his country's Constitution and applied in every sphere of economic, political, social and cultural life, irrespective of race or nationality. Legislation punished any restriction of rights, or the granting of any direct or indirect privileges to citizens on grounds of race or nationality, and also prohibited all propaganda based on racial or national exclusiveness, hostility or contempt.

75. Guided in its foreign policy by Leninist principles, his country had consistently advocated the elimination of racism and racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations. It advocated the unconditional implementa-

<sup>8</sup> See S/AC.20/SR.25.

<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex.

tion by all States of the Programme for the Decade and the other decisions of the United Nations on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. It was also ready to support other effective measures or proposals within the framework of the United Nations system which had as their objective the achievement of the objectives of the Decade.

76. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said that it was pointless to talk of a new world order based on complementarity and solidarity or to contemplate a new international economic order at a time when a large proportion of mankind was still subject to the shameful practices associated with racial discrimination. The racist régime of South Africa continued its aggression against other African countries and was still blocking the efforts of the people of Namibia to achieve their independence, just as the Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories were continuing to deny the Palestinian people their right to sovereignty and self-determination. Such activities were clearly in defiance of the wishes of the international community.

77. The oppressed peoples which were victims of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* had a right to demand that the international community take specific steps for redress of their grievances. The humanitarian language used in international resolutions was of little value to those whose day-to-day lives were affected by racial discrimination. It was essential that all countries should acknowledge their responsibilities by taking appropriate practical measures to combat racism.

78. His country resolutely condemned the detestable régime of *apartheid* in South Africa, and was making every effort to isolate and destroy that régime. It supported the Namibian people in their struggle, and would continue to extend aid and co-operation to its legitimate representative, SWAPO. It would also continue to give assistance to all similar freedom movements, particularly in Africa.

79. The results of the Decade had so far been unsatisfactory, and the actions taken by countries in a position to exert pressure on South Africa and Israel had not fulfilled the expectations of the international community. South Africa's recent aggression against Zambia showed that the Pretoria régime could still defy the wishes of that community with impunity, while continued Israeli persecution of the people of the occupied Arab territories was a further example of the ineffectiveness of international action.

80. However, there could be no doubt about the ultimate outcome of the struggle of the oppressed peoples, as could be seen from the successful struggle of the people of Zimbabwe, led by the Patriotic Front, to achieve their independence. His delegation paid a tribute to the Zimbabwean people for the sacrifices they had made and the courage they had shown over many years. Their achievement was a victory not only for Africa but for the third world as a whole.

81. In conclusion, he said that the Council had a moral obligation to help to accelerate the process of the emancipation of oppressed people. His delegation would support all resolutions that the Council might decide to adopt to that end, especially a favourable decision for the convening of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

82. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Ghana) said that, in the discussion of item 2, many speakers had expressed satisfaction at the accession of Zimbabwe to independence. His delegation, after consultation with others, felt it appropriate that the Council should take some action in recognition of the event, and therefore proposed that the President of the Council should transmit the following text to the President of

Zimbabwe: "The Council, meeting to consider the matter of the United Nations Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, wishes to express its satisfaction at the independence of Zimbabwe, which will be celebrated on 18 April 1980, and to state its view that this marks a major step towards the achievement of the objectives of the Decade."

83. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would assume that the Council wished to take the action recommended by the representative of Ghana.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/112).

84. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom) thanked the delegations which had recognized the role of his Government in the process leading to the independence of Zimbabwe. His country had been glad to make its contribution, but he felt it fair to point out that many others had been involved, and he particularly commended the efforts made by the Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries at their meeting at Lusaka in August 1979. The period leading to independence had been fraught with many difficulties, and he was glad to be able to welcome the accession of the people of Zimbabwe to independence. His delegation looked forward to the time when the country would take its place in the United Nations.

## AGENDA ITEM 1

### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)\* (E/1980/L.16)

#### CHANGES IN THE CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS (E/1980/L.16)

85. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the changes in the calendar of conferences and meetings proposed in document E/1980/L.16.

86. Mr. GARCÍA REYNOSO (Mexico) said he was pleased to announce that his Government had confirmed its offer to act as host to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its sixth session, from 23 June to 4 July 1980 at Mexico City. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 31/140, his Government would be responsible for all additional expenses incurred by the session.

87. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would assume that the Council wished to accept the offer made by the Government of Mexico. He would also take it that the Council would agree that the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct should be rescheduled from 21 April to 2 May to 12 to 21 May 1980.

*It was so decided*. (decision 1980/113).

88. Mr. METELITS (United States of America) said that it appeared that the reason for the postponement of the session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct was that the Secretariat unit responsible had been unable to complete its work on time. While welcoming the generous offer of the Government of Mexico to act as host to the session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, he could not but deplore the reasons for the postponement of the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group. Had there been a separate vote on that particular proposal, his delegation would have opposed the delay.

*The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.*

\* Resumed from the 5th meeting.

# 10th meeting

Monday, 21 April 1980, at 11.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.10

## AGENDA ITEM 2

### Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1980/7 and Add.1 and 2, E/1980/10 and Add.1-3, E/1980/L.19)

1. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria), introducing the draft resolution contained in document E/1980/L.19 on behalf of the sponsors, said that despite all the professions of faith expressed by Member States since the founding of the United Nations, there had been a steady intensification of racism and racial discrimination; a collective effort was therefore needed to achieve the total elimination of that scourge. It was in that context that the General Assembly had proclaimed the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.<sup>1</sup> The regular reports submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) reflected the concern of Member States to fulfil, through their national legislation, the commitment they had undertaken when they had supported the proclamation of the Decade. At the international level, the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had made it possible to channel actions at all levels towards the attainment of the goals established in the Programme for the Decade annexed to the aforementioned resolution. By its resolution 34/24, the General Assembly had adopted the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade. Under General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), the Economic and Social Council had been requested to assume responsibility for co-ordinating the Programme for the Decade and evaluating activities undertaken during the Decade, and it was in fulfilment of that task that the Council, if it adopted the draft resolution contained in document E/1980/L.19, would be recommending the subordinate text for adoption by the General Assembly. Since publication of that document, the delegations of Cyprus and the German Democratic Republic had joined the list of sponsors. The draft resolution drew on some of the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/3, of General Assembly resolution 34/24, including the annex thereto containing the programme of activities, and of Assembly resolution 34/93 A.

2. She drew particular attention to those preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution referring to the acts of aggression on the part of the Pretoria *apartheid* régime, the threat that that régime posed to international peace and security, collaboration with that racist régime, and the victory of the people of Zimbabwe in defeating the minority racist régime in that country, and to operative paragraph 12, in which the Special Committee against *Apartheid* was congratulated for its efforts, most recently by the meeting of the International Seminar on an Oil Embargo against South Africa, held at Amsterdam. In operative paragraph 17, 1983 had been decided on as the date for the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, with preparatory work to begin at the Council's first regular

session of 1981. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution, which reflected the concerns of Member States and the need for concerted efforts and universal solidarity to eliminate racism and thereby ensure the achievement of the ideals of justice and equality among peoples, would be adopted without major difficulty.

*Mr. Xifra de Ocerín (Spain), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

3. Mr. CAHANA (Observer for Israel) said that, once again, certain delegations had used the Council to pursue their campaign of hostility and slander against Israel and its people. To do so under the pretext of combating racism was utterly cynical and grotesque. The campaign was based on false charges and malicious innuendoes which had regrettably been introduced into several documents relating to the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and into a number of resolutions which had aroused sincere indignation among men of conscience and caused a split among Member States.

4. It was no coincidence that the countries which, time and again, had uttered meaningless, standardized slogans against his country, had failed to distinguish themselves either by respect for their own ethnic, religious or cultural minorities or by conspicuous concern for human rights and the freedom of their citizens at home. Because of the hostile references to Israel and zionism which they contained, the resolutions relating, *inter alia*, to the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination were highly objectionable, and had aroused profound indignation and opposition on the part of numerous nations and important organizations and sectors of world public opinion noted for active support of human rights.

5. When the Programme for the Decade had first been recommended to the General Assembly, the delegation of Israel, out of abhorrence for the very notion of discrimination based on race, colour or religion, and because the Jewish people had for centuries been victims of racism in various parts of the world, had supported it firmly and unequivocally.

6. As a democracy with diverse ethnic, religious and linguistic groupings, the State of Israel had, from its inception, sought to ensure equality of social and political rights for all its inhabitants and had striven for the elimination of any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference founded on race, colour and national or ethnic origin which, as manifested by the *apartheid* régime in South Africa, nullified equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. His country had been eager to participate in the Decade, but it was not long before Arab extremists, themselves racists, began to use the issue in their political and military belligerency towards Israel and, through distortion, name-calling, and political and economic arm-twisting, in which oil and petrodollars played a decisive rôle, managed to inject their own prejudice and hostility towards Israel into resolutions and declarations of the United Nations and of other international forums.

7. Those who had launched a war of genocide against the Kurdish people, had massacred over half a million blacks in

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII).

Africa and who held a tiny Jewish community hostage to political hatred, maintained that the vast area between the Atlantic and the Persian Gulf should be exclusively Arab. Those who were making the lives of non-Muslim communities in Arab countries intolerable had the gall, together with their allies, to usurp the banner of combat against racism in their unholy war against a people and a nation which had been both victims of racism and consistent fighters against racial discrimination. The unwarranted campaign at the United Nations against Israel and zionism was waged for purely partisan political purposes; there was no resemblance between zionism and racism; on the contrary, zionism represented a revolt against discrimination, and sought genuinely to counteract racism.

8. Regrettably, Israel's relations with many Arabs were still marred by political or military conflict. It was true that there were significant cultural differences between Israelis and Arabs, and there might indeed be disagreement regarding Israeli military administration, but it was persistent, implacable Arab hostility, subversion and terror, that forced Israel to take defensive and precautionary security measures. There was nothing in its attitude towards Arabs which could be described in terms of racism or racial discrimination, but Arabs who refused to treat Israel other than as an enemy could not expect Israel to treat them otherwise. Like the greatest of Arab nations, which had recently made peace with Israel, those who refrained from hostility found Israel most forthcoming. The attitude of its people to those of Egypt was marked by an outpouring of friendship and respect.

9. By condemning zionism, the enemies of Israel questioned the very right of that country to exist and of its people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty. The attempt to question its nationalism was not only anti-Israel and anti-Zionist, but also anti-Semitic; it was one manifestation of the evil of discrimination which the United Nations had been designed to combat and eliminate.

10. Zionism might well be considered the oldest of liberation movements. It stood for a nationalism which was as natural and legitimate as that of any other State Member of the United Nations, and had sought to free a people from racial and religious persecution and a foreign yoke. To equate zionism with racism was to equate the nationalism of any nation with racism. The success of the unholy alliance of anti-Israelis and anti-Semites in inserting condemnatory and vicious references to zionism in international resolutions and declarations merely demonstrated their ability to manipulate the international organizations involved by mutilating the truth and distorting and abusing the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. If the United Nations' fight against racism was to be based on intellectual and

moral integrity, the Organization had first to free itself from the cloud of cynicism and falsehood which would continue to hang over its efforts as long as it continued to equate zionism with racism.

11. Many Member States had pledged support for the cause of peace between Israel and the Arabs; that could not be advanced through the abuse and vilification of one party; trust was required for reconciliation. Only positive and forceful action could put a permanent end to such a farce and he appealed to the Council to reject unequivocally any renewed attempt to perpetuate falsehood and lies, and called for whole-hearted support for genuine efforts to end racism.

12. Mr. AL-ZUBI (Jordan) observed that the representative of the Zionist, racist Israeli entity had tried hard to justify its illegal activities and daily intimidation of the Palestinian people. Deportation, expropriation of land and the seizure of schools and properties were continuing. Indeed, only recently the Security Council had been discussing the measures taken by the Israelis in response to demonstrations at Hebron by the indigenous Palestinian people in defence of rights enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in various resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies.

13. His delegation reserved its right to refute the allegations of the Israeli representative at the Council's following meeting.

14. Referring to the draft resolution contained in document E/1980/L.19, he said that it was time for the Council to take a stand. It was not only peoples in southern Africa who were suffering as a result of racism. By its resolution 3379 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, the General Assembly had determined that zionism was a form of racism; the draft resolution should therefore make mention of the occupied Arab territories. He proposed the insertion of words to that effect in operative paragraphs 2 and 8 of the draft resolution contained in document E/1980/L.19, immediately after the references to southern Africa. In the last line of operative paragraph 9, "zionism" should be inserted between "racial discrimination" and "apartheid".

15. The PRESIDENT requested that the representative of Jordan submit his amendments to the Secretariat in writing so that the sponsors could consider them.

16. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) announced that the Sudan had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution contained in document E/1980/L.19.

17. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council would resume consideration of the draft resolution when the statement of financial implications was available.

*The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.*

## 11th meeting

Wednesday, 23 April 1980, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

### AGENDA ITEM 15

**Humanitarian assistance programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa (E/1980/44, E/1980/L.22)**

1. Mr. GALIB (Observer for Somalia) pointed out the necessity of mobilizing international assistance in order to

avert starvation and death for hundreds of thousands of people now living in refugee camps and among the population of Somalia. The interagency United Nations mission which had visited Somalia in December 1979 had estimated in its report (E/1980/44) that the assistance required for 1980 amounted to approximately \$120 million, with an additional sum of about \$20 million for infrastructure and other camp support facilities. Somalia alone could

E/1980/SR.11

not carry the heavy burden of a massive influx of refugees totalling one quarter of its population, 90 per cent of whom were women and children in poor health and in desperate straits.

2. The appeals for assistance made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had met with a generous response but, regrettably, the amounts so far received or pledged fell far short of the needs. The amount of basic food supplies so far pledged, for example, came to less than one quarter of the quantities needed for a camp population of 640,000, and the United Nations estimates, based on the latter figure, should in any event be increased by 17 per cent to cover a camp population of 750,000, as revealed by a subsequent field mission review carried out jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), which had calculated the daily influx of refugees at 2,000. The refugees, although predominantly Somalis from western Somalia, included 15 to 20 per cent non-Somalis, who faced language difficulties.

3. As the minister responsible for refugee affairs, he had frequently visited the camps and was personally familiar with the prevailing conditions. The international and Somali volunteers working among the refugees under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were to be commended for labouring around the clock under great strain because of the enormity of the problems involved. They included doctors, paramedicals and other relief workers provided by such voluntary organizations as Médecins sans frontières of France, the Catholic Institute of International Rehabilitation of the United Kingdom, the University Association of International Co-operation of Italy, the Swedish Disaster Relief Organization, the Swiss Relief Operations and OXFAM. The health situation in the camps was particularly acute, because 61 per cent of the refugees were children and there was an extreme shortage of doctors, nurses and medicines. At one camp he had recently visited there were 20 deaths per day, mostly of children.

4. For every refugee in the camps there were two non-camp refugees, including large numbers of rural people who had crossed over with some of their livestock and had put a great burden on the country's limited resources in grazing areas, food, clothing, medicines and basic services such as water supply, health care and education.

5. The refugee situation in Somalia, already recognized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as the most serious in the world, might yet prove catastrophic unless the international community made concerted and immediate efforts to avert a human disaster of the greatest magnitude. He appealed to the Council to adopt the kind of resolution that would mobilize the needed humanitarian assistance.

6. Mr. KELLY (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that the number of refugees and displaced persons in the four countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan had greatly increased from the figure of approximately 1 million in April 1978, when UNHCR had made a special appeal for its humanitarian assistance programmes in the Horn of Africa, which the Council had endorsed in its resolution 1978/39.

7. Djibouti, a country of some 300,000 inhabitants, had given asylum to refugees now totalling 20,000, with a steady inflow of about 300 a month. UNHCR had contributed \$2 million from the 1978 appeal, and was contributing some \$1 million in 1980 to assist the Government in providing food, medical facilities, education and a transit centre. The opportunities for local integration were ex-

tremely limited, and many of the refugees, particularly those at university level, wished to go elsewhere. UNHCR had sought resettlement opportunities with prospects of some success, but continued efforts were needed not only to assist the refugees in their dire straits but also to find long-term solutions for them.

8. In Ethiopia, UNHCR had established a \$5 million programme for 150,000 displaced persons with funds from its 1978 appeal. As the number of displaced persons had increased in 1979, UNHCR had made a further \$2 million available for local settlement, food, transportation of relief goods, medical supplies and reconstruction of schools and clinics to benefit some 20,000 families among the new arrivals in Bale and Sidamo provinces. In 1980, the remaining balance of the 1978 appeal, \$610,000, was being provided for relief assistance for displaced persons in Ethiopia.

9. In Somalia, where, as indicated in document E/1980/44, paragraph 35, Government sources had estimated that the average number of refugees in camps would reach between 640,000 and 750,000 in 1980, UNHCR had had to increase its special relief operations from \$3.3 million in 1978 to \$7.4 million in 1979. In addition to the requirement for food through WFP, the interagency mission estimated a requirement of \$40.7 million for general relief through UNHCR, and contributions towards that target had so far reached \$15.7 million. In view of the extremely urgent situation facing the refugees in Somalia, UNHCR staff in the country had been considerably strengthened.

10. In the Sudan, there had been massive influxes of refugees during 1978 and 1979, and UNHCR had contributed \$3 million towards their relief and settlement in rural agricultural programmes for 42,000 refugees. The number of refugees in the Sudan had reached an estimated 441,000 by 1980, and the UNHCR allocation for that year had been increased to \$9 million, including \$1.5 million for the education of the many young people among them. UNHCR had also strengthened its staff in the Sudan. The Government of the Sudan had called a special International Conference on Refugees in the Sudan at Khartoum for June 1980, to which UNHCR wished all success.

11. It could thus be seen that the situation of the refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa was an extremely serious one. The Office of the High Commissioner, with its limited funding, was doing all in its power to assist, but in the long run it depended on contributions from Governments to meet needs which far outstripped its resources. It had the firm expectation that the Council would assist it to assist the afflicted.

12. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said that the political and military situation in the Horn of Africa, and the events that had occurred there since Somalia's independence in 1960, were well known to all members of the Council and provided the proper perspective on the question of the so-called refugees in Somalia. The issue, ostensibly humanitarian, was being raised in an attempt to gain by cynicism and propaganda what had not been gained by stealth and open war.

13. Ethiopia's long anti-colonialist struggle was well known. Somalia, heir to the colonialist dream of expansionism, had furthered its absurd territorial claims against Ethiopia in three aggressive wars in less than two decades, at first using troops disguised as nomadic herdsmen and exploiting the general ethnic similarities of the peoples of the Horn of Africa, which were strongest in the border areas. The loss of life, destruction and disruption in Ethiopia had been incalculable. The Somali army had sustained heavy losses as well, and the fortunate few who had returned to their country were the wounded and maimed. Thus, the Somali

population now had an abnormal proportion of women and children, and that was reflected in the so-called refugee camps.

14. It was clear that Somalia felt restive and economically insecure in view of its extreme poverty further aggravated by war and recurrent severe droughts. Although the seriousness of the situation brought about by the droughts was clearly stated in paragraph 27 of the report of the mission to Somalia (E/1980/44), the observer for Somalia, in describing the refugee problem to the Council, had not once mentioned the latest drought, which was the real cause of the massive human tragedy in that country. The drought-stricken population and the families of war victims were being herded into makeshift camps and paraded before the international community as refugees.

15. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia), speaking on a point of order, said that the representative of Ethiopia should limit his remarks to the subject under consideration.

16. The PRESIDENT requested the representative of Ethiopia to adhere to the agenda item under consideration.

17. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, said that, since Somalia was not a member of the Economic and Social Council, its observer had no right to comment on the contents of a statement made by a member of the Council. There was no provision in the rules of procedure which permitted an observer to speak on a point of order. Furthermore, any proposal made by an observer must be supported by a member of the Council in order to be considered. He therefore requested the President to give the floor only to members of the Council.

18. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure, the Council could invite any Member of the United Nations that was not a member of the Council to participate in its deliberations, but a State thus invited did not have the right to vote. On the other hand, a clear distinction should be drawn between matters to be treated in exercise of the right of reply and matters which were points of order.

19. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said that the Government of Somalia sought to acquire international assistance for the drought victims and to use the false issue of refugees for the purpose of continuing its gross interference in the internal affairs of Ethiopia. It was essential that the international community should clearly establish the *bona fide* character of the so-called refugees claimed by Somalia, whose number far exceeded the total population of those areas of Ethiopia from which they allegedly came. Until that was done, international assistance to Somalia must be strictly humanitarian in character and must be used solely to save the lives of those suffering from the drought or from the war efforts of their bellicose leaders. Too many wars had been waged in that area by Somalia, resulting in wanton killing, destruction and untold human suffering. Preparations for another war were fully under way, and in the past few weeks alone the regular army of Somalia had penetrated some 50 to 80 kilometres into Ethiopian territory.

20. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said that the representative of Ethiopia was using the Council as a forum simply to attack the Somali Government. He was dealing with matters which were outside the scope of the Council's debate.

21. The PRESIDENT said there was no doubt that the mandate of the Council as envisaged by the Charter of the United Nations was limited to certain economic and social matters. Although a debate on a humanitarian issue had to include the geographical and historical context of the case in question, matters that were essentially political should not

be dealt with. He requested the representative of Ethiopia to confine himself to the matter under discussion and refrain from referring to political issues.

22. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said that whatever food, medical supplies and other assistance were made available to the drought-stricken population of Somalia would continue to be diverted to the war effort while starving women and children and disabled persons were assembled in camps, ostensibly as refugees, in order to attract international assistance. Under those circumstances, and as long as Somalia continued its war of aggression, Ethiopia would regard all assistance to Somalia as a direct subsidy to that country's war effort.

23. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said that the representative of Ethiopia was making accusations which had no basis in fact. He again asked the President to request the representative of Ethiopia to confine his remarks to the agenda item under consideration.

24. Mr. AFANASIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, according to rule 43 of the rules of procedure, a representative might at any time raise a point of order. That rule did not apply to observers, and the observer for Somalia therefore had no right constantly to interfere with the work of the Council.

25. The PRESIDENT said that, in rule 43, the word "representative" referred either to a member of the Council or to an observer. He appealed to all members and observers to adhere to the rules of procedure and refrain from raising points of order. Ample opportunity would be given for the exercise of the right of reply.

26. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said that the Government of Somalia, in an attempt to extract the maximum possible profit from the current dangerous international situation, had openly offered its country as a military base for use by the highest bidder. While Somalia was pressing a leading member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for sophisticated military equipment to sustain its ongoing aggression against Ethiopia, the international community was required to undertake the urgent task of feeding, clothing and sheltering the victims of the drought and the needy in Somalia, thus relieving the Government of that responsibility. The people of the war-torn region had been subjected to too many calamities for far too long. After the drought of 1973, hundreds of thousands of people had starved to death before news of the situation had reached the outside world. Thanks to the prompt and generous assistance of the international community, the Government of Ethiopia, as early as 1976, had not only built the necessary infrastructure to provide relief but also produced enough surplus grain to assist drought-stricken nomads in the region. The war of aggression unleashed by Somalia in June 1977 had resulted in the destruction of that infrastructure and had displaced nearly 2 million people. Since the primary concern of those displaced people was safety, it was only natural that a few hundred had fled to Somalia; some of them had later returned to Ethiopia, where they were now receiving assistance.

27. Lastly, he drew attention to draft resolution E/1980/L.22 on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia and expressed the hope that, in the light of his remarks, the Council would adopt it.

28. Mr. ELFAKI (Observer for the Sudan) said that in recent years the number of registered refugees who for various reasons had taken refuge in the Sudan had increased to about half a million. Although that number seriously strained its limited resources, his Government was steadfast in its commitment to provide all possible humanitarian aid and to implement all regional and international conventions

on the rights of refugees. With the help of UNHCR and some voluntary organizations, it had been able partially to alleviate the plight of the growing number of refugees by providing relief assistance and establishing a number of organized settlements where some of them had really become self-supporting. Despite those efforts, the continuous influx of refugees had rendered the attempts to establish regular settlements with an acceptable standard of living relatively negligible and was placing severe strains on municipal and other services in the urban centres where many of them had spontaneously settled.

29. He recalled that, at the thirtieth session of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner, the Sudan had announced that it was designating 1980 as a year devoted to refugee problems in the Sudan in order to focus the attention of the international community on the plight of the refugees.<sup>1</sup> In order to solicit as much help as possible, the Government was convening an International Conference on Refugees in the Sudan at Khartoum on 20 June 1980. Its main objective was to launch an international campaign to draw the world's attention to the seriousness of the problems of refugees in the Sudan. It was hoped that the Conference and the ensuing campaign would generate the resources necessary to finance various projects aimed at putting an end to spontaneous refugee settlement and to provide the majority of the refugees with regular settlements equipped with all infra-structural services needed to attain self-sufficiency. He appealed to all friendly countries, international and regional organizations and non-governmental and voluntary organizations to participate effectively in the Khartoum Conference and contribute generously in support of his Government's efforts to alleviate the plight of the refugees. A draft resolution to that effect would be submitted to the Council, and he hoped that it would receive the support of members.

30. Mr. KANE (Senegal) said that, as the representative of a country far removed from the Horn of Africa, he hoped to be able to bring some calm to the discussion. Believing that the item before the Council was purely humanitarian in nature, his delegation would be among the sponsors of three draft resolutions that were to be submitted. The need for humanitarian assistance in the area was urgent and very great, in view of the number of refugees who were dying every day in the camps in Somalia and the explosive military and strategic situation, which meant that refugees were left to their own devices. There were various reasons why they had left their own countries, but the fact remained that refugees constituted almost a quarter of the total population of Somalia and that some 20,000 had been registered in Djibouti, while it was estimated that twice that number had crossed the frontier. In the Sudan, which had common frontiers with nine countries, there were undoubtedly far more than the 400,000 refugees that the Government had managed to register. A picture of the immensity of the needs had been given by the representative of UNHCR and the observer for Somalia. The group of countries that would be sponsoring the draft resolution on humanitarian assistance to Somalia believed that the plight of refugees and displaced persons was a human problem; it was not a matter of attributing blame or of making accusations against their countries of origin. As Senegal knew from its own experience, when a Government decided to give refuge to a national liberation movement it inevitably had to be prepared to take in refugees.

31. He noted that those who had opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda had promptly proceeded to submit a

draft resolution; he welcomed that as proof that the proponents of its inclusion had been correct. Indeed, his delegation would have been happy to join the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.22 if it had been approached. In one of the draft resolutions that would be before the Council, a call would be made for the holding of an international conference similar to those that had taken place in connexion with Vietnamese and Kampuchean refugees. It was hoped that the international community would be able to assist refugees in the Horn of Africa, as it had in other parts of the world.

32. Mr. MBAPILA (United Republic of Tanzania) expressed strong support for the wise remarks made by the representative of Senegal. His delegation would also be willing to sponsor all the draft resolutions dealing with humanitarian assistance to refugees in the Horn of Africa, which it hoped the Council would be able to adopt by consensus.

33. At a conservative estimate, there were some 4 million refugees in Africa. However, those in the Horn of Africa were currently facing the most serious problems, and the international community and the United Nations system should give them top priority.

34. Mr. JERE (Malawi), introducing draft resolution E/1980/L.22 on behalf of the sponsors, pointed out that, as suggested during the Council's consideration of agenda item 3, dealing with, *inter alia*, assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (6th meeting), the text included paragraphs that had been removed from the draft resolution contained in document E/1980/L.18. The new draft resolution on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia had been very carefully worded in order to avoid any controversy, and the sponsors therefore hoped that there would be no difficulty in reaching a consensus on it. They requested the Council to take prompt action.

35. The PRESIDENT said that, since the draft resolution had financial implications, it would be taken up by the Council at a later stage.

36. Mr. FARAH DIRIR (Observer for Djibouti) said that the disgraceful plight of refugees and displaced persons throughout the world was a man-made problem of vast proportions requiring a man-made solution. His delegation joined others in calling for the widest possible participation of the international community, in order to meet the demands of those who could rightly be described as "the wretched of the earth". Without the continued involvement and active support of the international community as a whole, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would be unable to pursue the task of securing safe asylum for refugees and displaced persons and meeting their basic needs. His delegation shared the High Commissioner's concern at the gravity of the situation in the Horn of Africa and supported the appeal for international assistance and co-operation. Djibouti, as one of the countries concerned, was grateful for the assistance which had already been provided and which was producing positive results, not least because of his Government's willingness to co-operate closely with the High Commissioner's staff, with those of other agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and with the various non-governmental organizations.

37. The refugee problem had been a constant concern of his Government since independence. The fact that refugees now accounted for 15 per cent of the total population placed a heavy burden on the Government in its efforts to improve the country's poor social services. The basic needs of officially registered refugees were being met at two refugee

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/34/12/Add.1)*, para. 24.

camps, thanks to the efforts of the High Commissioner, but most refugees had been assimilated into families, thereby placing an additional burden on meagre household resources, or were in transit camps or, worse still, were without any kind of shelter or relief. The major problems were inadequate food supplies, medical care and health facilities and a shortage of clothing and shelter. Despite the considerable efforts of the voluntary organization Médecins sans frontières, children and nursing mothers were suffering from protein deficiencies, and the refugees as a whole were prey to disease and malnutrition. Tented accommodation was overcrowded, and many refugees had only temporary shelters built of corrugated iron or cardboard, while others had none at all; that was a particularly serious problem in a severe and arid climate.

38. The Government had established a long-term programme to cope with the refugee situation, but success would depend on the support of the international community in helping to resettle the substantial number of refugees who could not be integrated into the local population. He therefore hoped that all sectors of the international community would respond generously to the High Commissioner's appeal. His delegation would shortly be circulating a draft resolution on aid to Djibouti.

39. The PRESIDENT announced that Kenya had become a sponsor of draft resolution E/1980/L.22.

40. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Council had heard a virulent attack on his Government by the representative of Ethiopia, who had seen fit, for political reasons, to raise matters which he could have raised in other forums. However, that was a familiar occurrence, and the consolation was that repetition had rendered such statements almost meaningless.

41. The representative of Ethiopia had tried to convince the Council that the Somalis struggling against the Ethiopian régime in western Somalia were Ethiopians. Those who took the trouble to read the true version of history, rather than the seriously distorted version presented by the representative of Ethiopia, would know that Somalia was a nation, and not merely a geographical concept. Every one of the accusations made by the representative of Ethiopia could be made in reverse against Ethiopia. It was the colonialist policies of the former Empire, now continued by the so-called Revolutionary Government, that were the cause of all the problems in the Horn of Africa. It had been hoped that with a change of régime the new rulers would recognize the injustices perpetrated against the Somali people for more than a century, but that had not happened. The Ethiopian policy was still one of imperialism and colonialism. The areas of Somalia previously colonized by the United Kingdom and Italy had become independent, but the people of the region who remained under Ethiopian colonialism were still struggling for self-determination. The representative of Ethiopia had claimed that Somalia was selling itself to the highest bidder. Those who lived in glasshouses were always the first to throw stones. It was Ethiopia, not Somalia, that had sold its soul and its sovereignty to foreigners. The world was aware of the deployment of 25,000 Cuban troops in Ethiopia since 1978 and of the presence of thousands of Soviet and Warsaw Pact experts in western Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia. The report quoted from *The New York Times* might or might not be true. Further proof that it was Ethiopia that had sold its soul had been given during the discussion in the Council; the Ethiopian delegation's protector, in the shape of the repre-

sentative of the Soviet Union, had repeatedly taken the floor to try to defend its protégé.

42. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, recalled that earlier in the meeting the observer for Somalia had taken the floor on points of order to urge that delegations should confine themselves to the item under discussion; yet he himself had now been speaking for 12 minutes without so much as uttering the word refugee. Perhaps the President would explain to the observer for Somalia the nature of the subject under discussion. His delegation would refrain from referring to the attacks being made on it.

43. The PRESIDENT said that it was the right of any representative to take the floor on a point of order, and no delegation could be attacked for doing so. He appealed to the observer for Somalia to confine himself to the subject under discussion.

44. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said that he was merely exercising his right of reply. If other delegations had not departed from the subject-matter, there would have been no reason for him to reply at all.

45. Mr. HOLLAI (Hungary), speaking on a point of order, asked whether there was not a 10-minute limit on statements in exercise of the right of reply.

46. The PRESIDENT said that, under the rules of procedure, such statements should be as brief as possible. He requested delegations to observe that rule.

47. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said that the representative of Ethiopia had attempted to label the refugees as so-called drought-stricken citizens of Somalia, and had claimed that they were too numerous to have come from the Ogaden. Members could ascertain from the *Demographic Yearbook, 1976* that Ethiopia was considered a country with unreliable population statistics, since no complete census had ever been taken there. However, according to the Ethiopian Government's own statistics, the population of the Ogaden had numbered 845,000 some 10 years previously, from which it could be assumed that figure was now approximately 1 million. As could be easily verified, the refugees in the camps came from a number of other places as well. No matter how much the representative of Ethiopia tried to convince the Council that those people were not refugees, facts were facts, and the facts were verified by the report that had been given by the representative of UNHCR. He reserved the right of his delegation to take up the matter again, should the need arise.

48. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that all he had sought to do was to give the background to a problem which could not be seen in a vacuum. It might be tempting for countries far removed from the Horn of Africa to accept the situation at face value. However, his delegation believed that it was important for some kind of international body to assess the situation on the spot and establish the true identity and number of the refugees. According to paragraph 31 of the report of the mission to Somalia (E/1980/44), it had not been possible to assess with any accuracy the number of refugees among the local population. The claim of the observer of Somalia that Ethiopia was a colonialist country and that it had sold its soul to the devil could not be more grotesque or absurd. It was not necessary to rely on newspaper reports to know what had been happening; he had before him undeniable testimony submitted to the legislature of a certain country with regard to the use of facilities in Somalia.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*

## 12th meeting

Thursday, 24 April 1980, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.12

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*)\* (E/1980/L.19, E/1980/L.21, E/1980/L.26)

1. The PRESIDENT announced that Somalia should be added to the list of sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.19.
2. Mr. Al-ZUBI (Jordan) said it was of prime importance that all nations and societies should combat racism and racial discrimination in parallel with the struggle for peace, freedom and national integrity. While many countries had freed themselves from the desire to dominate and exploit others, Israel and South Africa, isolated and rejected as they were, still adhered to old-fashioned policies based on race, colour and religious fanaticism.
3. The racism and racial discrimination inherent in Zionist thought had been practised ever since Israel became a State. Herzl had called for the Jews to form an outpost of civilization against barbarism, and Chaim Weizmann had said that the Jewish State was to be as Jewish as England was English. It was only at the expense of the indigenous Palestinians and their right to live peacefully in their homeland that the Israeli leadership could achieve that goal. Those definitions of Israel as a State explained its resemblance to the racist régime in South Africa and the unholy alliance between the two countries as revealed in their massive political, economic and military co-operation. It also explained why the struggle of the Palestinians and of their African brethren was and should be wholly united.
4. For more than 32 years the Israeli presence in Palestine and other Arab territories had become institutionalized, and usurpation of Arab lands and expulsion of Arab inhabitants had continued to be a logical consequence of racist Zionist doctrine and practice. By immigration and conquest, the country had been Judaized. Since 1948, 500 towns and villages had been destroyed to make way for new Jewish settlers from foreign countries; 70 per cent of the cultivated land in the Jordan valley and in Jerusalem was under Israeli control, and more than 2 million Palestinians were living in exile and denied the right to return to their homes and properties. Those who were struggling to remain were living in a ghetto.
5. The discrimination based on colour, race, culture and religion practised by the Israeli authorities was not confined to native Arabs, but also included blacks and oriental Jews. Israeli society, like that of South Africa, was distinguished by three categories: the Ashkenazim or western Jews, the oriental or Sephardic Jews, and the native Arab Palestinians. In March 1971, the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Ahronot* had reported the formation by the Sephardim of an organization to fight oppression and discrimination; in *Ma'ariv*, a Moroccan-born Jew had reported how few university students of North African background graduated in Israel — less in fact than in the city of Fez in Morocco, where the Jewish population numbered fewer than 4,000.
6. The unholy alliance between colonialism, South African racism, zionism and Israeli imperialism had been strongly condemned by the United Nations, for instance in General Assembly resolution 3151 G (XXVIII), and in its resolution 3379 (XXX) the Assembly had determined that zionism was a form of racism and racial discrimination. The Organization of African Unity had also equated the racist régime in occupied Palestine with the racist régime in South Africa. Just as the General Assembly had declared in its resolution 32/105 K that South Africa belonged to all its people, irrespective of race, colour or creed, so Jordan wanted to make it clear that Palestine also belonged to all its people irrespective of race, colour or creed or whatever zionism preached.
7. His delegation strongly supported any effort to eliminate the cancer of racism and racial discrimination; however, it believed that the validity and credibility of the draft resolution proposed in document E/1980/L.19 would lie in its universality. The racist régimes in Israel and South Africa were two sides of one coin, because both were adhering to the principles of racial hatred, superiority and degradation of human values on the basis of colour or religious differences, and his delegation understood the provisions of the draft resolution to apply equally to the aggrieved Arabs of Palestine. Under the "Law of Return" passed by the Knesset in 1950, exclusive and automatic rights of citizenship were granted to all members of Jewish communities throughout the world, while the door was closed to the right of return of the Palestinian refugees, the lawful inhabitants of the land since the dawn of history. The tiny remnant of Palestinian Arabs in the country could not, therefore, be afforded any semblance of racial or democratic equality, let alone civil, human and political rights. No one could dispute the fact that that was racism pure and simple.
8. In keeping with the views he had expressed, his delegation had submitted amendments to the draft resolution contained in document E/1980/L.19, which appeared in document E/1980/L.26. The words "South Africa" in the first amendment (to operative paragraph 2) should read "southern Africa", and the words "and other relevant bodies" should be added at the end of the second amendment (to operative paragraph 14).
9. Mr. KAHANA (Observer for Israel) said that the amendments submitted by Jordan added an even more serious dimension to the comments made at the 10th meeting of the Council. The inclusion of any reference to Israel in a resolution which purported to deal with racism was an obscene distortion which detracted from the noble cause of the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. It was designed to disguise the racist policy of Arab hegemony and exclusivity in the Middle East. To look for manifestations of racist policy and human rights violations, a glance at the list of sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.19 sufficed. In Algeria, the Berber population had recently risen up against Algerian racism; it was little wonder that that country was very anxious to point a finger at others. The drama currently taking place in Cuba showed to what extent that country was a champion of human rights. The German Democratic Republic was still not

\* Resumed from the 10th meeting.

cleansed of the heritage of nazism; the conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia could also be said to have a racist ingredient; and how could the aggressive Libyan régime explain its occupation of territories and subjugation of black populations in Africa? Similarly, the domestic policies of some of the other sponsors were coloured by conflicts between different ethnic groups, for instance in Asia. Yet those countries had the gall and effrontery to include a mention of Israel in the draft resolution. If adopted, such a resolution could only damage what little prestige the Council still enjoyed. It should not lend itself as an instrument of the bellicose policies in the cause of which the Jordanian delegation had submitted its amendments.

10. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) said his delegation was not surprised that the observer for Israel should make a futile attempt to slander his country in order to divert attention from Israel's own responsibility for its crimes. His delegation rejected that slanderous attack; it was well known that the German Democratic Republic had radically and definitively broken with the fascist past by means of fundamental social transformations. It strongly protested at the arrogant statement made by Israel. It had great pleasure in supporting both the draft resolution and the amendments proposed by Jordan.

11. Mr. KAHANA (Observer for Israel) said that nothing the representative of the German Democratic Republic might say could change the truth of history and the heritage of nazism. Responsibility for the holocaust lay heavily on all the German people. The majority had had the courage to repent, but that did not apply to the German Democratic Republic, which continued the tradition by supporting those terrorist elements which raised the banner of struggle against Jews because they were Jews. The moral and material support extended to them by the German Democratic Republic spoke louder than any rights of reply or prepared statements.

12. Mrs. RODRÍGUEZ CALDERÓN (Observer for Cuba) said that the description of her country by the observer for Israel bore no resemblance to truth or reality. If there was any drama, it was the one being experienced by the Palestinians and the Arab people of the occupied territories who were the victims of racist zionism. Fidel Castro had described that situation as the greatest crime of the era.

13. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria), on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.19, accepted the Jordanian amendments (E/1980/L.26).

14. Mr. NISAIF (Iraq) said that his delegation wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution, as amended.

15. Mr. NORDENFELT (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Finland and Sweden in explanation of vote before the vote, said there was no need to remind the Council of the rejection and condemnation of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* that had been persistently voiced by the Nordic Governments, or of their sincere and active commitment to the process of decolonization. In March 1980, the Nordic Ministers for Foreign Affairs had agreed on a joint programme of action against South Africa which included increasing support to refugees, liberation movements and victims of *apartheid*; the close ties of co-operation between the Nordic countries and the nations of Africa also bore witness to that commitment.

16. It was in the interest of all countries to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in southern Africa. Without increased pressure from the international community, the South African Government was unlikely to start transforming its society. Although not as comprehensive as many would have liked, the mandatory arms embargo against South Africa decided on by the Security Council in

its resolution 418 (1977) had constituted an important break-through, and it could be effectively complemented by a cessation of further foreign investments and financial loans. Measures to curb the flow of capital to South Africa would hit its most sensitive nerve and be likely to be taken seriously by those responsible for its economic welfare.

17. The Governments of Finland and Sweden remained committed to working for proposals in the Security Council resulting in binding decisions against trade with South Africa. They therefore supported a number of paragraphs in the draft resolution in document E/1980/L.19 recommended for adoption by the General Assembly and would continue to lend their firm support to the goals and objectives of the Decade as set forth in the annex to General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII). However, certain elements of the draft resolution caused them serious difficulties, including the reference to the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to which they had not been able fully to subscribe, and operative paragraph 4 in so far as it supported armed struggle. They believed that operative paragraph 8 went too far in asking Governments to put an end to all activities of their enterprises in South Africa; however, the Swedish Government and parliament had gone a long way towards that end by enacting legislation prohibiting new investments in South Africa, and the two Governments for which he spoke would be prepared to support further measures of that kind, which in their view should be decided by the Security Council.

18. Finland and Sweden had similar objections to the amendments proposed by Jordan and the two delegations would, to their regret, vote against the draft resolution as amended.

19. Mr. MAPP (Barbados) said that his Government's policy with respect to racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* was well known. However, since his delegation had not had time to seek instructions with respect to the amendments contained in document E/1980/L.26, which it had only just received, it would have to abstain from voting on the draft resolution.

20. Mr. THAMAE (Lesotho) said that, for obvious reasons, his delegation had reservations with respect to operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution; if that paragraph had been put to a separate vote, his delegation would have abstained. However, it would vote in favour of the draft resolution as a whole.

*Draft resolution E/1980/L.19, as amended, was adopted by 36 votes to 11, with 5 abstentions (resolution 1980/7).*

21. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) said that his delegation had not participated in the vote, for reasons which it had fully explained in the past.

22. Ms. WELLS (Australia), speaking in explanation of vote, said that Australia had been involved in the principal international efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, including the extreme forms such as the system of *apartheid* of South Africa. The draft resolution contained in document E/1980/L.19 had many positive elements, including its emphasis on South Africa, and in general terms her Government endorsed it. Her Government recognized the importance of disseminating information regarding racism; nevertheless, it could not endorse operative paragraphs 4, 8, 9 and 16. It also had reservations regarding the convening of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; until a consensus was restored with regard to the Decade, it was too early to decide on the convening of the Second Conference. A decision to do so

should be based on wider agreement regarding the objectives of the Decade.

23. Mr. XIFRA DE OCERÍN (Spain) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, in accordance with its traditional support for the objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Nevertheless, he wished to reiterate the reservations his delegation had expressed in 1978 at Geneva with regard to certain paragraphs of the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The divisions in the Council over the draft resolution could have been avoided at the current session, as they had in previous years.

24. Mr. DANÓVI (Italy), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community which were members of the Council, said that they had voted against the draft resolution in order to reiterate their position that the Programme of Action included elements that were unacceptable in that context. The Governments for which he spoke had supported General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII). They were deeply concerned about the problem in the Middle East, but felt that it should be dealt with in an appropriate United Nations forum and that it was unacceptable to refer to it in the context of the draft resolution that had just been adopted. They had consistently condemned *apartheid* and actively supported efforts for peaceful change and had promoted international efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the problem of Namibia, but the draft resolution suggested that *apartheid* in South Africa could only be overcome through armed struggle. The role of the United Nations was to encourage peaceful solutions, and the Organization should not adopt any resolution which implied approval of armed struggle. Lastly, the problem in South Africa was not a problem of decolonization.

25. Mrs. AKAMATSU (Japan) said that her delegation had abstained in the vote. The Government and people of Japan strongly opposed all kinds of racial discrimination, especially the abhorrent practice of *apartheid* in South Africa. It would have preferred to be in a position to support the draft resolution but, because of its difficulty in accepting certain concepts included in it, it had been obliged to abstain.

26. Mr. LOHANI (Nepal) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution. Its position with regard to racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* was well known, but the Jordanian amendments presented some difficulties for it. His delegation supported the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, but did not believe that the issue was relevant to a resolution on *apartheid* and racism.

27. Mr. ERRÁZURIZ (Chile) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because of its traditional position on the question of racism and racial discrimination. However, it had reservations with regard to certain elements, such as the decision to propose to the General Assembly that it convene the Second World Conference.

28. Mr. HEPBURN (Bahamas) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, but had strong reservations regarding the amendments contained in document E/1980/L.26 which had been incorporated into the text. If a separate vote had been taken on those amendments, it would have abstained.

29. Mr. GARCÍA REYNOSO (Mexico) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because of its traditional support for action against *apartheid*, racism and racial discrimination. Nevertheless, Mexico had reservations, which were already on record in

connexion with various General Assembly proceedings, with regard to certain paragraphs in the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. If a separate vote had been taken on operative paragraph 2, his delegation would have abstained because that paragraph mentioned certain concepts the relevance of which was not clear.

30. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) expressed her delegation's satisfaction at the adoption of the draft resolution. The dismay of the representative of the Zionist régime only served to show its isolation from the international community. Such displays of emotion were merely efforts to divert attention away from the issues. The impudence of the Zionist régime showed once more that zionism was a form of racism which could not be disguised but was properly recognized by the international community for what it was.

31. Mr. KAHANA (Observer for Israel) said that the adoption of the draft resolution was due to the automatic majority which certain groups and blocs had in the United Nations, but it did not prove that those groups had a monopoly of the truth. The facts spoke for themselves. The representative of Algeria had said that Israel was isolated in the United Nations. So was the Berber minority in Algeria, because it lived under an oppressive authoritarian régime. Was there or was there not a racial minority called Berbers in Algeria? Was that minority not striving for its self-determination as part of an ancient African nation? Was it or was it not true that that racial group was oppressed and demanded its rights? Once the facts were faced, the Algerian arguments would have no credence.

## AGENDA ITEM 1

### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)\* (E/1980/58)

#### REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA (E/1980/58)

32. Mr. GUNA-KASEM (Thailand) proposed, on behalf of the five member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), that an additional item entitled "Humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people" should be included in the agenda of the current session. The details of the proposal were contained in document E/1980/58. The reason why the item was being introduced in the Council was that there was a very urgent need for the international community to take cognizance of the practical problems existing in the programme to give relief to the Kampuchean people, inside and outside their own country. There had been massive movements of Kampuchean people towards Thailand, where there were already over 150,000 in need of further international assistance. The sponsors of the urgent and important item believed that, unless prompt and effective action was forthcoming, many hundreds of thousands of starving Kampuchean people would suffer further and perish.

33. The sponsors were mindful that in other parts of the world, especially Africa, there were grave problems of the same nature. It was certainly not their intention to shift the focus of the world's attention from other problem areas; they merely sought a share of world attention for the problem in their region. Their African brothers and their fellow Asians could work together to promote the relief of suffering peoples and refugees on both continents; because those

\* Resumed from the 9th meeting.

humanitarian problems were of an international nature and of international concern. The aim of the sponsors was to obtain a decision from the Council giving the Secretary-General a mandate to convene an international meeting to increase and improve humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people. It was their wish and their intention that consideration in the Council should be limited to that purpose. The Council would have no time to consider the substantive and detailed problems at hand, since the session was due to end very soon. Those problems could best be left to the meeting which the sponsors were seeking to convene.

34. In the opinion of the sponsors, the famine and refugee problem in Kampuchea was no longer a local problem. Many national and international humanitarian organizations were operating to help to alleviate the suffering of the Kampuchean people, and the problem had become one of international humanitarian concern. There was therefore a need to hold a high-level international meeting to assess the situation and improve humanitarian relief and assistance programmes for the Kampuchean people.

35. In view of the importance and urgency of the question, the sponsors therefore formally requested, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, that an item entitled "Humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people" should be added to the agenda to enable the Council to decide on requesting the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene a meeting, at the ministerial level, as soon as possible at Geneva or in New York to consider increasing and improving humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people.

36. Since the question was a humanitarian one and the Council would be asked to consider and take a decision only on the procedural aspect, it was the hope of the five ASEAN nations that the Council would agree to include the item in the agenda of the current session without a vote.

37. Mr. SHUSTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in the view of his delegation, the reference in the letter from the representatives of the ASEAN countries (E/1980/58) to a severe shortage of food inside Kampuchea was not based on reality. Although there were still serious difficulties with regard to the supply of food, the situation was quite different to what it had been in November 1979, thanks to the considerable aid rendered on a bilateral basis by a number of Governments and by various international organizations. His delegation therefore felt that the letter exaggerated the current difficulties. It was well known that the press of certain Governments was conducting a propaganda campaign regarding the delivery of supplies to Kampuchea in order to achieve certain political aims.

38. Having overthrown the blood-thirsty Pol Pot-Ieng Sary régime, the Kampuchean people needed relief, especially food and medical supplies. The Soviet Union, together with the other socialist countries, continued to render increasing aid to the population of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Other countries wishing to provide assistance through multilateral programmes should do so through the existing relief channels in Kampuchea. There were no obstacles to providing humanitarian assistance. The third meeting of donor countries, on 13 May, would provide an opportunity for pledging further contributions and discussing the question of the amount of funds still needed. In view of those considerations, his delegation did not see the need to convene the meeting called for in the letter from the representatives of the ASEAN countries.

39. As for the question of resolving the practical problems of the distribution of aid, his delegation considered that the distribution of aid was an internal affair of the Government and local authorities of the People's Republic of Kam-

puchea, which were competent to resolve the problems involved in co-operation with the international organizations concerned. The question of the distribution of aid could not, therefore, be considered in any international forum without the participation of representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

40. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that his country had provided and would continue to provide wide-ranging humanitarian assistance to many nations, not least to the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Document E/1980/58 contained no request for action by the Government of Kampuchea itself, without whose close co-operation there could be no constructive consideration of the item.

41. Moreover, the humanitarian assistance already rendered to Kampuchea through programmes co-ordinated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sir Robert Jackson, had brought about a continuous improvement in the situation in the country. The existing arrangements were adequate and could — political motives aside — be used by anyone who genuinely wanted to help. His delegation had doubts about the motives of the proponents of the additional item.

42. Mr. MBAPILA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation would not oppose the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people. It was convinced that the need in Kampuchea was real and urgent, although the problems were clearly not new, and it would continue to support any move by the Secretary-General to help the displaced persons and refugees in Kampuchea and neighbouring countries. However, it was unfair, as his delegation had stated on other occasions, to give top priority to relief for Indo-China, with its less than half a million refugees as compared with 4 million in Africa and countless others elsewhere in the world. Why was United Nations assistance so one-sided? The percentage of United Nations resources alone was higher for Indo-China than for the whole of Africa. All refugees should be assisted through the existing machinery, and the assistance should be co-ordinated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who would have recourse where necessary to interagency and non-governmental help. A comprehensive solution applicable to all continents should be found.

43. The United Republic of Tanzania would carefully consider any proposal made in connexion with the request in document E/1980/58, and could agree to the holding of a third pledging conference as proposed; however, it would like to know who would call such a conference, whether it would be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, what had become of the funds pledged at the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia, held at Geneva on 20 and 21 July 1979, and the Pledging Conference for Emergency Humanitarian Relief to the People of Kampuchea, held at United Nations Headquarters on 5 November 1979, and what was the *per capita* relief expenditure for South-East Asia as compared with Africa. A precedent was being set of dealing with the plight of refugees through pledging conferences; that was probably not a bad idea, but one pledging conference should be held for all refugees.

44. Mrs. ZHANG Zongan (China) said that the request made in document E/1980/58 was in accordance with the humanitarian principles of the United Nations and with rule 15 of the rules of procedure. China therefore agreed in principle to the inclusion of the question of Kampuchean relief in the agenda as an important and urgent item, although it considered that only the implementation of General Assembly resolution 34/22 would lead to a solu-

tion. As for the question who were the legal representatives of Kampuchea, the General Assembly had made the relevant decision, and there was no need to introduce controversy on that score.

45. Mr. ZAYAS (Observer for Cuba) said that the sufferings of the Kampuchean people had been a focal point of world-wide concern because of the nightmarish horrors of life under the Pol Pot régime. There had thus been a concerted global effort to heal the wounds of the Kampuchians and enable them to complete the process of normalization and re-establish their institutions. The relief campaign was proceeding according to expectations, and the situations which had arisen in April and would continue in May came as no surprise. All the relief authorities who had participated in the special session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) convened in New York in February 1980 to review the progress of the Kampuchean relief programmes had stressed the emergency measures that would be necessary for those critical months. There was therefore no new and urgent need whatever that would justify the inclusion of an additional item in the Council's agenda.

46. If the countries which had submitted the request in document E/1980/58 were so concerned for the well-being of the remnants of the Pol Pot régime and other persons currently in the area of the frontier with Thailand, they had only to make arrangements among themselves to assist such people. The Economic and Social Council should not be induced to serve as a forum for dubious propagandistic intentions posing as humanitarian concerns. The Kampuchean people must be allowed, without interference of any kind, to take advantage of the international relief being offered them. The information available indicated that the Phnom Penh authorities were handling the situation properly and that the humanitarian relief programmes were proceeding normally toward their goals.

47. Mr. SUWONDO (Indonesia) said that there was indeed an urgent need to place on the agenda an additional item concerning humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people, whose sufferings were unprecedented. Any failure to deal with such a human crisis would have serious ramifications throughout the region.

48. Efforts so far had ameliorated the situation but had not eradicated the problems. He therefore strongly urged the Council to agree to the inclusion of the additional item. The conference proposed in document E/1980/58 would be a major effort towards eliminating the dire hunger and want of the Kampuchean people. In saying that, it was not, of course, his intention to overshadow the importance of refugee problems elsewhere.

49. Mr. HOLLAI (Hungary) said that from the procedural point of view he had doubts about the request contained in document E/1980/58. Requests for humanitarian assistance should be on genuine humanitarian grounds, and should not be political manoeuvres under humanitarian guise. Hungary also seriously questioned whether an additional item on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people should be inscribed on the agenda at that time, since the situation had been known long before. The fact that no agencies of the United Nations system had requested a further conference, although they could easily have done so, should also give cause to hesitate. Lastly, Hungary had serious doubts on the substance of the document, since its depiction of a critical situation in Kampuchea was not up to date.

50. Mr. NISHIDA (Japan) said that, while it was certainly true that there were serious refugee problems in Africa, the needs of hundreds of thousands of Kampuchians could not be denied. Japan was very concerned over the plight of the

Kampuchians, and welcomed the initiative of the ASEAN countries in proposing that another meeting along the lines of the two earlier pledging conferences should be held. The proposal was timely, because the humanitarian assistance programmes were entering the second stage of their emergency operations. Japan hoped that the Council would adopt the proposal and that the Secretary-General would convene a meeting at the ministerial level as soon as possible.

51. Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria) said that he was somewhat concerned over the timing of the request put forward in document E/1980/58 in the final stages of the Council's session. The Bulgarian Government had given much bilateral assistance to Kampuchea and had taken part in the New York pledging conference. It appreciated United Nations efforts to maintain the momentum of its operations in the field. The Kampuchean people were working to overcome the after-effects of an unprecedented genocidal régime. The process was moving ahead satisfactorily, but the problems could obviously not be overcome quickly and any help would be timely. Efforts were hampered by lack of funds; what was needed was political will and what mattered were deeds, not words.

52. Bulgaria had serious reservations concerning the contents of document E/1980/58; it exaggerated the gravity of the situation in Kampuchea with unsubstantiated statements, ignored the positive developments that had occurred and simply assumed that the international relief efforts had been a failure. His Government also had serious doubts concerning the proposal to hold another pledging conference.

53. Mr. JOSEPH (Australia) said that his delegation unequivocally supported the request by the five ASEAN countries contained in document E/1980/58, since it proposed the inclusion in the agenda of an important and urgent item in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure. Moreover, the ASEAN countries had approached the appropriate body, the Economic and Social Council. Assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people was clearly a matter of humanitarian concern — as in equivalent situations elsewhere, especially in Africa, which also deserved the fullest attention of the international community. The Council had begun its detailed discussions on humanitarian assistance programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa, and Australia would welcome any draft resolutions submitted under that item. Similarly, attention must be given to the Kampuchean problem. The two were not in competition; both were urgent, both deserved the attention of the Council. The Tanzanian representative's statement on that point had served the welcome purpose of clearing the air.

54. The Australian delegation had been persuaded by the arguments set forth by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the ASEAN countries. Further efforts were needed to deal with the continuing stark tragedy of Kampuchea. The problem related not only to refugees, of whom there were more than 150,000 in Thailand; hundreds of thousands of displaced Kampuchians were in the border areas, and in the Kampuchean interior millions were in distress.

55. It would be wrong to delude oneself that the problems were under control. The relief agencies had achieved creditable results, as had bilateral assistance from many countries, including Australia, but action at the intergovernmental, ministerial level was the only solution. It would be wrong to delay such action; the incipient monsoon would halt the shipment and distribution of relief assistance, and the international community must act now.

56. The fact that the Australian Government and people had already responded promptly and generously with over

\$20 million for Kampuchean relief from both the public and the private sectors reflected Australia's widespread concern over the plight of a regional neighbour. His delegation urged that the proposed additional item be included in the agenda forthwith.

57. Mr. KANE (Senegal) observed that representatives often seemed to forget that the Charter of the United Nations began with the words "We the peoples of the United Nations". Wherever people were suffering, Governments had responsibilities. Accordingly, at the preceding meeting he had spoken forcefully and with conviction concerning the plight of the refugees in the Horn of Africa, and it did so with equal force and conviction concerning the Kampuchean refugees. Africans must not ignore problems elsewhere. Any argument about the legitimacy of the Kampuchean Government was out of place in the Council; it was for the General Assembly to decide that question, and it had done so. Those members of the Council who were basing their objections on that argument would find themselves dealing with countries without people if help was not quickly given.

58. Senegal welcomed the initiative of the ASEAN countries in putting the matter of Kampuchean relief before the Council, which had not yet had an opportunity to pronounce on a question that certainly fell within its domain. The situation was urgent; Kampucheans were dying both inside and outside the country. The Government at Phnom Penh could not handle it alone, and the international community must therefore continue its efforts to assuage the suffering. Many of the Kampuchean refugees were abroad, in Thailand. That country had done much, and it was only natural that the United Nations should help Thailand. A third pledging conference was necessary, since the problem was not settled. Senegal therefore supported the inclusion of the additional item in the agenda.

59. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said that, in Kampuchea as in Somalia, lives were involved and the situation required the urgent assistance of the international community. If the Council were holding its meeting in the field, among those who were suffering, rather than in its comfortable chamber, it would perhaps be more sensitive to their plight. At that very moment, people were dying through no fault of their own. The Council should pay less attention to procedure and more to the nature of the problem; opposition to the item in question on procedural grounds was pointless. The Council should act to include the item on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people in its agenda, and then discuss what could be done for those who were suffering while its members talked.

60. Mr. HA VAN LAU (Observer for Viet Nam) said that the situation with regard to the humanitarian assistance to Kampuchea provided since November 1979 by a consortium of five agencies and organizations (UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)) could be summed up in four points.

61. First, despite its complexity and the tremendous material difficulties encountered, the operation had been a success. Secondly, the emergency assistance activities had been carried out with the co-operation of the socialist countries and of Governments and private organizations of other countries, but the co-operation of the Kampuchean authorities, the People's Revolutionary Council, which had made decisive efforts to receive and distribute both multilateral and bilateral assistance, could not be underestimated. Thirdly, United Nations officials at the highest level—

including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sir Robert Jackson, and the Executive Director of UNICEF — the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, staff members of various United Nations agencies and voluntary institutions, journalists and television crews had travelled throughout Kampuchea and had been able to see that the general situation in the country had clearly improved. Those first indications of recovery were due to the concerted effort made by the courageous people of Kampuchea and their Government, and to international solidarity. Fourthly, those in charge of the joint operation had stressed that much remained to be done, in view of the extent of the devastation, which had no precedent in history. Consequently, the donors and organizers of aid had held meetings at various levels. He understood that the next one was scheduled for 8 May and that the five organizations concerned were actively preparing for it.

62. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam had stated its solidarity with the people of Kampuchea on many occasions and welcomed all international assistance activities, both bilateral and multilateral, on behalf of that martyred people. Obviously, such assistance must be granted without political conditions. Viet Nam, despite its own difficulties, was providing aid at all levels, as it considered it to be its moral duty to assist in the reconstruction of a sister country which had been the victim of the greatest adversities.

63. As his delegation saw it, the proposal to include an additional item in the agenda of the current session contained two main ideas. The first was that the current situation was one of crisis, that there was a massive exodus, with the lives of hundreds of thousands of Kampucheans in danger, and that international emergency action was necessary. His delegation's reaction to that idea had been one of surprise and indignation—surprise, because it assumed that the sponsors of the proposal were as well informed as others about what was happening in Kampuchea, at least as far as emergency aid was concerned. The time was past when Kampuchea had been closed to foreigners and no news had filtered out of the country. Hundreds of observers from very varied regions of the world, including newspaper and television correspondents, American and other, had visited Kampuchea. The sponsors' distorted appraisal of the situation, so contrary to the objective opinions of foreign observers, showed that they were deliberately trying to dramatize the problem. Such a denial of reality was an affront to the people and Government of Kampuchea and to the international community. Could the Council take seriously the idea of a "grave crisis" on which the request for inclusion of the item in the agenda was based?

64. He wished to stress that Viet Nam fully agreed that international solidarity, aid and assistance for the reconstruction of Kampuchea remained a major task of the United Nations. However, there was currently no need for an urgent debate in the Council, when the *ad hoc* mechanisms were working intensively both at their headquarters and in the field. As for the mobilization of new resources, donor countries wishing to provide additional assistance to the Kampuchean people should make their contributions, as in the past, to the fund managed by the five-agency consortium.

65. With regard to the second main idea in document E/1980/58, namely, that the Secretary-General should be requested to convene an international conference at the ministerial level, the position of principle of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam was well known. As a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had recently stated, Viet Nam fully supported the correct position of the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea that the problems of Kampuchea should be decided by the Kampuchean people.

the sole authentic and legal representative of whom was the People's Revolutionary Council, and any international conferences to discuss problems relating to Kampuchea must have the approval and participation of the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, which was in full control of the domestic and foreign affairs of Kampuchea. The spokesman had further stated that, in keeping with its desire to join with the other countries of South-East Asia in developing friendly relations and long-term co-operation, in the interest of each country and of peace and stability in the region and with a view to contributing to the maintenance of world peace, Viet Nam was prepared to enter into bilateral discussions with the countries of South-East Asia on problems of common concern.

66. It was thus obvious that the convening of such a conference, without the approval and presence of the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, would constitute unacceptable interference in the domestic affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. His delegation therefore felt that the Economic and Social Council should not agree to the request contained in document E/1980/58.

67. Mr. AHMAD (Pakistan) associated himself with the remarks made by the representatives of Senegal and Somalia in support of the request for the inclusion of the additional item on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people in the agenda of the current session of the Council. That request was a humanitarian issue only, and the Council should treat it as such.

68. Mr. THOUNN (Observer for Democratic Kampuchea) said that his delegation reserved the right to answer the lies of those who were murdering the Kampuchean people and arrogantly trampling under foot the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of non-alignment. It firmly supported the request of the ASEAN countries for the inclusion of the item on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people in the agenda of the current session and appealed to the members of the Council to support that request.

69. Since the invasion of Kampuchea by North Viet Nam in December 1978, more than 2 million Kampucheans had died either at the hands of the invaders or from hunger, and thousands more were dying daily. The United Nations had adopted resolutions aimed at putting an end to the barbarous crimes committed against the Kampuchean people. A meeting at the ministerial level would be useful in focusing world attention on the plight of that people and in discussing measures necessary to alleviate its unspeakable suffering. All assistance should be supplied by United Nations personnel directly to the people themselves and not by the invaders to support their armed forces. Lastly, it was clear to all that the Kampuchean people could not survive unless General Assembly resolution 34/22, calling for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea and resolving that the people of Kampuchea should be enabled to choose democratically their own government, without outside interference, subversion or coercion, was implemented.

70. Mr. KOH (Observer for Singapore) assured the representatives of African countries that the ASEAN countries attached as much value to the human lives in peril in Africa as they did to those in Asia. Singapore looked forward to working with the African countries to bring relief to the suffering refugees on that continent, and requested them to co-operate in providing assistance to the refugees in South-East Asia.

71. In reply to objections raised by the representative of Hungary, he pointed out that the request to include the additional item in the agenda of the current session was fully in keeping with the rules of procedure, since that item was

both important and urgent as specified in rule 15, concerning revision of the agenda. The ASEAN countries had proposed its inclusion for a number of reasons. First, they wished to pay a tribute to the excellent work being carried out in the field by the five humanitarian organizations involved. Secondly, it was a matter of the utmost urgency to provide both seeds and food supplies to the farmers before the rainy season set in, so as to ensure the next rice harvest and prevent another famine. Thirdly, unless world attention was focused on the plight of the Kampuchean people, the financial target for 1980 of the Kampuchean humanitarian assistance programmes would not be achieved. Lastly, it was necessary to convene a high-level international meeting to resolve the problem of distribution of seeds, food and medical supplies to the people themselves.

72. Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium) said that, in spite of the misleading arguments put forward with the aim of denying the existence of the urgent problems facing the Kampuchean people, it was clear that those problems did exist and were especially urgent in view of the approaching rainy season. He expressed his delegation's fullest support for the request of the representatives of the ASEAN countries to include the item in the agenda of the current session. Discussion of the item would enable the Council to study ways of providing the type of aid the ASEAN countries had in mind to relieve the Kampuchean people and solve the problems affecting the countries of that region, especially Thailand.

73. Mr. SOUTHICHAK (Observer for the Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that his delegation, which had never opposed the efforts of the international community to provide aid to refugees throughout the world, had certain reservations with regard to the letter submitted by the representatives of the ASEAN countries. The assessment of the danger of famine would have been more reliable if it had been made by the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. On the basis of an alleged crisis, the authors of the letter sought the inclusion in the agenda of an item aimed at dramatizing the situation and discrediting the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, which since January 1979 had undertaken tremendous efforts to reconstruct the country and restore normal life to the people. That task required aid, and it was gratifying that the organizations of the United Nations system were prepared to co-operate with the People's Revolutionary Council.

74. The problem of the distribution of aid would never have arisen if the international organizations involved had co-operated with the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. In that connexion, he recalled that the position of that Government was that all aid must be free of any conditions, that it must be channelled through the People's Revolutionary Council and that ways of providing further international humanitarian aid to the Kampuchean people must be decided upon with due regard to the exclusive sovereignty of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

75. His delegation did not feel that the request to convene a meeting at the ministerial level was justified, because such a meeting would only undermine the credibility of those organizing it if it did not meet with adequate success. Existing United Nations machinery still provided good-faith donors with the means of channelling aid to the Kampuchean people. For those reasons, his delegation opposed the inclusion of the additional item in the agenda of the current session of the Council.

76. Mr. LOHANI (Nepal) said that his delegation had supported all humanitarian assistance programmes in the past and would support the request of the representatives of the ASEAN countries for the inclusion of the additional item in the agenda.

77. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Observer for the Philippines) stressed the strictly humanitarian nature of the assistance to be provided to the Kampuchean people and expressed the hope that the members of the Council would support the request for the inclusion of the additional item in the agenda.

78. The PRESIDENT said that he did not detect sufficient opposition among the members of the Council to justify putting the matter to a vote. If there was no objection, he

would take it that the Council wished to revise the agenda of the current session of the Council by including an additional item entitled "Humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people" and to consider the item in plenary meeting.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.*

## 13th meeting

Friday, 25 April 1980, at 11.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.13

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### Special economic and disaster relief assistance (continued)\* (A/35/99)

1. Mr. AKHUND (United Nations Co-ordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon) said that document A/35/99, dated 20 February, which was before the Council, contained the Secretary-General's first substantive report on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon since the adoption, on 14 December 1979, of General Assembly resolution 34/135 on the subject. He had great pleasure in introducing it on behalf of the Secretary-General. The report was self-explanatory and, although it was relatively brief and of an interim nature, members would find it to be self-contained. He would, of course, be glad to offer any clarifications which might be required and answer any questions members might wish to ask.

2. The report summarized the situation which currently prevailed in Lebanon as it affected reconstruction and development. Obviously, the pace and prospects were substantially affected by the unstable security conditions which had prevailed. It drew up a balance-sheet of the devastation caused by years of war, conflict and violence — tragic and senseless and, alas, not yet at an end — the lives lost or disrupted, the property and infrastructure destroyed, the breakdown of the administrative and social mechanisms which ensured the normal functioning of government, private institutions and ordinary day-to-day life. But the report also highlighted the reasons why the prospects for the future looked promising and why the international community should help the Government and people of Lebanon in the fulfilment of that promise. He would not go over that ground but would like, in his statement, to furnish the latest available supplementary information and bring to the Council's attention relevant developments since the Secretary-General's report has been written.

3. Members of the Council were, of course, aware of the abrupt deterioration in recent days of the security situation in the south of Lebanon, culminating in the cold-blooded murder, during the preceding week, of two members of the Irish battalion of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) — an act which had been described by

the President of the Security Council as a challenge to the mission of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. That mission covered not only the usual peace-keeping functions but, as the Secretary-General's report pointed out (A/35/99, para. 18), had extended to the provision of vital assistance in the carrying out of important projects of relief and reconstruction in the area and in the running of essential services. On arriving in Lebanon, six months before, to take up his duties, he had gone down to the UNIFIL area of operations at the invitation of the Force Commander, General Erskine, and had had the opportunity to visit some of the units. Among other places, he had visited the local hospital at Tibnin, the only one functioning for many miles around, and providing health services and treatment to the local population. It was being run entirely by the medical personnel of the Irish battalion, whose men had now been the victims of the most shocking and reprehensible act of violence. He was sure members of the Council would want to join him in extending the deepest condolences to the bereaved families and in expressing sympathy and admiration to the Force Commander for the dedicated work he and his men were performing in the south of Lebanon.

4. It had to be noted with dismay that elsewhere in Lebanon the general law-and-order situation left much to be desired and the cycle of violence was by no means at an end. Political assassinations and attempts on the lives of political leaders had not ceased. Shoot-outs between rival groups were not uncommon, sometimes taking a heavy toll in human lives. The only redeeming feature of the situation was that, despite the grave and tragic nature of some of the recent incidents, they had not led to the widespread violence and disorder which in past years would inevitably have followed. Furthermore, much of the random violence was not motivated by sectarian, political or ideological animosities, but occurred because of the inadequacy of the Government's law enforcement agencies. As and when those agencies were strengthened and were able fully to assume their normal responsibilities, the Government's ability to function properly, to curb crime and lawlessness and, of course, to undertake reconstruction and development in a major way, would be greatly enhanced. In that context, it was relevant to mention that units of the Arab Deterrent Force (ADF), stationed at Beirut and in the south, had been withdrawing from some of their positions there and redeployed elsewhere. Most of the evacuated positions had been taken over by units of the Lebanese Army. The

\* Resumed from the 7th meeting.

movement had been carried out so far not altogether without incident but on the whole in an orderly way and after appropriate consultations among those concerned. If that pattern was followed wherever a similar transfer of responsibility was to take place, it would undoubtedly have a stabilizing influence on the security situation.

5. In February, the President of the Republic had taken the initiative of calling a series of meetings in which he and the Prime Minister had met members of the National Assembly, political and religious personalities from all sides and various leaders of opinion, in order to discuss with them the basis for a new national understanding. At the conclusion of those meetings the President had made a 14-point declaration, setting out the unanimous agreement which had been found to exist on fundamental principles, such as the country's sovereignty, independence and unity, the desire to preserve its parliamentary institutions and liberal economic system, Lebanon's place and role in the Arab world and in the world at large and its continued adherence to a non-aligned foreign policy.

6. The President's declaration had been widely welcomed as an essential and timely step towards a national consensus but was admittedly only the first step. Many sharp differences and conflicting interests would have to be reconciled before the agreement on broad principles could be given practical shape and it would not be realistic to minimize the difficulty of the task. The importance of the President's move lay in its having focused attention on the problems and the divergences which had divided the Lebanese people in recent years.

7. It was surely significant and encouraging that such a wide measure of agreement had been revealed in the first such attempt at a national dialogue after years of civil strife, during which the unity and very existence of the country had seemed to be in question.

8. On the social and economic side, the situation described in the Secretary-General's report (A/35/99) of a slow, if not steady, improvement in the various economic indicators had continued — for instance, the volume of exports, the volume of bank deposits and the collection of customs duties. The budget, while showing a large deficit again, would contain in 1980 a modest provision for social development projects. The rate of utilization of loans raised by the Government and listed in section V of the report was expected to pick up.

9. Recently, a fact-finding mission from the World Bank had visited Beirut and, after observing the situation on the spot and holding discussions with the authorities concerned, had apparently reached the conclusion that a start could be made in a significant way with the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. In that context, he drew attention to the reference made at the end of paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report (*ibid.*) to a proposed programme for 1980 consisting of projects which the Council for Development and Reconstruction hoped it could begin to implement in the coming 12 months, notwithstanding the prevailing security, political and administrative constraints. He was glad to inform members that the Council for Development and Reconstruction had now completed work on that programme and submitted it to the Government for consideration and approval. The programme would cover new projects in the fields of housing, health, education and vocational training, roads and railways, agriculture and social welfare as well as the acceleration of work on the restoration of the Beirut air and sea ports. The programme was designed, within the constraints imposed by prevailing conditions, to strike a balance among various sectors and regions. Thus, a substantial proportion of the expenditure

was on projects which were in southern Lebanon or would be of benefit to that region.

10. The estimated cost of the whole programme was 2 billion Lebanese pounds, or approximately \$600 million. Of that amount, \$400 million was expected to come from the Arab countries which had pledged assistance for Lebanon's reconstruction at the Tenth Arab Summit Conference, held at Tunis by the League of Arab States from 20 to 22 November 1979. The remaining amount would be provided by the Lebanese Government itself. Members would be pleased to know that Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar had already paid in their first contributions and that the other countries were expected to do so in due course. He was sure that members would join him in expressing appreciation to those countries.

11. However, as was stated in the Secretary-General's report (*ibid.*), the major obstacle to making a start with reconstruction was not the lack of finances but the inadequacy or absence of a variety of other factors which were necessary for drawing up and implementing specific projects as well as for proper long-term planning. Conscious of those short-comings, the Government of Lebanon had sought aid and assistance outside the country in order to strengthen its capability in that regard and had decided, in particular, to turn to the United Nations for that purpose. He read out the following portion of a letter on that subject which had been addressed to him on 15 April by the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction:

"The cost of the current year's programme will amount to 2 billion Lebanese pounds and clearly cannot be met from the country's own present resources or from commercial loans from abroad. We are aware that the United Nations itself cannot furnish funds on the scale needed. However, we hope that the United Nations will be able to assist us in generating these funds and note that General Assembly resolution 33/146 of 20 December 1978 visualizes such a role for the joint co-ordinating committee<sup>1</sup> headed by you.

"The Government of Lebanon is most grateful for the assistance already received from the United Nations system and its various organizations: The contribution made by them, under the indicative planning figures of the United Nations Development Programme, though apparently small in volume, has been of key importance in most of the major projects undertaken or approved in the past few years. The reconstruction programme which is now proposed, and, still more so, the longer-term development which is envisaged, constitute in the words of the Secretary-General's report 'a vast undertaking and one which will be a continuing process'. We welcome the active United Nations role in this process envisaged in the above-cited General Assembly resolution and deeply appreciate the Secretary-General's renewed assurance in his report that the United Nations system stands ready to be of assistance to Lebanon in this endeavour. In specific terms, in addition to help in mobilizing the needed funds from external sources, we shall look to the United Nations system for assistance in (a) evaluating the current reconstruction programme as a whole and 'streamlining' the projects included in it and taking part in the continuous process of updating the 'Reconstruction Project' which the Council for Development and Reconstruction has prepared and which includes the projects to be implemented over the reconstruction period to enable Lebanon to resume its normal development; (b) assisting

<sup>1</sup> Committee on Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon.

the Council for Development and Reconstruction in exercising its responsibilities with regard to national planning."

12. In terms of machinery, that task might involve the setting up of a technical support group consisting of experts and short-term consultants in various disciplines who, working within the framework and mandate of General Assembly resolution 33/146, would advise and assist the Council for Development and Reconstruction in carrying out its planning and responsibility, in providing on-the-job training of counterpart personnel and in other areas.

13. The Government of Lebanon had indicated its readiness to finance part of the cost of the project. The scope of the proposal went beyond the normal country programming enterprise done by the United Nations Development Programme under its system of indicative planning figures. What the Government of Lebanon desired, as it prepared to launch its programme of reconstruction and development, was that the United Nations system should become, in the words of the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction, "a full partner" in that vast and continuing enterprise.

14. The provision of such assistance by the United Nations would, of course, be entirely in keeping with the spirit and letter of General Assembly resolution 33/146, by which a United Nations joint co-ordinating committee had been established<sup>1</sup> at Beirut headed by a Co-ordinator—an office which he had been greatly honoured to accept. As the Secretary-General had pointed out in his report, implicit in the mandate of the co-ordinating committee was the provision of assistance to the Government of Lebanon in drawing up long-term projects as well as plans for relief and rehabilitation of an immediate nature, in strengthening the capacity of the Government of Lebanon to make and implement reconstruction and development plans and in raising the necessary funds from external sources and any other assistance, within the terms of the mandate, which the Government of Lebanon considered appropriate. He was glad to note that, under the terms of a draft resolution which would be submitted later under the same agenda item,<sup>2</sup> the Economic and Social Council would take note of and endorse in general terms the request of the Lebanese Government for assistance.

15. The crisis of Lebanon was far too complex to allow a simplistic diagnosis of its causes or facile optimism as to its solution. It could not be said that the crisis was over, but there was reason to hope that the worst of it might be. Situated at the geopolitical crossroads of a troubled region, Lebanon remained, as had been seen time and again, peculiarly vulnerable to the repercussions of external events. However, to the extent that the roots of the crisis lay in Lebanon's own history and past problems, the attempt to deal with them could also reawaken internal dissension. Fortunately, much that had been of value in Lebanon, such as its parliamentary system, its free press and its centres of learning and intellectual endeavour, had survived and continued to function. He had mentioned the declaration by the President of Lebanon on national consensus regarding fundamental principles and maintaining the country's basic institutions. He believed that a wide measure of agreement also existed to the effect that the reconstruction of Lebanon should not be a simple return to the past but should involve a comprehensive programme of restructuring and the orientation of the economy in new directions called for by economic and social developments within and outside the country.

16. The Lebanese Government's request to the United Nations to participate in the reconstruction of the country was a sign of its confidence in the Organization. It was a tribute as well as a challenge to the effectiveness and impartiality of the world body, which, he was sure, would not fail to respond in an adequate manner. The ultimate responsibility belonged, as it must, to Lebanon and the Lebanese people. Despite all that had happened, one could feel confident, knowing their qualities, that they would be equal to the task and, inspired by a dynamic vision of the future, would find the clarity of mind to recognize the country's problems and the united will to overcome them.

17. Mr. TUENI (Observer for Lebanon) said that Lebanon was in the unique position of a country still at war in which a vast effort at reconstruction was to be undertaken under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the Lebanese Government. As the United Nations Co-ordinator had pointed out, while the economic future of Lebanon was relatively promising, its state of security left much to be desired. It was to be hoped that the fact-finding mission which was to visit Lebanon would clarify and improve the economic situation and also the security situation, so that Lebanon could begin its recovery on a fresh basis. As the Lebanese Government had stated in the letter addressed to the Co-ordinator and read out by him, the reconstruction of Lebanon would not involve a return to the past; it was important to give a new direction to the economy and to society and to fix new development objectives.

18. Mr. ENOKI (Japan) said he was glad to note the progress accomplished in the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. The Japanese Government had faith in the renaissance of that country which should be worked out through a durable solution of the Middle East conflict; for that reason, it had contributed a sum of \$500,000 to the Government's reconstruction efforts.

19. Mr. HUTCHINSON (Ireland) thanked the Co-ordinator for the sympathy he had expressed on the occasion of the death of the soldiers from the Irish battalion of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

20. Mr. AL-ZUBI (Jordan) requested that the statement made by the United Nations Co-ordinator be reproduced *in extenso* in the summary record.

21. The PRESIDENT said that if there were no objections he would take it that the Council endorsed the request by the representative of Jordan that the statement by the United Nations Co-ordinator be reproduced *in extenso* in the summary record.

*It was so decided.*<sup>3</sup>

#### AGENDA ITEM 4

##### Regional cartographic conference (E/1980/8, E/1980/L.20)

22. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador), introducing draft resolution E/1980/L.20 on behalf of the sponsors, announced that they had been joined by the Bahamas, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Spain and Trinidad and Tobago. He was glad to note that the Council was taking more interest in specific economic and technical problems rather than in political confrontation, which could take place in other bodies.

23. The Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, which had been held from 3 to 14 September 1979 at Mexico City, had revealed the

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently submitted as document E/1980/L.29.

<sup>3</sup> See paras. 1 to 16 of the present record.

progress made by the countries of the Americas in the field of cartography and the good use they had made of international technical co-operation, of co-operation between developing countries and of the bilateral programmes instituted in the region. The increasingly widespread application of the latest techniques of cartography and hydrography and the standardization of geographical names provided many remarkable examples of international technical co-operation. The participants in the Conference had also discussed education and training and the exchange of specialists and publications.

24. The Second Regional Cartographic Conference had also discussed a number of questions which should be reconsidered and developed during the Third Conference. The Argentine and Chilean Governments had offered to act as host to the Conference and since Santiago, Chile, was already the venue of the meeting of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, the Latin American countries which had sponsored draft resolution E/1980/L.20 proposed that the Argentine Government's offer should be accepted. They had also wished to express their deep appreciation to the Institute whose important work should lead to a better understanding of the Latin American region and a clearer appreciation of its resources. Finally, in the draft resolution all international bodies, especially the United Nations, were invited to co-ordinate their cartographic activities in the region in order to avoid duplication and provide greater support to the development plans of the Latin American countries.

25. Mr. MUELLER (German Democratic Republic) noted that the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas had made an important contribution to the expansion of regional co-operation and of international co-operation in the fields of geodesy and cartography. For its part, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic had participated in the Conference and had presented, *inter alia*, information on efficient and economical methods of cartography.

26. The Conference had made it clear that the all-round development of the national economy of developing countries and of their infrastructure required the further expansion of national geodetic and cartographic services. Those services provided a good basis for planning the exploration and efficient use of natural resources as well as the development of national energy and transport systems. Consequently, the enlargement and improvement of those services should not be underestimated by the developing countries in their quest for economic progress and the solution of pressing development problems.

27. Mr. PALMEIRO (Brazil) announced that his delegation wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.20; it would therefore be sponsored by all the members of the Latin American group.

#### AGENDA ITEM 15

##### **Humanitarian assistance programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa (continued)\* (E/1980/L.22, E/1980/L.23, E/1980/L.24, E/1980/L.25, E/1980/L.27)**

28. The PRESIDENT announced that Lesotho had joined the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.22, entitled "Assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia".

29. Mr. SAMAAN (United Arab Emirates) introduced draft resolution E/1980/L.24, entitled "Situation of refugees in the Sudan", and explained that the following amendments should be made thereto: the text of paragraph 6 should be inserted between paragraphs 3 and 4, and former paragraphs 4 and 5 should be renumbered. In paragraph 7, the words "and voluntary agencies" should be inserted after the words "international organizations" and, in the French text of the paragraph, after the words "au Soudan", a comma should be added and the expression "et qu'ils assurent" replaced by "afin d'assurer". Finally, a new paragraph, which would be paragraph 8, would be added to read:

*"Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to send an interagency mission to the Sudan to assess the needs and magnitude of assistance required for the financing of the programmes for relief and settlement of refugees."*

30. The statements made before the Economic and Social Council by the representative of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the representative of the Sudan had fully brought out the gravity of the situation. In spite of the laudable efforts made by the Sudanese Government and the High Commissioner, the resources devoted to helping the refugees in the Sudan were clearly inadequate. For that reason, the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.24 requested an immediate increase in those resources and appealed to the members of the international community to participate in the International Conference on Refugees in the Sudan, to be held at Khartoum, at a high level in order to ensure its success. He hoped that draft resolution E/1980/L.24 would be adopted by consensus.

31. Mrs. MUTUKWA (Zambia) introduced draft resolution E/1980/L.25, entitled "Assistance to the refugees in Djibouti", on behalf of the sponsors. The following amendments should be made to the text: in the fourth preambular paragraph, the word "increasing" should be replaced by the words "substantially increased" and the phrase "which has now reached 15 per cent of the total population" should be deleted; after operative paragraph 3 a new paragraph 4 should be inserted to read: "*Requests the Secretary-General to send an interagency United Nations mission to Djibouti to assess the needs of the refugees*"; finally, in paragraph 5, former paragraph 4, the words "include in his annual" should be deleted and the word "first" should be replaced by the word "second", the rest of the paragraph remaining unchanged.

32. She stressed the moderate and humanitarian nature of the draft resolution, which should be supported unanimously by the members of the Council.

*The meeting was suspended at 12.10 p.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.*

33. Mr. KANE (Senegal) introduced on behalf of the sponsors draft resolution E/1980/L.23, entitled "Assistance to the refugees in Somalia". He announced that Democratic Kampuchea, Italy, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Singapore and Thailand had joined the sponsors. Taking into account the statement made by the Somali Minister responsible for refugees (see 11th meeting), he proposed that the preamble should begin with the following paragraph: "*Having heard with deep concern the statement made by the Minister for Local Government of Somalia, who has special responsibility for refugees, on the grave refugee situation in Somalia*".

34. The sponsors also proposed a new text for paragraph 6, to read: "*Requests the Secretary-General to find ways and means to mobilize urgently humanitarian assistance for the refugees on the basis of the report of the United Nations interagency mission (E/1980/44)*".

\* Resumed from the 11th meeting.

35. Every day additional refugees were crossing the Somali frontier; their number now exceeded 650,000 and some estimates were double that figure. In the face of the gravity of a situation comparable with that in Viet Nam or Cambodia, the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.23 were ready to accept a compromise in order to reach a consensus and avoid a vote which would split the Council. They felt nevertheless that the Council should pursue and intensify efforts in favour of the refugees at least in two directions, first, by requesting the dispatch of a new mission to report to the second regular session of the Council and, secondly and above all, by organizing a pledging conference for the refugees in Somalia, the modalities of which would be left to the Secretary-General.

#### AGENDA ITEM 1

##### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (*concluded*)\*

36. The PRESIDENT read out a letter which had been addressed to him by the Chairman of the Latin American

\* Resumed from the 5th meeting

group informing him of the candidacy of Chile and Venezuela for the seat left vacant by Colombia on the Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He regretted that the designation of candidates had not been made earlier and recalled that the Working Group was concluding its work that same day. It therefore seemed pointless to appoint a representative to replace Colombia. He therefore suggested that the Council should decide that such an appointment was unnecessary without prejudice to Council decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978 and without establishing a precedent.

*It was so decided.*<sup>4</sup>

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*

<sup>4</sup> See decision 1980/111.

## 14th meeting

Monday, 28 April 1980, at 11.05 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.14

#### AGENDA ITEM 4

##### Regional cartographic conference (*concluded*) (E/1980/8, E/1980/L.20, E/1980/L.28)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the statement of the programme budget implications of the adoption of draft resolution E/1980/L.20, submitted by the Secretary-General (E/1980/L.28) in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council. He suggested that if there were no objections the Council should adopt draft resolution E/1980/L.20 on the Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas.

*The draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 1980/14).*

2. Mr. FIGUEROA (Argentina) expressed satisfaction at the adoption of the draft resolution and assured the Council that his Government, as host of the Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, would take all necessary steps to ensure its success.

3. Mr. SVIRIDOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not opposed draft resolution E/1980/L.20 on the understanding that the Conference would have no additional financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations and that it would be held in Argentina.

4. The PRESIDENT declared that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 4.

#### AGENDA ITEM 3

##### Special economic and disaster relief assistance (*continued*) (A/35/99)

5. Mr. RAMZY (Observer for Egypt) said that his delegation attached great importance to the future of Lebanon and the well-being of its people, who had fallen victim to war and civil strife which had taken a heavy toll on the economic and social infrastructure of the country. Israel's violation of Lebanese sovereignty was a major factor contributing to that situation. However, in spite of flagrant military action by Israel and other aggravating circumstances, the Government of Lebanon was undertaking great efforts to alleviate its economic and social problems. The Government's measures for reconstruction and development deserved the encouragement and support of the world community. Egypt shared the view of the Government of Lebanon that the process of reconstruction and development must not await a political settlement; rather, that process should contribute to such a settlement and the ultimate return of tranquillity and order to Lebanon. The role of the United Nations in that regard was essential; his delegation had been pleased to hear that the Committee on Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon had steadfastly proceeded to discharge its role, and it looked forward to even more intense activity on the part of the Committee as the process of reconstruction and development gained momentum.

6. Despite the declared position of the Government of Lebanon that it should bear the entire cost of the development programme from its own resources, it was nevertheless entitled to expect a significant input from the United Nations. In that regard, his delegation felt that the resumption of programming activities by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Lebanon since the middle of 1979 was an encouraging sign. The future well-being of Lebanon required that the members of the international community, individually and collectively, through the United Nations, should provide the greatest possible assistance for the reconstruction and development efforts of the Government by mobilizing political, economic and financial support.

7. Mr. AL-ZUBI (Jordan) said that the situation in Lebanon was similar to that in the Horn of Africa and in Kampuchea. Since 1974, hundreds of people had been killed, houses had been destroyed and, above all, the continuous Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon had forced hundreds of thousands of people to leave their homes and properties and be displaced in their own country. The report of the Secretary-General (A/35/99) and the statement by the United Nations Co-ordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon (13th meeting) had given a realistic picture of the Lebanese dilemma and emphasized the need to help the Government of Lebanon to cope with that grave situation. His delegation wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution on the reconstruction and development of Lebanon which would be circulated shortly and hoped that other delegations would join in that humanitarian effort.

8. Mrs. KALM [World Health Organization (WHO)] said that in 1979 the World Health Assembly had adopted a resolution requesting the Director-General of WHO to continue and intensify health and medical assistance to Lebanon by allocating funds from the regular budget and other financial resources for that purpose. A WHO programme co-ordinator appointed to assist the Ministry of Health in Lebanon's rehabilitation programme was helping to identify emergency health needs for the implementation of a national reconstruction programme and was also co-ordinating with other agencies of the United Nations and bilateral agencies the health assistance provided to Lebanon. In 1979, WHO had provided from its regular budget a total of \$365,254 for health assistance to Lebanon to finance various health services. Funds had also been allocated from the regular budget for the eastern Mediterranean region in response to a request from the Government for financial support for the equipping of some 120 dispensaries in southern Lebanon. Drugs required by the Ministry of Health for cancer clinics had been procured and shipped through funds jointly made available from the WHO regular budget and the United Nations Trust Fund for Assistance to Lebanon. In the period 1976-1979, a total of \$2,735,624 from the Trust Fund had been utilized for health purposes. WHO would continue that humanitarian operation in full collaboration with the Resident Co-ordinator of the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Committee of the Red Cross and the other organizations concerned.

9. Mr. AKL [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)] said that his statement would supplement the Secretary-General's report (A/35/99) with regard to action taken by UNESCO in providing assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. In response to the appeal of the Secretary-General and at the request of the Government of Lebanon, the Director-General of UNESCO had sent a number of intersectoral

missions to assist the Lebanese authorities in various fields. Between 1977 and 1979, UNESCO assistance to Lebanon under its regular programme, amounting to approximately \$115,000, had made it possible to initiate much larger assistance programmes, as in the case, for instance, of the assistance provided for the resumption of technical training. The first phase of a project for the resumption of technical training financed by UNDP and executed by UNESCO in close co-operation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) had been completed in 1979; the second phase, involving approximately \$1 million, had been approved by UNDP in January 1980. At the request of the Lebanese authorities, UNESCO had prepared a project for the establishment of a faculty of engineering at the University of Lebanon; that \$1 million project had been approved by UNDP in March 1980 and would be executed by UNESCO. UNESCO had also assisted the Lebanese authorities in the formulation of reconstruction and development projects to be submitted to Arab sources of financing, including a project to re-equip physics, chemistry and natural science laboratories in public schools and a project for the education of handicapped persons and the construction of schools in southern Lebanon. Lastly, UNESCO participated regularly in the meetings of the joint co-ordinating committee of the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system, which was responsible for co-ordinating international assistance to Lebanon. The Executive Board of UNESCO would study the possibilities for providing increased assistance to Lebanon in the areas mentioned at its nineteenth session, which was about to begin, and the resolution to be adopted by the Economic and Social Council would, of course, be transmitted to the Executive Board for action.

10. Mr. NAIK (Pakistan) said that the United Nations Co-ordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon had correctly pointed out in his statement (13th meeting) that the increasing violence in Lebanon was not motivated by sectarian or ideological differences. Lebanon was a victim of outside aggression. The festering violence in that country was directly related to the Middle East conflict, and specifically to intermittent Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. Recent evidence of that was the latest incursion by Israel and the subsequent cold-blooded murder of two members of the Irish battalion of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

11. It was heartening to learn that, despite the grave political situation in Lebanon, there had been improvement in the economic sector. In that regard, the long-term plans worked out by the Council for Development and Reconstruction were highly commendable. His delegation hoped that the Lebanese Government would find that Council's recommendations useful and would embark on the programmes. Economic recovery would do much to alleviate the hardships facing Lebanon as a result of the tragic Middle East conflict.

12. Pakistan, which had always rendered all possible support for efforts to mobilize relief and development assistance on humanitarian grounds, shared the world community's concern for the need to intensify collective efforts towards the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. His delegation fully endorsed the recommendations of the Secretary-General (see A/35/99) and urged the international community to respond generously in providing financial support to meet Lebanon's emergency and long-term needs. Although there had been a positive response from friendly countries and the United Nations system, greater efforts were needed to mobilize adequate resources

to implement the programmes of reconstruction and development.

13. Mr. SAMHAN (United Arab Emirates) expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the statement of the Co-ordinator (13th meeting) regarding the current economic situation in Lebanon. The main task in the work of reconstruction and development was not providing assistance and contributions, but solving the basic problem of Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian question. Were it not for Israel's barbaric aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, the world would not be faced with the current situation. For that reason, the solution of the Palestinian problem was a prerequisite for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. His Government's pledging of assistance did not contradict its policy in that regard but was a symbolic manifestation of the concern of the people of the United Arab Emirates for the plight of the Lebanese people. His Government would spare no effort in assisting Lebanon, and it urged the international community to deal with the root of the problem by enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

#### AGENDA ITEM 15

##### **Humanitarian assistance programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa (concluded) (E/1980/44, E/1980/L.22, E/1980/L.23/Rev.1, E/1980/L.24/Rev.1, E/1980/L.25/Rev.1, E/1980/L.27, E/1980/L.30, E/1980/L.31)**

14. The PRESIDENT said that the adoption of draft resolution E/1980/L.23/Rev.1, on assistance to the refugees in Somalia, would have no financial implications because any costs would be absorbed in the regular budget. He announced that France had become a sponsor of draft resolution E/1980/L.25/Rev.1, on assistance to the refugees in Djibouti, and Zambia had become a sponsor of draft resolution E/1980/L.24/Rev.1, on the situation of refugees in the Sudan.

15. Mr. KANE (Senegal) speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.23/Rev.1, said that it was proving difficult to reach a consensus on the wording of the fourth preambular paragraph, despite the fact that comments in support of the statement made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees appeared on almost every page of the report of the interagency mission (E/1980/44) and that the seriousness of the plight of African refugees had been reiterated only a few days previously by the Secretary-General. In the hope of producing a more acceptable wording the sponsors had revised the paragraph to read:

*"Further taking note of the statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees that the refugee problem in Somalia was the most serious in the world as far as numbers were concerned and of his appeal to all Governments to help the refugees,".*

16. Operative paragraph 7 had also caused difficulties, and the sponsors were therefore deleting it. In order not to disperse the efforts of the United Nations system and of other contributors to the cause of refugees, another draft resolution would be submitted, either later in the current session or at the second regular session, calling for a pledging conference for the approximately 4 million refugees in Africa as a whole. The deletion of paragraph 7 would further reduce the already minimal financial implications of draft resolution E/1980/L.23/Rev.1. The main

purpose of the sponsors was to ensure that the recommendations contained in the report of the interagency mission were implemented.

17. Mr. ZHANG Zifan (China) said that the seriousness of the refugee problem in Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa and the urgent need for relief and assistance were evident from the study conducted by the interagency mission (E/1980/44) and from the statements made by the representatives of Somalia and other countries concerned. His delegation believed that the United Nations should always adhere to the principle of humanitarian assistance for refugees, and hoped that the current session of the Council would make a positive contribution to alleviating the suffering of the peoples of the region. It therefore supported the four draft resolutions on humanitarian assistance.

18. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said that his delegation would have wished to join in a consensus on all four draft resolutions. Unfortunately, in view of the wording of the fourth preambular paragraph, as revised by the sponsor, it would have to request a vote on draft resolution E/1980/L.23/Rev.1 unless there was a possibility of further consultations to try to find an acceptable formulation.

19. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said that, while he appreciated the desire to try to reach a consensus, there had been plenty of time to do so. Since the paragraph in question simply referred to a factual statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, of which the Council was merely being asked to take note, there should be no controversy. Everyone agreed that Somalia had the largest number of refugees in the world; the representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) might wish to enlighten the Council further on that factual point.

20. Mr. KANE (Senegal) said that the sponsors would have no objection to further consultations in an attempt to satisfy the Ethiopian delegation.

21. Mr. MBAPILA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that a great deal of work had already been done on the draft resolution, and to allow further consultations might open the door to further requests. He appealed to the representative of Ethiopia to reconsider his stand.

22. Mr. LUSAKA (Zambia) said that, while he had no wish to disagree with the Tanzanian representative, he believed that a few more minutes for consultations between the sponsors and the parties directly involved might be useful in trying to reconcile the two positions.

*The meeting was suspended at 12.05 p.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.*

23. The PRESIDENT said that, as a result of consultations, a new formulation had been found for the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution E/1980/L.23/Rev.1, reading as follows:

*"Further taking note of the statement made on 13 March 1980 by the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees that the refugee problem was the most serious in the world as far as numbers were concerned, and the appeal made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, dated 4 March 1980, to all Governments to help the refugees,".*

24. He announced that Indonesia had become a sponsor of draft resolutions E/1980/L.23/Rev.1, E/1980/L.24/Rev.1 and E/1980/L.25/Rev.1.

25. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt all four draft resolutions by consensus.

*Draft resolutions E/1980/L.22, E/1980/L.23/Rev.1, as orally revised, E/1980/L.24/Rev.1 and E/1980/L.25/Rev.1*

were adopted without a vote (resolutions 1980/8, 1980/9, 1980/10 and 1980/11, respectively).

26. Ms. SPERO (United States of America) said that her delegation had been pleased to participate in the consensus on the four draft resolutions. The humanitarian problem of refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa was of immense and tragic proportions; she noted with special concern that the vast majority of them were women and children, many of whom were seriously ill and undernourished. The United States was already committed to providing food and other assistance to the refugees in the form of direct contributions to UNHCR, specifically for African refugees. Other Governments had also made donations, but much greater efforts were needed. The huge influx of refugees was more than any Government in the area could be expected to handle without assistance. A monumental tragedy would ensue unless larger resources could be made available. Her delegation endorsed the idea of a single interagency task force, with the Office of the High Commissioner as lead agency, and hoped that the Office and other organizations concerned would continue to accelerate their efforts to relieve the acute suffering of the refugees and to resettle them, on a high-priority basis, particularly in view of the food shortages that would occur in some areas in the course of the summer. High praise was due to the Governments of countries in the Horn of Africa for their willingness to receive and assist refugees, and she also commended the Office of the High Commissioner, other United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations for their part in the co-operative effort.

27. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) said the fact that his delegation had joined in the consensus did not change the view it had expressed at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly with respect to the representation of Kampuchea, which was shown as a sponsor of three of the draft resolutions adopted.

28. Mr. NISHIDA (Japan) observed that the international community could not ignore the increasing numbers of refugees in all parts of the world who were suffering extreme poverty and starvation. In view of the large number of refugees in the Horn of Africa and the seriousness of their plight, it was imperative to extend assistance to alleviate the burden on the Governments of the region. His delegation welcomed the provisions calling for the sending of inter-agency missions.

29. Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation had sponsored all four draft resolutions out of humanitarian concern, without prejudice to its political positions.

30. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that, while his delegation had supported the various draft resolutions, that did not indicate any change in its position with regard to the representation of Kampuchea in the United Nations.

31. The missions called for in the resolutions just adopted should be financed from funds already allocated for that purpose in the regular budget; that was the position which his delegation would take in the competent financial bodies.

32. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said he had already tried to explain during the general debate that his delegation did not accept the *bona fide* character of the so-called refugees in Somalia. Even if a few thousand people had crossed the border during and immediately following the 1978 war to seek temporary refuge in Somalia, there was no doubt that the overwhelming majority of the people in the camps were Somali citizens seeking relief from the severe drought affecting two thirds of that country. Since the majority of the population of Somalia was nomadic, the only effective way to channel relief assistance to them was to assemble them in

camps, and an effective way of attracting world attention and international assistance was to label them "refugees".

33. Because of the political undercurrents and sinister designs and implications of draft resolution E/1980/L.23/Rev.1, his delegation could not but dissociate itself from the consensus and express strong opposition to the scenario which that resolution sought to legitimize. The day would undoubtedly come when Somalia would claim that the refugee population equalled its own population, and the willing accomplices of Somalia would then understand the point which his delegation had been endeavouring to explain to the Council. The circumstances surrounding the recent interagency mission to Somalia also prevented his delegation from supporting the recommendations contained in the report (E/1980/44). It was forced to make the most serious reservations in that regard, because it had recent evidence that food and medicines sent by the international community had been diverted to Somalia's regular army. When Somalia presented the problem in its proper context and correct magnitude and used assistance only for the purposes for which it was intended, then Ethiopia would be more than willing to help to mobilize international assistance for that country.

34. Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria) associated his delegation with the reservations expressed by the representatives of the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union with respect to the sponsorship of draft resolutions by so-called "Democratic Kampuchea". In joining in the consensus on the four draft resolutions, his country had not changed its position in that respect.

35. Mr. FARAH DIRIR (Observer for Djibouti) expressed appreciation to all members of the Council who had sponsored or supported the draft resolution on assistance to the refugees in Djibouti (E/1980/L.25/Rev.1). As the representative of Zambia had explained when introducing the draft resolution (13th meeting), it fully reflected the problems facing Djibouti in trying to cope with the influx of refugees. His delegation very much welcomed the fact that the Council had given full support to the appeal for assistance by adopting the resolution by consensus.

36. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) expressed great disappointment, but no surprise, at the efforts of the Ethiopian delegation to provoke bitter political confrontation.

37. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia), speaking on a point of order, asked in what capacity the observer for Somalia was addressing the Council.

38. The PRESIDENT said that he had given the floor to the observer for Somalia because it was customary to allow beneficiaries of resolutions adopted by the Council to express their appreciation to the Council even when, as observers, they had not been able to participate in the voting. In the current case, the statement of the observer for Somalia could also be taken as an exercise of the right of reply.

39. Mr. ADAN (Somalia) said that the representative of Ethiopia had attempted to introduce patently false interpretations into the proceedings, based on Ethiopian fantasies and not the facts of historical record. Draft resolution E/1980/L.23/Rev.1, which had been introduced in response to a refugee tragedy second to none and which the representative of Ethiopia had sought to discredit, made reference to the United Nations interagency mission that had visited Somalia, to the subsequent appeals for aid to Somalia by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and to the statement by the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees. Two clear facts emerged: there could be no question as to the existence of *bona fide* refugees in Somalia, and

Somalia had the largest number of refugees of any country in the world.

40. The Ethiopian attempt to deny the evidence not only insulted the intelligence of the Council but also shamefully challenged the credibility of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and other high officials of United Nations agencies. It was their integrity that Ethiopia was impugning.

41. Moreover, the four resolutions adopted by the Council concerned refugees in four different countries in the Horn of Africa. How did the representative of Ethiopia explain the refugees in the other three countries? They too were obviously escaping the persecution and reign of terror that was the official policy of the Ethiopian Government. In certain provinces, particularly the Ogaden and Eritrea, the indigenous populations had been singled out for extermination. That policy had been attested to by such independent sources as Victor Perry, the noted authority on East Africa, who had reported that refugees fleeing the Ogaden had declared that they had been driven out by the Ethiopians and their lands resettled by non-Somalis; Professor Arthur Lewis, who had written in *The Guardian* that Ethiopia appeared to be engaged in clearing the Ogaden of its indigenous population and in the process had deprived a million Somalis of their traditional homeland; and *Le Monde* and *The New York Times*, which had recently reported that the Ethiopian Government, with Soviet and Cuban help, was making the Ogaden uninhabitable and over a million ethnic Somalis homeless. Even within Ethiopia itself, the extermination of 15 prominent figures, among them the head of the Coptic Church, had just been verified by Amnesty International. He was citing such objective corroborations to counter the distortions of the representative of Ethiopia.

42. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said it was not Ethiopia but Somalia that was discrediting the report of the United Nations interagency mission by not including in its draft resolution any reference to the fact, brought out in that report, that two thirds of Somali territory was suffering

under a severe drought. He commended the observer for Djibouti for having put the issue in its proper light.

43. His Government totally rejected any pressure that might be brought to bear on its conduct of its domestic affairs, which would continue to be determined by the Ethiopian people in a manner that met their needs and safeguarded their interests. Nothing could be farther from the truth than the charge that his Government was resettling people. There had been no refugee problem until the Somali aggression of 1977. Ethiopia was a rich agricultural country, with no shortage of land. All settlement projects had been and would continue to be on uninhabited, virgin lands; not a single person had been uprooted. In the Ogaden, the Government was little by little re-establishing development projects that had been mercilessly destroyed by the Somali invasion, assisting the nomads there to settle so that they could lead more stable and secure lives. Once the nomads were settled, they would be better equipped to defend themselves against the Somalis. As for the alleged atrocities in the area, an OXFAM team had reported in *The Observer* of London that it had not seen any sign of current or recent activity directed against the civilian population generally.

44. Mr. ADAN (Observer for Somalia) said it was not the OXFAM team that had made the statement cited by the representative of Ethiopia but rather its one dissenting member, Conor Cruise O'Brien, who, unlike the others, had chosen not to move about privately in the territory without official Ethiopian guides. Even O'Brien, it should be noted, did not deny the plight of the Ogaden refugees.

45. Mr. ELFAKI (Observer for the Sudan) expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Council for the adoption of draft resolution E/1980/L.24/Rev.1. The adoption of the four resolutions by consensus reflected a humane regard for humanitarian issues and augured well for future action in that field.

46. The PRESIDENT declared that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 15.

*The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.*

## 15th meeting

Monday, 28 April 1980, at 3.50 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.15

### AGENDA ITEM 1

#### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)\*

##### PARTICIPATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL (E/1980/52)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the note by the Bureau (E/1980/52) regarding the applications received from four intergovernmental organizations, namely, the Asian Productivity Organization, the International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries, the Latin American Energy Organization and the Latin American Economic System (*ibid.*, annex), requesting, in accord-

ance with rule 79 of the rules of procedure, designation by the Council to participate in its deliberations. The Bureau had examined the applications and recommended that those organizations be designated to participate on a continuing basis in the deliberations of the Council on questions within the scope of their activities.

2. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the Bureau's recommendation.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/114).

3. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that the International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries (ICPE) had been established as a Yugoslav institution at Ljubljana in 1974 on the initiative of the Yugoslav Government, which had recognized the significant and growing role of public enterprises in the development plans and growth strategies of the developing countries, the need to

\* Resumed from the 13th meeting.

improve the performance and effectiveness of those enterprises and the desire of developing countries to evolve co-operative measures for the solution of their economic and social problems.

4. The Center had received its initial impetus from the United Nations seminar on public enterprises held at Herceg Novi in 1969. The concept of the Center had been endorsed at the International Seminar on Planning attended by participants from 32 developing countries in 1974, which had urged that it should be transformed into a joint and co-operative institution of developing countries. In 1975, the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries, meeting at Havana, had recommended that the non-aligned countries examine the possibility of joining the Center. In August 1975, the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Lima, had invited the non-aligned and other developing countries to join the Center and had welcomed the decision to convene a meeting of the developing countries with the objective of adopting a statute for the Center. In pursuance of those initial initiatives, a conference of developing countries had been held at Ljubljana in March 1976. The conference, attended by 39 developing countries and by observers from various United Nations and other international organizations, had adopted the statute of the Center.

5. In 1978, the Center had been transformed into an intergovernmental institution of developing countries. Aware of the need to participate in United Nations activities related to public enterprises and the public sector in general in developing countries, the Center had been able to establish working relationships with corresponding organs and organizations of the United Nations system, particularly those mentioned in its application.

6. Thirty-one developing countries had already ratified the statute and become full members of ICPE. Twenty-three of them had participated in the first session of the Assembly of the Center in July 1978, when that Assembly had adopted a two-year programme (1979-1980) and the Center's budget and had also elected a Council. Membership of ICPE was open to all developing countries.

7. The work of the Center continued to be focused on the basic problems of public enterprises in developing countries. An outline of its activities was given in the application, which also mentioned that ICPE was open to co-operation with developed countries and their institutions interested in public enterprises in developing countries.

8. While the Center had already been the recipient of support and funds from the United Nations system for the implementation of its programme activities, it was interested in taking part in the further development of the concept of the role of public enterprises and the public sector in general in developing countries, within the framework of the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system. That accounted for its interest in establishing a working relationship with the Economic and Social Council, its members and bodies and the committees and bodies of the General Assembly dealing with development strategy and policies, and with appropriate units in the United Nations Secretariat.

## AGENDA ITEM 11

### Public administration

#### REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/55)

9. The PRESIDENT suggested that, in considering the reports of the First (Economic) Committee, the Council

should follow the established practice of first taking a decision on all the recommendations before it under each item and then hearing explanations of vote, whether on one or more of the resolutions adopted.

*It was so decided.*

10. The PRESIDENT noted that the First (Economic) Committee, in paragraph 14 of its report on agenda item 11 (E/1980/55), recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Public administration and finance for development in the 1980s". The Committee had adopted the draft resolution without a vote; if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to do likewise.

*The draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 1980/12).*

11. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of item 11.

## AGENDA ITEM 12

### Tax treaties between developed and developing countries

#### REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/54)

12. The PRESIDENT noted that the First (Economic) Committee, in paragraph 13 of its report on agenda item 12 (E/1980/54), recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "International co-operation in tax matters". The Committee had adopted the draft resolution without a vote; if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to do likewise.

*The draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 1980/13).*

13. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had reservations about the draft resolution just adopted by the Council. Those reservations had been expressed in the First (Economic) Committee, but in view of their importance he wished to reaffirm them before the Council.

14. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of item 12.

## AGENDA ITEM 13

### Natural resources

#### REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/53)

15. The PRESIDENT noted that the First (Economic) Committee, in paragraph 6 of its report on agenda item 13 (E/1980/53), recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft decision entitled "Water resources policy and planning". The Committee had adopted the draft decision without a vote; if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to do likewise.

*The draft decision was adopted without a vote (decision 1980/115).*

16. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of item 13.

**AGENDA ITEM 16****Humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people**

17. The PRESIDENT suggested that the list of speakers on item 16 should be closed at 6 p.m. that day and that the deadline for the submission of proposals under the item should be 1 p.m. on the following day.

*It was so decided.*

18. Mr. MBAPILA (United Republic of Tanzania) recalled that at an earlier meeting, during the discussion on the request for the inclusion of the item in the agenda, his delegation had made a general statement (12th meeting, paras. 42-44) in which it had posed certain questions for the Secretariat to answer at the appropriate moment. He reiterated his request for a reply from the Secretariat in due course.

*The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.*

**16th meeting**

**Tuesday, 29 April 1980, at 11 a.m.**

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.16

**AGENDA ITEM 3****Special economic and disaster relief assistance  
(concluded)\* (A/35/99, E/1980/L.29)**

1. Mr. OLDAEUS [United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)] said that in Lebanon UNICEF had provided co-operation for relief, rehabilitation and long-term development. UNICEF had started its relief operations in 1975, and the total relief assistance provided amounted to approximately \$4.5 million. In addition, UNICEF had drawn on its emergency funds to provide assistance amounting to \$400,000 to displaced mothers and children under the care of Palestinian organizations.

2. In 1976, UNICEF had begun planning rehabilitation assistance to follow the emergency assistance and to restore basic services to the population, particularly services benefiting children and mothers. The priorities had been identified as restoration of drinking water supplies, rehabilitation of primary schools, health services and day-care and social centres. Assistance so far totalled about \$16.4 million.

3. UNICEF intended to provide further services to meet the continuing needs, depending on the availability of financial resources. For the Palestinian children and mothers in Lebanon, further assistance to the value of approximately \$1.5 million was envisaged; for the population as a whole, particularly in the south, plans were under way for a large-scale rehabilitation and extension of piped drinking water supplies. In addition, UNICEF had made available a total of \$4.3 million for a programme for children deprived of normal family life which was being implemented in co-operation with the Lebanese Government.

4. In the preparation and implementation of those programmes, UNICEF had collaborated closely with the United Nations organs and agencies concerned. In the south, the co-operation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had been indispensable for the execution of the programme.

5. For the 1980 session of the UNICEF Executive Board, proposals were under consideration for further rehabilitation assistance, including services for drinking water, health and education. Specific-purpose contributions would be used

and an initial amount of approximately \$28 million was being sought. That was in addition to the UNICEF programme in Lebanon funded from regular resources, for which \$2 million was expected to be made available during 1980-1981.

6. Mr. PONCET (France) introduced draft resolution E/1980/L.29, entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon", on behalf of the sponsors and said that, in view of its purely humanitarian nature, he hoped it would be adopted by consensus.

7. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that the grievous situation in Lebanon was a matter of concern to Ecuador, where the Lebanese communities integrated into its society for many decades were dynamic and constructive elements in the nation's life. Lebanon had been among the founders of the League of Arab States and of the United Nations and had taken the leading role in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its generous contribution to the international community should therefore be remembered, now that that same community was being called upon to come to its assistance in its time of trouble.

8. In addition to the contribution to the reconstruction and development of Lebanon made by the United Nations system, with a valuable input from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the form of co-ordination, which was referred to in the Secretary-General's report (A/35/99), it was heartening that co-operation had also been forthcoming from the United Arab Emirates, the United States, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, Kuwait, the European Economic Community and banking circles in Europe and the United States.

9. As had been pointed out, the problem could almost be said to be one of organization rather than of resources; accordingly, as always, the role of UNDP's contribution was to serve as seed money and the co-operation provided, in accordance with the plans drawn up by the Government, was directed to the sectors of agriculture, health, industry, communications, social security, finance and training.

10. Ecuador supported draft resolution E/1980/L.29, as it had supported similar ones relating to other parts of the world, and wished to become a sponsor.

11. Mr. James DROUSHIOTIS (Cyprus) urged the Council to adopt draft resolution E/1980/L.29, of which Cyprus

\* Resumed from the 14th meeting.

was a sponsor, by consensus. The Secretary-General's report (A/35/99) painted a grim picture and showed the need for assistance by the international community. Cyprus stood in full solidarity with the people and Government of Lebanon, one third of whose population had been displaced, victims of repeated aggression that had been condemned by the Security Council. United Nations assistance would serve as a positive element in the country's quest for peace and a rapid return to normality. Thanks were due to the specialized agencies which were assisting Lebanon and, especially, to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. The recent tragic murder of two Irish members of UNIFIL was to be condemned. Appreciation should also be expressed to the League of Arab States, which had contributed \$400 million to the total cost of \$600 million for the programmes in Lebanon.

*The draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 1980/15).*

12. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had supported the draft resolution just adopted because it was sympathetic to the sufferings endured by the people of Lebanon, all of which had been imposed from without. It believed that the damage to the economy of Lebanon should be compensated for by the aggressor, which was Israel.

13. Mr. SAGHIYYAH (Observer for Lebanon) said that in January 1977 the Council had called for generous contributions to meet Lebanon's urgent humanitarian needs: in adopting draft resolution E/1980/L.29, it had once again acted positively to help a Member State in its hour of need. Lebanon was gratified and encouraged.

14. His Government would shoulder its responsibilities and assume the major burden of reconstruction and development, but because of widespread destruction over the past five years it needed help from the international community. However, Lebanon did not want to be either a burden to, or a victim of conflict within, the international community. Once peace was restored, it would move ahead with its normal development.

15. He expressed thanks to the many donor countries, to the Secretary-General and to the United Nations Co-ordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon and to the various international agencies involved for their invaluable assistance to Lebanon, and to the sponsors of the resolution just adopted and those who had spoken in support of it.

16. Mr. AKHUND (United Nations Co-ordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon) said that all the agencies working in Lebanon, often under difficult circumstances, had made a signal contribution to ensuring the country's functioning. Co-operation between the United Nations and the Lebanese Government was, with the Council's sponsorship, to be raised to a higher plane through the implementation of the resolution just adopted. A joint venture in the reconstruction and development of Lebanon had been assured.

17. He expressed the deepest gratitude to the Government of Lebanon for the welcome and co-operation it had extended to him. The Secretary-General hoped that in his next report to the General Assembly he would be able to report extensive progress both in the work and in the situation in Lebanon.

18. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 3.

## AGENDA ITEM 16

### Humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people (*continued*) (E/1980/61, E/1980/L.33)

19. Mr. GUNA-KASEM (Thailand) said everyone would agree that the famine, illness, deprivations and death which occurred daily in Kampuchea and along the Thai-Kampuchean border constituted a grave human tragedy in the contemporary world and a truly international humanitarian issue.

20. As a neighbouring country, Thailand had been doing its best to help its fellow Buddhists and neighbours in their time of severe adversity. It had allowed over 150,000 displaced Kampucheans to seek temporary shelter in Thailand, and had also allowed its territory to be used as a staging post for sending food and medical supplies from various international and national humanitarian sources to over 900,000 Kampucheans, thus saving numerous lives.

21. Real famine did exist in Kampuchea. People would not have walked for days and nights across the country to the Thai-Kampuchean border to get a few kilos of rice being distributed by UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) if food had been available nearer home. Despite the enormous efforts of the international community, the situation threatened to become worse, particularly if international assistance from major donor countries arrived more slowly. A large quantity of rice seed must be brought in quickly before the planting season, and the seeds must be accompanied by sufficient food supplies to ward off hunger in the mean time. Already nearly 900,000 people were living on food supplied by international humanitarian organizations from across the Thai border; if the 1980 rice crop failed badly, twice that number might flock toward the west to obtain international food aid. WFP had recently stated that 10,000 tons of emergency seed and food supplies would be required up to the end of 1980. Contributions and funds carried over from 1979 would only cover the needs up to mid-May both in Kampuchea and the Thai-Kampuchean border area.

22. There was also an urgent need to obtain agreement on many unresolved practical problems in ensuring that food and medical supplies reached the needy and were properly distributed, all of which could be solved only at a sufficiently high level. Accordingly, the draft resolution on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people (E/1980/L.33), which he was introducing on the behalf of the sponsors, including Italy and the Netherlands in addition to those listed, called for the convening of a ministerial meeting at Geneva in the latter part of May to deal with the problem.

23. The sponsors had four aims in requesting the convening of an international meeting at that time. First, there was a real need to focus world attention once again on the plight of the people of Kampuchea. Secondly, more international assistance must be obtained for continuing relief operations. Thirdly, there was an especially urgent need to ensure supplies of sufficient rice seed before the planting season began. Fourthly, certain important unresolved practical problems must be dealt with to ensure that international assistance consisting of food-stuffs and badly needed medical supplies entering Kampuchea reached all the civilian population of Kampuchea without discrimination. A recent photograph in *The New York Times* showing hundreds of sacks of grain being allowed to rot while thousands of Kampucheans had been dying of hunger demonstrated the urgent need to get supplies quickly to those for whom they were intended.

24. The draft resolution was mainly procedural in that it sought merely to give the Secretary-General a mandate to convene an international meeting. It was the wish and intention of the sponsors that consideration in the Council should be limited to that aspect, and it would save time if members refrained at the current stage from dealing with the substantive and detailed problems at hand, which could best be left for discussion at the proposed international meeting. The sponsors hoped that, as had been the case with the four resolutions on humanitarian problems in Africa, the draft resolution could be adopted without a vote and that every member of the Council would support it for humanitarian reasons.

25. He denied rumours that his country wanted to turn the proposed conference into a political meeting. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand had stated a few days previously that it was to be an essentially humanitarian conference, since the time was not ripe for the kind of political conference referred to in paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 34/22 of 14 November 1979.

26. Mr. SUWONDO (Indonesia) said that his delegation considered it essential to convene an international meeting for the purpose of expeditious action by the international community to generate effective assistance for the Kampuchean refugees and enable the relief programme to become fully operational. Indonesia had for a long time been seriously concerned at the suffering of the hundreds of thousands of Kampuchean refugees, which not only created a major human problem for Kampuchea but also had repercussions throughout the entire region and therefore demanded serious consideration with a view to humanitarian assistance. The fullest co-operation and prompt action by the international community was needed if the international agencies were adequately to increase their relief efforts and he therefore urged the Council to adopt draft resolution E/1980/L.33 by consensus.

27. Mr. HOLLAI (Hungary) said that there was no contradiction between acknowledging the difficulties which still existed in Kampuchea and opposing the inclusion of the item on Kampuchea in the Council's agenda. The more those favouring action by the Council repeated that their aim was purely humanitarian, the more dubious their intentions became; for it was common knowledge that the humanitarian aspect of the problem was being taken care of by the overwhelming response of international organizations and of a good number of countries which had been rendering large-scale assistance to Kampuchea. There was already adequate machinery to deal with the mobilization and provision of international aid to that country. Those who spoke so fervently of the plight of the people of Kampuchea should not close their eyes to the fundamental improvements in living conditions in the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the gradual elimination of Pol Pot's terrible heritage. Everyone knew that Kampuchea was going through a rather difficult period which would last until the next harvest. Hungary and other countries were continuing to provide the Government of Kampuchea with all the necessary aid they could give, while the various international agencies and countries involved in multilateral assistance were meeting regularly and discussing ways to carry out their humanitarian objectives. Furthermore, close contacts were maintained with the authorities in Kampuchea.

28. In the light of those facts, his delegation did not see any reason for convening a new meeting, especially at the ministerial level. The problems encountered in mobilizing support for the relief operations and in the distribution of supplies did not justify the holding of such a meeting, unless that forum was to be used by those who sought such a justification to discuss the political situation in Kampuchea.

While his delegation shared the view that the people of Kampuchea were in need of further international assistance, it did not believe that the proposed meeting would best serve the interests of Kampuchea and the United Nations. The Council should instead launch an appeal to the world community to continue, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, to provide the people of Kampuchea with all necessary humanitarian aid. Lastly, any discussion of the question would obviously require the consent and participation of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea if it was to be significant and effective.

29. His delegation would not be able to participate in a consensus on draft resolution E/1980/L.33, the preamble of which sought to link the humanitarian assistance and relief programme with the refugee problem. Nor could his delegation accept the assertion that it was a purely procedural draft resolution and that a meeting at the ministerial level to be convened by the Secretary-General was a procedural matter. There were certain references in the draft resolution which had nothing to do with humanitarian assistance but dealt with the internal situation in Kampuchea, and there was a contradiction between the last preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 2. His delegation reserved the right to speak at greater length on the draft resolution later.

30. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in order to take the necessary measures to provide Kampuchea with effective aid, it was necessary to understand the original causes of the current difficulties. By 1975, as a result of United States intervention in the internal affairs of Kampuchea, 80 per cent of the industrial enterprises had been destroyed, 80 per cent of the rice fields had been made unfit for cultivation and 60 per cent of the livestock had perished. That grave situation had further deteriorated as a result of the four-year rule of the Pol Pot clique, which had pursued a policy designed to destroy its own people resulting in the death of three million out of a population of seven million. That clique had destroyed the monetary system, closed down banks and factories and resettled millions of people in so-called "communes", which had actually been turned into concentration camps. Almost all members of the intelligentsia, skilled workers and regular workers had been liquidated. The victory of the Khmer patriots in January 1979, under the leadership of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea, had proved to be a turning-point in the history of Kampuchea, resulting in the overthrow of the genocidal, dictatorial Pol Pot-Ieng Sary régime and the establishment of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

31. The People's Revolutionary Council and the Kampuchean people had achieved great progress in rebuilding the national economy and restoring the political, social and cultural life of the country. The first harvest had been gathered, villages had been rebuilt, and industrial enterprises and port and transportation facilities had been restored. Great progress had been made in the field of education; schools were again functioning, and urgent measures for training teachers had been undertaken. Medical facilities had become available again, families had been reunited and temples were functioning. Respect for basic human rights was guaranteed in the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Despite the obvious success in rebuilding the ruined economy, many problems remained to be solved. The People's Republic of Kampuchea still needed assistance in the form of food, medicine and other vital goods.

32. The socialist countries were continuing to provide the Kampuchean people with aid. As part of its assistance programme to the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Soviet Union in 1980 was providing aid amounting to 87 million roubles for food, petroleum products, textiles,

motor vehicles, medicines, bicycles and other goods. In addition, it was helping the People's Republic of Kampuchea to rebuild hospitals, establish mobile medical units, restore technical training institutions, reconstruct the port facilities of Kompong Som and Phnom Penh, rebuild the transport and communication infrastructure, restore agricultural production, rebuild the fishing industry and ensure the supply of energy and water to cities. Soviet dock-workers and technicians were sent to unload cargoes and train Kampuchean dock-workers in the use of equipment supplied by the Soviet Union. Soviet organizations also provided aid by sending specialists on missions to work in Kampuchea. A programme for further economic and technical co-operation designed to rebuild the basic sectors of the Kampuchean economy was currently being planned. The goal of all humanitarian aid provided by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries was to help to restore normal living conditions as soon as possible.

33. Assistance provided by international organizations in the form of food and medicines was important. Unfortunately, in recent months, pledges for international aid had become smaller. Of the \$262 million needed to provide aid to Kampuchea in 1980 under international programmes, only some \$20 million had been pledged. Furthermore, the attempts of certain groups in the West and elsewhere to use the question of humanitarian assistance to Kampuchea for their own unseemly political ends and to discredit the People's Revolutionary Council were increasing. False reports that assistance was not reaching the Kampuchean population and that the rules for the distribution of aid were being violated for political reasons were being spread. Yet, many witnesses, including representatives of international organizations such as UNICEF, OXFAM and ICRC could testify that food and medicines were being properly distributed among the population of Kampuchea.

34. The sincere desire of the socialist countries to improve the situation in Kampuchea had nothing in common with the intention of certain groups to use the question of assistance to achieve ends which were contrary to the interests of the Kampuchean people. In that regard, he emphasized the inadmissibility of any attempts to equip the remnants of the Pol Pot bands under the guise of humanitarian assistance. Such attempts were nothing less than a direct encroachment on the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The People's Revolutionary Council, the sole legitimate representative of the Kampuchean people, was prepared to accept humanitarian assistance from all countries and international organizations, if that assistance was not subject to any conditions. Only the People's Revolutionary Council was entitled to determine the practical means for distributing such assistance. It was on that basis that an agreement had been reached in the United Nations for providing assistance to Kampuchea through international organizations. Anyone wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people could easily do so through the channels already existing within Kampuchea.

35. Lastly, his delegation did not see any need for convening the conference proposed in draft resolution E/1980/L.33, since the third conference of donor countries, in May, along with other possibilities, provided ample opportunity to render international humanitarian assistance to Kampuchea. Furthermore, the funds which Governments would spend in organizing the proposed conference would be put to better use if they were sent directly to the Kampuchean people.

36. Miss COURSON (France) said that her Government shared the concern of the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) regarding the need for humanitarian aid for Kampuchea. It paid tribute to the

international community, humanitarian organizations and numerous voluntary associations for the efforts already made and to Thailand for the humanity it had shown in receiving Khmer refugees. It supported the holding of an international meeting, which should be strictly humanitarian in character and should aim at mobilizing the necessary resources and also at improving the unsatisfactory situation with respect to the distribution of aid. She hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

37. Mr. HUTTON (Observer for Canada) expressed support for the holding of a humanitarian conference on the Kampuchean problem. His Government fully recognized the very heavy burden assumed by the ASEAN countries with respect not only to the displaced Kampucheans but to all the other refugees in South-East Asia. Through its significant financial contribution and large refugee settlement programme, Canada was attempting to help in the search for an over-all solution. However, the humanitarian needs were too great to be met by a handful of countries. All Governments should be urged to share the burden to the greatest extent possible, by co-operating in international efforts to alleviate the difficult circumstances of the Kampuchean people, both inside and outside the country, and particularly in Thailand and the border areas. An international meeting of the kind proposed could serve the important objectives of providing a focus for the renewal of international co-operative efforts, seeking to enhance the commitment of the Kampuchean authorities, obtaining pledges of financial or other contributions to the relief programme, providing donors with a full assessment of progress during the first phase and with details of the plan of action for the second phase and seeking to reduce all impediments to the effective implementation of the programme.

38. In its desire to help the Kampuchean people, the international community should not lose sight of the extremely serious humanitarian needs of refugees in other parts of the world, particularly the 4 million refugees in Africa and the 700,000 Afghan refugees in camps in Pakistan. International assistance should be as widely distributed as possible and his delegation therefore welcomed the important steps already taken by the Council to alleviate the suffering of refugees in Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa.

39. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) reiterated his delegation's serious misgivings regarding the inclusion of the item on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people in the Council's agenda. All questions concerning such assistance could only be solved with the consent of and in co-operation with the legitimate Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Moreover, a further conference, as proposed in draft resolution E/1980/L.33, could not be held if the international relief measures already taken were not properly taken into account.

40. In the short time since the founding of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, remarkable progress had been achieved in reactivating and developing the economy under the leadership of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea. The country had had to start from scratch and, in view of the disastrous heritage of chaotic disorder left by the overthrown régime, the first results in national reconstruction were very impressive. However, the fruits of the Kampuchean people's labour were still not sufficient to supply adequately the entire population and for a relatively long time the country would be unable to get along without international relief consignments. His delegation was convinced that those difficulties could be overcome by the will of the population and by broad international assistance. The

relief assistance organized in the framework of the United Nations was of essential importance for obtaining that objective.

41. From the very outset, the successful struggle of the Kampuchean people to reconstruct the national economy and to revive political, social and cultural life had met with full sympathy, solidarity and support on the part of the socialist States. The conclusion in March 1980 of a treaty of friendship and co-operation between the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea had ushered in a qualitatively new stage in their traditional friendly relations. The German Democratic Republic was providing assistance in the development of Kampuchea's national economy and public health system and in vocational and other training. The assistance rendered by the Solidarity Committee of the German Democratic Republic in 1979 alone had been worth about 17 million marks. At the beginning of 1980, a group of medical doctors had started work at a Phnom Penh hospital, and dozens of trucks, shipped to Kampuchea in February and handed over to UNICEF, were being used to transport rice and other food-stuffs, mainly to inaccessible areas of the country. All such measures were aimed at stabilizing the situation and ensuring independent development.

42. The current method of providing assistance through the United Nations system and by other means was effective, and anyone willing to render genuine assistance could use the existing machinery to the fullest extent. Regrettably, evidence had come to light that some so-called relief measures were designed to prevent the people of Kampuchea from living in peace and to inflict further sufferings upon them.

43. His delegation therefore resolutely rejected any attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of Kampuchea under the false colours of so-called humanitarian assistance. Such assistance could only bring genuine relief to the Kampuchean people if channelled to the most needy sectors on the basis of the sovereign decisions of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. It was on that understanding that his country would continue to offer solidarity and support to the Kampuchean people as they constructed a peaceful, independent and democratic Kampuchea.

44. With respect to draft resolution E/1980/L.33, his delegation supported the preliminary remarks made by the representative of Hungary and reserved its right to speak on the substance of the draft resolution at a later stage.

45. Mr. DRUMMOND (United Kingdom) said that his Government welcomed the inclusion of the item in the

agenda, particularly in view of the fact that the Council had already discussed the tragic and pressing refugee problems in Africa and adopted resolutions thereon. It favoured the ASEAN proposal for a meeting at the ministerial level. Notwithstanding certain cynical remarks by earlier speakers, his delegation was convinced that such a meeting would be useful in solving an urgent humanitarian problem. Recent reports by international agencies had demonstrated all too clearly that the spectre of starvation once again loomed over the people of Kampuchea. With the imminent onset of the monsoon, it was important that the international community should have an opportunity for a high-level discussion on ways of dealing with the problem effectively.

46. Mr. DANOVI (Italy) said that, having attended all the formal and informal meetings which had been convened by Sir Robert Jackson, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and the international agencies involved in the relief programme for the civilian population of Kampuchea, his delegation was in a position to state that the picture portrayed by some speakers was, to say the least, inaccurate. Although pointing to some temporary improvement in the situation during the winter, the reports of the international agencies had also indicated that until the next harvest, at the end of the year, the population of Kampuchea would rely entirely on outside assistance for its food requirements. Mass starvation was again a very real prospect, and the results achieved by the relief programme over the past few months would simply be nullified if the programme were to be discontinued or even diminished in scope. Since the time when a report of the international agencies had been circulated by the Secretary-General in March, there had been a serious deterioration in the country's infrastructure which had created additional obstacles to the distribution of relief aid and had added an unforeseen element of urgency, particularly in view of the imminent monsoon season.

47. His delegation fully concurred with the assessment that the international community was once again confronted with an emergency situation regarding Kampuchea and it fully understood the concern of the countries of the region, and in particular of the Thai Government, which was already sustaining a very heavy financial burden. The flow of Kampuchean refugees would dramatically increase if the current deterioration in the situation inside Kampuchea was not halted. The humanitarian initiative taken by the ASEAN countries was therefore justified and timely, and his delegation supported it.

*The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.*

## 17th meeting

Tuesday, 29 April 1980, at 3.25 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.17

### AGENDA ITEM 16

#### Humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people (*continued*) (E/1980/L.33, E/1980/L.35)

1. Mr. NISHIDA (Japan) said that, although the UNICEF/ICRC Kampuchean Emergency Relief Programme

had helped considerably to alleviate the plight of the Kampuchean people, it should be emphasized that the Kampuchean people were still seriously threatened by starvation. As the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had observed, there was a danger that the equivalent of a holocaust would occur in Kampuchea. His delegation appealed once again to the

members of the international community to make every possible effort to increase humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people.

2. Some delegations had asserted that the convening of an international meeting at the ministerial level would duplicate the efforts of donors' meetings. It should be noted, however, that the latter were clearly different from ministerial meetings, since they were basically forums in which donor countries exchanged views with the international agencies concerned. His delegation firmly believed that it was undoubtedly necessary and extremely valuable to convene a meeting at the ministerial level at the beginning of the second phase of the relief programme.

3. It was the basic policy of his Government to support all efforts to find speedy and lasting solutions for the problem of refugees, not only in Kampuchea but throughout the world, a problem which transcended political and geographical differences. As a sponsor of draft resolution E/1980/L.33, his delegation wished to stress that the basic aim of the proposal to convene a meeting at the ministerial level was to meet the international community's urgent need to deliberate at a high level on the question of humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people at the current stage, when the monsoon season was about to begin.

4. Mr. THIOUNN (Observer for Democratic Kampuchea) said that it was clear that the Vietnamese and Soviet expansionists, who had not hesitated to invade Kampuchea and Afghanistan respectively and to pursue a policy of extermination of the Kampuchean and Afghan peoples in defiance of the Charter of the United Nations and the most fundamental norms of international law, would not be deterred by anything or anybody. The activities of the Vietnamese and Soviet expansionists had been condemned by the General Assembly in its resolutions 34/22 of 14 November 1979 and ES-6/2 of 14 January 1980, by the Security Council in its deliberations, and by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolutions 3 (XXXVI) and 29 (XXXVI).

5. Since 25 December 1978, Viet Nam had been waging an unprecedented war of aggression and expansion against Democratic Kampuchea and its people, which had resulted in the death of 2 million people, the flight of 200,000 refugees, the displacement of several million persons within the country itself, the destruction and pillaging of the economy, and the starvation of virtually the entire population, which was on the brink of extinction. Such was the catastrophic situation deliberately and systematically brought about by the Vietnamese invaders, with Soviet support, in a country which had previously been thriving and prosperous, and the situation was even more dire in the remote provinces of the north-east.

6. The international emergency assistance raised under United Nations auspices had been sent to refugee camps in Thai territory and in Kampuchea and also channelled through the Vietnamese invaders and the puppet régime of Phnom Penh. While the assistance sent to the refugee camps in Thailand and to the border had helped to alleviate the suffering of hundreds of thousands of refugees, the same could not be said of the assistance distributed through the Vietnamese occupiers, foreign invaders who controlled only the towns and certain roads, together with a strip of territory 2 or 3 kilometres wide on either side of those roads, and through the puppet régime installed by the invaders. The available information showed that virtually all the humanitarian assistance which the Vietnamese occupiers had received had been diverted to Viet Nam and to the Vietnamese army of occupation. The Vietnamese invaders went through the motions of distributing to the population the assistance received, only to take it back during the night.

The trucks which carried the aid were diverted to Viet Nam or to places where the Vietnamese occupation forces were stationed. Every day hundreds of thousands of persons made the dangerous journey to the Thai border in order to obtain rice distributed by the organizations of the United Nations system, a journey which would be unnecessary if international assistance had actually reached them. Another telling fact was the Vietnamese invaders' stubborn refusal to allow the presence of a greater number of staff from the organizations of the United Nations system, which was proof of their fear that they would not be able to continue appropriating international assistance for themselves. Furthermore, it was common knowledge that the Vietnamese expansionists were experiencing in 1980 a shortfall of 5 million tons of rice to feed the Vietnamese people and their armed forces in Viet Nam, Democratic Kampuchea and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The organizations of the United Nations system were in the process of sending tens of thousands of tons of rice seed to Kampuchea through the Vietnamese invaders. Democratic Kampuchea appealed to those organizations to take greater care to ensure that all the seed was delivered to Kampuchean farmers instead of being diverted to Viet Nam. Currently, in the areas temporarily occupied by the Vietnamese invaders, the only ones who received food were the members of the Vietnamese army of occupation, those who agreed to collaborate with the invader and those who had gold to purchase the rice provided by international organizations which was sold by the Vietnamese occupiers.

7. According to information from Professor Thompson, published in *The Christian Science Monitor*, 85 per cent of the humanitarian food assistance donated to Kampuchea through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or other international relief sources was being diverted by the Vietnamese for their own use. That fact had been confirmed by deserters from the Vietnamese army, who had also indicated that the Vietnamese occupiers and their puppets were scandalously exaggerating the difficulties encountered in distributing relief supplies. According to the same source, in western Kampuchea the Vietnamese occupiers had seized all international assistance provided in the form of food, clothing and medicines.

8. In view of the country's plight, the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea firmly supported the initiative of the five countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and various other countries to convene a new international conference on humanitarian assistance to the people of Kampuchea. In his delegation's view, the most important problem to be resolved by the international conference envisaged in draft resolution E/1980/L.33 was the question of the measures to be adopted in order to ensure that food and medicines donated actually reached the people of Kampuchea and were not diverted by the Vietnamese invaders. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea had stated that it was able to ensure, in close co-operation with the various humanitarian organizations, the distribution of such assistance to the people of Kampuchea.

9. With regard to the areas temporarily controlled by the Vietnamese aggressors, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea had reiterated its express request that a sufficient number of staff members from international humanitarian assistance organizations and the United Nations should directly oversee the distribution of assistance in order to ensure that it was not used in the war of genocide being waged against the people of Kampuchea. In addition, it was essential for all the peace-loving and justice-loving peoples and countries of the world to redouble their efforts to bring about the immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal of the occupation troops stationed in Kampuchea. Only in that

way would the people of Kampuchea find peace and obtain the food and medicines they required.

10. Mr. JOSEPH (Australia) said that, in view of the plight of the people of Kampuchea, it was very likely that the greatest human catastrophe in recent history would occur in that country unless additional assistance was made available. Accordingly, Australia saw the need for the convening of an international meeting at a very high level in order to refocus attention on the Kampuchean situation with the aim of generating adequate international support for continuing relief efforts and considering ways of promoting and improving the distribution of relief supplies within Kampuchea.

11. His delegation therefore supported draft resolution E/1980/L.33, of which it was a sponsor, and urged the Council to adopt it.

12. Mrs. NGUYEN NGOC DUNG (Observer for Viet Nam) said that she wished to emphasize once again that the gloomy picture of Kampuchea which was deliberately being painted did not reflect current realities. Numerous Western observers had recognized that the Kampuchean people, under the leadership of its Government, the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, was actively working in all sectors of society. The economy was recovering, cultural and social activities were being resumed and the food problem was gradually being solved. However, the reconstruction of a country devastated down to its very foundations posed enormous problems which could not be solved in a short time; it required the provision of exceptional humanitarian assistance over the long term. In that connexion, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam noted with satisfaction the success of the five international organizations entrusted by the United Nations with co-ordinating the efforts of Member States to provide emergency assistance to Kampuchea.

13. Viet Nam and the socialist countries, for their part, would spare no effort to provide maximum assistance. The main problem at the moment was clearly to find the best and most realistic method of organizing the assistance operations. The donor countries had decided at their most recent meeting to hold another meeting in May. The officials in charge of assistance operations, together with the competent authorities in Kampuchea, were studying in the field practical measures for receiving and distributing aid. In her delegation's view, the machinery set up by the five international organizations had proved its effectiveness in the first stage and could be trusted to do the work in the second stage. There were some who severely criticized the shortcomings of those assistance operations in channelling and distribution. Those were technical problems which, her delegation believed, could be resolved only by the recipient country and the responsible international organizations, not by an international conference even at the ministerial level.

14. With regard to the problem of Kampuchean refugees, which no doubt imposed a heavy burden on Thailand, information made available by the five organizations in charge of relief operations in Kampuchea had made it clear that those organizations also had made enormous efforts on behalf of the refugees in a number of areas. However, the problem required a more radical solution. Viet Nam believed that the principles governing the solution of that problem should be the same in the case of countries which settled their differences by agreement between themselves, without the involvement of any third parties. In that connexion, the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea had issued a statement on 28 February 1980. What mattered was to take effective action to mobilize greater resources, allowing the competent authorities of the reci-

ipient country to decide how to channel and distribute the assistance.

15. The proposal of the ASEAN countries to convene an international conference was not justified, since the current situation in the People's Republic of Kampuchea was returning to normal and did not call for a conference of that sort. If the promoters of the conference really wished to improve the humanitarian work already under way, they should consider why a ministerial-level international conference would be better able to deal with the problems than would the meetings held regularly in New York. If the People's Republic of Kampuchea, a sovereign country and the one most concerned, was not represented at that conference, it would constitute unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of another country. In that regard, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea had just sent a message to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the President of the Economic and Social Council expressing his opposition to the convening of such a conference. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam firmly supported that position and asked the Council to take into account that point of view, which conformed to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the usual practice of the United Nations. Her delegation, like others, opposed the convening of such a conference because its objective was not humanitarian but political. Any observer could confirm that certain leaders of the ASEAN countries had declared in official statements that it was necessary to hold an international conference of a political nature on the problem of Kampuchea, and United States officials had repeatedly supported such an initiative on the part of Thailand. While the Council had just taken the decision to include in its agenda the new item, concerning the holding of an international conference, the Prime Minister of Thailand was already announcing that the conference would be held at Geneva, specifically on 27 May, as if it were a foregone conclusion, adding that the conference was expected to discuss assistance to the refugees, as well as political questions. It was therefore obvious that the intentions of the promoters of that conference were political, despite the humanitarian guise in which it had been cloaked. Consequently it was not the Council that should convene it, since that would be a violation of the Council's mandate. For all those reasons, her delegation was firmly opposed to all devious machinations for convening such a so-called humanitarian conference, and it asked the Council to take into consideration the point of view of the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea in order to avoid the unfortunate consequences of a possible decision on questions that were not within its mandate and, above all, a decision contrary to the principle of respect for the sovereign rights of States.

16. In conclusion, she introduced, in accordance with rule 72 of the Council's rules of procedure, a draft resolution sponsored by the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which had just been distributed as document E/1980/L.35. In that draft resolution, the sponsors wished to express their deep appreciation to the States and international organizations concerned, and to the Secretary-General, for their assistance efforts on behalf of the people of Kampuchea, to state that the situation in Kampuchea required continued assistance efforts at all levels, and to declare their approval of the way in which assistance activities had been carried out, particularly of the decision to hold a conference of donor countries on 13 May 1980. The operative paragraph reflected their wish that resources of all kinds should be channelled through the machinery established by the United Nations, in order to comply with the international community's wish strictly to

ensure humanitarian assistance for the people of Kampuchea. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that the members of the Council would adopt it by consensus.

17. Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation, like others, had expressed reservations concerning the content of the draft resolution submitted by the five ASEAN countries (E/1980/L.33). It must be emphasized that, in order to have a clear picture of what was happening in Kampuchea, it was necessary to evaluate the current situation in its proper historical and political context. The people of Kampuchea had suffered the consequences of a genocidal policy without precedent in history, which had been carried out by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique. Millions of people had been massacred, and the economic, political and social life of the country had been paralysed. The effects would be felt for many years. One year earlier, a profound change had taken place in the life of Kampuchea, with the overthrow of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique. In a short span of time and under the most adverse conditions, the People's Revolutionary Council, the country's sole legitimate authority, had managed to surmount the consequences of the criminal policy of the former régime and had restored stability to the country, gradually removing the threat of famine and creating favourable conditions for the country's recovery. The process of re-establishing normal life and rebuilding the economy was being carried out successfully, and the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea had provided ample evidence of its ability to perform its tasks and discharge its obligations efficiently. However, it was obvious that the aftermath of the previous chaos could not be overcome overnight and that substantial aid from the international community would be needed. Such aid, which was currently being provided, should be channelled properly and should not be tied to any political conditions or be used as a pretext to create tension in the region. The Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, as representatives of international relief agencies had confirmed on numerous occasions, had demonstrated its willingness to co-operate in ensuring the success of international efforts of that kind.

18. The real cause for alarm in connexion with the provision of assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people was the lack of financial and material resources, which threatened to bring current operations to a standstill. The international community must consider, as a matter of urgency, what it could do to respond to the urgent need for funds. The Economic and Social Council, fulfilling its role as the principal organ of the United Nations supervising United Nations activities in the humanitarian field, must urge Member States to continue to contribute to the current operations.

19. The proposal to convene a high-level meeting, despite assurances about its purely humanitarian character, raised certain doubts. In Bulgaria's view, a conference of that sort could not achieve its humanitarian objectives if it was convened without the participation of the legitimate Government of the country concerned. In view of the humanitarian nature of the item under discussion, his delegation did not wish to bring up at that time the matter of the legitimate representation of the Kampuchean people and was stating its objections to convening the conference because it was all too well aware of the negative effects it would have on ongoing humanitarian efforts.

20. The Government and people of the People's Republic of Bulgaria were rendering and would continue to render substantial assistance for the reconstruction of Kampuchea. So far, his country had provided Kampuchea with material assistance equivalent to \$12.5 million. Together with the other socialist countries, Bulgaria was determined to con-

tinue providing the assistance needed, confident that the people of Kampuchea, having freed itself, would soon overcome its current difficulties and build a new, prosperous and independent Kampuchea.

*Mr. Xifra de Ocerin (Spain), Vice President, took the Chair.*

21. Mr. ZHANG Zifan (China) said that his delegation, having studied draft resolution E/1980/L.33, submitted by the ASEAN countries, regarding humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people, and having heard the relevant statement by the representative of Thailand, agreed in principle with that proposal and supported it: at the same time, it hoped that adequate efforts and contributions would be made in the United Nations and during the current regular session of the Economic and Social Council to put an end to the agony of the Kampuchean people.

22. The Kampuchean people was now suffering the consequences of a war of aggression and could not re-establish normal life and production activities because it had been reduced to the condition of a displaced people. At the same time, the increasingly acute suffering of the Kampuchean people would make more and more refugees flee to neighbouring countries, imposing a heavy burden on those countries, especially Thailand. It was therefore appropriate and necessary to convene as soon as possible an international conference to deal with assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people. Moreover, given the obstacles encountered during the preceding stage by international relief efforts, there was an urgent need, as stated in the draft resolution mentioned, to improve the practical measures to ensure that the aid reached the needy and did not fall into the hands of foreign aggressors and their puppets.

23. The current torments of the Kampuchean people were entirely the result of the armed Vietnamese aggression against Democratic Kampuchea and its military occupation: until the foreign troops withdrew, those torments would continue, and it would not be possible to restore peace and tranquillity in the region of Indo-China.

24. Mr. SOUTHICHAK (Observer for the Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that since the Economic and Social Council had approved the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of the question of humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people, despite the doubts and arguments of several members of the Council and observers, his delegation wished to point out that, under the Charter of the United Nations, the Council was in fact authorized to make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international matters. It was regrettable, however, that the initiative for such studies on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people had come through a decision taken in the Council by countries other than the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the only Government entitled to approach United Nations bodies with a view to their dealing with problems of special interest to it.

25. With regard to the item on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people, the representatives of the five countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations had described the situation in a most alarming way, speaking of the starvation and possible death of the Kampuchean people. That description grossly distorted the real situation prevailing in Kampuchea — not surprisingly, since it emanated from countries which, although neighbours of Kampuchea, were persisting in refusing to recognize reality in Kampuchea. If the defenders of the humanitarian question had understood that the Kampuchean people had already suffered too much and had truly wanted to avert the alleged "starvation" and "death" of Kampuchean people, they would have stopped giving aid to the deposed genocidal régime and co-operated with the People's Revolutionary

Council of Kampuchea, which had stated a number of times that it was prepared to take humanitarian assistance from any quarter, provided it came through recognized channels, but the five ASEAN countries were maintaining that it had not been possible to solve the practical problems arising in connexion with the distribution of relief. These problems would be easily solved if those countries and the international humanitarian organizations wanted genuine co-operation with the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea. It was perfectly understandable that the People's Republic of Kampuchea, an independent sovereign country, should not permit anyone to attack its national sovereignty on any pretext whatever.

26. With regard to draft resolution E/1980/L.33 before the Council, in which the five ASEAN countries spoke of improving the practical measures, his delegation had already pointed out that the existing machinery of the United Nations system made it possible for *bona fide* donors to provide humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people. Furthermore, the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to co-ordinate humanitarian programmes in Kampuchea reflected the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to assist the Kampuchean people and made it possible immediately to intensify the assistance furnished to it. The practical measures taken by the Special Representative were encouraging, and if they had not achieved their objective, that was because some donor countries which had been holding back for political reasons were constantly trying to interfere in the internal affairs of Kampuchea while reducing their assistance to the Kampuchean people.

27. The proposed convening of an international conference was neither justified nor timely, and even less so was the reference to the conference held at Geneva in July 1979, since that would open the door to those who wished to exploit the question of humanitarian assistance to Kampuchea in order to raise, as they had already done, the political issue, thereby destroying any prospect for the success of such a conference. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, even though it, too, was experiencing a difficult economic situation, had always expressed its solidarity with the Government and people of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and offered them its fraternal and friendly assistance on a bilateral basis.

28. His delegation was one of the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.35, which had been introduced by the representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and earnestly hoped that the members of the Economic and Social Council, guided by their desire truly to assist the Kampuchean people, would support that draft resolution.

29. Mr. LIPTAU (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation supported draft resolution E/1980/L.33 because, unlike some previous speakers, it had no doubts about the seriousness of the intentions of the countries sponsoring that draft resolution and, furthermore, strongly believed that international opinion should be reawakened by means of a high-level meeting. Reports from the international relief organizations and appeals by high-ranking United Nations officials had repeatedly pointed to the fact that a hunger catastrophe in Kampuchea could be avoided in the months to come only if substantial international efforts were undertaken immediately. When humanitarian assistance was at stake, and especially in such an undeniable case as Kampuchea, international opinion would simply not understand if a task entrusted to all Members of the United Nations was not pursued with all administrative and financial means available.

30. The Federal Republic of Germany had from the outset, through the European Economic Community and

international and private channels, made substantial contributions totalling more than \$US 21 million to the international relief effort. Furthermore, its humanitarian assistance was not limited to one particular country, but recognized the increasing needs of refugees in a number of countries, as had been demonstrated by its support of the resolutions adopted by the Council concerning refugees in countries in the Horn of Africa and the Sudan.

31. Consequently, his delegation took pleasure in announcing that it wished to be included among the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33, but it would be grateful if consideration could be given to a more realistic time for the meeting and to the level of representation thereat.

32. The PRESIDENT announced that France and the United Kingdom had been added to the list of sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33.

33. Mr. MONJANE (Observer for Mozambique) said that his country had never opposed giving aid to the needy; he regretted, however, that the Council was discussing a matter which concerned a sovereign country in the absence of its legitimate representatives. The existing situation in Kampuchea was the consequence of the criminal régime of Pol Pot, and its problems should be solved by its own people, under the leadership of their legitimate representatives. It should be emphasized that the efforts being made by the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea to rebuild the country were worthy of praise, as was the assistance given by governmental and non-governmental organizations and the specialized agencies.

34. The idea of convening an international meeting on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people, advanced in document E/1980/L.33, was a manoeuvre intended to transform a humanitarian question into a political debate and constituted interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State. His delegation was not in favour of such a meeting and instead fully supported draft resolution E/1980/L.35.

35. Mr. ZAITON (Observer for Malaysia) welcomed the inclusion in the agenda of the item before the Council; its inclusion had been requested by his and other delegations, which had been guided by a deep concern for the sad plight of millions of Kampucheans who continued to suffer shortages of food and medicines.

36. His delegation believed that despite the valuable contribution of the international community and the efforts of United Nations relief agencies and international organizations to render assistance to the Kampuchean people, the situation remained serious, and those efforts would have to be increased in order to avert a new disaster. Stocks of rice had fallen considerably, and unless the international community distributed rice seed and food in Kampuchea before the rainy season, the situation would be extremely precarious. He paid a tribute to the Government of Thailand for the relief which it was providing to the refugees. That country was already shouldering a very heavy burden and the international community should help it to bear that burden. His delegation therefore called upon the members of the Council to support the convening of a meeting at the ministerial level to consider ways of increasing humanitarian assistance to Kampuchea, as proposed in draft resolution E/1980/L.33. The sponsors of that draft resolution had not been motivated by political considerations or by the desire to make propaganda, but by a strictly humanitarian interest.

37. His delegation was opposed to draft resolution E/1980/L.35 because that document did not recognize the existence of serious practical problems in the distribution of assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people or the urgency of the problem before the Council.

38. Mr. LOHANI (Nepal) said that draft resolution E/1980/L.33, of which his delegation was a sponsor, took into account the urgent need to increase assistance to the Kampuchean people and to the growing number of refugees in the region. The high-level international meeting proposed in the draft resolution was justified by the need to focus world attention once again on the suffering of the Kampuchean people in order to increase assistance to them and resolve a number of the practical problems relating to the distribution of that aid. It was to be hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

39. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Observer for the Philippines) said that the delegations of the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations were, as stated earlier, sponsoring draft resolution E/1980/L.33 for humanitarian and compassionate reasons. As had been stated at the meeting of donors held at Headquarters on 26 March and at earlier meetings, there was great disquiet about the possibility of an even greater disaster in Kampuchea if food supplies were halted and the international community was unable to reach the financial target of \$226 million set for the period April-December 1980. That was the background to the draft resolution. Unless prompt and decisive action was taken to support it, the situation in Kampuchea might deteriorate in the months to come, in the monsoon and planting season, when the stock of grain available for consumption fell even further in a country that had already been suffering extreme privation for more than a year.

40. Mr. ZAYAS (Observer for Cuba) said that his country was not opposed to efforts to restore normal conditions in the People's Republic of Kampuchea, but it could not agree to having a humanitarian matter used in order to secure political dividends that had nothing to do with true humanitarian interests, as draft resolution E/1980/L.33 was designed to do. Any attempt to ignore the People's Revolutionary Council of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the legitimate representative of its people, was necessarily an obstacle to achieving the aims of humanitarian assistance in Kampuchea. His delegation therefore associated itself with the views expressed by the representatives of the Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria and Viet Nam.

41. Mr. KOH (Observer for Singapore) referred to the reasons given by the representative of Thailand at the Council's 16th meeting for the request that an interministerial meeting should be convened to focus world attention on the difficult situation of the Kampuchean people. He drew the attention of those who felt that the facts were being exaggerated to the report prepared by the interagency working group for the meeting of donor countries held on 26 March 1980, which made reference to the crisis in Kampuchea. There were two elements in that crisis: first, in spite of the efforts made by the United Nations agencies concerned and by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Kampuchean people was continuing to suffer hunger and disease and, secondly, the planting season was approaching but farmers had not yet received the necessary supply of seed, fertilizer and agricultural equipment.

42. The volume of international assistance in cash and in kind needed to be increased, and that would be one purpose of the ministerial meeting in question, in order to reach the target of \$260 million set for the period April-December 1980 in the report of the interagency working group. Another aim of the meeting was to solve practical problems in connexion with the distribution of aid. In that connexion, the lack of infrastructure should be mentioned. The existing ports were not in a fit state for use, which made it necessary to consider dispatching supplies by air or other suitable means of transport. It was also necessary to obtain permission from the Phnom Penh régime to send supplies by air, to

find out whether it was possible to send relief to Kampuchea across the frontier with Thailand, and to investigate the veracity of statements made in the press and by missions visiting Kampuchea that supplies intended for Kampuchea had been held back, diverted to a third country or confiscated.

43. With regard to the ministerial meeting proposed by the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, it should be stressed that, although monthly meetings of donor countries were being held, they took place at Headquarters and were attended by permanent representatives, whereas ministers from the countries concerned would attend the proposed meeting, thus providing better assurance that a just solution to the problems involved would be found. The motivation of the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33 had been purely humanitarian and events would demonstrate their intention not to convert the meeting into a political one. It was ironic that those who were introducing political elements into the current debate, as the delegation of the Soviet Union had at the preceding meeting, should be those who were accusing the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations of wishing to give the ministerial meeting a political character.

44. Mr. KELLY (Regional Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), replying to a question asked at the preceding meeting by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania concerning details of the *per capita* expenditure for refugees in South-East Asia as compared with that for Africa, said that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) did not keep such tabulations for two areas that were so different and had such different situations, and that a certain amount of research was necessary in order to provide a realistic answer. There were many factors involved in such situations; moreover, many refugees needed UNHCR only to provide them with protection services and not with financial assistance. Consequently, the figures alone would be totally misleading unless they were accompanied by the necessary explanations, but the New York office of UNHCR did not possess the facilities and material required in order to conduct such a study. However, its headquarters at Geneva had been asked to provide the information requested, which would be made available as soon as it was received.

45. Mrs. NGUYEN NGOC DUNG (Observer for Viet Nam) said that her delegation totally rejected the slanderous allegations made against her country by the representative of China and loyally echoed by the representative of Singapore; those statements were completely false and worthless. World opinion was already aware of the cause of the Kampuchean catastrophe. The survivors of three years of genocide by the régime of Pol Pot, the agent of Beijing, had given first-hand testimony to foreign observers who had visited the country and seen the common graves of millions of persons murdered by the hirelings of China. The Kampuchean population itself had related how China had helped to destroy Kampuchea in order to convert it into a Chinese military base, to serve the Chinese policy of expansionism directed against the countries of South-East Asia.

46. Over a year after the overthrow of that régime through the Kampuchean people's heroic struggle, China and those who faithfully followed that country's policy were continuing to supply the overthrown régime with weapons and ammunition so that it could continue terrorizing the Kampuchean people. That was what the representatives of China and Singapore had omitted to say with regard to their assistance to the Kampuchean people.

47. Her delegation also rejected the slanders uttered by persons calling themselves representatives of Democratic Kampuchea; their words were unworthy of any comment by her.

48. Mr. MBAPILA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, without the information requested from the Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and further information requested from the Secretariat, it would be very difficult for him to adopt a position. He accepted the explanation given by the Regional Representative of UNHCR of the difficulties that had so far made it impossible to reply to his questions and expressed the hope that the High Commissioner would carry out the necessary research and supply the data required. That question might arise again at the second regular session of the Council, at Geneva.

49. His delegation's earlier statement in the Council had been distorted in some respects. His delegation had neither opposed inclusion of the item in the agenda nor said that it would oppose the convening of a conference as such, although it found it particularly difficult to see what link there was between the international conference that was being proposed and the other two conferences held outside the context of the Economic and Social Council and convened by the Secretary-General.

50. Mr. ZHANG Zifan (China) said that Viet Nam had slandered his delegation, but everyone knew who was

oppressing the people of Kampuchea. Viet Nam was accusing others of what it was doing itself, whereas the only solution to the problem would be to withdraw the troops that had invaded Kampuchea.

51. Mrs. NGUYEN NGOC DUNG (Observer for Viet Nam) said that China should provide proof of the accusation it was making against her country. She reaffirmed what she had said in her earlier statement, which sufficed to demonstrate China's policy against her country and the other countries of the region.

52. Mr. THIOUNN (Observer for Democratic Kampuchea) said that the attitude of Viet Nam was an insult to the international community.

53. Mr. ZHANG Zifan (China) said, in reply to the Observer for Viet Nam, that sufficient proof had already been provided and that, although it would be possible to start a debate on the subject, there were other forums competent for that purpose.

54. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the statement made by the representatives of China and Singapore were an indication of what the character of the conference that was being requested would be. It was clear that they wanted to go beyond the question of humanitarian assistance and to politicize the issue.

*The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.*

## 18th meeting

Wednesday, 30 April 1980, at 11 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.18

### AGENDA ITEM 7

#### Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers

##### REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1980/48 AND CORR.1)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 7 (E/1980/48 and Corr.1) and drew attention to paragraph 10 of the report, in which the Committee recommended the adoption of a draft resolution with the same title as the agenda item, which it had adopted without a vote. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to do likewise.

*The draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 1980/16).*

2. The PRESIDENT said the Council had thus concluded its consideration of item 7.

*Mr. Xifra de Ocerín (Spain), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

### AGENDA ITEM 10

#### Narcotic drugs

##### REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1980/47)

3. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 10

(E/1980/47) and drew attention to paragraphs 9 and 10 of the report, in which the Committee recommended the adoption of six draft resolutions, I to VI, and four draft decisions, I to IV, all of which it had adopted without a vote. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to do likewise.

4. Mr. ROS (Argentina) said that he would like to place on record Argentina's support for decision 6 (S-VI) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, concerning drug trafficking and other crimes, which was reproduced in chapter XII of the Commission's report on its sixth special session (E/1980/14). That decision was based on the clear links between drug trafficking and organized crime in many parts of the world and also the international clandestine sale of arms for terrorist purposes. His Government felt that a more co-ordinated approach to counter the activity of those engaging in related crimes nationally and internationally should be adopted.

5. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that paragraph 7 of the report of the Second (Social) Committee (E/1980/47) should read "The representative of the USSR made a statement . . . regarding draft resolutions II and V", and in paragraph 8 it should have been mentioned that the representative of the Soviet Union had made a statement on draft decision III.<sup>1</sup>

*Draft resolutions I to VI and draft decisions I to IV were adopted without a vote (resolutions 1980/17 to 1980/22 and decisions 1980/116 to 1980/119).*

<sup>1</sup> The changes were incorporated in the report of the Second (Social) Committee by document E/1980/47/Corr.1.

6. The PRESIDENT suggested that, before concluding its consideration of item 10, the Council should take note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixth special session (E/1980/14).

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/120).

7. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus completed its consideration of item 10.

#### AGENDA ITEM 16

##### Humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people (*continued*) (E/1980/L.33, E/1980/L.35)

8. The PRESIDENT suggested that the meeting should be suspended in order to allow the sponsors of draft resolutions

E/1980/L.33 and E/1980/L.35 to hold informal consultations.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting was suspended at 11.25 a.m. and resumed at 12.10 p.m.*

*Mr. Mavrommatis (Cyprus) resumed the Chair.*

9. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the informal consultations between the sponsors of the two draft resolutions had not yet been concluded, the meeting should be adjourned.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.*

## 19th meeting

Wednesday, 30 April 1980, at 5.20 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.19

#### AGENDA ITEM 16

##### Humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people (*continued*) (E/1980/L.33, E/1980/L.35)

1. The PRESIDENT said that Belgium, Denmark and Ireland had become sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33, and Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had become sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.35.

2. Since one of the draft resolutions had financial implications, he suggested, in view of the provisions of rule 31, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure, that consideration of the two proposals should be deferred until the following meeting, when a statement of financial implications would be available.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.*

## 20th meeting

Thursday, 1 May 1980, at 11.05 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.20

#### AGENDA ITEM 14

##### Elections

1. Mr. WEISNER (Observer for Austria) announced that the Government had decided to withdraw the candidacy of Austria for election to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund, but that it remained a candidate for election to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights.

STATISTICAL COMMISSION (E/1980/L.2)

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect eight members to the Statistical Commission for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1981.

3. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that Japan and Malaysia were the endorsed candidates for the two vacancies for Asian States, and the Ukrainian SSR for the one vacancy for an Eastern European State. The candidates for the two seats to be filled by Latin American States were Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Panama, and the candidates for the three seats to be filled by Western European and other States were Australia, Finland, France and the United Kingdom.

*Japan, Malaysia and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic were elected members of the Statistical Commission by acclamation.\**

\* See decision 1980/121.

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Latin American States and three members from the Western European and other States.

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Goritza (Romania) and Mr. Metelits (United States of America) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	50
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	50
<i>Required majority:</i>	26
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	

*Latin American States*

Mexico .....	32
Brazil .....	29
Argentina .....	27
Panama .....	10

*Western European and other States*

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland .....	40
Australia .....	33
Finland .....	33
France .....	32
Belgium .....	2
Austria .....	1
Sweden .....	1

*Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Australia, Brazil, Finland, Mexico and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Statistical Commission.\**

POPULATION COMMISSION (E/1980/L.2)

5. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect nine members to the Population Commission for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1981.

6. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the endorsed candidates for the two seats to be filled by African States were Rwanda and Zaire. The endorsed candidates for the two seats to be filled by Latin American States were Honduras and Peru. For the three seats to be filled by Western European and other States the endorsed candidates were Greece, the Netherlands and Norway. For the one vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State the endorsed candidate was Hungary. She had just been informed that, for the one seat to be filled by an Asian State, Bangladesh had withdrawn its candidature in favour of Thailand.

*Greece, Honduras, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Rwanda, Thailand and Zaire were elected members of the Population Commission by acclamation\**

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (E/1980/L.2)

7. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 10 members to the Commission for Social Development for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1981.

8. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the endorsed candidates for the two seats to be filled by Asian States were the Philippines and Thailand; for the two seats to be filled by African States, Madagascar and the Sudan; for the two seats to be filled by Latin American States, Chile and Panama; for the three seats to be filled by

Western European and other States, Italy, Sweden and Turkey; and for the one seat to be filled by an Eastern European State the endorsed candidate was Poland.

*Chile, Italy, Madagascar, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, the Sudan, Sweden, Thailand and Turkey were elected members of the Commission for Social Development by acclamation.\**

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (E/1980/L.2)

9. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 14 members to the Commission on Human Rights for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1981.

10. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the endorsed candidates for the three seats to be filled by Asian States were Fiji, Jordan and the Philippines; for the four seats to be filled by African States the endorsed candidates were Ghana, Senegal, Uganda and Zaire; for the two seats to be filled by Eastern European States, Poland and Yugoslavia; for the two seats to be filled by Latin American States, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico; and for the three seats to be filled by Western European and other States, Australia, Austria, France, Italy, Spain, Turkey and the United States of America.

*Fiji, Ghana, Jordan, the Philippines, Poland, Senegal, Uganda, Yugoslavia and Zaire were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights by acclamation.\**

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Latin American States and three members from the Western European and other States.

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Chandler (Barbados) and Mr. Rahman (Iraq) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	

*Latin American States*

Brazil .....	30
Mexico .....	29
Ecuador .....	28
Colombia .....	18

*Western European and other States*

France .....	33
United States of America .....	32
Australia .....	27
Italy .....	20
Turkey .....	20
Spain .....	13
Austria .....	11

*Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Brazil, France, Mexico and the United States of America were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights.\**

12. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with rule 70 of the rules of procedure of the Council, a special ballot would be required to break the tie between Italy and Turkey before a further ballot was held to fill the third seat for the Western European and other States.

\* See decision 1980/121.

\* See decision 1980/121.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Chandler (Barbados) and Mr. Rahman (Iraq) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	53
Number of votes obtained:	
Turkey.....	27
Italy.....	26

Having obtained the larger number of votes, Turkey was placed on the ballot for the third seat for Western European and other States.\*

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Goritza (Romania) and Mr. Metelits (United States of America) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Australia.....	30
Turkey.....	23

Having obtained the required majority, Australia was elected a member of the Commission on Human Rights.\*

#### COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/1980/L.2)

13. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 11 members to the Commission on the Status of Women for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1981.

14. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the endorsed candidates for the two seats to be filled by Asian States were India and Japan; those for the three seats to be filled by African States were Egypt, the Sudan and Zaire; the endorsed candidate for the one seat to be filled by an Eastern European State was the Ukrainian SSR; the candidates for the two seats for Latin American States were Colombia, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela; and those for the three seats for Western European and other States were Australia, Austria, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain.

*Egypt, India, Japan, the Sudan, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Zaire were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women by acclamation.\**

15. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Latin American States and three members from the Western European and other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Goritza (Romania) and Mr. Metelits (United States of America) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Latin American States	
Trinidad and Tobago.....	37
Venezuela.....	36
Colombia.....	17
Peru.....	14

\* See decision 1980/121.

#### Western European and other States

Spain.....	35
Italy.....	28
Netherlands.....	27
Australia.....	23
Canada.....	23
Austria.....	22
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....	1

Having obtained the required majority, Italy, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.\*

16. Mr. CORDERY (United Kingdom) thanked the delegation that had voted for the United Kingdom, but pointed out that his country had not been a candidate.

17. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with rule 70 of the rules of procedure of the Council, a further ballot restricted to the unsuccessful candidates having obtained the largest number of votes should be held, but the number of such candidates must not exceed twice the number of places remaining to be filled. A special ballot would therefore be necessary to break the tie between Australia and Canada before a member could be elected to fill the third seat for Western European and other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Chandler (Barbados) and Mr. Rahman (Iraq) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	52
Number of votes obtained:	
Canada.....	27
Australia.....	25

Having obtained the larger number of votes, Canada was placed on the ballot for the third seat for Western European and other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Goritza (Romania) and Mr. Metelits (United States of America) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	51
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Canada.....	27
Netherlands.....	24

Having obtained the required majority, Canada was elected a member of the Commission on the Status of Women.\*

#### COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION (E/1980/L.3)

18. The PRESIDENT said that the Council, in accordance with its resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, was required to nominate seven members for election by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session to fill the vacancies in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination which would occur at the end of 1980. The term of office was three years, beginning on 1 January 1981.

\* See decision 1980/121.

19. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were three vacancies for Asian States and three endorsed candidates: India, Japan and the Philippines. There were three vacancies for African States and three endorsed candidates: Morocco, Senegal and the United Republic of Cameroon. There was one vacancy for a Latin American State and one endorsed candidate: Brazil.

*Brazil, India, Japan, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal and the United Republic of Cameroon were nominated for election to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.\**

#### COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (E/1980/L.4)

20. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 20 members to the Commission on Human Settlements for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1981.

21. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were four vacancies for Asian States and four endorsed candidates: Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines and the Syrian Arab Republic. There were six vacancies for African States and six endorsed candidates: Burundi, Guinea, Somalia, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. There were four vacancies for Latin American States and four endorsed candidates: Argentina, Barbados, Jamaica and Mexico. There were four vacancies for Western European and other States and three endorsed candidates: Denmark, Spain and the United States of America. There were two vacancies for Eastern European States and two endorsed candidates: Bulgaria and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

22. Ms. RASI (Finland) said that Finland, with the endorsement of the Nordic countries, was a candidate for the remaining seat for Western European and other States, and hoped for the support of the Council.

23. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) said that the group of Western European and other States had not been informed in time to endorse the candidacy of Finland.

24. The PRESIDENT said that, since that seemed to be only a formality and the number of candidates from each regional group was therefore to all intents and purposes equal to the number of vacancies, he would take it, if there was no objection, that the Council wished to elect the candidates proposed.

*Argentina, Barbados, Bulgaria, Burundi, Denmark, Finland, Guinea, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Somalia, Spain, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zambia were elected members of the Commission on Human Settlements by acclamation.\**

#### COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES (E/1980/L.5)

25. The PRESIDENT said that the Council was required to elect 27 members to the Committee on Natural Resources for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1981.

26. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were five vacancies for Asian States and three endorsed candidates: Bangladesh, India and Japan; eight vacancies for African States and eight endorsed candidates: Botswana, Guinea, Kenya, Morocco, the Niger, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Zaire; eight vacancies for Latin American States and eight endorsed candidates: Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela; four vacancies for Western European and other States and four endorsed candidates:

Belgium, Canada, Greece and the United Kingdom; two vacancies for Eastern European States and one endorsed candidate: the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

27. The PRESIDENT noted that, with the exception of the group of Asian States and the group of Eastern European States, the number of candidates proposed by each group was equal to the number of vacancies. He suggested that the Council should elect the candidates thus far proposed by each group and postpone to a later session the election of two members from the Asian States and one member from the Eastern European States for a term beginning on 1 January 1981, and also the election of two members from the Asian States to fill previously existing vacancies for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1982.

*It was so decided.*

*Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Greece, Guinea, India, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, the Niger, Paraguay, Peru, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zaire were elected members of the Committee on Natural Resources by acclamation.\**

#### COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (E/1980/L.7)

28. The PRESIDENT said that the Council was required to elect 16 members to the Commission on Transnational Corporations for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1981.

29. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were four vacancies for Asian States and two endorsed candidates: China and Japan; four vacancies for African States and four endorsed candidates: Egypt, Guinea, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Sierra Leone; three vacancies for Latin American States and three endorsed candidates: Argentina, Costa Rica and Guatemala; three vacancies for Western European and other States and three endorsed candidates: France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland; two vacancies for Eastern European States and two endorsed candidates: the German Democratic Republic and Romania.

30. The PRESIDENT noted that, with the exception of the group of Asian States, the number of candidates proposed by each group was equal to the number of vacancies. He suggested that the Council should elect the candidates thus far proposed by each group and postpone to a later session the election of two members from the Asian States.

*It was so decided.*

*Argentina, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guatemala, Guinea, Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Romania, Sierra Leone and Switzerland were elected members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations by acclamation for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1981.\**

31. The PRESIDENT recalled that there were four previously existing vacancies for members from the Asian States, two for a term expiring on 31 December 1980 and two for a term expiring on 31 December 1982. He had been informed that there were no candidates for the term expiring on 31 December 1980 but that the group of Asian States had proposed the Philippines as a candidate for one of the seats

\* See decision 1980/121.

\* See decision 1980/121.

for a term expiring on 31 December 1982. He therefore suggested that the Council should elect the Philippines for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1982 and postpone to a later session the elections to fill the other vacancies.

*It was so decided.*

*The Philippines was elected a member of the Commission on Transnational Corporations by acclamation for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1982.\**

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (E/1980/L.8)

32. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 10 members to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for a term of three years beginning on 1 August 1980. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1038 (XI) of 7 December 1956, the members were to be elected with due regard to geographical distribution and to the representation of the major contributing and recipient countries.

33. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that, although there was no fixed distribution of seats on the UNICEF Executive Board among the regional groups, she would read out the list of candidates by region. The terms of three Asian States were expiring and there were four Asian candidates: Bhutan, China, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. The term of one African State was expiring and there was one African candidate: Botswana. The terms of two Latin American States were expiring and there were four Latin American candidates: Barbados, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Peru; Cuba had withdrawn its candidacy. The terms of three Western European and other States were expiring and there were four candidates for the resulting vacancies: Belgium, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany and Norway; Austria had withdrawn its candidacy. The term of one Eastern European State was expiring and there was one Eastern European candidate: Yugoslavia.

34. The PRESIDENT said that, since there were more candidates than vacancies, the Council would have to elect the 10 members by secret ballot.

35. Mr. KANE (Senegal) suggested that, since Botswana and Yugoslavia were the only candidates for seats being

vacated by States members of their respective regional groups, they should be considered elected and a ballot should be held only to fill the other eight seats.

*It was so decided.*

*Botswana and Yugoslavia were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund by acclamation.\**

36. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect eight members of the Executive Board by secret ballot.

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Goritza (Romania) and Mr. Metilits (United States of America) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Majority required:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Norway.....	42
Federal Republic of Germany.....	41
China.....	40
Canada.....	39
Belgium.....	38
Brazil.....	38
Thailand.....	37
Barbados.....	33
United Arab Emirates.....	31
Bhutan.....	28
Peru.....	19
Costa Rica.....	16
Cuba.....	3

37. Mr. LÓPEZ (Observer for Cuba) pointed out that Cuba had withdrawn its candidacy.

*Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Federal Republic of, Norway and Thailand were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.\**

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

\* See decision 1980/121.

\* See decision 1980/121.

## 21st meeting

Thursday, 1 May 1980, at 3.20 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.21

### AGENDA ITEM 14

#### Elections (*concluded*)

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (E/1980/L.9)

1. The PRESIDENT announced that 16 members were to be elected to the Governing Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1981.

2. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were three vacancies for African States: the group of African States had endorsed the candidacies of Guinea, the Niger and Somalia. The group of Asian States and Yugoslavia had endorsed India, Pakistan and Yemen to fill the three vacancies for that region. There were three vacancies for Latin American States and five candidates, namely, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. There were six candidates—the Federal Republic of Germany, Malta, the

Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey—for the five vacancies for Western Europe and other States. The Eastern European States had endorsed Bulgaria and Poland to fill the two vacancies for that region.

3. The PRESIDENT said that the number of candidates nominated by the group of African States, the group of Asian States and Yugoslavia, and the group of Eastern European States was equal to the number of vacancies in each case and invited the Council to declare those candidates elected.

*Bulgaria, Guinea, India, the Niger, Pakistan, Poland, Somalia and Yemen were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1981.\**

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect three members from Latin American States and five members from Western European and other States by secret ballot.

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Rahman (Iraq) and Mr. Metelits (United States of America) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	52
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	52
<i>Required majority:</i>	27

*Number of votes obtained:*

*Latin American States:*

Venezuela .....	37
Trinidad and Tobago .....	36
Argentina .....	34
Dominican Republic .....	20
Nicaragua .....	13

*Western European and other States:*

Sweden .....	46
Federal Republic of Germany .....	40
Switzerland .....	39
Netherlands .....	37
Turkey .....	37
Malta .....	34

*Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Argentina, Germany, Federal Republic of, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Venezuela were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1981.\**

COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES  
(E/1980/L.10)

5. The PRESIDENT said that five members were to be elected to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1981.

6. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by their respective regional groups: India, to fill the seat to be vacated by an Asian member; Morocco for the African vacancy; Denmark and Greece, to fill the two seats to be vacated by members of the group of Western European and other States; and Hungary, which was being nominated for re-election to the Committee.

7. The PRESIDENT observed that the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies and invited the Council to elect the States whose names had just been read out.

*Denmark, Greece, Hungary, India and Morocco were elected members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 1981.\**

COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL  
(E/1980/21 AND CORR.1, E/1980/21/ADD.1-3\*\*)

8. The PRESIDENT said that 13 experts were to be elected to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control for a term of four years, beginning on 1 January 1981. The names of the candidates proposed by Governments were given, with biographical notes, in documents E/1980/21 and Corr.1 and E/1980/21/Add.1-3. Since the publication of those documents, the Government of Nigeria had nominated Professor A. Adeyemi, a retiring member, for election to the Committee.

9. He drew the Council's attention to the fact that, in the case of the African States and the Eastern European States, the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies for those regions. Furthermore, the candidate for the vacancy for Eastern European States had been endorsed by his regional group.

10. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) announced that the African group had decided unanimously to endorse the candidacies of Professor A. Adeyemi (Nigeria), Mr. Albert Metzger (Sierra Leone), Mr. Abdel Aziz Abdalla Shiddo (Sudan) and Mr. Mawik-Ndi-Muyeng (Zaire) for the four African posts.

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to declare the four candidates from African States and the candidate for the vacancy for a socialist State of Eastern Europe elected, in view of the fact that in both cases the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies.

*Professor A. Adeyemi (Nigeria), Professor Jozsef Gödöny (Hungary), Mr. Mawik-Ndi-Muyeng (Zaire), Mr. Albert Metzger (Sierra Leone) and Mr. Abdel Aziz Abdalla Shiddo (Sudan) were elected members of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1981.\**

12. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members to the vacancies for Asian States.

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Chandler (Barbados) and Mr. Goritza (Romania) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28

*Number of votes obtained:*

Dr. Hudioro (Indonesia) .....	35
R. P. Singh (Nepal) .....	25
A. A. Hassan (Iraq) .....	23
T. Y. Tan (Singapore) .....	20
C. C. Campos (Philippines) .....	16
A. M. I. Kharbit (Kuwait) .....	16
P. Kiratibutr (Thailand) .....	16

\* See decision 1980/121.

\*\* Document E/1980/21/Add.4, containing biographical notes on two of the candidates, was issued at a later date.

\* See decision 1980/121.

Having obtained the required majority, Dr. Hudioro (Indonesia) was elected a member of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1981.\*

13. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with rule 70 of the rules of procedure of the Council, a special ballot would be held to break the tie between Mr. C. C. Campos (Philippines), Mr. A. M. I. Kharbit (Kuwait) and Mr. P. Kiratibutr (Thailand).

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
A. M. I. Kharbit (Kuwait).....	29
P. Kiratibutr (Thailand).....	16
C. C. Campos (Philippines).....	9

14. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with rule 70 of the rules of procedure, the Council would proceed to a second ballot among the remaining candidates from the Asian States for the two vacancies yet to be filled. Mr. A. M. I. Kharbit (Kuwait) having obtained the largest number of votes in the special ballot, would be included in the second ballot. The other candidates were Mr. A. A. Hassan (Iraq), Mr. R. P. Singh (Nepal) and Mr. T. Y. Tan (Singapore).

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
R. P. Singh (Nepal).....	29
A. A. Hassan (Iraq).....	26
A. M. I. Kharbit (Kuwait).....	26
T. Y. Tan (Singapore).....	21

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. R. P. Singh (Nepal) was elected a member of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1981.\*

15. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to proceed to a special ballot to break the tie between Mr. A. A. Hassan (Iraq) and Mr. A. M. I. Kharbit (Kuwait).

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
A. M. I. Kharbit (Kuwait).....	27
A. A. Hassan (Iraq).....	26

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. A. M. I. Kharbit (Kuwait) was elected a member of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1981.\*

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect two members from among the four candidates from Latin American States.

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	52
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
J. M. Mayorca (Venezuela).....	40
A. Guerra de Villalaz (Panama).....	27
M. Schweitzer Speisky (Chile).....	23
M. R. Oliveros Catalán (Guatemala).....	4

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. J. M. Mayorca (Venezuela) and Mr. A. Guerra de Villalaz (Panama) were elected members of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1981.\*

17. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect three members from among the five candidates from the group of Western European and other States.

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	52
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
A. J. E. Brennan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).....	37
G. Di Gennaro (Italy).....	32
R. L. Gainer (United States of America).....	29
J. J. M. van Dijk (Netherlands).....	18
S. Dönmezer (Turkey).....	16

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. A. J. E. Brennan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. R. L. Gainer (United States of America) and Mr. G. Di Gennaro (Italy) were elected members of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control for a term of four years beginning on 1 January 1981.\*

*Ad Hoc* INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

18. The PRESIDENT said that there were five vacancies in the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting: two for Asian States, one for African States and two for Eastern European States. Pakistan had been proposed as a candidate for one of the two vacancies for the group of Asian States. No other candidates had been proposed.

19. He suggested, therefore, that the Council declare Pakistan elected to fill one of the vacancies for the Asian group and defer the election of members to fill the remaining vacancies.

*It was so decided.\**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (E/1980/57)

20. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to paragraph 3 of document E/1980/57, in which the Secretary-General recommended to the Council the reappointment for a second term of Mr. Emmanuel T. Esquea-Guerrero (Dominican Republic), Ms. Lily Monze (Zambia)

\* See decision 1980/121.

\* See decision 1980/121.

and Ms. Irene Tinker (United States of America) as members of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

21. Mr. RICARDES (Argentina) said that his delegation's position continued to be that it was essential in the type of appointment involved to take account of the needs of the region concerned and the equitable geographical distribution of posts.

22. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to reappoint the persons whose names he had read out for a second term of membership of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

*It was so decided.\**

#### AGENDA ITEM 16

##### **Humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people (concluded)\*\* (E/1980/L.33, E/1980/L.35, E/1980/L.37)**

23. The PRESIDENT said that the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Poland and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic had become sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.35. A statement of the financial implications of the adoption of draft resolution E/1980/L.33 had been submitted in document E/1980/L.37.

24. Mrs. NGUYEN NGOC DUNG (Observer for Viet Nam) said that her delegation supported all initiatives to provide humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people, provided that no political strings were attached. It was opposed to the holding of an international political meeting on that question, because such a meeting, without the approval and participation of the people concerned, would constitute interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33 had given assurances that the proposed meeting would not be political, but of a strictly humanitarian character. In the spirit of co-operation and goodwill and in an effort to reach a consensus, her delegation had suggested certain amendments to that draft resolution so as to eliminate the elements that gave the proposal a political character. The categorical rejection of those amendments, despite the efforts made by the President of the Council and by the Hungarian delegation, confirmed her delegation's misgivings about the intentions of the sponsors. There was a clear difference between a genuinely humanitarian meeting, which everyone would support, and a pseudo-humanitarian meeting. The sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33 would like the practical measures for the distribution of food and medical supplies to be discussed at the meeting, a matter that was within the sole competence of the Kampuchean authorities.

25. Her delegation regretted the failure of the efforts to reach a consensus and the uncompromising attitude of the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33. That attitude was consistent with the explicit statement made by the Prime Minister of Thailand on 27 April 1980, when he had expressed the hope that questions of a political nature would be discussed at a meeting on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people to be held in the second half of May. It was surely no coincidence that the period he had mentioned was the same as that mentioned in annex I to

document E/1980/L.37, namely, 27 and 28 May 1980. There was a clear suggestion of political machinations.

26. Her delegation fully supported the forthcoming meeting of donor countries scheduled for 13 May 1980. It denounced the pseudo-humanitarian meeting called for in draft resolution E/1980/L.33. If the Economic and Social Council did decide to convene the ministerial meeting proposed in that document, her Government would not participate. Viet Nam hoped, however, that the Council would take into account the message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Council (E/1980/61, annex) condemning the perfidious manoeuvres of the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations designed to use humanitarian assistance for the purpose of interfering in the domestic affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and of furthering their political aims.

27. Mr. MULLER (Secretary of the Council) said, with reference to the dates indicated in annex I to the statement of financial implications (E/1980/L.37), that the Department of Conference Services had been consulted, as was customary, with a view to determining whether the meeting proposed in draft resolution E/1980/L.33 could be held in the latter part of May 1980. The necessary conference servicing facilities could be provided on 27 and 28 May, and the Secretariat had discussed those dates with the delegations concerned. The dates could be changed if Governments so desired.

28. Mr. GUNA-KASEM (Thailand) said that the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33 had done their utmost to secure consensus. They had accepted all the amendments suggested by the President, but had still been unable to satisfy the Vietnamese delegation, which had persistently tried to turn the proposed meeting into a mere pledging conference. It had been suggested, for example, that the words following "the Kampuchean people" in the first preambular paragraph and the words following "has not yet been attained" in the second preambular paragraph should be deleted: that suggestion was totally unacceptable to the sponsors of the draft resolution.

29. In response to observations made by members of the group of African States, the sponsors had agreed to delete the words following "the Kampuchean people" in the fourth preambular paragraph, and to replace paragraph 2 by the following text:

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance and Relief to the Kampuchean People at Geneva and to invite to it those States which were invited to attend the meeting held at Geneva on 20 and 21 July 1979, as well as the socialist States of Eastern Europe and the States members of the Economic and Social Council not otherwise included;"

The list of countries to be invited had been painstakingly negotiated. The sponsors wished to point out that that unique list should not be interpreted as constituting a precedent for future United Nations meetings, and to request that draft resolution E/1980/L.33, as orally revised, should be put to a roll-call vote.

30. Ms. RASI (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Swedish and Finnish delegations, said that they would support draft resolution E/1980/L.33 out of humanitarian concern for the suffering of the Kampuchean people. Their Governments had consistently supported the humanitarian assistance provided. At the same time, they were aware that the problem was of universal concern and that acute refugee problems existed in other parts of the world, such as Africa, and they had supported resolutions on relief measures for

\* See decision 1980/121.

\*\* Resumed from the 19th meeting.

refugees in the Horn of Africa and the Sudan. They wished to stress that the provision of relief to the Kampuchean people through existing channels should not be delayed. They welcomed the fact that the organizations involved were, despite the many problems they faced, doing their utmost to help to alleviate the suffering of the Kampuchean people. It was therefore necessary that their efforts enjoy international support and confidence.

31. Mr. SHUSTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Council's discussion on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people showed that those who had proposed the item were not genuinely interested in expanding and intensifying international efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people, but had other goals in mind. The humanitarian goals could be achieved not by holding further discussions or conferences but by increasing contributions to the various international assistance programmes for Kampuchea. Those favouring the convening of a conference at the ministerial level, as proposed in draft resolution E/1980/L.33, were trying to establish a forum for the discussion of matters that were exclusively within the competence of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Although that Government had no intention of participating in such a conference, if it were held, the organizers of the conference wanted to prescribe how that Government should solve its internal economic problems. Neither the People's Republic of Kampuchea nor his delegation could accept such interference.

32. The sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.35 had attempted to produce a compromise text acceptable to the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, which were sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33, and had made significant concessions for that purpose, but to no avail. The sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33 continued to insist on provisions which would lead to interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and to the discussion at the proposed conference of political matters having no bearing on humanitarian interests. It was significant that many donor countries that had reduced the level of their contributions to the international effort to assist the Kampuchean people were continuing to call for further conferences; indeed, those who were pressing for further meetings tended to be those who had made the most modest contributions. The Kampuchean people could not live on the official records of meetings, they needed rice.

33. His delegation's attitude to the draft resolutions under consideration was based on its adherence to the principle of non-interference in the affairs of a sovereign State, the People's Republic of Kampuchea. As had been affirmed in the joint Soviet-Kampuchean statement of 12 February 1980, the changes in Kampuchea were irreversible, and any form of interference in its internal affairs, including attempts to use the United Nations for such purposes, were doomed to fail. His delegation would therefore vote against draft resolution E/1980/L.33, and the participation of his delegation in the proposed conference would be determined in accordance with its position on that draft resolution.

34. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that his country's constructive attitude to humanitarian assistance was well known. The failure to reach consensus on draft resolution E/1980/L.33 had strengthened his delegation's reservations concerning the character of the proposed meeting and confirmed its serious misgivings about the inclusion of the item in the agenda. The question of humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people had to be considered with the consent and co-operation of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, whose

position was clearly reflected in document E/1980/61. For those reasons, his delegation would vote against draft resolution E/1980/L.33.

35. Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation had already stated its position of principle on the question of humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people and continued to believe that decisions on such matters should enjoy the unconditional support of all the parties concerned. In view of the need to ensure the success of the international humanitarian effort, his delegation, despite some misgivings, had not opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda. The Economic and Social Council was well placed to give the necessary impetus to United Nations humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people. Accordingly, his delegation supported the appeal in draft resolution E/1980/L.35 to all States to render immediate assistance to the Kampuchean people. Draft resolution E/1980/L.33, however, instead of urging Governments to continue to provide assistance through the established channels, proposed a meeting to discuss questions that were beyond the scope of humanitarian assistance. Such a meeting would not advance the humanitarian cause and could undermine current relief efforts. His delegation regretted the failure to reach consensus, which was not due to lack of goodwill on the part of the socialist States. Some countries were obviously seeking further ways of interfering in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. For all those reasons, his delegation would vote against draft resolution E/1980/L.33.

36. Mr. ERDŐS (Hungary) commended the President for his tireless efforts to find a compromise solution and the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33 for their willingness to consider ways of finding an acceptable text. The failure of those efforts was due partly to the pressure of time; draft resolution E/1980/L.33 had been submitted late in the session. The delegations concerned had been very close to agreement on the operative part of the draft resolution, but problems concerning the preamble had prevented a favourable outcome.

37. No one could ignore the problems faced by the Kampuchean people. Hungary, however, had always felt that high-level meetings were no substitute for efforts in the field by international organizations and practical measures within the sole competence of the Government. The meeting called for in draft resolution E/1980/L.33 would have no competence to discuss some of the matters referred to in the preamble. The acceptance of the inclusion of the item and the acceptance of the idea of a ministerial meeting represented a considerable compromise on the part of some members of the Council, which had not been matched by a similar willingness to compromise on the part of others. The latter had attempted to go beyond the humanitarian aspect of the item and raise questions of a clearly political character. In the light of those considerations and despite the last-minute changes made to the text, his delegation would vote against draft resolution E/1980/L.33.

38. The statement made by the Secretary of the Council concerning the dates indicated in the annex to document E/1980/L.37 was not, in his view, a convincing explanation of the strange coincidence referred to by the observer for Viet Nam.

39. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said that her delegation was appreciative of the fact that the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33 had taken into account some of the objections raised by a number of African countries. However, certain paragraphs had been retained, thus giving the text an unacceptable political aspect. Her delegation recognized the need for assistance, but in a strictly humanitarian frame-

work. It would therefore be obliged to abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

40. Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation would not participate in the vote on draft resolution E/1980/L.33 because it did not consider it necessary to convene an international meeting such as the one to which reference was made in paragraph 1 thereof. Moreover, settling the issue by voting would not solve the problems of the Kampuchean people.

41. Mr. SAMHAN (United Arab Emirates) said that his delegation would not participate in the vote on draft resolution E/1980/L.33, since that document called for an international meeting at the ministerial level. However, his delegation was strongly in favour of a meeting solely to consider humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people.

42. Mr. SHAMMA (Jordan) said that his delegation would not participate in the vote on draft resolution E/1980/L.33, since that document called for an international meeting at the ministerial level. However, his delegation was strongly in favour of a meeting solely to consider humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people.

*A vote was taken by roll call on draft resolution E/1980/L.33, as orally revised.*

*Trinidad and Tobago, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Malawi, Malta, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

*Against:* Bulgaria, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

*Abstaining:* Algeria, Ethiopia, India, Mexico.

*Draft resolution E/1980/L.33, as orally revised, was adopted by 41 votes to 4, with 4 abstentions (resolution 1980/23).*

43. Mr. WORKU (Ethiopia) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution in order not to oppose the aspect of the text that dealt with humanitarian assistance. However, his delegation had serious reservations with regard to the political aspects of the proposal.

44. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the text before the Council solely for humanitarian reasons. He had standing instructions from his Government to support all humanitarian efforts, whether they concerned refugees or displaced persons in Asia, southern Africa, the Horn of Africa, the Middle East, his own country, or anywhere else in the world. His delegation's affirmative vote had been cast in the light of the assurances given that the draft resolution was of a strictly humanitarian nature. His delegation would have much preferred an agreed text for adoption by consensus.

45. Mr. THAMAE (Lesotho) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution purely on humanitarian grounds. It was confident that the humanitarian issue would not be befogged by extraneous considerations.

46. Mr. AKTAN (Turkey) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution for humanitarian reasons. A decision regarding the level of participation and

the composition of his country's delegation would be taken at a later date.

47. Mr. NISAIF (Iraq) said that his delegation had not participated in the vote on the draft resolution because of the political elements it contained. However, it did not oppose humanitarian assistance for the Kampuchean people or for any other people.

48. Mr. RAMBISSOON (Trinidad and Tobago) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution for humanitarian reasons alone. That affirmative vote was not to be construed as a form of recognition of any of the parties concerned.

49. Ms. SPERO (United States of America) said that at the current session her delegation had supported several humanitarian moves to relieve distress in a number of parts of the world. It was in that same spirit that it had strongly supported the convening of a high-level humanitarian meeting. At the same time, her delegation endorsed the view expressed by the representative of Thailand that the list of States invited should in no way establish a precedent.

50. In an earlier statement, the representative of Singapore had observed that the members of the Council could not fully comprehend the plight of displaced Kampucheans. However, they were in a position to measure the effects of that human disaster as it unfolded and they could note, for example, that huge numbers of displaced Kampucheans were at that very moment seeking refuge and sustenance along the Thai-Kampuchean border. Over 200,000 such persons occupied temporary camps, thus placing an intolerable burden on Thailand. That country deserved the continuing support of the international community in its humanitarian response to that problem. Despite reports of improvements, the persons concerned would not be able to return to their homes until the over-all situation had improved.

51. During the debate on the inclusion of the agenda item under consideration, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania had emphasized the importance of the question of accountability. It was only through an international humanitarian meeting that such concerns could be dealt with effectively and given effect in programme implementation outside the rather small group of donor States. Although it was encouraging that many of the needy had received some help as a result of the efforts of the international agencies to implement an adequate relief programme, much more needed to be done quickly. Her delegation's position was based on reliable evidence, and there could be no doubt that an urgent humanitarian problem of major proportions still existed. The issues in question required the focusing of international concern, and that could be achieved only through a high-level humanitarian meeting convened by the Secretary-General. Her delegation therefore associated itself strongly with those humanitarian efforts.

52. Mr. MBAPILA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution E/1980/L.33, as orally revised, for the following reasons: the people of Kampuchea needed assistance, even although their problem was not the most serious in the world; assurances had been given that the proposed international meeting would be devoted solely to humanitarian issues; the sponsors of the draft resolution had agreed on a formula for participation in that meeting that would exclude South Africa, the arch-enemy of humanity; and, even although the Secretariat had not answered a number of questions he had raised, his concerns had been taken into account in the draft resolution itself.

53. Mr. GARCÍA REYNOSO (Mexico) said that his delegation's abstention in the vote in no way indicated a change in its position regarding humanitarian assistance.

54. Mr. DRUMMOND (United Kingdom) said that, with regard to the rather cumbersome list of States which would be invited under paragraph 2 of the resolution just adopted, his delegation endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Thailand.

55. Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados) said that his delegation's support for the draft resolution was based on humanitarian considerations. The international community should strive to avert human suffering in every part of the world.

56. Mr. SIKAULU (Zambia) said that his delegation had supported the draft resolution as orally revised in view of the needs of the Kampuchean people. However, since there were more critical refugee situations elsewhere in the world, it was to be hoped that the international community would devote adequate attention to the question of refugees in the global context.

57. His delegation welcomed the spirit of co-operation that had characterized consultations between the sponsors of the draft resolution and other States. It particularly appreciated the fact that the text completely excluded the possibility of an invitation being extended to South Africa.

58. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it considered that holding a high-level meeting would make possible prompt humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people.

59. Mr. LOHANI (Nepal), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.33, said that the first and seventh preambular paragraphs of draft resolution E/1980/L.35 were incompatible with the draft resolution that had just been adopted. He therefore proposed that the Council should decide, in pursuance of rule 67 of its rules of procedure, not to vote on that draft resolution.

60. Mr. ERDÓS (Hungary), supported by Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic), drew attention to the fact that draft resolution E/1980/L.35 contained a number of elements that were lacking in the draft resolution just adopted by the Council. His delegation therefore considered that the Council should also take action on draft resolution E/1980/L.35. Since there was nothing controversial in the draft resolution, which was of a purely humanitarian nature, it should be adopted without a vote.

61. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the proposal made by Nepal that the Council should take no decision on draft resolution E/1980/L.35.

*The proposal of Nepal was adopted by 23 votes to 11, with 13 abstentions.*

62. Mr. ERDÓS (Hungary) said that the decision just taken was regrettable because the Council had failed to take into account the fact that the two draft resolutions differed significantly and that the purpose of draft resolution E/1980/L.35 was strictly humanitarian.

63. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted against the procedural proposal of the representative of Nepal because, for humanitarian reasons, it considered that the Council should also have been given the opportunity to take a decision on draft resolution E/1980/L.35.

64. Mr. HEPBURN (Bahamas) said that his delegation had voted against the Nepalese proposal. In the absence of consensus on a single text, his delegation had earlier voted in favour of draft resolution E/1980/L.33, solely in order that urgent humanitarian assistance might be granted to the Kampuchean people. If draft resolution E/1980/L.35 had been put to the vote, his delegation would have abstained in order to avoid any clash between the meetings proposed in the two draft resolutions.

65. Mr. SHUSTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he was compelled to conclude that certain delegations were willing to consider the question of humanitarian assistance to the people of Kampuchea in a political context only. In their desire to use humanitarian assistance as a political instrument, they had denied the members of the Council the opportunity to express their views on a purely humanitarian draft resolution (E/1980/L.35).

66. Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation had voted against the procedural motion because it did not find the two draft resolutions incompatible.

67. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said that the decision just taken by the Council confirmed the fears already expressed by her delegation concerning politicization of a question that should be strictly humanitarian.

68. Mr. HERRERA VEGAS (Argentina) said that his delegation had voted against the procedural motion. If it had had the opportunity, it would have voted in favour of draft resolution E/1980/L.35.

69. Mr. WORKU (Ethiopia) said that his delegation had voted against the motion and considered it highly regrettable that action on draft resolution E/1980/L.35 had been rendered impossible.

70. Mr. SHAMMA (Jordan) said that his delegation had not participated in the vote on the procedural motion owing to its strong preference for a consensus text.

71. Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation had voted against the proposal made by the representative of Nepal for the same reasons as the representative of Algeria.

*The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.*

## 22nd meeting

Friday, 2 May 1980, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Andreas C. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.22

### AGENDA ITEM 5

#### Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1980/60, E/1980/L.34/Rev.1)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Sessional Working Group on the Implementa-

tion of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1980/60). Paragraph 17 of the report contained a synopsis of five proposals considered by the Working Group; however, as indicated in paragraph 18, the Working Group, owing to lack of time, had been unable to consider those proposals in depth.

2. The Council also had before it a draft resolution (E/1980/L.34/Rev.1), which he invited the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to introduce on behalf of the sponsors.

3. Mr. VOLLERS (Federal Republic of Germany) pointed out that the Working Group had encountered difficulties in carrying out its tasks in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976. In fact, the Group had devoted its 1979 session to reaching an agreement on its method of work and a great deal of its 1980 session to procedural questions, rather than to the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant. Moreover, members of the Group had experienced particular time pressures, because the ongoing discussions in the Council had also required their participation.

4. Draft resolution E/1980/L.34/Rev.1 was submitted in accordance with subparagraph (e) of Council decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978. Its purpose was to give Governments an opportunity to reflect on the current situation with a view to finding ways of improving methods of work that were still not satisfactory. The sponsors suggested that the Council, at its organizational session for 1981, take a decision on the proposals contained in paragraph 17 of the Working Group's report; if it was unable to do so, they suggested that the existing system be maintained in order to avoid further loss of time.

5. Two changes should be made in the text of paragraph 2 of the draft resolution. First, the words "functions and mandate" should be replaced by the words "organization and administrative arrangements". Secondly, the words "first regular session in 1981" at the end of the paragraph should be replaced by "organizational session for 1981", as the Council had decided earlier that the report in question should be submitted to it at the organizational session; if that proved to be impossible, he suggested that the report should be considered at the Council's first regular session of 1981.

6. Since draft resolution E/1980/L.34/Rev.1 was the result of lengthy discussions of the various problems involved, the sponsor hoped that it would be acceptable to everyone.

7. Mr. CHATTERJIE (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom had welcomed the opportunity to submit its report<sup>1</sup> under articles 6 to 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>2</sup> in accordance with article 17 of the Covenant. The United Kingdom regarded the Covenant as an international instrument of great importance; it had been one of the first States to ratify it, and it took its obligations under the Covenant most seriously. It believed that economic, social and cultural rights together with civil and political rights formed the basis of a complex of human rights.

8. The United Kingdom's concern over economic, social and cultural rights was not something new; as the first country to experience the industrial revolution, it had been confronted early on by the need to take positive steps in that field. Since the nineteenth century, legislation had developed progressively; for example, the foundations of a social security system, laid after the First World War, had evolved into a comprehensive and highly sophisticated system covering the whole population in one way or another. The national health system, created immediately following the Second World War, had provided a free and comprehensive medical service for the entire population, thus establishing the United Kingdom as one of the pioneers in that field. With regard to article 8 of the Covenant, which dealt with trade unions and the right to strike, it was well known that

trade unions had for long played a full and important role in British society and been able freely to exercise their rights as defined in the Covenant.

9. The United Kingdom had submitted a comprehensive report on its implementation of articles 6 to 9, and an expert from the Department of Employment had attended meetings of the Working Group in order to answer questions. He expressed his delegation's appreciation for the interest which the Working Group had taken in his Government's report.

10. His delegation had read with great interest the report of the Working Group (E/1980/60), particularly section III, on organizational matters. Some of the ideas for change put forward in that section were very sound. Through no fault of its own, the Group had been faced with certain difficulties in carrying out its task, and it was a tribute to its members that they had been able to achieve as much as they had. However, there was clearly a strain on delegations which had to serve on a sessional working group of the Council while trying to fulfil other commitments at the same time, and the United Kingdom believed that the idea of a pre-sessional working group deserved serious consideration. It would also be valuable if the membership of the Working Group was drawn from candidates nominated by States parties to the Covenant which were members of the Council and possessing expertise and competence on matters dealt with under the Covenant. After all, States which became parties to the Covenant were voluntarily accepting an international obligation and, by submitting reports, were agreeing to allow the extent to which they were fulfilling that obligation to be measured. But the matters covered in the Covenant were largely technical, and it would therefore seem right, in order to ensure a thorough and accurate assessment of the reports, that the examination should be carried out by qualified experts. The latter would, moreover, be able to evaluate the different styles and approaches contained in the various reports—for example, to distinguish between States which claimed to have achieved everything and had in fact disguised much and those whose claims were more modest but whose efforts and achievements were more honest.

11. His delegation therefore hoped that, when reviewing in 1981 its decision on the composition of the Working Group, the Council would consider carefully the ideas set out in the report (E/1980/60), which were based on the practical experience gained during the current session. In particular, it hoped that the Council would be able to agree to set up a pre-sessional working group composed of experts from States parties to the Covenant who were members of the Council, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution, which did not obtain in the present Working Group. His delegation had therefore sponsored draft resolution E/1980/L.34/Rev.1.

12. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that her delegation would like to know whether the Working Group, after examining 24 national reports, had any comments to make which might enable the Council to consider general recommendations in accordance with articles 19, 21 and 22 of the Covenant. If not, her delegation would like to know whether the Working Group had considered the possibility of organizing its work in such a way that conclusions could in future be drawn from its examination of reports.

13. Lastly, she drew the attention of the Secretariat to the necessity of complying with General Assembly decisions regarding the terminology used in all documents issued by the United Nations.

14. Ms. RASI (Finland) said that her delegation was especially pleased with the progress achieved in the im-

<sup>1</sup> E/1978/8/Add.9.

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

plementation of part IV of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Human Rights Committee had made considerable progress towards the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>3</sup> and it was important that parallel progress should be made in connexion with economic, social and cultural rights.

15. Her delegation welcomed the fact that the work of the Working Group had been carried out on the basis of the method which the Council had approved by consensus at its first regular session of 1979, in its resolution 1979/43 of 11 May 1979. However, additional reports would be received and, in order to achieve the proper balance in its work, the Group would need more time for its meetings in future years. Her delegation supported the view expressed by the Working Group in that connexion, and she pointed out that the Human Rights Committee held three three-week sessions each year. Lastly, if the question of the composition of the Working Group could be dealt with at the organizational session for 1981, the members of the Group would have time to study the reports received well in advance.

16. As it had indicated previously, her delegation especially appreciated the work of the specialized agencies in connexion with the implementation of the Covenant; in its opinion, they should continue to co-operate closely and even participate more actively in that undertaking.

17. As an indication of the importance it attached to the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Finland had sponsored draft resolution E/1980/L.34/Rev.1.

18. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Soviet Union supported international co-operation among States in promoting and developing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and had always advocated that that co-operation should be based on the International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>3</sup> which occupied a central place in the system of international human rights agreements concluded under United Nations auspices. Unlike the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>4</sup> which merely proclaimed goals, the Covenants imposed clearly defined international legal obligations on the States parties thereto.

19. The Soviet Union had taken an active part in drafting the two Covenants, had been the first of the permanent members of the Security Council to ratify them and was strictly implementing their provisions. The Soviet Union had urged that, since all human rights were interrelated and inseparable, a single Covenant should be drafted; the subsequent development of international co-operation in the sphere of human rights had confirmed the correctness of that approach. In General Assembly resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977, particular emphasis was given to the conviction that all human rights and fundamental freedoms were indivisible and interdependent and that the enjoyment of economic and social rights was a prerequisite for the realization of all human rights. It was particularly gratifying that the very concept of socio-economic rights had been developed by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. His delegation was pleased that the Covenants had received the broad support of the international community. Nevertheless, further efforts were needed to ensure that the largest possible number of States became parties to them so as to make them truly universal in character.

20. His delegation attached great importance to the work of the Sessional Working Group. The consideration of reports of States parties to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had been productive and useful and had once again confirmed the importance of the rights covered by articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant and of the inalienable right to work. It had been clear that States parties attached great importance to the work of the Working Group; many of them had sent specially appointed experts or had assigned their permanent representatives to introduce their reports. The report of the Soviet Union<sup>4</sup> had reflected the realities of a developed socialist society which attached paramount importance to man and his well-being and guaranteed in law and in practice a broad range of socio-economic, political and cultural rights for all citizens.

21. His delegation considered that the results achieved by the Working Group were favourable and encouraging and that, if goodwill was present, the Group could adequately discharge the tasks entrusted to it. The Group had not been able to consider in detail the ideas put forward concerning the organizational and administrative aspects of its work in the future; his delegation considered that any action in that connexion should take into account the sessional nature of the Group's work and also the relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council.

22. Mr. ERRAZURIZ (Chile) said that his delegation had followed the work of the Sessional Working Group with great interest and had listened closely to the discussion in progress, particularly the comments made by the representative of the United Kingdom. However, it had very serious doubts about the procedure followed in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant, and it therefore supported the proposal contained in draft resolution E/1980/L.34/Rev.1, paragraph 2. His Government would continue to study the matter with the utmost attention and would submit a detailed report for consideration by the Council in 1981.

23. Mr. FAURIS (France) said that, since the report of the Sessional Working Group (E/1980/60) was extremely brief and purely procedural, his delegation did not see how the Council could give its seal of approval thereto. Not all the summary records of the meetings of the Working Group were yet available in all languages, and there was no way for members of the Council who were not members of the Group to find out exactly what had occurred during its deliberations. In the light of those observations, his delegation supported the proposal contained in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution. The Council could hardly take a decision on the work of the Working Group solely on the basis of the latter's report, and his delegation had reservations with regard to the entire procedure followed.

24. Mr. GAGLIARDI (Brazil) said he wished to place on record that Brazil could not support the existing procedure whereby expenses for the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were covered by the regular budget of the United Nations.

25. The PRESIDENT said that, as he understood it, the Council's task in connexion with the Covenant was to consider reports submitted by States parties. The first step in that undertaking had been entrusted to the Working Group, which had done a remarkable job, under the circumstances, by considering 24 such reports. However, if the Group continued to work at its current pace, it would take at least 10 years for it to consider all the reports submitted, although it was not known how many States had already complied

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>4</sup> E/1978/8/Add.16.

with their obligation under the Covenant and how many reports would be forthcoming.

26. In his opinion, since the summary records and the questions and answers exchanged during meetings of the Working Group were not yet available, all the Council could do was to take note of the Group's report (E/1980/60). Eventually, the Council would have to take a decision on the reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant, transmit them to the Commission on Human Rights and, on the basis of the Commission's decisions, submit recommendations to the General Assembly. However, when the Working Group would even complete its consideration of the reports submitted was still an open question.

27. In the hope of avoiding a repetition of the same situation the following year, he suggested that, during the second regular session of 1980, members of the Council exchange ideas with a view to facilitating the proceedings at the organizational session for 1981. For example, informal consultations might be held and useful decisions reached beforehand. He also suggested that, during such consultations, consideration be given to the composition of the Working Group and to the inclusion in it of States parties to the Covenant which were not members of the Council. On the basis of the results of the informal consultations, it might be possible to appoint a pre-sessional working group.

28. Mr. VOLLERS (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation could agree to the President's suggestion concerning informal exchanges of views, since some time would be needed to prepare proposals for consideration at the organizational session for 1981. It considered that States parties to the Covenant which were not members of the Council should be able to take part in the informal consultations as a matter of course.

*Draft resolution E/1980/L.34/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (resolution 1980/24).*

29. Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, although his delegation had sponsored the draft resolution, it had not been altogether satisfied with it; however, it had accepted it in a spirit of compromise. It hoped that suggestions would be made for improving the organization and administrative arrangements of the Working Group.

30. Mr. FAURIS (France) said that his delegation had not objected to the adoption of the draft resolution because it was in favour of anything that might improve the existing confused and ineffectual procedure. Nevertheless, it considered that the resolution should have specified the role of States parties to the Covenant which were not members of the Economic and Social Council and of States members of the Council which were not parties to the Covenant, and also that it should have clarified the functions and mandate of the Council with respect to the implementation of the Covenant.

31. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Sessional Working Group (E/1980/60).

*It was so decided (decision 1980/122).*

32. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 5. He requested the Secretariat to solicit the views of States members of the Council and States parties to the Covenant as to whether informal consultations should be held before the second regular session of 1980.

## AGENDA ITEM 9

### Social development questions

#### REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1980/49)\*

33. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 9 (E/1980/49), in paragraph 12 of which the Committee recommended the adoption by the Council of three draft resolutions, I to III.

34. Ms. RASI (Finland) suggested that, in paragraph 6 of draft resolution III, the words "through the Commission for Social Development" should be added at the end of the paragraph.

35. Mr. RANGACHARI (India), said that, on behalf of the original sponsors of draft resolution III, he could accept the proposed amendment.

*Draft resolution I, draft resolution II and draft resolution III, as orally amended, were adopted without a vote (resolutions 1980/25, 1980/26 and 1980/27).*

36. Mr. GAGLIARDI (Brazil) said that, in view of the financial implications of draft resolution II, his delegation hoped that the secretariat would take fully into account the contents of operative paragraph 2.

37. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 9.

## AGENDA ITEM 6

### Human rights questions

#### REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1980/51)\*\*

38. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 6 (E/1980/51), in paragraph 43 of which the Committee recommended for adoption by the Council 6 draft resolutions, I to VI, and 20 draft decisions, I to XX.

39. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that a sentence to the effect that the representative of Morocco had made a statement regarding draft decision XIX should be added at the end of paragraph 38 of the report.

40. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) recalled that, during the Second (Social) Committee's consideration of draft decision XIX, submitted as draft decision 19 by the Commission on Human Rights in its report (E/1980/13 and Corr.1, chap. I, sect. B), his delegation had stated that Morocco considered itself in no way bound by the provisions of resolution 4 (XXXVI) of the Commission, contained in chapter XXVI of the latter's report, and had explained that, for Morocco, the question of Western Sahara was a problem of preserving its territorial integrity and national independence. It had therefore opposed the approval of the report of the Commission on Human Rights, and at its request the Chairman of the Committee had made a statement clarifying the meaning of the expression "takes note of". Since the Council was in the process of adopting the report of the Second (Social) Committee, he would like that statement to be reflected in it.

\* A corrigendum (E/1980/49/Corr.1) to the report was issued subsequently.

\*\* A corrigendum (E/1980/51/Corr.1) to the report was issued subsequently in order to incorporate the omissions pointed out during the discussion.

41. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) asked whether the Council was considering the report of the Second (Social) Committee or the report of the Commission on Human Rights.
42. The PRESIDENT said that the statement made by the Chairman of the Second (Social) Committee was reflected in the summary record of the 22nd meeting of the Committee. There was no question of the Council's adopting the report of the Committee or even taking note of it; it was merely acting on the draft resolutions and draft decisions contained in the report.
43. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said that the question of Western Sahara was a very important issue to his country. The Second (Social) Committee was a subsidiary body of the Council, and it was legitimate for his delegation to request that the statement he had referred to be mentioned in paragraph 38 of the Committee's report. It was not enough that it was reflected in the summary record.
44. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said that a distinction must be drawn between procedural matters and the substance of a problem. It was not possible to change the Council's procedure for considering reports of its sessional committees.
45. The PRESIDENT suggested that a foot-note referring to the relevant summary record be added to paragraph 38 of the report.
46. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said that the Committee's report was supposed to reflect the reality of its discussions; he could not understand the Council's difficulty in specifying what had actually happened. As for the President's suggestion, he saw no reason to refer to the summary record. It was merely a question of a statement of fact. The Chairman of the Second (Social) Committee was present and could verify what he had said.
47. Mr. MULLER (Secretary of the Council) said that during the 33 years he had served in the United Nations the term "takes note of" had never been interpreted to mean "endorses". The inclusion of a foot-note explaining that fact would merely restate traditional practice.
48. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) expressed appreciation for the Secretary's clarification and said that his delegation could accept the inclusion of a foot-note containing the statement made by the Chairman of the Second (Social) Committee.
49. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) questioned whether the Council should allow itself to change long-standing procedure at the whim of certain delegations. However, her delegation would not oppose the inclusion of a foot-note.
50. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said Algeria had always claimed that the problem of the Sahara was not its concern, whereas the Moroccan Government maintained that it was a bilateral conflict between Algeria and Morocco. Algeria was preventing the consummation of Morocco's territorial integrity; it was from Algeria that armed attacks were being launched, and that country was responsible for the tension in the area. It was not surprising, therefore, that the Algerian delegation should be seeking to block a collective effort to clarify the wording of a report. He would be forced to reopen the debate if the Algerian delegation or any other engaged in provocation against his delegation.
51. The PRESIDENT said he understood that the Algerian delegation had no objection to the inclusion of a foot-note.
52. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said that the foot-note should simply read: "The Chairman of the Second (Social) Committee made a clarification".
53. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said that his delegation would not let the matter rest. The Council could not yield to the *diktat* of the Algerian delegation.
54. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) proposed that the Council should proceed with its work and that the point at issue should be clarified in informal consultations between the Secretariat and the interested delegations.
55. The PRESIDENT said that, unless any delegation objected, he would proceed as proposed by the representative of the United States.
56. He invited the Council to take action on draft resolutions I to VI recommended to the Council for its adoption by the Second (Social) Committee in paragraph 43 of its report (E/1980/51).
57. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) pointed out that the report did not reflect the fact that his delegation had not participated in the vote on draft resolution I and asked that that fact be recorded.
- Draft resolutions I to VI were adopted without a vote (resolutions 1980/28 to 1980/33).*
58. Mr. VERKERCKE (Belgium) said his delegation continued to believe that the French text of paragraph 5 of draft resolution VI needed to be brought into line with the English text, despite the fact that the French Service of the Translation Division did not share that view. It therefore associated itself with the explanation given by the Italian delegation in the Second (Social) Committee and stressed that its participation in the consensus was on the basis of the English and Spanish versions only.
59. Mr. NORDENFELT (Sweden) reiterated that his delegation's decision to join the sponsors of draft resolution VI had been based on the English text of paragraph 5.
60. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decisions I to XX recommended for adoption in paragraph 43 of the report (E/1980/51).
- Draft decisions I to VI, VIII, X, XII, XIII and XV to XX were adopted without a vote (decisions 1980/123 to 1980/128, 1980/130, 1980/132, 1980/134, 1980/135 and 1980/137 to 1980/142 respectively).*
61. Mr. GAGLIARDI (Brazil) reiterated the views expressed by his delegation in the Second (Social) Committee on draft decision VI and X.
62. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) reiterated the views expressed by his delegation in the Second (Social) Committee on draft decision VI.
63. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) referred to the statements made by his delegation in the Second (Social) Committee with respect to draft decision XIX.
64. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom), referring to draft decision XX, stated that his Government deplored all examples of capital punishment in public without due process of law.
65. The PRESIDENT announced that a recorded vote had been requested and would be taken on draft decision VII.
- In favour:* Algeria, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mexico, Romania, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia.
- Against:* Argentina, Brazil, Chile.
- Abstaining:* Bahamas, Central African Republic, China, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand, Zaire.
- Draft decision VII was adopted by 38 votes to 3, with 12 abstentions (decision 1980/129).*

66. The PRESIDENT announced that the representative of the United States had requested a recorded vote on draft decision IX.

*At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft decision IX.*

*In favour:* Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

*Against:* Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:* Australia, Central African Republic, Finland, Ireland, Japan, Sweden.

*Draft decision IX was adopted by 40 votes to 6, with 6 abstentions (decision 1980/131).*

67. The PRESIDENT announced that the representative of the United States had requested a recorded vote on draft decision XI.

68. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was puzzled by the high figures for the financial implications of draft decision XI, given in annex III to the report of the Commission on Human Rights (E/1980/13 and Corr.1). It would welcome an explanation at some stage on whether the figures shown for translation, revision and typing covered the reinstatement of staff dismissed as a result of the Council's previous decision to eliminate summary records, and why additional messengers, guards and cleaners would be required if records were reinstated. Moreover, no account seemed to have been taken of the reduction in costs if alternative means of recording the proceedings were abandoned in favour of a reversion to summary records.

69. The PRESIDENT said that note had been taken of the United Kingdom representative's questions with a view to the relevant services providing answers at a later stage.

70. Replying to a question from Miss RICHTER (Argentina), Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) drew attention to paragraph 4 of the report of the Second (Social) Committee (E/1980/51) and said that all the financial implications in annex III to the report of the Commission on Human Rights (E/1980/13 and Corr.1) had been brought to the Committee's attention when it had discussed the relevant draft resolutions and decisions.

71. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) thanked the representative of the United Kingdom for drawing attention to the financial implications of draft decision XI, and said that it would perhaps be better if the Council did not prejudice its decision on the financial implications.

72. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the reinstatement of summary records should not involve any increase in expenditure, because the posts already existed and no new staff would need to be

employed. The figures submitted in the report of the Commission on Human Rights (*ibid.*) had clearly been exaggerated.

73. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) drew attention to a discrepancy in the voting figures shown in paragraph 29 of the report of the Second (Social) Committee (E/1980/51) in the English and French versions.

74. The PRESIDENT requested the Secretariat to look into the matter and make the necessary changes.

*At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft decision XI.*

*In favour:* Algeria, Bahamas, Brazil, Bulgaria, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

*Against:* United States of America.

*Abstaining:* Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Trinidad and Tobago.

*Draft decision XI was adopted by 47 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions (decision 1980/133).*

75. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) referred members of the Council to his explanation of vote after the vote on draft decision XI at the 21st meeting of the Second (Social) Committee.

76. The PRESIDENT announced that the representative of Australia had requested a recorded vote on draft decision XIV.

*At the request of the representative of Australia, a recorded vote was taken on draft decision XIV.*

*In favour:* Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malawi, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Zaire, Zambia.

*Against:* Bulgaria, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

*Abstaining:* Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia, Iraq, Lesotho, Mexico, Yugoslavia.

*Draft decision XIV was adopted by 34 votes to 6, with 8 abstentions (decision 1980/136).*

77. Mr. ZHANG Zifan (China) referred members of the Council to his delegation's explanation of vote after the vote on draft decision XIV at the 21st meeting of the Second (Social) Committee.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*

## 23rd meeting

Friday, 2 May 1980, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.23

### AGENDA ITEM 8

**Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (concluded)\* (E/1980/50, E/1980/L.6, E/1980/L.38, E/1980/L.39, E/1980/L.40)**

#### REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1980/50)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 8 (E/1980/50), in paragraph 33 of which the Committee recommended the adoption by the Council of nine draft resolutions, I to IX, and four draft decisions, I to IV. He suggested that the Council take action in that regard.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I TO V

*Draft resolutions I to V were adopted without a vote (resolutions 1980/34 to 1980/38).*

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

2. The PRESIDENT said that the delegation of Cyprus had prepared a draft resolution (E/1980/L.40), representing a consensus text, to replace draft resolution VI, which the Second (Social) Committee had adopted by 19 votes to 6, with 20 abstentions.

3. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus), introducing draft resolution E/1980/L.40, said that the issue of communications on the status of women was one to which the Commission on the Status of Women and the Second (Social) Committee attached the utmost significance. There was general agreement that the outcome of the search for the best mechanism for the examination of communications should command the widest possible acceptance. He commended the Latin American delegations which had submitted the amendments adopted by the Second (Social) Committee, the sponsors of the initial text of draft resolution X of the Commission on the Status of Women (see E/1980/15, chap. I, sect. A), and the United States delegation, which had submitted the amendments contained in document E/1980/L.38. The emergence of the compromise text in document E/1980/L.40 was a tribute to the spirit of co-operation, understanding and flexibility demonstrated on all sides.

4. Draft resolution E/1980/L.40 was based on three premises: that the Economic and Social Council should decide on the procedure for handling communications relating to the status of women; that the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women should submit to the Council their views on how such communications should be handled; and that the Secretary-General should provide background information regarding existing procedures on communications within the United Nations system.

5. He hoped that draft resolution E/1980/L.40 would be adopted unanimously. If it was, there would be no need for the Council to take action on the text adopted by the Second (Social) Committee as draft resolution VI or on the United States amendments thereto. No compromise formula could fully satisfy all sides, but it was in the general interest that the procedures finally adopted for the handling of communications should have the widest possible acceptance.

6. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) said that his delegation appreciated the efforts made by the Cypriot delegation to assist the Council in reaching a consensus on a question of immense importance to all delegations. The United States delegation had been among the sponsors of draft resolution X of the Commission on the Status of Women and had worked diligently to produce a text that would reflect a concerted effort to tackle an issue that had remained outstanding for a number of years. While it preferred the initial text, it recognized the genuine desire of delegations to get to the heart of the problem. If draft resolution E/1980/L.40 was adopted, his delegation, in a spirit of goodwill, would take it that no action was called for on draft resolution VI and would withdraw its amendments.

7. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that draft resolution E/1980/L.40 represented a consensus text replacing draft resolution VI recommended by the Second (Social) Committee, and that the Council wished to adopt it without a vote.

*Draft resolution E/1980/L.40 was adopted without a vote (resolution 1980/39).*

8. Mr. HEPBURN (Bahamas) said that his statement should not be interpreted as an attempt to depreciate the commendable efforts made to achieve unanimous agreement. His delegation welcomed the consensus, which demonstrated an awareness of the need for greater understanding on the important question of communications on the status of women. It did, however, have some reservations concerning draft resolution X of the Commission on the Status of Women and concerning draft resolution E/1980/L.40.

9. The Bahamas was not a member of the Commission on the Status of Women or of the Commission on Human Rights. However, after reading the reports of both Commissions and the documentation summarizing their practice with regard to communications, and after listening to the arguments for and against the exclusive right of either Commission to deal with communications, his delegation had detected a certain degree of inconsistency in both camps. That inconsistency made a mockery of the genuine concern for the plight of large numbers of women who were discriminated against in all areas of human endeavour. Both sets of amendments (see E/1980/50, paras. 15-17) to draft resolution X of the Commission on the Status of Women had failed to take cognizance of the obvious consequences of the proposals they contained. For its part, draft resolution E/1980/L.40, which the Council had before it, virtually sealed the tragic fate of many women throughout the world because it did not pave the way for the Commission on Human Rights to deal effectively and continuously with all

\* Resumed from the 9th meeting.

communications articulating their plight. Important provisions missing from that text were those relating to a consideration of the almost inevitable expansion of the resources and the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights that would result from any attempt to implement the provisions of the text effectively once it was adopted. That expansion would imply the creation of a new sub-commission and the empowering of the Commission on Human Rights to avail itself of Economic and Social Council resolution 1235 (XLII) of 6 June 1967, in which the Council had decided, in principle, that in certain situations the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities could take action on the basis of information in communications containing complaints or allegations of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

10. The amendments submitted by the United States in the Second (Social) Committee (see E/1980/50, para. 16), which had been withdrawn, would have reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to receive communications without explicitly providing for the strengthening of the Commission to enable it to implement that mandate effectively. It would have referred the problem of communications back to the very Commission which had proved itself incapable of dealing with them effectively, putting the situation in 1982 back to where it had been in 1980.

11. Issues of discrimination against women should be dealt with through the most efficient, practical and expeditious procedures which the United Nations system could offer. The Commission on Human Rights was best placed to offer such procedures because, in the long run, more harm than good would result from a rigid dichotomy between the human rights of men and the human rights of women. At the same time, however, his delegation was aware of the practical implications of that view: the Commission on Human Rights would eventually span the entire United Nations system. Before the Council had been invited to take a final decision on the question, such implications should have been considered by a working group composed not of outside consultants or experts but of representatives of States members of the Economic and Social Council, qualified and experienced in dealing with human rights matters in general and the plight of women in particular and acquainted with the practice of the United Nations system regarding communications. Perhaps the best practical solution for communications would be the establishment of a direct functional relationship between the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women, with the latter functioning, as a sub-commission of the former, solely in areas dealing with violations of the human rights of women and discrimination against women. In such a relationship, the Commission on Human Rights would act upon the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the basis of Economic and Social Council resolution 1235 (XLII). The Council had not been given the opportunity to explore objectively all aspects of the question through a representative group of experts. If draft resolution E/1980/L.40 had been put to the vote, his delegation would therefore have abstained.

12. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) said that his delegation had attached particular importance to draft resolution X of the Commission on the Status of Women. There were many reasons why that Commission should deal with communications on the status of women. By definition, such communications were letters or written petitions from individuals, groups, organizations or Governments alleging a violation of women's rights, as set forth in the various relevant texts. There could, for instance, be

allegations that discrimination had taken place against women in political and social life, in access to education, in the right to hold a job, or with respect to the right to marry and found a family. Time and again, such communications had been transmitted to the Commission on Human Rights but had not been effectively dealt with. That was why his delegation wanted the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women strengthened so that it could handle those communications effectively.

13. No existing international institution now dealt with complaints or communications about violations specifically affecting women. There was no existing international organization that could deal with violations on less than a gross and persistent scale. Furthermore, there was no clearing-house or referral agency, with the result that a communication on women's rights received by a particular body was not necessarily referred to another body.

14. The Commission on the Status of Women was legally competent to receive communications on women's rights. Inasmuch as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>1</sup> did not provide a procedure on communications, Economic and Social Council resolutions 76 (V) of 5 August 1947 and 304 I (XI) of 17 July 1950 continued to be operative. In view of the numerous allegations of abuses of the rights of women throughout the world, women should be able to resort to international remedies when domestic remedies had been exhausted or were not available. The procedures of the Commission on the Status of Women should be strengthened to provide a mechanism for the effective examination of such allegations.

15. The PRESIDENT pointed out that allegations of violations of the civil and political rights of women could be submitted to the Human Rights Committee if the State which had allegedly committed the violations had ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.<sup>2</sup>

16. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he was grateful for the efforts made by the Cypriot delegation to achieve a consensus on draft resolution E/1980/L.40. As the representative of Cyprus had stated, no compromise formula could fully satisfy all sides, and the Soviet delegation had reservations concerning the preamble. Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V) and subsequent Council resolutions had established a single unified procedure for all communications relating to alleged violations of human rights. His delegation did not approve of the tendency towards a proliferation of procedures for handling such communications. As the President had mentioned, some communications relating to women could be transmitted to the Human Rights Committee pursuant to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.<sup>2</sup> The procedures for handling communications should be based on international agreements, particularly the International Covenants on Human Rights<sup>2</sup> and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.<sup>1</sup>

17. His delegation also had reservations concerning subparagraph (b) of the operative paragraph of draft resolution E/1980/L.40, requesting the Commission on the Status of Women to submit its views on procedures for handling communications relating to the status of women. In 1977, the Commission had clearly stated that it had no mandate to handle such communications. His delegation feared that empowering a number of bodies to deal with communica-

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

tions might lead to an increase rather than a decrease in violations.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTIONS VII TO IX

*Draft resolutions VII to IX were adopted without a vote (resolutions 1980/40 to 1980/42).*

##### DRAFT DECISION I

*Draft decision I was adopted without a vote (decision 1980/143).*

##### DRAFT DECISION II

*Draft decision II was adopted without a vote (decision 1980/144).*

18. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the adoption of draft decision II should not be taken to prejudge the question of the agenda to be adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women. It would be entirely in order for the Commission not to include in its agenda the item now designated in the decision as item 7.

19. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that all the Council had done was to approve the provisional agenda. It was for the Commission itself to adopt its agenda.

20. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) said that the legislative authority cited for item 7 of the provisional agenda was still in effect. Moreover, draft resolution E/1980/L.40, adopted at the current meeting, requested the Commission at its twenty-ninth session to consider procedures for handling communications relating to the status of women. The Commission would therefore have on its agenda an item concerning communications.

##### DRAFT DECISION III

*Draft decision III was adopted without a vote (decision 1980/145).*

##### DRAFT DECISION IV

21. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that a final sentence should be added at the end of paragraph 31 of the report of the Second (Social) Committee (E/1980/50), reading as follows: "The representative of Argentina made a statement".<sup>3</sup>

*Draft decision IV was adopted without a vote (decision 1980/146).*

#### DECISION BY THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE REQUIRING ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

22. The PRESIDENT said that, before concluding its consideration of item 8, the Council must take action on the decision of the Second (Social) Committee on the question of the Bureau of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, reproduced at the end of paragraph 33 of the Committee's report (E/1980/50). Since informal consultations had not led to a consensus, the Committee had decided to refer the question to the plenary Council.

23. Mr. SHER (Pakistan) said that the statement made by his delegation on behalf of the Asian group in the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women had not been reflected in

the note by the Secretariat (E/1980/L.6). The record should be set straight.

24. Ms. WELLS (Australia), introducing a draft decision (E/1980/L.39) on behalf of the sponsors, said that the proposed decision reflected the difficulties in resolving the outstanding questions concerning the Bureau of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. Those difficulties were not due to a lack of consultation. Inasmuch as the decision to be taken appeared to have very far-reaching implications, the good offices of the President of the Council had been called upon. Her delegation was grateful to the President for his willingness to accept the challenge and hoped that the draft decision, sponsored by representatives of all the regional groups, would be adopted by consensus.

25. The PRESIDENT said that within the following week the Chairmen of the regional groups would be consulted with a view to resolving the problem. It was important to act quickly, because delegations were anxious to know as soon as possible the composition of the Bureau of the Conference.

*Draft decision E/1980/L.39 was adopted without a vote (decision 1980/147).*

26. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 8.

#### AGENDA ITEM 6

##### Human rights questions (*concluded*)

##### REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (*concluded*) (E/1980/51)

27. The PRESIDENT reported that, despite the Secretariat's attempts to reconcile views on paragraph 38 of the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 6 (E/1980/51), the issue remained unresolved.

28. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said that no difference of views was involved. He simply wished it to be placed on record that, when the Second (Social) Committee had considered the report of the Commission on Human Rights, the Chairman of the Committee had explained that for the Council to "take note" of the report was not the same thing as the Council adopting the report. For the sake of clarity, he suggested that the Chairman of the Committee should repeat his explanation before the Council. It was in the light of that explanation that the Moroccan delegation had refrained from pursuing the issue in the Second (Social) Committee.

29. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) expressed regret that the Secretariat's attempts to resolve the issue had failed. The Council was under pressure of time to complete its work, and he therefore appealed to the delegations concerned not to insist on pursuing the issue and to the President either to give a ruling on how that issue might be resolved or to propose the closure of the debate.

30. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) reiterated her delegation's desire to co-operate in every possible way in resolving the issue. Her delegation was not in the least responsible for the situation which had arisen and which was perhaps due to ignorance of the Council's procedures on the part of certain delegations. The proposal made by the representative of Morocco at the preceding meeting was neither acceptable nor objective. She also wondered in what capacity Mr. Nordenfelt, the representative of Sweden, who had served as Chairman of the Second (Social) Committee, could make a statement in the plenary Council; as she saw it, he could speak only as the representative of Sweden and

<sup>3</sup> The correction was subsequently incorporated in the report by document E/1980/50/Corr.1.

not as Chairman of the Committee. One solution might be to mention in the Committee's report that a delegation had made a comment on the issue and refer the reader to the relevant summary record for both that delegation's statement and the explanation given by the Chairman.

31. The PRESIDENT confirmed that Mr. Nordenfelt could address the Council only in his capacity as the representative of Sweden.

32. Mr. NORDENFELT (Sweden) observed that at the time he had indeed explained to the representative of Morocco that to take note of a document did not imply its adoption. As he saw it, however, the question at issue in the Council was not whether, or how, he had responded at the time to the Moroccan query but whether the Moroccan query and his answer should be included in the Committee's report.

33. Mr. HASNAOUI (Morocco) said all he was asking was that a foot-note should be added to paragraph 38 of the report explaining that "take note of" did not mean the same as "adopt". He could not see what the problem was with his suggestion.

34. The PRESIDENT pointed out that all Second (Social) Committee reports must be factual and could not enter into the substance of the debate that had taken place. He suggested, by way of a compromise, that, as an exceptional measure and without creating a precedent, a sentence reading: "The Chairman of the Committee also made a statement in clarification" should be inserted after the addition to paragraph 38 proposed at the preceding meeting by the representative of Morocco. A foot-note might then be added, reading: "The Chairman's statement is reflected in the summary record of the meeting (E/1980/C.2/SR.22)". The discussion which had taken place on the issue was, in fact, reproduced in detail in the summary record of the 22nd meeting of the Committee.

35. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to the solution he had suggested.

*It was so decided.<sup>4</sup>*

36. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 6.

## AGENDA ITEM 17

### Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1980 (E/1980/L.36)

37. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note by the Secretariat (E/1980/L.36) and invited the Council to consider first the draft provisional agenda contained in section I thereof.

38. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) said he would like to know under which agenda item the question of tax treaties would be considered.

39. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that how that question was to be dealt with could be considered under items 2 (Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters).

*The provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1980 (E/1980/L.36, sect. I) was approved.<sup>5</sup>*

40. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the tentative organization of work suggested by the Bureau in section II of document E/1980/L.36.

41. Mr. JERE (Malawi) appealed to the Bureau to ensure that the Council considered as a matter of priority at the second regular session of 1980 the matter raised in resolution 8 (III) of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (see E/1980/L.32).

42. The PRESIDENT said he had taken note of the request by the representative of Malawi.

43. Mr. FARAH DIRIR (Observer for Djibouti) said that any review of the requests by Djibouti and five other countries to be reclassified as least developed countries should be based on a more accurate appraisal of the conditions in those countries, in order to allow for the effects of inflation, their newly acquired independence and national and international indicators. His delegation had hoped that the Council would in fact take action on that issue at its current session, by commenting on the methods of appraisal used to determine the status of those countries.

44. When the General Assembly had adopted its resolution 32/93 of 13 December 1977 on assistance to Djibouti, it had expressed concern at the situation in that country after independence and had requested the Committee for Development Planning to treat as a priority matter and give favourable consideration to the inclusion of Djibouti in the list of the least developed countries and to submit its conclusions to the Council at its second regular session of 1978. At its fourteenth session, the Committee for Development Planning had decided not to classify Djibouti as a least developed country because neither it nor the other five countries concerned had satisfied the criteria applicable at that time for classification as least developed countries during the Second United Nations Development Decade. The Committee had recommended, however, that the six countries should be given special assistance for the remainder of the Decade in view of the difficulties they were experiencing.

45. While Djibouti had greatly appreciated that recommendation, it was extremely dissatisfied with the criteria adopted by the Committee for Development Planning. Those criteria, as established by the General Assembly in 1971 and revised in 1975, had been formulated to meet the needs of countries which were already independent. That had placed the countries which had gained independence after 1975 in a very difficult position and had disqualified them for classification as least developed countries. To apply those criteria was to misrepresent the economic realities in the countries concerned. For instance, in the case of Djibouti, the criteria did not differentiate between the living conditions and income levels of nationals and expatriates.

46. Several United Nations agencies were also using statistics which had been compiled prior to independence and were now outdated. In actual fact, in the interior of Djibouti nomads representing more than 50 per cent of the population were living at the subsistence level, and the Secretary-General's estimate in his 1978 report<sup>6</sup> of a *per capita* gross national product (GNP) of \$100 was extremely generous. In urban areas, the living conditions of the indigenous population required improvement. In 1977-1978, the average wage had been \$220 per annum. In the Secretary-General's 1979 report,<sup>7</sup> attention had also been drawn to considerable unemployment and underemployment in urban areas.

47. He wished to draw the Council's attention to a number of points. First, Djibouti still urgently required the assist-

<sup>4</sup> See E/1980/51/Corr.1

<sup>5</sup> See decision 1980/149.

<sup>6</sup> A/33/106.

<sup>7</sup> A/34/362.

ance of non-nationals in its public and private sectors. Such non-nationals were paid under bilateral agreements, and their generous salaries distorted over-all figures on *per capita* income; the incomes of Djibouti nationals were considerably lower. Secondly, Djibouti had to import virtually all its food, manufactures and other necessities and had therefore been severely hit by international inflation, which had caused a 25 per cent loss in purchasing power. Thirdly, productivity had declined considerably since independence and there had been a consequent decline of 30 to 35 per cent in *per capita* income. The World Bank Atlas stated that, in 1975, *per capita* GNP had been \$1,940. That was clearly an unreliable estimate; the Economic Commission for Africa, in a recent report, had estimated Djibouti's gross domestic product (GDP) to be \$197, with manufactures representing 7.1 per cent of GDP. There was also only 13.7 per cent literacy.

48. In the light of the situation he had described, his delegation had hoped that the Council would take action at once on resolution 8 (III) of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group. Having heard the explanation given at the current session, he now appealed to the Council to take favourable action on that resolution at its following regular session. He also hoped that the difficulties preventing the six countries concerned from being classified as least developed countries would be resolved with the use of proper national and international indicators.

49. Mr. LOHANI (Nepal) and Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) endorsed the proposal of the representative of Malawi that the matter should be given priority at the following regular session.

50. The PRESIDENT explained that the Bureau had decided that the matter should be considered at the second regular session of 1980 because of several difficulties inherent in the issue. In the mean time, however, it had decided to request the Secretariat to inquire into the possibility of an early meeting of the Committee for Development Planning to consider the issue and had taken note of the reiterated request by members of the Council that it should be given priority at the second regular session of 1980.

51. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he wondered which sessional committee would consider item 5 of the provisional agenda (Comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development).

52. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) recalled that the Secretariat had originally proposed that, as an exception, item 5 might be considered in the First (Economic) Committee. However, as could be seen from the tentative schedule in document E/1980/L.36, that Committee's programme of work was going to be rather heavy. The Council might therefore prefer to allocate item 5 to the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee. It would be possible for the Third Committee to take up item 5 during the second week, immediately after items 16 and 17 had been disposed of, and to continue its consideration of that item into the third week.

53. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that it might be better to defer consideration of item 5 until the resumed second regular

session, so that the Council could consider it in greater depth.

54. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the term "resumed session" usually meant haphazard meetings during the regular session of the General Assembly. It was unlikely that there would be sufficient time during the Assembly session for consideration of item 5.

55. Mr. PALMEIRO (Brazil) said his delegation supported the idea that item 5 should be allocated to the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee. However, since the representative of the Soviet Union felt that more time was required for the consideration of that item, he suggested that the Committee might take it up earlier than the latter part of the second week.

56. The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau would be constantly reviewing the workload of the sessional committees and would not hesitate to recommend appropriate programme adjustments.

57. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) supported the Assistant Secretary-General's suggestion that item 5 might be allocated to the Third Committee. His delegation also agreed that it might be wise to take up that item during the second week of the session, rather than the first, in order to avoid problems with documentation.

58. Mr. SHAPOVALOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would not oppose a consensus on the allocation of item 5. However, it must be borne in mind that the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee would have many important questions before it, thus making serious consideration of that item impossible.

59. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council approved the arrangements regarding the second regular session of 1980 and the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (E/1980/L.36, sect. II).

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/148).

60. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council approved the tentative organization of work of the second regular session of 1980 suggested in section II of document E/1980/L.36, allocating item 5 of the provisional agenda to the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee.

*It was so decided.*<sup>5</sup>

61. The President said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 17.

#### *Closure of the session*

62. The President announced that Miss St. Claire, Assistant Secretary of the Council, who had worked for the United Nations since 1945, would be retiring in the near future. For 26 consecutive years she had provided the Council with her invaluable services, and he was sure that the members would wish to join him in expressing gratitude to her and wishing her well in the future.

63. He declared the first regular session of 1980 of the Economic and Social Council closed.

*The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.*

# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1980

Summary records of the 24th to 45th plenary meetings, held at the  
Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 3 to 25 July 1980

### 24th meeting

Thursday, 3 July 1980, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.24

#### AGENDA ITEM 1

##### Opening of the session

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the second regular session of 1980 of the Economic and Social Council.

##### STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

2. The PRESIDENT said that the Economic and Social Council was meeting at the beginning of the 1980s, in a year which marked the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Although the tasks of the Council remained immense and urgent, it could be proud of its achievements; in 1945, information on world conditions had been so scanty that even the world's population had been unknown, whereas today, thanks to the Council's functional commissions, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions, an unprecedented amount of information about the human family and its planetary abode was available. Great progress had been achieved in world co-operation. Yet, despite that progress, international relations and the world economy were still going through a series of crises which would grow more serious unless the international community found solutions for the problems confronting it.

3. In the 1970s, just when a clearer perception had begun to emerge of world interrelationships and of how the North and the South depended upon each other, the gap between the rich and the poor countries had widened, protectionist measures had increased, the terms of trade of developing countries in general had deteriorated, official development assistance as a percentage of GNP had declined, the external debts of developing countries had reached an alarming level, and the international monetary system had yet to be reformed to take into account the needs of developing countries. All those factors pointed to an urgent need for drastic changes in international economic relations. That

would require a new approach based on the recognition that structural changes were the only means of achieving sustained and healthy world economic growth.

4. He hoped that during the current session the Council would make further progress in preparing the new international development strategy and in reaching an agreement on the agenda and procedure for the new round of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development.

5. The Council had also been entrusted with the task of undertaking a comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development and preparing guide-lines for future reviews. It should be noted that, despite an agreement in the course of the restructuring exercise that the flow of resources for operational activities should be increased in real terms, progress had yet to be made in the achievement of that objective. On the other hand, in the exercise about to be undertaken, it was essential to ensure that the operational activities of the United Nations system would be managed and executed in the most efficient manner.

6. Much had been said about the need for the Council to revitalize itself and become more effective in co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system as a whole. There was no doubt that in the course of the 1980s the United Nations system would be entrusted with more responsibilities in international negotiations and in the provision of technical assistance. The Council must be restructured in order to discharge effectively its function as a central forum for the consideration of economic, social and humanitarian problems. He urged members to make use of the present opportunity to reflect upon that question and to take the necessary decisions to enable the Council to accomplish its tasks.

##### STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

7. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that one year earlier he had pointed out to the Council how difficult the outlook

was for the world economy and had noted with concern that no significant results had been achieved in the international economic negotiations aimed at resolving some of the difficulties. That forecast, which might have seemed pessimistic, had been borne out by developments: the economic outlook, immediate as well as longer-term, was bleak and the North-South dialogue was not making any real progress. Against a background of reviving political tensions, those economic difficulties could themselves introduce an additional source of tension.

8. In a few weeks, the General Assembly would hold its eleventh special session, the purpose of which was to give needed impetus to international co-operation for development and to the negotiations which served as its instrument. On the basis of an analysis of the progress made in implementing the new international economic order, the special session was to adopt an international development strategy for the coming decade and to take the decisions required to launch a new round of global negotiations early in 1981. In recent months, two intergovernmental committees had been actively engaged in preparing for the session. There were still substantial disagreements concerning the texts to be adopted and an effort must be made to arrive at the necessary compromises. He hoped that the Council's deliberations would contribute to that end, for its task was precisely that of preparing the way for and facilitating the work of the General Assembly in the economic and social field.

9. If action was to be taken along the correct lines and with the necessary vigour, the first necessity was to make an accurate assessment of the many difficulties facing the world economy. Those difficulties affected virtually every sector of economic activity; they had both a short-term and a long-term impact. A detailed analysis of them was to be found in the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980* (E/1980/38 and Corr. 1). He wished to call attention to certain elements of that analysis which, in his view, gave particular cause for concern.

10. First, the growth rate of most of the petroleum-importing developing countries had in recent years failed to meet the requirements of their development. Their growth was being retarded by the economic recession now making itself felt in the market-economy developed countries and by the rising tide of protectionism in those countries. The developing countries concerned were also feeling the negative impact of a deterioration in the terms of trade resulting from the increased cost of their imports of energy and manufactured goods. Their external deficit was increasing steeply, while—except in the case of a very few—their ability to adjust to unsettling external factors remained limited. Their entire development process was thus threatened in the years to come.

11. Secondly, the plight of the low-income countries was, in those circumstances, particularly alarming. A number of them were already experiencing stagnation in production, which meant that their *per capita* output was declining. As matters stood, those countries were dependent upon transfers of resources meeting the requirements of official development assistance. He wished to emphasize strongly how serious it was that the average level of official development assistance had remained stationary and was still less than half the target figure set by the international community more than 10 years previously.

12. Thirdly, the petroleum-exporting developing countries were themselves confronted with serious difficulties. Their efforts to diversify their economies and create the basis for autonomous development were encountering difficulties with regard to access to the markets and technology of the developed countries. The precarious nature of the financial

assets available to them made it increasingly less advantageous for them to maintain or expand oil production at levels which went much beyond the immediate requirements of the financing of their development. Their behaviour was also affected by inflation, currency instability and the uncertainty prevailing in the world economy.

13. Fourthly, the growth of the planned-economy countries had continued to slacken because of the structural difficulties faced by their economies and, in 1979, the impact of unfavourable climatic factors on the agricultural sector. Their performance had also been affected, particularly in the case of the East European countries, by balance-of-payments difficulties resulting from the deterioration in their terms of trade and the economic slow-down in the developed market economies.

14. Fifthly, the developed market economies were in the grip of a recession which appeared to be even more severe than had been anticipated when the *Survey* had been prepared. At the same time, the rate of inflation, which had been at a high level in the last few years, had recently accelerated. That situation caused unemployment and created conditions which fostered an increase in protectionist trends. It discouraged the investment required in order to affect adjustments in production structures, particularly in the field of energy production and conservation. The high priority given by the leaders of those countries to the fight against inflation was a positive factor in the world economy. It would be unfortunate, however, if the measures taken were directed too exclusively towards restrictive policies in the matter of demand. Experience showed that such measures were not by themselves sufficient to control inflation. More emphasis should therefore be placed on national as well as international policies to deal with the structural and institutional factors in inflation.

15. Sixthly, the transition from a period in which oil had been the main source of cheap, abundant energy to a period in which energy sources would be more varied and more expensive was being undertaken under difficult and unsettled conditions. Some progress had been made in the developed countries in the field of energy conservation, but it was less than might have been achieved with more vigorous policies and was essentially the result of a slow-down in economic activity. Furthermore, there had been no significant increase of investment aimed at developing either conventional or renewable energy sources. Finally, unstable, precarious energy markets made for behaviour characterized by extreme caution or costly speculation on the part of all partners in the world economy.

16. All those difficulties made a bleak outlook for the decade. He had been struck by the fact that the conclusions of a number of recent reports, including the report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues (the Brandt Commission)<sup>1</sup> coincided. The latter report dramatically underlined the gravity of the situation of the third world and the threats to international political stability if rapid and important changes were not made in the field of international economic co-operation. In a world of growing interdependence, any progress in that field would contribute to the relaxation of the current tension in the political sphere. That tension should not be allowed to divert the international community from the efforts it must make to create more favourable conditions for development.

17. A number of priorities for international action during the decade were proposed in the draft of the international development strategy. The first priority was the acceleration of growth in the developing countries. The situation of extreme poverty affecting hundreds of millions of people

<sup>1</sup> *North/South: A Programme for Survival* (London, Pan Books, 1980).

was such that the global and sectoral growth targets to be adopted must be ambitious. The achievement of those targets would require a major effort by the developing countries themselves to mobilize their human, natural and financial resources through vigorous national policies, and to secure the participation of the entire population both in the process and in the results of development. As far as popular participation was concerned, he stressed the important role of women in the development process, a role which would be the focus of deliberations at the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held shortly at Copenhagen. The efforts made by the developing countries, however, and the co-operation which they were fostering among themselves with a view to increasing their collective self-reliance, must enjoy the support of a much more favourable international environment.

18. The restructuring of international economic relations—in other words, the establishment of a new international economic order—should quite rightly be the basic objective of the new strategy. The attainment of the objectives of the strategy would call for difficult but none the less indispensable reforms, which should focus on the machinery regulating the international economy in the trade, financial and monetary sectors and, in some cases, on the functioning of the institutions monitoring that process. The draft of the strategy described the general trend of those reforms; what was needed was agreement on the specific conditions for their implementation. That was the purpose of the global negotiations to be launched by the eleventh special session of the General Assembly.

19. The negotiations would focus on five major areas of the international economy: raw materials, energy, trade, development and monetary and financial questions. A number of the questions covered were of major importance and closely interrelated, in particular the questions of money, finance and energy; they should be given, during a limited period of negotiations, all the attention they deserved, on account of their importance to all partners in the world economy. Other questions concerning raw materials, trade and development were also highly important; they should be included in the agenda, at least to the extent that the negotiating process could lead to genuine progress towards their solution. There was still considerable disagreement regarding the inclusion or formulation of some of those agenda items. He did not propose to suggest possible compromises at a time when those items were still under discussion in New York, but he was convinced that such compromises could be found. He would nevertheless draw attention to some conditions for the success of the negotiating process itself.

20. In negotiations, all countries and all groups of countries had something to gain and something to contribute. They would agree to put their assets at stake if there was enough evidence that their partners in the negotiations were also prepared to do so and to accept changes in areas where they had certain advantages.

21. The negotiations should therefore be guided by a desire to find mutually advantageous solutions. It was essential, however, not to lose sight of the fact that the standard of living of the richest and most advanced countries, their economic strength and their *de jure* or *de facto* control over a number of key points in the system of international economic relations put them in a position to make a greater contribution than the vast majority of the developing countries. As had already been decided by the

General Assembly in its resolution 34/138, such negotiations should proceed simultaneously, in order to ensure a coherent and integrated approach to the issues under negotiation. Throughout the negotiating process, the General Assembly or the organ designated by it would have a central role to play. No question should be excluded *a priori* from the deliberations of that central organ. It should be possible, however, to call upon the various United Nations specialized agencies as and when necessary; the existing agreements empowered the General Assembly to make recommendations to specialized agencies concerning the specific problems which it intended to submit to them for consideration.

22. He had been impressed by the fact that, in the course of the various contacts he had had in recent months with high-level political figures, there had been few who had not stressed the need for action at the international level through consultation and negotiation. On the other hand, doubts, if not scepticism, had often been expressed regarding the capacity of the United Nations to provide an adequate framework for negotiation culminating in action-oriented decisions. There was no reason why the United Nations should be automatically excluded from serving as an effective forum for such a process of negotiation. It depended upon the will of Member States to organize the composition of their delegations accordingly and to be innovative in their methods of work. He had already suggested, in that connexion, that the participation of high-level political figures should be used for intensive short-term contacts rather than for general debate. Ministerial sessions of that kind would be essential to ensure the progress and success of the global negotiations, since the latter would require a political impetus and political decision. He and all the senior officials of the system were ready to give those negotiations all the necessary support in whatever form was most suitable.

23. He understood that there was already a measure of agreement on the time-table for the negotiations; they should begin early in 1981 and produce a first set of results before the General Assembly's thirty-sixth session. The time-table seemed to allow time for preparations and in-depth discussions, followed by the adoption of decisions. The lapse of time involved must not, however, prevent the seeking of immediate answers to certain urgent problems. The situation of many developing countries already gave grounds for great concern and might deteriorate considerably during the next few months; it called for urgent action involving the entire international community.

24. He therefore suggested that Member States should consider the possibility of adopting, at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly, certain decisions for speedy implementation. Those decisions should be drawn up in such a way as not to affect or prejudge the results of the global negotiations, one of whose objects was to seek long-term solutions and promote lasting institutional changes. Thus, they would not conflict with the structural changes needed but would prepare the way for them through measures for immediate application.

25. Even at the current stage, he wished to draw the attention of Governments to some of the subjects with which such decisions might deal.

26. First, in the coming months, all the oil-importing developing countries would need external resources to finance the current balance-of-payments deficits. IMF and the World Bank might be urged to take measures as soon as possible, to enable increased assistance to be provided to

those countries. Such assistance should be granted on terms adapted to a process of adjustment, which would inevitably be spread out over a period of time. It might consist, *inter alia*, in the rapid development of the Bank's programme loans for facilitating structural adjustments, the principle of which had recently been adopted, and an increase in the resources needed for that purpose. Adjustments should be made in the terms and conditions attached to the use of the Fund's facilities, in order to encourage the developing countries to utilize those facilities more intensively and at an earlier stage. The fund's resources should be increased, not only through an increase in the quotas now in the process of ratification, but also through a loan issue.

27. Secondly, consideration should be given to a special operation for the benefit of low-income countries with serious external balance problems. A study prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the General Assembly gave an initial estimate of some \$5 billion for the volume of additional official assistance which those countries would need in 1981 in order to be able to increase their imports and not be forced to hold up their development process. That assistance could be provided by the industrialized countries and by other countries in a position to do so. It could be channeled, in part, through various interregional or multilateral agencies, and the United Nations itself would have a role to play. The important thing was that those additional sources of financing should begin to be available by early 1981 and be distributed according to criteria which took the specific needs of those countries into account.

28. Thirdly, an increase in the volume of investments for the exploration, development and exploitation of conventional and renewable sources of energy in the developing countries must not be delayed. The initiatives already taken, especially through multilateral agencies, and the World Bank in particular, should be intensified and their resources should be substantially increased. The industrialized countries, as also oil-exporting countries which could do so, might contribute. The problem would no doubt be given in-depth consideration in the course of the global negotiations, but it seemed to him sufficiently urgent to justify initial measures that would have an immediate effect.

29. In view of the difficulties faced by the world economy and those encountered in the strengthening of international co-operation, there was a strong temptation for each country to adopt an inward-looking attitude and to try to place on others the burden of adjustment efforts. Such behaviour should be discouraged, because it could draw the world into a series of economic and political crises. In a world where interdependence and inequality coexisted, co-operation and solidarity were the only appropriate responses. The world must not give in to pessimism or scepticism. It was often in times of crisis that important changes had been possible. It was for the political leaders to seize the opportunity to direct change rather than submit to it.

30. He wished the Council well in its deliberations.

## AGENDA ITEM 2

### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/1980/83, E/1980/86, E/1980/87, E/1980/100 and Add.1, E/1980/L.41, E/1980/L.43 and Corr.1)

31. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) drew the Council's attention to the note by the Secretariat containing the report on the state of preparedness of documentation for the session (E/1980/100/Add.1).

32. In 1979, the Council had focused attention on the control and limitation of documentation and had adopted the measures reported in that document, with a view to ensuring that documentation was submitted on time for the relevant sessions, it being understood that requests to the Secretariat for documentation would be reduced wherever possible. As a result, 68 documents had been requested for the beginning of the current session, compared to 86 one year earlier; most of them had been issued in accordance with the six-week rule and 29 had been distributed three weeks before the beginning of the session.

33. He could report with satisfaction, therefore, that the Council would have before it, at the outset, all the requisite documents, despite the additional burden imposed on the Secretariat in connexion with the forthcoming World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

34. The PRESIDENT expressed the Council's appreciation of the Secretariat's efforts in preparing the requisite documentation on time.

*The provisional agenda (E/1980/100) was adopted.*

35. The PRESIDENT drew attention to a note by the President (E/1980/87) concerning the composition of the Bureau of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council took note of document E/1980/87.

*It was so decided (decision 1980/150).*

36. The PRESIDENT said that the Council was required to take decisions on the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the increase in the membership of the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters (E/1980/83), the note by the Secretariat on the sixth session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control (E/1980/L.43 and Corr.1), the note by the Secretariat concerning proposed changes in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1980 (E/1980/L.41) and the note relating to the participation of an intergovernmental organization in the work of the Council (E/1980/86). He invited the members of the Council to discuss those documents informally before the subjects were taken up later in the session.

*The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.*

## 25th meeting

Friday, 4 July 1980, at 10.45 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.25

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### **General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments**

1. Mr. KHANE (Executive Director, United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that the eleventh special session of the General Assembly and the global negotiations which were to follow were among the steadily diminishing opportunities left for moving towards a new international economic order. In the view of UNIDO, a new international economic order was simply not conceivable without the industrialization of the third world, definite parameters for which had been established in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation. In 1980, the Third General Conference of UNIDO at New Delhi had provided an opportunity to take stock of the movement towards and the constraints affecting the industrialization of the third world. It had expressed disappointment at the slowness of that process. The New Delhi Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development of Developing Countries and International Co-operation for their Industrial Development had not reflected a full consensus, but the Conference had at least enabled the different regional groupings to express their views clearly on the industrial development of the third world, so that the Industrial Development Board, which had met later at Vienna, had been able to resume the dialogue and identify priority areas for action. At that session, a consensus had been reached on many aspects of the future work of UNIDO.
2. One of the priority areas for action selected by the Board had been energy, the importance of which for the industrialization of the third world could not be over-emphasized. In that area, as in others, any genuine international co-operation would depend on the clarity of the objective pursued; in the case of energy, the main objective should be the production of abundant energy, from whatever source, but that objective could not be attained without an appropriate increase in current energy prices. However, energy problems should not be seen in isolation, and UNIDO would therefore continue to concern itself with the development of human resources, the development, transfer and adaptation of technology and the financing of the industrialization process.
3. The system of consultations and the technical assistance programme of UNIDO, which were the main instruments of progress towards industrialization, had undergone a major expansion since the Second General Conference of UNIDO, held at Lima in 1975, but their continued effectiveness would depend on the provision of adequate resources. The action of UNIDO must be placed in the context of global strategies and policies which would have to be defined at the General Assembly's eleventh special session and during the global negotiations. In that connexion, it was absolutely essential that the importance of the industrialization of developing countries should be recognized in any discussions or negotiations in such important areas as raw materials, energy, trade development and monetary and financial questions. The negotiations should relate, in particular, to the possibilities of increasing the vertical processing of raw materials, the conservation and rational use of energy, trade in manufactures and semi-manufactures, and freedom of access to markets for these products. Finally, the need for a massive transfer of financial resources to developing countries, with a view to accelerating their development, could not be overstressed. The importance of the latter point was being more and more generally acknowledged, and UNIDO had proposed the establishment of a global fund for industrialization, a proposal which had not perhaps been properly understood. There had never been any intention of establishing a multi-billion-dollar fund on a grant basis. What had been contemplated had been a truly global development bank which would recycle resources for development without the intermediation of existing banks. Some grant element had, of course, been contemplated, but only to assist the least developed countries to carry out feasibility studies to enable them to borrow from the global fund. The establishment of the Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, finally decided upon after long negotiations, gave grounds for hope that a global fund for industrialization would materialize in the relatively near future.
4. Economic co-operation among developing countries had reached the stage of implementation, through the establishment of trade preferences and of production and marketing enterprises. It was now recognized that a developed third world would stimulate global demand for goods and services. It was therefore in the interests of developed countries, confronted by stagflation and recession, to provide the fullest co-operation to developing countries, to enable them to co-operate among themselves.
5. The developing countries, which had firmly stated their industrialization goals and the measures they envisaged taking in that connexion, had also clearly indicated what they expected from UNIDO. To fulfil its role, UNIDO required not only adequate budgetary resources, but also an increase in its resources for technical assistance; he hoped that the international community would respond generously.
6. With the build-up of international tension and the increasing risks of confrontation, the necessity for multilateral co-operation called for no further demonstration. There was an urgent need to act and everyone had a role to play. It was to be hoped that the Economic and Social Council would take decisions which would provide the necessary stimulus to enable stalemated negotiations elsewhere to move forward in a positive manner.
7. Mr. DE LAROSIÈRE (Managing Director, International Monetary Fund) said that the most serious of all current economic problems was surely inflation, which was deeply entrenched in the industrialized countries. In the past year or so, those countries had experienced a phenomenal and general acceleration of price increases due, in part, to dearer oil and also to the insufficiently rigorous budgetary and monetary policies applied in the last few years by several

major industrialized countries. Those two inflationary factors were compounded by the rigidity of social and economic structures. The current rate of inflation, which jeopardized the possibilities of orderly progress, not only in the industrialized countries, but also in many developing countries, was the main obstacle to the solution of other major economic problems, both national and international.

8. To combat inflation, the industrialized countries had taken steps—often belated and geared for the most part to reducing demand—which limited the growth of real production and employment and were partly at the root of another disturbing factor, the low level of economic growth in the industrialized countries, which, in real terms, was estimated at an average of less than 1 per cent for 1980. The transfer of resources entailed by higher oil prices was also exerting a deflationary effect on over-all demand. Although the industrialized countries might regard the slowing down of their growth as a transitory aspect of their fight against inflation, that phenomenon conjured up particularly discouraging prospects for the markets of non-oil-exporting developing countries.

9. A third key element in the situation was the imbalance in international payments, whose structure essentially reflected the evolution in oil prices since 1978 and the dependence of the world economy on oil. The current account surplus of oil-exporting countries had shot up spectacularly, while the over-all balance of industrialized countries had deteriorated and the total current account deficit of non-oil-exporting developing countries had worsened and would be even larger in 1981, owing to the cyclical slackening of demand which would affect their exports. For the current year, the financing of the deficits of non-oil-exporting developing countries seemed to be ensured, but it might present problems in ensuing years, considering the difficulty of inducing the industrialized countries to increase their official development assistance and the possible consequences of the more cautious attitude of commercial banks towards the "risk" element of international credits. Added to that, the increased debt service of developing countries would absorb foreign earnings and weaken their import purchasing power, with adverse effects on their capital-formation potential and on their economic growth. Low-income developing countries were liable to be the most seriously affected.

10. The gradually worsening terms of trade of non-oil-producing developing countries, already noted in the 1960s and 1970s, had been the same in the years 1973-1979, a period characterized by rising energy prices, as in the 10 years before then. Much had been said, and quite rightly so, about the effect of higher oil prices on the developing countries' expenditure on imports, but it must not be forgotten that oil still accounted for only one fifth of the total imports of non-oil-producing developing countries. If those countries' current account deficits had worsened considerably, it was due to the general inflation which was rife in manufactures-exporting countries. The impact of the inflationary process on the current-account balance of developing countries had been mostly negative, since those countries' imports far exceeded their exports.

11. Seen in that perspective, the agreement reached by the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities was to be welcomed. IMF was prepared to co-operate in the most active manner with the Common Fund.

12. Non-oil-producing developing countries had contracted sizeable loans to pay for their development, but a

growing proportion of those loans was being absorbed, not by an increased volume of imports but by higher import prices. The percentage which remained to finance real imports was insignificant. In a period of general inflation, non-oil-producing developing countries benefited, in some respects, from an erosion of their real debt burden, but in recent years they had had to cope with a steep rise in interest rates and, if they borrowed on commercial terms, they generally had to accept shorter due dates and hence a higher amortization rate.

13. In the generally unfavourable climate of international trade caused by the cyclical slackening in demand from the industrialized countries, the non-oil-producing developing countries now had to make adjustments. In real terms, world trade would be unlikely to expand by more than 3 per cent in 1980, and that would inevitably intensify competition in export markets to the detriment of countries which hoped to increase their export earnings. That competition in export markets, combined with worsening unemployment in some major industrialized countries, would tend to intensify political pressures for the adoption of protectionist measures.

14. Despite the generally unfavourable world economic picture, he was convinced that, with patience and realism, the situation could be improved. Priority must continue to be given to the fight against inflation, whatever the short-term risks for growth and employment. To achieve balanced and sustainable growth in the longer term, inflation must be curbed and the marked disparities between the inflation rates of the principal industrialized countries, which threatened the stability of exchange rates and external payments, must be reduced. A number of major industrialized countries had already taken steps in 1979 to tighten currency restrictions and slow down the growth in the money supply; those measures had obviously been necessary, but what was most important for the future was to persevere with prudent policies for managing demand.

15. Action related to demand would not, however, be enough to restore conditions of non-inflationary growth unless it was supported by measures to improve supply. The limited improvement in productivity over the preceding 10 years made it essential to stimulate productive investment. There was no lack of means; for instance, selective tax adjustments could diminish the rise in unemployment and help to reduce costs. Healthy international competition could also help to improve conditions of supply, but the current pressure for the adoption of short-sighted protectionist measures would have to be resisted if such competition was to be achieved. Also, the development of new sources of energy, which would lessen dependence on oil imports, was a crucial factor in supply policies. The highest priority must be given to price policies and investment promotion designed to encourage such development.

16. A firm and prudent budgetary and monetary policy was as important for many of the non-oil-exporting developing countries as for the industrialized countries. It was true that most developing countries needed to maintain an increasing flow of imports to ensure the sustained growth of domestic investment and over-all production, but only countries whose economic and financial management made lenders feel secure enough could obtain durable import financing. That was why, in dealing with the balance-of-payments problems of the non-oil-exporting developing countries, the Fund attached such importance to a judicious balance between adjustment and financing, depending on the situation of the individual country.

17. For the poorest countries, whose low economic growth made it impossible for them to service an external debt contracted on market terms, the only hope of adequate finance was often official assistance; however, the amounts involved were trifling compared with the resources of potential donors among the industrialized countries and the oil-exporting countries. Aid from the industrialized countries often still fell far short of international targets; as for the oil-exporting countries, their resources seemed more than adequate to enable them to increase their aid to the poorer countries.

18. The structural changes in current-account balances entailed an expansion and a massive reorientation of international finance flows; the future would depend largely on how the surpluses of the oil-exporting countries were recycled. Perhaps the market mechanisms which operated mainly through commercial banks and international capital markets would channel to the borrowing countries a volume of resources proportionate to their needs and their repayment capacity; however, with the abrupt and serious deterioration in balances of payments, it was to be feared that funds passing through traditional channels would not be enough fully to meet the needs which might arise in 1981 and beyond.

19. In the circumstances, the Fund was ready to take a more active part in the necessary recycling and to use its resources with the requisite flexibility; the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors on the International Monetary System, at its latest session, had endorsed the guide-lines proposed to it by the Managing Director of IMF. If necessary, the Fund could grant larger loans than in the past and exceed the ceilings formerly fixed on the basis of contributions. In case of structural difficulties, adjustment programmes could cover longer periods than before. The Board of Governors of the Fund would shortly be considering the new policy arrangements, in particular the way in which the Fund should adapt its economic programmes to strengthen the productive base of member States' economies and their long-term growth potential, instead of concentrating those programmes exclusively on restrictions.

20. Net drawings by developing countries had increased in 1979 to \$840 million, against net repayments of \$72 million in 1978. The increase in disbursements and liabilities had accelerated still further in the first five months of 1980 (drawings had amounted to \$1,161 million). Taking into account resources available through the supplementary financing facility and the anticipated increase in quotas as a result of the seventh general review, the Fund was once again in a relatively comfortable liquidity position and was able to face substantial new demands. The Interim Committee had also approved the proposal of the Managing Director to initiate discussions with potential lenders. In sum, the Fund could have sufficient resources available to enable it to play a more active direct role in the recycling process.

21. The Fund naturally hoped that the countries to which it lent relatively large sums or for exceptionally long periods would be prepared to fulfil certain conditions; it was essential to preserve the Fund's revolving character and to undertake adjustment in optimum conditions. Judicious adjustment called for budgetary and monetary policies which would avoid consumption that was excessive in relation to a country's resources and ensure that those resources were not wasted or mismanaged; it must be recognized that when demand was stimulated by measures which were speedily cancelled out by increased costs, such stimulation was useless or even harmful in its effect on

growth, price stability and the balance of payments. On the other hand, the application of sound adjustment programmes prepared with the Fund's assistance generally helped to increase the creditworthiness of borrowing countries and to stimulate inflows of private capital.

22. The Fund's assistance and its adjustment programme could therefore be seen as essential factors in promoting investment and growth; however, they were not a blanket solution, and they must be supported by total commitment on the part of the member States themselves, by increased official development assistance and by action by other international organizations. Finance for certain long-term structural adjustments, particularly in the energy field, must come from institutions which provided loans for development, rather than from the Fund's reimbursable resources.

23. The current difficulties called for lucidity, courage and co-operation, but the picture was not entirely gloomy; the increasing scarcity of oil resources presented an exhilarating challenge to researchers, technicians and financiers. There was an enormous potential for investment and employment; similarly, the extensive needs of the developing countries for productive investment opened up unlimited prospects for growth in trade, provided that oil-derived surpluses were recycled on the necessary scale and that the international community resisted the temptations of egoism and protectionism.

24. Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, agreed that the world economic situation was not very encouraging. After the 1974 recession, the growth rate had been very moderate, and it had slowed down substantially since 1979. Unemployment was at high levels almost everywhere, and, of the 20 million unemployed in the OECD countries, the hardest hit were the young. Structural adjustments were proving difficult to make and investment was still inadequate. To be sure, most industrialized countries had been able to re-establish their external balances in 1978 and 1979, but most developing countries had not.

25. The still insufficiently stabilized world economic situation had been exacerbated by the recent oil price increases; in less than 12 months, the average price had risen by 135 per cent. The Heads of State and Government of the Community countries, at their meetings on 12 and 13 June 1980, had expressed their deep concern regarding the intensification of inflationary pressures that threatened the stability and development of the States members of the Community; they had therefore decided that in the short term the major objective should be to contain inflation.

26. If that picture was grim, the outlook was even more so; in the industrialized market-economy countries, real economic growth was likely to be nil in 1980 and, even if the rate of inflation fell, there was every prospect of an increase in unemployment. According to OECD, the rise in oil prices which had taken place over the past 12 months meant, for the industrialized countries in 1980, a loss of 2 per cent of their gross national income, strong inflationary pressure, a transfer of income to the oil-exporting countries amounting to \$150 billion, and a deficit of \$75 billion in the current account balance. Real income could fall by \$500 *per capita* in the countries concerned.

27. For the oil-importing developing countries, the repercussions of the 135 per cent increase in oil prices were at least equally drastic: a transfer of income amounting to approximately \$30 billion to the OPEC countries and a trade deficit of over \$50 billion. On the other hand, the OPEC countries would receive additional income of \$165 billion,

so that in 1980, according to IMF, they would have a balance-of-payments surplus of some \$115 billion.

28. At their June 1980 meeting, the Heads of State and Government of the Community countries had taken the view that the recent oil price increases had had no objective justification and that in any case the distribution of those increases had dangerously affected international economic stability. Their impact could, of course, be reduced by a rapid recycling of the surpluses, but that would require co-operation by the private capital market and action by international finance institutions. Only in the long term could those new imbalances be corrected by a stabilization of the terms of trade and real adjustments in the economies of the industrialized countries. In addition, existing sources of energy would have to be diversified and developed.

29. The oil price increases, and the tensions which they generated, inevitably had disturbing effects on development policies. The capacity of the industrialized countries to contribute directly to development, whether in the form of official assistance or of direct private investment, was thereby reduced. The capacity of the non-oil-producing developing countries to have greater recourse to the international banking system was also in doubt. If they did so, their external foreign currency debt could be as high as \$440 billion in 1981, and its servicing would account for more than 25 per cent of their export earnings; in other words, for most of them the situation was serious and riddled with uncertainties. It was therefore clear that an improved organization of world relations was inevitable in the long term. No country could ignore the growing interdependence which linked all States.

30. The search for an improved organization of international economic relations had led the Community to embark on the preparatory work for the global negotiations in a constructive and realistic spirit; those negotiations, for which the General Assembly would have to adopt the agenda, procedure and time-table at its eleventh special session, would be global; in other words, they would permit an integrated approach to the problems concerned. They would be conducted on the basis of mutual interest, which held out hope that all parties would participate actively; it was an opportunity which must not be wasted.

31. To have any chance of success, the future negotiations would have to be concentrated on the essential elements of North-South relations. The fifth session of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy had shown the difficulties involved in drawing up an agenda and laying down procedures; the eleventh special session of the General Assembly should provide an opportunity for taking the political decisions needed in order to overcome those difficulties.

32. The countries of the European Economic Community would study carefully the emergency measures in favour of certain developing countries suggested by the Secretary-General, whose efforts to propose a specific approach to the problems to be considered at the special session of the General Assembly were much appreciated by the Community.

33. The search for solutions to enable the world economy to emerge from the recession which had underlain the preparatory work on the global negotiations also constituted the background to the new international development strategy. Of course, that strategy was aimed essentially at the accelerated development of the developing countries and the establishment of a new and more just international economic order; however, efforts to achieve those goals would be more effective if they were made in the context of

stable economic expansion. Although it was true that the developing countries bore the primary responsibility for their own development and that it was for them to seek to attain their development goals by mobilizing their own resources, it was also true that effective action was needed to create an external environment favourable to their efforts; in that connexion, the link between the global negotiations and the strategy was evident.

34. The preparatory work on the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade had proved to be extremely difficult, since it had been necessary to seek new approaches to the problems involved, and it had not been possible to make the initial break-through until early in 1980, when negotiations had begun on specific texts; an immense amount of work had then been done in a short time. There were grounds for hoping that the text of the new strategy, in the form in which it would be submitted at the special session of the General Assembly, would be finalized shortly. On behalf of the members of the Community, he wished to pay a tribute to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy, thanks to whom so much progress had been made so quickly.

35. While the preparation of the global negotiations and of the new international development strategy had been proceeding, the North-South dialogue had made significant progress. Thus, on 1 January 1980, the results of the multilateral trade negotiations had come into effect. Both the developing countries and the developed countries would be bound to derive substantial benefits from them. In May 1980, an agreement had been reached on a new food aid convention. Furthermore, within the framework of the Integrated Programme for Commodities, the 1979 International Natural Rubber Agreement had been adopted. In April 1980, the United Nations Conference on Restrictive Business Practices had ended successfully. There was also the consensus reached at the May 1980 session of the Industrial Development Board on the follow-up to the Third General Conference of UNIDO at New Delhi. On 27 June 1980, the fourth session of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities had ended; it had resulted in the adoption of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities. That new instrument of international co-operation, in the negotiation of which the European Economic Community had played a large part, constituted a decisive step towards the stabilization of commodity markets and met one of the most insistent requests of the developing countries. On 26 June 1980, the UNDP Governing Council had approved by consensus a very important decision—decision 80/30—concerning the allocation of funds and entitled "Preparations for the third programming cycle, 1982-1986", which increased to 80 per cent the share of resources which would go to the least advantaged recipient countries.

36. He then mentioned two achievements which were due to the initiative of the European Economic Community and which had considerable effects at the international economic level. The Second Lomé Convention, which was an agreement on co-operation and trade between the European Economic Community and 57 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, was based directly on the needs and aspirations of the third-world countries which were parties to it. Under the Convention, the Community, while supporting the efforts of the international community to assist the developing countries, was endeavouring to maintain its own commitments towards some of those countries to which several of its members were bound by their past.

The Convention seemed to him to establish a model for relations between industrialized and developing countries. The corner-stone of the Lomé Convention was free access to Community markets for exports from participating countries. However, experience had proved that free access was not sufficient unless it was accompanied by vigorous trade promotion. That gap had been filled in the Second Lomé Convention.

37. Furthermore, quite substantial improvements had been made in the system for stabilizing the export earnings of the same countries, and provision had been made for new machinery to assist some of the mineral-producing countries among them facing specific problems. In the field of industrial co-operation, greater importance was being attached to industrial training activities, to the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises and to the local processing of raw materials. In the field of financial and technical co-operation, financial resources had been increased substantially. The originality of the agreement lay in the fact that responsibility for implementation was shared and that there was a permanent dialogue between equal partners. The machinery provided for had been designed to stimulate that dialogue at all levels.

38. Another notable European achievement, the European monetary system, had weathered the storms during the first year of its existence, while the yen had been devalued by 30 per cent against the dollar, the dollar by 10 per cent against the ECU (European currency unit) and the price of gold had moved erratically. The system had not only survived but had functioned well. It gave Europe an appreciable degree of monetary stability at a time of international turbulence. Work on developing the system through the creation of a European monetary fund was progressing. Thus, the Community hoped to contribute even more to that world monetary stability to which the developing countries, which were the hardest hit by disturbances in the international monetary system, particularly aspired.

39. In conclusion, he emphasized the importance which the members of the European Economic Community continued to attach to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. The Economic and Social Council was the principal organ for economic and social affairs. It should therefore be provided with the resources it needed to do its work.

40. Baron VON WECHMAR (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he fully shared the views expressed by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Economic Community, and that, in order to avoid repetition, he would concentrate on a few ideas of particular importance to his country.

41. The recent Summit Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of Seven Principal Industrialized Nations, held at Venice on 22 and 23 June 1980, had once again pointed to the gravity of the current economic situation. The message from that Meeting was clear: the obstacles to economic development and prosperity could only be overcome if, with the interests of all in mind, the industrialized countries of the free world, the oil-producing countries and the non-oil-producing developing countries worked together. The Federal Republic of Germany, for its part, accepted its share of responsibilities. As a member of the European Economic Community, it intended to make its efforts, as described in the Declaration of the Venice Summit Meeting, within the framework of the Community.

42. The situation of the developing countries was a matter for particular concern. World-wide efforts were needed to reduce their increasing dependence on food imports. The

Federal Republic of Germany was prepared to assist developing countries in establishing long-term strategies to increase food production and would support and supplement multilateral initiatives to improve storage and distribution facilities. It would also continue to supply food. In the longer term, however, food aid must not replace or endanger efforts to develop and improve the endogenous agricultural resources of developing countries.

43. Most North-South issues were global problems. Energy was perhaps the most outstanding example, but the same held true for monetary, financial and trade problems, as well as for questions of industrialization and science and technology, among others. That was a remarkable development in itself. It reflected the growing interdependence of a dynamic world economic system aimed at achieving the ever-closer integration of all its partners. The trend admittedly complicated the task of Governments, as could be seen from the preliminary discussions on the agenda and the procedures for the global negotiations. But one should not lose patience if the forthcoming global negotiations did not lead to quick solutions; the important thing was that they should lead to truly global results. The Federal Republic of Germany would do its utmost to find solutions within the agreed period, but sustained efforts from all sides would be needed.

44. More and more people seemed to believe that the solution of the energy problem might be the key to the solution of those closely linked major issues. The Federal Republic of Germany supported that view, since it thought that the stability of almost all countries depended on a satisfactory solution of the energy problem, and that it would be well to focus on energy, since the oil price explosion was one of the major causes of, if not the most important factor in, current economic difficulties. Such an approach could also serve to probe the various facets of the energy problem and to clarify the respective responsibilities.

45. Adjusting the economy to steadily rising energy prices was probably the most important but also the most difficult task ahead. No oil-importing country, including the Federal Republic of Germany, could in the long run finance its ever-increasing balance-of-payments deficit. He thought that the solution of the energy problem was a matter of life and death for many developing countries.

46. In many developing countries, the food situation was still far from satisfactory. It was therefore of crucial importance for those countries to increase their agricultural production. That meant better irrigation and more fertilizers and pesticides. However, in order to provide those inputs and to run the agricultural machinery required to increase production, they needed energy, and especially oil, at prices which they could afford. Without energy, national and international programmes for food and agriculture could well be meaningless.

47. One aspect of the adjustment process was the saving of energy. If the developing countries were to achieve their development aims, they must endeavour to make their economies less dependent on oil imports, even though their *per capita* oil consumption was still fairly low, and that would not be possible without outside help. The developed countries had a major role to play in that respect, but the participation of OPEC was also required for a successful solution of the three major problems: the saving of energy, the development of new sources of energy, and the solution of balance-of-payments problems.

48. The development of new and potentially renewable sources of energy would be an essential factor in the adjustment process of all countries. He was confident that

the forthcoming United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy would strengthen the activities of the United Nations system in that area. However, no long-term solution was conceivable without continuous and increased private flows, notably direct investments. Private investors must be given sufficient guarantees and a stable and attractive economic environment.

49. Thus, the solution of the energy problem might be the key to a successful long-term adjustment to new economic structures. Such an adjustment process would take time. Meanwhile, the oil bills of oil-importing countries were getting bigger every month, along with their balance-of-payments deficits. In the preceding year, the OECD countries had had to pay \$50 billion more for oil than in 1978, and in the current year they would have to pay at least \$90 billion more. In 1980, the deficit of their combined current accounts would reach at least \$50 billion. The deficit of the Federal Republic of Germany was likely to be of the order of \$14 billion. The situation was even worse for the non-oil-producing developing countries, which would have to spend at least \$50 billion on oil imports in the current year and would suffer a combined deficit in their current accounts of at least \$80 billion. Until then, private banks had been able to fill much of that gap, but the debts of developing countries currently amounted to about \$400 billion and there was no guarantee that the international banking community would continue to expand its international business at past rates.

50. There was general recognition of the importance of the recycling process. IMF and the World Bank would have to play a larger part in that process. He welcomed the work on that issue undertaken in those two institutions, in particular by the IMF/World Bank Development Committee (Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and IMF on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries).

51. However, it would first of all be for OPEC to assume a larger share. So far, OPEC countries had tended to minimize their risks by investing most of their surplus in a limited number of developed countries. It was time for OPEC countries to become involved to a greater extent and more directly, either through international finance institutions or through direct credits or grants to non-oil-producing developing countries. In that way, the OPEC countries could make a genuine contribution to overcoming the current monetary and financial difficulties and solving the problem of channelling additional resources to developing countries.

52. It was evident that in the long run the OPEC current-account surplus, or the deficits of non-oil-producing countries, could be reduced only if the latter imported less oil while increasing their exports. It was also essential for OECD countries to open their markets on a much wider scale to exports from developing countries. The Federal Republic of Germany thought it very important to strengthen trade relations with developing countries, in order to increase their export earnings. The OECD countries in particular must continue to resist protectionist pressures and avoid restrictive measures, so that the economies of developing countries could adjust successfully.

53. Commenting on the report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues, known as the Brandt Commission, he noted that the report had in general been well received. Many of the proposals which it contained were already being implemented and others were under active consideration, but there were some which his country found difficult to accept.

54. The target of 0.7 per cent for official development assistance was probably too ambitious to be achieved by 1985. Nevertheless, his Government proposed increasing its development aid by at least double the rate of total budgetary outlays during the next four years. Moreover, his Government would endeavour to continue to achieve the target of 1 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for total public and private capital transfers to developing countries. However, the current difficulties of slow growth, high unemployment, inflation and budgetary and balance-of-payments deficits were not particularly favourable to greater efforts in the field of development co-operation and, unfortunately, those problems were not about to disappear.

55. He had been struck by the fact that, in the North-South dialogue, very little attention had been paid to the role of the socialist countries. Those countries should be much more actively engaged in the solution of the global problems facing the international community and it did not seem right that the Federal Republic of Germany alone should provide twice as much official development assistance as all the countries members of CMEA put together. A short while ago China, the most populous country in the world, had become a member of IMF and the World Bank. That association would benefit China, as well as the rest of the world. Its experience, for instance in agricultural production, industrialization and population control, could be useful for others. Although its *per capita* income was still low, China gave considerable technical and financial assistance to other developing countries.

56. Ms. BOSKEY (World Bank) observed that at its forthcoming special session the General Assembly was to adopt an international development strategy for the 1980s and to launch global negotiations on some of the major issues connected with it. A number of those issues were of concern to the World Bank, as a multisectoral international development financing institution. The Bank was ready to provide technical advice, to offer its views on matters within its competence and to share the benefits of its experience. It would, in addition, submit to the General Assembly at the special session its *World Development Report, 1980*, presenting the economic outlook for the decade as the Bank saw it, and giving particular attention to human development and poverty, capital flows, trade and energy.

57. The issue of perhaps the greatest concern was the economic situation and prospects of the third world countries. The challenges to be met were only too well known. Poverty persisted, in its absolute form affecting some 800 million people. Depending on the policies adopted regarding capital flows, energy production and conservation, the growth and structure of trade and economic management in the developing countries, that figure might fall slightly over the decade, but it might equally well increase if the right course was not taken. If both developed and developing countries determined on heroic but not impossible measures, a real impact could be made on the problem.

58. Populations continued to grow; according to the World Bank's projections, that of the developing countries would rise from 3 billion to 4.1 billion by the year 2000. The rate of urbanization would remain high. Thirty years before, there had been only six cities with more than 5 million inhabitants; currently, there were 26 and by the end of the century 60 would have reached that size, 45 of them in developing countries. The number of town dwellers had doubled between 1950 and 1980, and by the year 2000 less than half the world's population would be living in rural areas.

59. While there had been striking successes in agricultural production in regions such as India and other parts of

eastern Asia, the food situation in sub-Saharan Africa was deteriorating.

60. Energy prices would continue to rise. The oil-importing developing countries would in 1980 need not merely \$30 billion but \$65 billion for oil imports equal to the net amount imported in 1978 purely as a source of energy. Their current account deficit would in 1980 exceed \$60 billion, against \$28 billion only two years earlier.

61. The need to adjust to higher energy prices and payments imbalances would slow down growth in developing countries for the first half of the decade. While some recovery was likely in the second half, it would depend essentially on the domestic policies they followed.

62. The prospects for the industrialized countries were hardly more favourable; the year before, the Bank had projected an average annual growth rate of 4.2 per cent for the decade. As a result of the slow-down of growth in the OECD countries, the Bank's current projection was for relatively slow growth at 2.5 to 3 per cent during the first half of the decade, increasing to 3 to 3.5 per cent during the second half.

63. The crisis of the mid-1970s, although serious, had been of short duration. However, the factors referred to, together with the constraints on commercial bank lending to developing countries, led inevitably to the conclusion that the current situation was very different and that basic and permanent structural changes, requiring long-term adjustment, were needed. The low-income developing countries must give priority to investments which would make them less dependent on food and energy imports, while middle-income countries should redirect their investments towards exports; in both groups, a higher rate of saving would be necessary. The industrialized countries would have to make greater efforts to control inflation, save energy, develop replacement energy sources and curb protectionism. OPEC countries, it was to be hoped, would increase the volume of the resources they made available to the international community through investment and assistance.

64. The necessary adjustments would be difficult in the best of circumstances, and would have to be made at a time when the prospects for external financial assistance were far from encouraging, especially for the poorest countries, where the needs were greatest. The internal economic difficulties of the industrialized countries had led them to adopt a policy of austerity which limited the opportunities for the liberalization of trade. It was both significant and disappointing that the official development assistance provided by the DAC member countries was still, after too many years, well below the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP set for the Second United Nations Development Decade. Only four members of DAC had reached that target, and while most DAC member countries had undertaken to increase the share of their GNP allocated to aid, not all had committed themselves to a date for achieving the target. The Arab OPEC countries had increased their support to developing countries considerably beyond the United Nations target, but even their aid had declined in real terms. In contrast, global military expenditures were estimated at more than \$450 billion a year, which was surely an irrational misallocation of available resources.

65. Of even greater concern was the imbalance in total official development assistance, since the poorest countries received only 0.13 per cent of the richer countries' GNP, less than half of total official development assistance. With the outlook for an increase in the total volume of concessional assistance as it was, redistribution in favour of the poorest countries was imperative.

66. Mindful of the painful adjustments required for many of its member countries, the Bank had recently designed a

new type of lending for the implementation of multi-year adjustment programmes under which the borrower and the Bank would agree on changes to be made in the structure of the country's economy and the adoption of policies to reduce the country's current account deficit to more manageable proportions. Three such loans had already been made, to Kenya, Turkey and Bolivia, and it was expected that such non-project assistance would in the near future represent 8 to 10 per cent of Bank financing.

67. The Bank's lending capacity would shortly be considerably strengthened, because member countries had decided to double its capital by adding \$40 billion to the \$34 billion already authorized, and to replenish the funds of IDA at the level of \$12 billion. However, neither the capital increase agreement nor the agreement on the replenishment of IDA resources had yet been ratified, which was particularly serious in the case of IDA, as its commitment authority under the fifth replenishment had lapsed on 30 June 1980. Nor must it be forgotten that the actual value of the increases announced would be eroded by rates of inflation higher than those envisaged when the agreements had been negotiated.

68. The Bank's own activity was in a state of evolution; realizing the importance attaching to the development of human resources and that investment in human capital, where the economic rate of return sometimes exceeded that of physical investment, was a contribution to growth, the Bank intended in future to give higher priority to human development in its financing and technical assistance operations. The focus of its lending had shifted from the infrastructure projects of its early years to projects directed to achieving growth with equity, and to assuring that the urban and rural poor of the third world had access to essential social services such as basic education, primary health care and safe drinking water. For example, the Bank expected to allocate an average of \$900 million a year to education and training, bringing lending for education to about 8 per cent of total Bank lending by 1983.

69. The Bank was also extending its activities in the energy sector. The Executive Directors of the Bank had approved in 1979 an accelerated programme including provision for financing exploration, as well as the production, of oil resources; since 1977, 22 petroleum projects had been financed in 20 developing countries. In addition, over the two preceding years, the Bank had carried out about 20 energy sector reviews in oil-importing developing countries to identify policy issues and priorities for action. Lending for oil/gas projects was expected to reach \$1.2 billion per year by 1983. A working party had been set up to consider what role the Bank might play in renewable energy resource development, and the Bank also looked forward to active participation in the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in 1981. One of the Brandt Commission's recommendations had, of course, been for a substantial increase in the volume of resources made available to international financing bodies for the exploration and development of energy resources, including renewable energy.

70. In general, the recommendations of the Brandt Commission could usefully be taken into consideration in the elaboration of the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade and in the global negotiations; their content was highly stimulating and it was remarkable that they had been unanimously agreed upon by the 18 members of the Commission, drawn from 17 countries spread over the five continents and representing a broad spectrum of political philosophies.

71. With its necessarily realistic approach, the Bank had to take note of the far from encouraging present situation

and could formulate policies and economic and sectoral growth objectives for the decade only with due regard to the facts. But realism did not mean that confidence had to be abandoned; the international community and individual countries would surely take the steps needed to assure continued economic progress and the alleviation of the poverty which the international community could not and must not tolerate.

72. Mr. GRANT (Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) said that UNICEF was an organization which enjoyed an unparalleled reputation and sound support among Governments; it was an expanding and evolving agency which had reached a stage where it needed what might be described as a gear shift to continue and intensify its action. Three recent developments in particular illustrated the changing demands on UNICEF.

73. In the first place, the world community was increasingly concerned not only with economic growth but also with more rapid improvements in the condition of people, particularly children, as part of the development process; in 1976, the General Assembly had commended the UNICEF basic services approach, the ILO and the World Bank had emphasized the task of overcoming the worst aspects of absolute poverty by the year 2000 as part of the development process, and since the International Conference on Primary Health Care, held at Alma Ata in 1978, the governing bodies of WHO and UNICEF had urged the attainment by the year 2000 of a level of health permitting all peoples of the world to lead a productive life. Those goals called for greatly accelerated progress in low-income and middle-income countries and in the poorer sectors of their population. Infant mortality rates, for example, would have to decline two to three times faster in the coming 20 years than they had in the preceding 20 years. Fortunately, the recent experience of some low-income countries, such as Sri Lanka, showed that such rates of improvement were possible and that investment over, say, 20 years in human development, for example in primary school education, could provide rates of return of more than 20 per cent. UNICEF, as one of the agencies particularly oriented towards action in that field, must further increase its skills and intensify its activity.

74. Secondly, UNICEF resources were extremely limited in relation to needs and to resources available from other sources. For some years, therefore, UNICEF had been encouraging collective effort at the family and community levels, by organizing primary health care, or improving subsistence farming, since that was the only approach which held out hope of meeting basic needs and achieving health for all by the year 2000 in the poorest countries. Happily, the World Bank and the regional development banks were increasing their financing for that type of activity — water supply, education and health programmes. Those new forms of aid adopted by the World Bank, WHO, FAO and UNESCO made it necessary for UNICEF to change its working methods; they also enabled it to place at the disposal of the international organizations and bilateral aid bodies its special capacities — its network of staff in the developing countries, working on a cross-sectoral community basis, who had a particular understanding of low-income communities and their social context. UNICEF could therefore provide an increasingly valued complement to the activities of other agencies.

75. In the third place, the role of UNICEF had also been affected by the responsibilities assigned to it by the General Assembly in connexion with the International Year of the

Child, and its functions as lead agency during the Year itself and in follow-up activities.

76. Those three developments had contributed to an increasing perception that UNICEF was now responsible for three distinct, yet complementary and interrelated, conceptual and functional missions.

77. The first mission, which had been assigned to UNICEF when it had been created to provide relief to children, essentially in industrialized countries devastated by the Second World War, consisted of emergency aid operations in times of crisis, as in Africa and Asia at the current time. In addition to that initial mission, UNICEF had assumed a second one, focusing increasing attention on solving what were called the "silent" emergencies resulting from poverty and underdevelopment which had regularly, every year, killed 15 million children under the age of five years in the developing countries. That was what had moved UNICEF to pursue its systematic basic services approach with emphasis on community participation, in the development of measures such as primary school education, primary health care or rural water supply systems. While not all UNICEF activities should be devoted to the survival of children, programmes affecting survival rates should certainly have the first claim on its resources.

78. The third mission of UNICEF was that of "children's advocate". The International Year of the Child had increased awareness that many problems of children were common to both developing and industrialized countries. There had been a general consensus that UNICEF should assume responsibility for drawing attention to needs and problems of children that were transnational in character and to such policies and programmes as appeared useful in the light of experience in every kind of social, cultural, political and economic situation. UNICEF had a unique position in the United Nations system, with its agents working at community level, notably through national committees for UNICEF. The person-to-person contact was another comparative advantage which should be enhanced at every opportunity. At its May 1980 session, the Executive Board of UNICEF had essentially endorsed the idea of acceleration and expressed support for the structural process of organizing UNICEF and its staff, resources and programmes to meet the demands of its three missions.

79. Referring, lastly, to developments in the emergency operation conducted under the direction of the Fund in Kampuchea, he said that the disaster feared at the end of 1979 had been averted but there was a risk that the crisis could return in the coming summer, failing continued large-scale external financial assistance, its effective delivery to Kampuchea and its effective distribution within the country. The first two conditions were being largely met at the present time, but the third far less satisfactorily, since distribution was being effected under extremely difficult conditions, particularly with the advent of the monsoon and the recent serious disruption along the Thai-Kampuchean border. The increased financial assistance pledged at the Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance and Relief to the Kampuchean People, held at Geneva on 26 and 27 May 1980, had enabled the joint mission of UNICEF and ICRC to send a further 300 trucks to Kampuchea.

80. He very much hoped that the Economic and Social Council, after considering the report of the Executive Board (E/1980/41), would support the work of UNICEF in general and its three missions in particular.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*

## 26th meeting

Friday, 4 July 1980, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.26

### *Tribute to the memory of Mr. Abdel Hamid Sharaf, Prime Minister of Jordan*

*On the proposal of the President, the members of the Council observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Abdel Hamid Sharaf, Prime Minister of Jordan.*

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### **General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)**

1. Mr. BI Jilong (Under-Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development) said he hoped that the current discussions on the new international economic order would give due weight to technical co-operation, which was an essential aspect of the international development strategy. The experience of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the second largest executing agency for UNDP, showed that the current level of resources for technical co-operation was inadequate.
2. Detailed information on the work and policy of the Department was contained in documents recently submitted to the Governing Council of UNDP,<sup>1</sup> and in the Governing Council's report (E/1980/42), which would be before the Council under agenda item 5 (Comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development).
3. The aim of the recent reorganization of the Department was to improve its delivery of technical co-operation, in both quantity and quality, while retaining enough flexibility to foster new dimensions of co-operation along the lines laid down in General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX), including the promotion of self-reliance through technical co-operation among developing countries. Although hampered by financial and administrative limitations, the Department used its resources under the regular budget to pioneer approaches to technical co-operation among developing countries for the least developed countries. That process was assisted by the use of qualified national personnel in their own countries and regions. In 1979, national consultants had frequently been used in the Americas. Several projects assisted by the Department were currently being managed by national project co-ordinators. However, United Nations personnel policy not to appoint nationals for service in their own countries did not make it any easier to implement the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX) concerning increased reliance on national personnel.
4. Under agenda item 5, the Council would also consider the comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system, submitted by the Director-General of Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/35/224 and Corr.1), with the preparation of which his own Department had been associated. It con-

tained a balanced presentation of major policy issues, especially the need for resources to be available on a predictable and continuous basis. That point was of special importance to the Department, since UNDP provided 65 per cent of its resources, and fluctuations in availability disrupted the delivery of technical co-operation.

5. The review mentioned a number of other matters of interest to his Department, including pre-investment. The Department at the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council of UNDP, had made proposals aimed at reversing the decrease in the role of pre-investment and thus enabling it to participate fully in the efforts of the United Nations system to increase investment resources for development projects.

6. While it was a cardinal principle that technical co-operation was provided in response to requests from Governments, they must be kept advised of changes in international strategies and provided with incentives to implement them. Such a process usually required additional resources.

7. It was the Department's view that the allocation of some resources from the regular budget to technical co-operation was both a matter of principle and a necessity. It demonstrated the commitment of Member States of the United Nations to promoting the economic and social development of the least developed and other developing countries. Furthermore, although the resources so allocated had amounted to only \$6.4 million in 1979, the Department's regular programme was a unique part of its work which gave it flexibility to respond to decisions by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and to requests by Governments for advisory services, training and project activities not readily financed from other sources. Every effort was being made to improve the efficiency of the programme.

8. As the Council would observe from the report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation (E/1980/72), the Department had continued to strengthen its co-operation with the regional commissions, and considerable progress had been made in 1979 towards developing the necessary framework. Regional and subregional projects for which the Department was the executing agency were being rapidly decentralized, in accordance with agreed schedules; only a few, with the agreement of all concerned, still remained with the Department. Funds had been transferred from the Department's regular programme to finance one regional adviser in each commission in the sector preferred by it, in order to strengthen its support for technical co-operation. The Department had also assisted in strengthening other sectors in the commissions, as for example, the administrative and financial services of ECE. Support costs were automatically decentralized when projects were decentralized. However, the Department must continue to have the resources to support the projects it still executed.

9. In anticipation of playing an active role in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the Department had submitted to UNDP various proposals for projects aimed at strengthening the indigenous scientific and tech-

<sup>1</sup> DP/RP/21 and Add.1 and DP/RP/22.

nological capacity of developing countries, for financing by the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development. It had also participated fully in the recent meeting of the ACC Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives devoted entirely to energy issues and was prepared to participate in the future work of the Task Force in that field.

10. The Department was ready to assist developing countries through technical co-operation to translate targets into tangible achievements in the common effort to build a new international economic order for an interdependent world.

11. Mr. IONESCU (Romania) said that his delegation associated itself with the appeals made for good sense and political will to solve the problems of a complex and interdependent world community. It also fully shared the concern at the continuing crisis in the world economy and international economic relations, which served to perpetuate underdevelopment and deepen the economic and social gap between developed and developing countries. According to a recent World Bank report, that gap had more or less doubled over the preceding 25 years. Meanwhile, the \$20 billion provided annually in economic assistance was a tiny proportion of the more than \$500 billion spent on armaments.

12. It was an indisputable fact that the current system of international economic relations had proved incapable of safeguarding the interests of either developing or developed countries. Recognition of that fact in recent international discussions provided an objective basis for negotiations between the two groups. The establishment of a new international economic order was of primary importance, because the present inequitable system produced international tension and confrontation. The United Nations was in a position to mobilize the political will of all States to contribute to the common effort. International action should be based on the need for structural changes in international economic relations which would establish them on new democratic principles and give a central position to the problems of developing countries.

13. His country therefore attached particular importance to the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly; in the words of the President of Romania, it would offer a chance which all peoples, rich and poor alike, must seize. The eleventh special session must result in clear political commitments by all States to ensure that the global negotiations relating to the new international economic order and the implementation of the new international development strategy, which had not so far achieved the desired results, resulted in agreement on practical measures.

14. The economic bodies of the United Nations system should make better use of their considerable political and material means and become forums for effective negotiation where the legitimate interests of all countries were taken into consideration on terms of complete equality. It was not good enough for the international community merely to note the serious economic and social position and react after the event. Unified action on the part of the entire United Nations system, under the aegis of the Council, should make it possible to reach effective agreements in the sectors covered by the recent major United Nations conferences.

15. With regard to international trade, efforts should be continued to obtain definite commitments on the part of developed countries to reverse protectionist trends, increase the share of developing countries in world exports of manufactured products and promote the necessary restructuring to give the exports of developing countries free access to world markets.

16. Much could be done by the developing countries' own efforts and by economic co-operation between them. At the same time, the developed countries should support those efforts by increasing financial and technical assistance, granting preferential trade treatment and by a more equitable and rational international division of labour. In that context, attention should be given to the use of resources which could be made available by a reduction in military expenditures.

17. In the fields of industrial development and the application of science and technology to development, emphasis should be placed on reaching agreement for the implementation of the plans of action formulated by the Third General Conference of UNIDO and by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

18. In the field of agriculture and world food, the plan of action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and the recommendations made by the World Food Council at its recent sixth ministerial session focused attention on the need to increase and diversify agricultural production, to establish a system for ensuring world food security, to accelerate the conclusion of commodity agreements, in the first place for cereals, and to continue the process of liberalization of trade in agro-food products.

19. The Council should be receptive to proposals for new areas of international co-operation, such as energy. At the same time, the Council should make greater use of the experience it had acquired over the years as a laboratory of ideas and large-scale initiatives. In analysing present and future trends, it might with advantage draw on the expertise of non-governmental organizations, a number of which were qualified to prepare studies.

20. The 1980s would see important applications of two great developments in the technological and scientific revolution. The first concerned computers, microprocessors and artificial intelligence, the second cellular biology and genetic engineering. The first would transform methods of management, decision and communication, while the second would open up considerable prospects for energy, industry and food. Many existing activities would become out of date and lose their purpose in the light of those developments, which surely deserved much discussion and called for a study of joint action by the specialized institutions of the United Nations.

21. It was a significant part of the Economic and Social Council's task to view economic development in close interdependence with social development. But although much attention had been given in the previous decade to education and manpower training, to the role of women and of youth in the development process and to population matters, there was still a long way to go before the two main aspects of development were integrated in the activities and programmes of the various organizations. New efforts should be made to keep the human factor at the centre of the Council's preoccupations. Romania, a socialist as well as a developing country, would contribute actively to the achievement of the aspirations so vital for all countries.

22. Mr. MORSE (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that the present state of global economic uncertainty was attributable, at least in part, to disparities which might have been alleviated by greater commitment to development and international co-operation. There was a danger that those past failures might be aggravated if nations sought to protect themselves from external economic disturbances and gave national aims priority over international co-operation, but that must not be allowed to happen. The international community already

possessed, to a large extent, the institutional capacity to tackle its problems effectively. What it still needed, however, was a greater determination to meet the urgent needs of hundreds of millions of human beings.

23. Turning to the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/35/224 and Corr.1), he noted that problems discussed in it were, by and large, the problems affecting UNDP in its day-to-day operational activities. Bringing together in one analysis the various operational activities of the United Nations system, it demonstrated the enormous possibilities for the integrated approach to development which had been the aim of Governments represented in the Council and was the underlying objective of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. Coherence was not easy to achieve in a diversified system.

24. The past 10 years had seen a proliferation of separate development funds and programmes, unrelated to UNDP, to meet special needs as they arose. Too often, however, the expected additional resources for development had not materialized, while the additional bureaucracy and overhead costs had been all too evident. That process had affected the resources available to UNDP and, consequently, its programmes in the developing countries, for while the growth of UNDP had been steady, it had been denied the major increase required to enable it to meet clearly identified needs. Such a situation did not serve the best interests of developing countries.

25. There were indications, however, that the process was being reversed to some extent. One factor was the increase in the implementation of projects in 1979 — more than 25 per cent ahead of the preceding year — which gave it a slightly larger share of total expenditure by the United Nations system than in earlier years and showed that, given adequate resources, it could discharge its responsibilities. In addition, a number of special-purpose funds were administered by UNDP. If expenditure under those funds was included, a significantly larger proportion of system financing was accounted for by UNDP.

26. All those activities benefited from the administrative organization of UNDP and particularly from its extensive field network. With those advantages in mind, the UNDP Governing Council had approved his recommendation for special interim financing for energy exploration and pre-investment surveys, to be carried out in close collaboration with the World Bank and the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

27. The report referred to the decline in the pre-investment role of UNDP, a problem to which he had drawn the Governing Council's attention in 1978. A number of productive steps had since been taken: early in 1979, an Investment Development Office had been established, co-operative agreements had been concluded with the World Bank and the regional development banks, and an experimental arrangement had been made with the FAO Investment Centre, which had already generated up to \$200 million in potential investment commitments. It was intended to extend those joint arrangements to WHO and to develop more intensive contacts with other public and private investment sources, including UNIDO. The Governing Council had also proposed similar arrangements with the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

28. The Director-General's report also referred to gaps in the existing pattern of operational activities that were relevant in particular to the establishment of the new international economic order. It mentioned, in the first instance, the promotion of collective self-reliance through

more effective economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. UNDP had been given special responsibility by the General Assembly for the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries and was working in collaboration with UNCTAD on a special programme to support regional and interregional efforts in technical co-operation and economic co-operation among developing countries; in the fields of trade expansion, monetary and financial co-operation, the promotion of multinational production enterprises and the strengthening of regional and subregional economic integration movements. He drew attention to the report entitled "UNDP and the new international economic order" (DP/470), to be submitted to the General Assembly at its eleventh special session; the document gave information about the current financing by UNDP of a number of projects in such areas as international trade and commodities, monetary arrangements, negotiating capacity vis-à-vis transnational corporations, and many others.

29. The report rightly gave considerable attention to the importance of the new UNDP policies intended to encourage greater self-reliance by developing countries and to shift the orientation of UNDP technical co-operation from inputs to outputs. Recent moves by organizations of the United Nations system to give management responsibility to national personnel were beginning to be successful, and Governments were now increasingly aware of the opportunities for the employment of national expertise. While expenditure under government execution of projects rose substantially in 1979 compared to previous years, the level none the less remained far too modest. He had no disagreement with the report where it pointed out that the progressive assumption of responsibility for project management, including procurement, subcontracting and recruitment, must be the objective in supporting the drive of developing countries for self-reliance. But that process should not be regarded simply as a means of achieving economies in the operational activities of the system, for it should not be forgotten that the system was meant to furnish added value to the assistance channelled through it.

30. As was noted in the report, UNDP had endeavoured to maximize economies in procurement through the expanding work of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Unit. Moreover, at its twenty-seventh session, the Governing Council had decided to reduce the rate of overhead costs payable to executing agencies for UNDP-financed projects to 13 per cent from the present 14 per cent; he hoped that it would be possible to ensure that actual overhead costs incurred by the system as a whole would be reduced.

31. UNDP and its partner agencies in the system had been working to improve their operational effectiveness in various ways: through joint evaluation efforts emphasizing feedback into new projects and activities of a similar nature; through the establishment, under the UNDP Integrated Systems Improvement Project, of an institutional memory for the Programme; through increased consultations and more uniform and simplified procedures, and the gradually expanding use of the country programming process as a frame of reference for other system-wide inputs; and through the increasing involvement of both Governments and regional commissions in inter-country programming. At the first global meeting of UNDP resident representatives for nine years, currently in progress at Tunis, discussion was concentrating on greater cohesion, improved programming, more effective implementation and higher standards of programme quality in general. UNDP was thus working to adapt itself to changing development needs and important new trends.

32. The practical experience acquired by UNDP was emphasizing the growing importance of public administration and management capacity as the development process advanced into the next decade. Management training for the public sector was extremely limited among low-income developing countries and, while the United Nations system had played a valuable part in assisting those countries to introduce appropriate structures and to recruit and train the personnel required for improved public administration, the efforts had been too limited and insufficiently systematic.

33. At its twenty-seventh session, the UNDP Governing Council had adopted, in its decision 80/30, a substantially revised pattern of resource allocation for the Programme's third development co-operation cycle (1982-1986), which devoted the greatest share of UNDP finance to those developing countries most in need, while still helping to meet the requirements of those at a higher level in the development scale. The Council's decision also encouraged traditional donors and richer developing countries to increase their contributions to the Programme. Approximately 80 per cent of the total amount available for country allocations would go to countries with a *per capita* GNP below \$500, with the least developed countries and others treated as if they were among the least developed countries receiving special attention. A target of \$6.55 billion in voluntary contributions would have to be achieved to meet the new third-cycle allocation requirements. He urged the Council to support the Programme's efforts to achieve that target and to confirm its role as the central co-ordinating and financing organization for technical co-operation in the United Nations system.

34. In conclusion, he reiterated the view expressed in the Director-General's report regarding the importance of achieving the right balance between the different inputs in development, in particular the significance of non-capital sources of growth, such as human resource development and the effective use of productive resources.

## AGENDA ITEM 2

### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)\* (E/1980/100 and Add.1)

35. The PRESIDENT said that ICEM had been invited by the Council, in its decision 1979/10 of 10 April 1979, to participate, on an *ad hoc* basis and without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Council that came within the scope of ICEM activities. The organization had indicated its desire to participate in the Council's consideration of agenda item 4 (Special economic and disaster relief assistance) and item 5 (Comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development). He took it that the Council wished to invite ICEM to participate in its deliberations on agenda items 4 and 5.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.*

\* Resumed from the 24th meeting.

## 27th meeting

Monday, 7 July 1980, at 10.55 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.27

## AGENDA ITEM 3

### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*)

1. Mr. RŮŽEK (Observer for Czechoslovakia) said that the position of the world economy was still unfavourable: inflation continued and there were difficulties in the balance of payments, in the conditions of world trade, and in the international financial and monetary situation. The developing countries were the first to be affected but they were not the only ones; the socialist countries were also feeling the consequences, with the growth of protectionism and discriminatory practices and a tendency to use trade and economic relations for political purposes.

2. It was evident that the measures applied by the imperialist States and by transnational corporations in international economic relations promoted the neo-colonialist exploitation of the developing countries and perpetuated the inequitable international division of labour. Besides the direct diversion of profits by the international monopolies, the system of interrelated ties between parent and affiliated firms allowed the transfer of values by means of the price mechanism in international trade, and the

volume of such transfers was continuously growing. At the same time, international monopolies imposed on the developing countries those types of industrialization which corresponded best to their own interests and which supplied them with raw materials, energy and cheap labour. In the financial field there had been a notable increase of loans from private banks on terms and at interest rates which were one of the main causes of the growing indebtedness of developing countries. Statistics showed that the financial assistance given by advanced capitalist countries came more and more from private capital and had negative consequences in many fields. It was therefore high time to regulate the activities of transnational corporations in developing countries by adopting a code of behaviour which would oblige those corporations to conform to the needs of the independent economic development of the developing countries. Those problems were closely related to the need to eliminate various restrictive trade practices and to implement the rules worked out under the auspices of UNCTAD. An international code of conduct on the transfer of technology should also be put into effect.

3. At the twentieth session of the Trade and Development Board, Czechoslovakia had urged that UNCTAD should contribute more actively to the normalization and improvement of trade between countries with different economic

and social systems and at various levels of economic advancement, and that it should concern itself with the activities of transnational corporations in the international trade in raw materials and finished products, with the problems of the international monetary and financial system and with inflation, within the framework of the new international development strategy, where UNCTAD had a major role to play. Czechoslovakia for its part was ready to participate with other socialist countries in negotiations directed towards the implementation of those objectives.

4. At its 1980 session, ECE had shown that co-operation could be considerably developed between countries with various economic and social systems, and that that European forum was particularly adapted to the execution of the tasks defined in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in the economic, scientific and technical fields. In particular, the implementation of the socialist countries' proposals on the convening of all-European congresses on the development of co-operation in energy and transport continued to be very important. Moreover, ECE should make a particular effort to improve the conditions of trade and scientific and technical co-operation between East and West, which had shown considerable expansion but were still hampered by various protectionist and restrictive measures, very often discriminatory, applied or newly introduced by advanced capitalist countries.

5. Many of those problems were not confined to Europe but concerned the whole world. For instance, owing to industrialization and the scientific and technical revolution, the problems of the environment confronted a number of developing countries. Co-operation between various UNEP regional offices was thus desirable. His delegation was also in favour of very careful preparation, being made for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

6. CMEA, which had recently celebrated its thirtieth anniversary, endeavoured to foster the economic and social advancement of its member States, to stimulate co-operation among them, and to strengthen their material and technical bases. The socialist countries were also anxious to develop economic, scientific and technical co-operation with other countries, regardless of their economic and social systems. Their relations with the developing countries, however, were basically different from the relations between developing countries and advanced capitalist countries. The countries members of CMEA helped to build industrial, agricultural and other production units in the developing countries and provided those countries with financial and technical assistance according to their own possibilities and the possibilities and conditions of their partner countries. They were ready to expand trade and promote industrial co-operation and other new forms of co-operation but they could not approve of some unilateral requirements for commitments which did not take into account the different nature of the relations between socialist and developing countries; neither did they approve of attempts to evaluate development aid by using an oversimplified methodology which concentrated on some factors while neglecting other quite important ones. The socialist countries had no part of any responsibility for the colonialist or neo-colonialist exploitation of the developing countries, any more than they had any responsibility for the negative effects of the current crisis in the capitalist economic system. On the contrary, the socialist countries supported the demands of the developing countries for a speedy and equitable solution of those problems, since they themselves had difficulties of a similar kind. The special session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held

shortly after the end of the Council's session should be another step towards a solution. Czechoslovakia was prepared to participate in the search for a solution based on the principles of equality, justice and mutual advantage.

7. Mr. WHYTE (United Kingdom) said that he had heard it suggested recently that the United Kingdom Government was so preoccupied with its own difficult problems that it had neither time nor money left to concern itself with the problems of development. He felt that he should correct those misconceptions.

8. It was not true that the United Kingdom had suddenly become insular and introspective. That was neither in its nature nor in its interests. The history of the United Kingdom was bound up with the development of vast tracts of Asia, Australasia, Africa and the Americas, and the links which, as a great trading nation, it had forged with the rest of the world had become vital to its existence. With the development of other countries and the expansion of world trade, the United Kingdom's share of that trade had certainly declined, while the economics of comparative advantage had produced major shifts in the pattern of industry throughout the world. The United Kingdom was all the more aware of that fact because some of its industries were among the oldest. The export of goods still accounted for nearly one quarter of the GDP of the United Kingdom, and that figure in itself was the most important single determinant of United Kingdom foreign policy. Interdependence was therefore a fact of life for the United Kingdom, which was just as concerned as any other country about the world economic outlook and its implications for the progress of developing countries.

9. The voluminous documentation before the Council regarding the world economic situation painted a picture of unrelieved gloom; on all sides, there was rising population, severe inflation, high interest rates and unemployment, and low or declining growth rates. The high prices and uncertain supplies of energy were both contributors to and consequences of the other variables.

10. The increase in oil prices had admittedly given the United Kingdom a bonus in the form of revenues from North Sea oil, but it had at the same time aggravated other problems by exerting strong upward pressures on sterling and thereby further eroding the nation's industrial competitiveness. The United Kingdom was at present Western Europe's leading producer of energy, but North Sea oil simply provided a breathing space and a chance to renew what was and must remain the nation's economic base, namely, its manufacturing industry. Moreover, North Sea oil resources would soon be exhausted and by the mid to late 1990s North Sea oil and gas production would be declining. Thus, the basic trading interest of the United Kingdom coincided with the vital necessity for the world economy to seek long-term predictability of prices and security of supply, and at the same time to try to find ways of conserving and diversifying energy sources.

11. Meanwhile, the United Kingdom Government had embarked on a determined endeavour to arrest the erosion of its industrial base and the increase in government expenditure. It was bound to be an uphill struggle. The switch from direct to indirect taxation had an inflationary impact on consumer prices and wages. The attack on inflation, which was the prime target, by strict monetary and financial restraints was currently pushing unemployment up and investment down.

12. The deep cut in United Kingdom government expenditure had brought about a reduction in official development aid. The United Kingdom Government regretted that state of affairs, which was inevitable. It could only put matters right by getting its own economy in shape to create

the necessary real resources. In any case, far from abandoning the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP, the United Kingdom had increased its aid programmes, which had represented 0.52 per cent of GNP in 1979. It had stood by its commitments to IDA and the European Development Fund, and it continued to occupy a respectable place in the list of donors of aid.

13. For centuries, however, the role of Governments in the development process had been outmatched by the role of private enterprise. In recent decades, Western Governments had assumed a more direct responsibility but the discussions on such matters as science and technology, the transfer of technology, the improvement of agriculture or the industrialization of developing countries showed that the role of the private sector and the transnational corporations was often more important than that of Governments. The sources of foreign capital and technology used in building up the infrastructure of almost any developing country were proof of that. It was therefore encouraging that the transnational corporations, with the aid of various instruments and organs within the United Nations, were acquiring more respectability and that, despite some assertions to the contrary, their role was appreciated by their host countries.

14. One of the main ways in which developed countries could assist the industrialization of developing nations was by providing a market for their industrial products. The United Kingdom sometimes had problems in that respect but generally speaking its market had been able to absorb the industrial products of developing countries. In the existing climate of recession, it was important to avoid the mistakes of the past, not to give way to protectionist pressures but to maintain an open trading system, to which the last round of GATT negotiations had given impetus.

15. In considering factors in development, it was important not to lose sight of the crucial role of international financial institutions, particularly IMF and the World Bank Group; that was especially so for countries which were hardest hit by the rising cost of oil imports, those which had already borrowed extensively, and those which could not attract funds on commercial terms. The lending institutions had been the subject of criticism, but they had changed their attitude and were responding to the increasing demands being made upon them. Their merits and their capacity to adapt themselves must not be lost sight of in the clamour for international monetary reform. The United Kingdom was nevertheless ready to consider, among other possibilities, the proposal made to the Council by the United Nations Secretary-General at the 24th meeting concerning a special operation to give additional aid to low-income countries. It should be borne in mind, however, that the oil-exporting countries could play a larger part in the development of the poorer nations.

16. There was no question about the reality and gravity of many of the issues to be tackled in the global negotiations due to be launched at the eleventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly, and determined and effective international action was necessary. Nevertheless, the United Kingdom was somewhat suspicious of yet more conferences, and was opposed to the creeping proliferation of international institutions. In a constructive and realistic spirit, it hoped that there would be reasonable negotiations which would produce results and avoid duplication. That was the only way forward and progress was essential, for if the weakness of the world economy continued and if countries retreated still further into increasingly protectionist blocs, the results would be catastrophic for all.

17. The basic philosophy of the United Kingdom Government was founded on respect for the individual and his inventive capacity and distrust of regulations and controls.

That view was not shared by all Governments. On the one hand, countries which attempted to direct and control every aspect of economic life sometimes paid a heavy price in terms of slower development and wasted effort, to say nothing of the restraints imposed on individual liberty. On the other hand, no country could dissociate itself from interdependence in a world to which all belonged. The United Kingdom was thenceforward a part of Europe, of the European Economic Community, and of one world. It would continue to the full extent of its resources to play an active and constructive role in that world. Its greatest contribution in recent years to the development process could not be expressed in figures; it consisted in having helped to put an end to years of warfare and rebellion in Rhodesia and thus open up prospects of peace and prosperity for an independent Zimbabwe; that was proof that United Kingdom policies could indeed be successful.

18. Mr. CHEREDNIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that all the main phenomena inherent in the capitalist economic system — recession, monetary and financial instability, inflation, chronic unemployment — had become particularly evident during the past year, resulting in economic tension in the developed so-called market-economy countries and a sharp deceleration of economic growth. The situation was naturally a cause for concern and unfortunately there were no signs of improvement in the coming years.

19. The current situation in developed capitalist countries was causing further deterioration of the economic and financial situation of newly independent States, which was slowing down their development, disrupting their balance of payments, increasing their external debt and causing deterioration in their terms of trade. The fact that the developing countries were suffering the effects of the recession in the capitalist developed countries was not due to any mutual interdependence, but to their excessive dependence on the developed countries. As long as that dependence persisted, and until international economic relations had been placed on a new basis, it was no use raising the level of existing development funds, creating new funds, or increasing the transfer of resources to developing countries.

20. It would of course be an illusion to believe that recommendations adopted time and again by the United Nations could automatically lead to a radical change in the situation if they ignored the underlying causes of the current world economic situation and camouflaged the real state of affairs. In that connexion, his delegation emphasized that the new development strategy in process of elaboration could be useful only if it clearly identified the main obstacles in the way of the achievement of economic independence by the developing countries: namely, colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, racism and *apartheid*, all forms of foreign domination and exploitation.

21. Recent developments, characterized by the unstable world economic situation, confirmed the laws of growth of imperialism expounded by Lenin. In such a context, imperialism revealed new manifestations of its aggressive nature: the growing influence of the military industrial complex on the foreign policy of capitalist countries, the launching of a new stage in the arms race and the hardening of international relations.

22. The arms race, which must not be underestimated, involved more and more States and affected the international economic situation in different ways. In the first place, it increased international tension and undermined the atmosphere of trust without which there could be no effective economic co-operation. Secondly, the arms race was a tremendous waste of resources badly needed by all nations, including the developing countries, for solving their eco-

conomic and social problems. Thirdly, it was precisely unproductive military expenses that poured oil on the flames of inflation which had become a real impediment to the stabilization of the world economic situation. With a view to remedying the state of affairs, his country and its allies, at a meeting of the States parties of the Warsaw Pact, had adopted an extensive programme of action on the limitation of armed forces in Europe, the convening of a conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe and other specific measures.

23. The world economic situation was also being disrupted by the numerous acts of economic aggression, blockade and boycott committed by the imperialist Powers, which used economic relations as a means of economic blackmail and political pressure on other countries, unilaterally violated obligations under international agreements and restricted economic, scientific and technical relations between countries.

24. His country had repeatedly stressed that the consideration of one flow of economic and trade relations, for example, North-South relations, without due regard to East-West relations, could only give an incomplete picture of the world economic situation. Some of the Western countries had tried to impose political conditions on participants in international trade to make them change their internal or external policies, or had tried arbitrarily to suspend their trade relations with those countries. That trend was increasing. Blatant and inadmissible pressure had even been exerted on international organizations dealing with economic assistance. His country and the other socialist countries would never yield to economic pressure or *diktat* of any kind.

25. Further progress in socialist integration within CMEA had been made throughout 1979. The volume of trade among the CMEA countries had grown faster than their national income. In the past decade their national income and industrial output had grown twice as fast as those of the developed capitalist countries. During that period, the socialist countries had accounted for about half the world growth of industrial output.

26. Currently, his country was directing its main efforts towards meeting the targets of the current five-year plan. By the end of 1980, the concluding year of the plan, the national income and industrial output would have exceeded the 1975 levels by 21 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. Agricultural productivity had improved considerably. Real *per capita* income would have increased by 17 per cent during the five-year period.

27. The information on the Soviet economy appearing in the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980*, compiled by the United Nations Secretariat, was often subjective and, taken out of the general context, might give a distorted impression of the real situation and prospects of economic development in his country.

28. A planned economy, State monopoly over foreign trade and the deepening of mutual co-operation within CMEA enabled his country to provide adequate safeguards against the adverse effects of the deteriorating economic situation in the capitalist world. In that connexion, it should be emphasized that, in the context of world economic instability, trade and economic co-operation between the CMEA countries and developing countries had proved viable. That co-operation offered the newly independent countries an opportunity to reduce their economic dependence on imperialist States and transnational corporations. The socialist countries, which had consistently advocated a restructuring of international economic relations on the basis of equality and respect for the sovereignty of States,

would continue to support the just demands of developing countries.

29. The process of restructuring international economic relations had recently encountered new obstacles, a major obstacle being the mounting struggle among imperialist countries for the possession of external markets. The reluctance of imperialist countries to give up their privileged position in the world of economy, and their disregard for the interests of developing countries, explained to a large extent the lack of real progress in the establishment of the new international economic order. If that situation persisted, the prospects of some new initiatives by the developing countries would be compromised; that applied in particular to the idea of holding "global negotiations." His country had already supported that proposal in principle, but its final decision on the scope and character of its participation would be taken with due regard to the programme of procedures of the negotiations. He hoped that the forthcoming eleventh special session of the General Assembly would contribute to the cause of equal international economic co-operation.

30. In connexion with the adoption of the international development strategy for the 1980s and the assessment of the results of the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the establishment of the new international economic order, he emphasized a point that in his view was an important matter of principle, namely, attempts to propagate through United Nations documents, under the guise of the so-called "interdependence," the idea of creating a favourable climate in developing countries for foreign private companies and particularly for transnational corporations. There was no doubt that, if put into practice, that idea would serve to perpetuate the existing position of dependency of many of the new States, as had been confirmed by research carried out by the UNCTAD secretariat for the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. It was important to limit the uncontrolled activities of the imperialist monopolies in the developing countries, particularly by speeding up the elaboration of a code of conduct for transnational corporations. The Western countries were sometimes heard to proclaim that they provided large amounts of official development aid; it was permissible to wonder, however, whether it was correct to consider that official development aid without taking into account private foreign investment in the developing countries; it would be of interest to see the general picture, which would take account of the drain of financial resources from developing countries in the form of profit on private investment. No parallel could be drawn between aid given by the Western countries and aid given by the CMEA countries, since their respective links with the developing countries were of entirely different kinds.

31. There were a number of other items in the agenda of the current session to which his country attached considerable importance. His delegation intended to present its views in particular on regional co-operation and on the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on operational activities for development. It was regrettable that his delegation had received some of the documents only just before the opening of the session.

32. It would be an omission not to mention the role of social development issues; the close relationship between economic and social aspects of development was now widely recognized and there was also a clear understanding that the objectives of social development in the true interest of the overwhelming majority of the population required profound social and economic changes. During the discussion of those issues in the United Nations, statements had

been made to the effect that social policy measures were the responsibility of countries and that United Nations recommendations should not deal with those problems. He fully shared the view that each nation had a sovereign right to choose its own way of social development and it would be a mistake to try to impose a particular model — through United Nations documents, for example. His country's constant concern for the inclusion in the relevant United Nations documents of such questions as the development of the public sector, agrarian reform and the equitable distribution of income arose from its recognition of the need to analyse objectively and summarize the experience accumulated in various countries. Only in that way could recommendations adopted by the United Nations be of help to all countries, including developing countries, in formulating their national policies in the social field. His country was prepared to share its experience with interested countries.

33. He noted that an observer from the rejected Pol Pot régime was attending the session; that situation did no credit to the United Nations and should be brought to an end without delay. He hoped that the work of the Council at its current session would make a constructive contribution to the preparations for the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly and to its thirty-fifth regular session.

34. Mr. SAOUMA (Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that on the eve of the third United Nations development decade the problems of agriculture remained largely unsolved. The growth rate in the developing countries during the 1970s had been well below the target and nutritional levels in vast areas of the world were less than the minimum required for health. The developing countries would probably have to import at least 85 million tons of cereals in 1980, mainly from developed countries, but in view of their balance-of-payments difficulties it was problematical how many of them would be able to make large-scale purchases on commercial markets. Moreover, during the past year there had been natural catastrophes, such as drought, and man-made disasters which had caused serious food problems. In addition, the quantities of food aid required for relief were rising sharply under the pressure of population growth. Finally, in some countries the agricultural deficit, coupled with the balance-of-payments crisis and major logistic problems, sometimes aggravated by political or security factors, could lead to an explosive situation. FAO, which monitored the cereal import requirements of the 59 most vulnerable developing countries, had found that 30 per cent of their requirements for the 1980 season had not been covered. Many of those countries had secured less than half their needs for the year and localized famine was a very real danger for some of them.

35. At that critical juncture, the total volume of food aid was likely to fall slightly, to 9 million tons of cereals, whereas in 1974 the World Food Conference had set an annual target of at least 10 million tons.

36. Requests for emergency aid through WFP were rising sharply. The International Emergency Food Reserve created in 1975 had been insufficient to cope with the requirements and had never even come close to the target of 500,000 tons. Contributions to the Reserve showed some irregularity and it had never been able to play its full part. For that reason, he had proposed that the Reserve should be underwritten by a convention, for only thus could it be sure of predictable and continuous resources. At its October 1980 session, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes would examine that proposal, which was one of the policy measures under discussion for the new international development strategy, and he trusted that all Governments would support it. Meanwhile, he appealed to the generosity of all

countries which could contribute to the Reserve, and particularly to the OPEC countries. The General Assembly had specifically foreseen that the Reserve could receive contributions in cash; WFP would use such funds for purchasing and transporting food.

37. Among the individual emergency situations of present concern to the international community, he drew attention to the position in Democratic Kampuchea, where a major relief operation had been launched. FAO was carrying out an emergency programme for the provision of seeds, fertilizers and other basic requirements and for the rehabilitation of inland fisheries. The country had a rich potential but it was still unclear how quickly it could recover from the damage it had suffered in recent years. The international community's generosity might well be required again in 1981.

38. Unfortunately, other countries in Asia were in an emergency situation and FAO had been making every effort to assist them. Some African countries also faced emergencies; Somalia had to cope with a major influx of refugees at a time when there was a general food shortage resulting from recent weather patterns. In Ethiopia, the combination of drought and conflict was affecting the population of a widespread area difficult of access. In Uganda, nearly 2 million people were affected by food shortages, and the prevailing insecurity was hampering the distribution of aid. In the Sahel, there had again been irregular rainfall in the 1979/80 crop season, and despite many pledges of assistance the needs were still largely uncovered. East Africa was stricken by drought and a million tonnes of supplementary cereals would have to be sent there. Finally, to add to the troubles of Africa, locusts had returned and were breeding in Nigeria and the United Republic of Cameroon, where survey and control were difficult. It was vital to prevent the swarms from moving into Central and Eastern Africa, which in that event would be faced with a plague situation for at least a year or two. The efforts of FAO alone would not suffice. He strongly urged all the national authorities concerned to co-operate with FAO and with each other in bringing the threat under control.

39. International prices were at present high and food-deficit countries might, in addition to food aid, need external assistance to finance their food imports. It was for that reason that FAO, in co-operation with the World Food Council, had asked IMF to consider the feasibility of providing special balance-of-payments support for that purpose. The General Assembly had endorsed the concept at its thirty-fourth session and he hoped that the Fund would be able to make a positive response to the suggestion. While current food prices were below the peaks attained in the mid-1970s, the world food security situation remained precarious. At the end of the current season, world carry-over stocks of cereals would represent only about 17 per cent of annual consumption, which was the minimum proportion required for world food security and, compared with 1979, there would be a greater concentration of stocks in a few developed countries.

40. The great number of emergencies arising at the moment might be a symptom of a longer-term problem. Although food production increases were occurring in many developing countries, they were not matching population increase, and the over-all 3 per cent growth rate concealed lower rates of growth in the least developed countries. The problems of agriculture in developing countries had been exhaustively analysed since the 1950s, and since the World Food Conference of 1974 there had been a consensus on an international strategy. The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development had shown clearly the need for both national and international action to link production

increases to the achievement of social justice. In a study entitled "Agriculture: Toward 2000", FAO had given a quantified forward look at prospects up to the end of the century. Thus, Governments had a unique set of instruments for creating a stronger agricultural sector.

41. The new international development strategy and the forthcoming round of global negotiations should enable the requirements of agriculture to be established in the context of over-all development, and should provide an impulsion for Governments to implement effectively the agreements which they had already reached in various international bodies. Thus, it would be possible to deal effectively with problems which might emerge unexpectedly and perhaps even dramatically.

42. At its twentieth session, the Conference of FAO had decided to proclaim a World Food Day, to be celebrated each year on 16 October, starting in 1981. The purpose of the Day would be to heighten public awareness of the world food problem and the need for global action, and to promote such action to solve it. It would include activities at all levels and he hoped that the members of the Council would decide to participate actively in it.

43. Having just returned from the thirty-fifth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of OAU, held at Freetown in June 1980, he wished to say a few words about the problems of Africa. First of all, he welcomed the independence of Zimbabwe and hoped that that country

would soon become a member of FAO, which was ready to give it all possible assistance immediately. He also expressed his appreciation of the decision taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU at its second extraordinary session, held at Lagos in April 1980, to give the highest priority to agricultural development. The Plan of Action adopted by the meeting at Lagos should enable African countries to become self-sufficient. Finally, he had been profoundly impressed by his talks with African leaders at the Freetown meeting. It would be no easy task to turn the tide in a continent where agricultural problems had always been most difficult, and Governments would need massive international support. FAO, which had been playing a significant part in Africa for many years, would have to do still more in the years to come.

44. Global systems were currently under strain. There was interaction between the world food system, which itself was in a delicate phase, and other global arrangements such as the monetary and energy systems, where the strain was more obvious. The negotiating system itself was in difficulties. It was a time for patience and resolve, for statesmanship and action. A new international food order had to be established and he was confident that at the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly it would be possible to agree on approaches to solving the increasingly complex problems of the international community.

*The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.*

## 28th meeting

Monday, 7 July 1980, at 3.25 p.m.

*President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).*

E/1980/SR.28

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Xifra de Ocerín (Spain), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

### **Election of a Vice-President**

1. The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. J. Ros (Argentina) had decided to resign as Vice-President of the Council. In accordance with rule 22 of its rules of procedure, the Council had to elect a new Vice-President, and the Chairman of the Latin American group of States had proposed Mr. R. Mapp (Barbados) for the post.
2. If there was no objection, he would take it that Mr. Mapp was elected Vice-President by acclamation, and added that Mr. Mapp would act as Chairman of the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee.

*It was so decided.*

### **AGENDA ITEM 3**

#### **General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)**

3. Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic) said that he expected the Council's current session, held at the threshold of a new decade, to give tangible impetus to the development of international economic co-operation. Des-

pite the obstacles created by imperialist forces, the lessening of tensions in the 1970s had made it possible to embody in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States<sup>1</sup> and the decisions adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly such indispensable principles as equality, non-interference and sovereignty of States over their natural resources. The German Democratic Republic had played an active part in the implementation of those principles, as was evidenced by the expansion of its economic relations with developing countries and, in particular, the treaties of friendship and co-operation which it had just concluded with Ethiopia, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the People's Republic of Kampuchea. In that connexion, he stressed that his country could not accept the presence in the Council of a representative of the Pol Pot régime, since the representative of the People's Revolutionary Council alone had the right to a seat.

4. The German Democratic Republic shared the concern of the peoples at the clear exacerbation of the international situation owing to the imperialist policy of confrontation and hegemonism, which was inimical to the establishment of a new international economic order. The world economic situation, and above all the situation in many developing countries, showed that it was essential to obtain tangible results in the field of disarmament in order to achieve

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX).

savings of financial and material resources which would make it possible to solve world and regional problems.

5. In that connexion, the proposals put forward by the States parties to the Warsaw Pact in May 1980 were a reasonable and realistic programme for stopping the arms race.

6. At the 27th meeting, the representative of the Soviet Union had convincingly outlined the reasons why the economic situation in the world, particularly in most developing countries, had not improved in 1979. The majority of the developing countries were suffering from the crisis of the capitalist system and in particular from the rise in protectionism in the capitalist countries. The declining demand for their goods and their obligation to export raw materials were factors which, together with inflation, explained the growing trade deficits and constantly worsening terms of trade of the developing countries, which had to use more and more of their export earnings to cover current payments, and were therefore forced to curtail or delay their development programmes.

7. Furthermore, because of their enormous economic and political influence, the transnational corporations had become the main forces for the maintenance of the developing countries' economic dependence, and thus the most important factors supporting neo-colonialist policy. In the negotiations on a code of conduct for those corporations, the home countries of the corporations were stubbornly trying to prevent any limitation of their restrictive practices or effective control over them.

8. In the circumstances, the only means of making any real progress in the restructuring of international economic relations was to carry out fundamental changes in the capitalist world system. It was time for action, and the German Democratic Republic would continue to support the just demands of the developing countries for that restructuring.

9. The German Democratic Republic had also been affected by the world economic crisis, and was being forced to adapt its economy to the new circumstances, although without making any cuts in its programme of full employment, stability and growth. To that end, a further consolidation of socialist economic integration was required within the framework of CMEA.

10. The German Democratic Republic hoped that the eleventh special session of the General Assembly would put an end to the phase of stagnation in the development of international co-operation in the interest of all peoples, condemn the policy of pressure and force in international economic relations, particularly in the struggle for energy and raw materials, decide on specific measures that would lead within a short time to fundamental changes in the capitalist world economic system, declare inadmissible all methods of economic boycott and economic blockade and the application of economic pressure in international relations, put an end to increasing protectionism and discrimination in trade, and, lastly, agree upon measures that would pave the way for solving global problems in a spirit of peaceful coexistence.

11. In that connexion, the States parties to the Warsaw Pact had at their most recent meeting expressed the hope that the eleventh special session of the General Assembly would contribute to supporting the efforts made by developing countries for the acceleration of their economic development.

12. The German Democratic Republic had agreed to the proposal submitted by the developing countries for "global negotiations" within the United Nations, and had approved

in principle the main issues proposed for inclusion in the agenda for those negotiations.

13. Since the beginning of the year, in the framework of the preparatory work for the third United Nations development decade, the German Democratic Republic, together with the other socialist States, had presented three documents containing some fundamental ideas on objectives and general policy measures. It considered that the international development strategy should, first, list the prerequisites for promoting co-operation between all States, secondly, indicate the external factors (neo-colonialist exploitation, aggression, occupation of foreign territories, and so on) which hampered the economic development of States and international economic co-operation, thirdly, set out the conditions (the right to permanent sovereignty over natural resources, the right to subordinate the activities of transnational corporations and all foreign investments to development programmes, and the right to nationalize foreign property) which were indispensable for the economic and social development of the developing countries, and fourthly, include recommendations on how to support the developing countries in their own efforts for economic and social development.

14. With regard to regional co-operation, the German Democratic Republic was working for a further improvement in the relations between the States which participated in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held at Helsinki in 1975, and based its preparatory work for the Madrid meeting on that policy. Advantage should be taken of the experience gained during the past few years by ECE in multilateral co-operation, in accordance with the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference. In that connexion, the implementation of the decisions of the High-level Meeting within the Framework of ECE on the Protection of the Environment, held in November 1979 at Geneva, was of particular importance. Lastly, in view of the importance of energy problems, the German Democratic Republic held the view that the preparations for a high-level meeting on energy should be continued, as that was one way of preserving the positive results of détente in Europe.

*Mr. Mavrommatis (Cyprus) took the Chair.*

15. Mr. TRUCCO (Chile), speaking in the context of the growing interdependence of countries, put forward some considerations regarding the factors which in his view most strongly affected international economic and social policy.

16. The first of those factors was energy, particularly oil, the only case in which the policies of certain developing countries had had a decisive effect on the welfare of the developed countries. However, the steep and sharp rise in the price of oil had also had adverse effects on the importing developing countries, as well as an effect of redistribution favouring the exporting producing countries. Those increases and the uncertain supply would prevent the oil-importing countries from generally maintaining adequate growth rates, because those countries would have to concentrate all their effort on the reduction of inflation and of their balance-of-payments deficits.

17. Those same countries also had problems of financing and indebtedness which were tending to grow worse. Their total debt, which exceeded \$60 billion in 1980, would increase still further — by nearly 20 per cent in 1981, according to the most recent estimates — and it was becoming increasingly difficult for them to obtain access to international private capital to finance most of that debt. In those circumstances, the OPEC countries must be congratulated on having decided to guarantee oil supplies to the developing countries.

18. There were other areas in which it was urgent to intensify international co-operation. For example, the assistance which IMF and the World Bank gave to oil-importing developing countries to finance their balance of payments had to be made more flexible and increased, and the OPEC countries must be induced to take a greater part, through existing machinery, in recycling their surpluses, through direct investments or trade, to those importing countries, with due regard for their development needs.

19. That co-operation would be incomplete, however, if not accompanied by a massive transfer of financial resources enabling the non-oil-producing developing countries to seek and exploit other sources of energy. That could be done by creating a fund placed in a special account with the World Bank. Similarly, the regional commissions should direct their efforts to the global energy problem.

20. The international community had proved that it was a vital factor in the field of economic co-operation by preparing the United Nations Convention on International Multimodal Transport of Goods, by agreeing upon a body of principles and equitable rules multilaterally to control restrictive trade practices, and by establishing the Common Fund for Commodities.

21. The second factor to be stressed was the economic and social policy of the industrialized countries, which sometimes had adverse consequences for the developing countries. In the area of trade, the industrialized countries were adopting protectionist measures directed increasingly at sectors or developing countries that had become competitive. Quantitative restrictions, protective measures, massive agricultural export subsidies and the escalation of Customs tariffs were the means used by the industrialized countries to protect their producers and to avoid having to adjust to new conditions of competition. Access to markets for the products of the developing countries must be the subject of sustained negotiating efforts and co-operation.

22. Industrialized countries were also resorting to monetary and fiscal policies rather than making the necessary adjustments in their economies, and were thereby forcing the developing countries to import inflation. Protection of the income of their agricultural producers and subsidies for their exporters had resulted in huge surpluses which brought pressure on international prices, thereby removing incentives to agricultural production and exports in the developing countries. If the advanced countries did not accept a certain amount of discipline in that area, conflicts and controversies would continue to multiply.

23. That survey of the main problems of the moment showed the direction international co-operation had to take in the coming decade. Chile deplored the fact that the hard-line position adopted very recently by the developed countries in the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly resolution 32/174 had made it impossible to agree on a procedure for future global negotiations. That cast serious doubt on the prospects for a resumption of the North-South dialogue and the solution of the serious problems of the moment.

24. Furthermore, for international co-operation to be fruitful, there could be no unilateral decisions on questions of concern to the entire international community. He had in mind the new United States law which authorized citizens of the United States of America to exploit the resources of the sea beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, although the General Assembly, in its resolution 2749 (XXV) had declared that those resources were the common heritage of mankind and the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea was about to resume its ninth session in a few days.

25. He concluded by referring to the situation in Chile, which had refrained from maintaining the welfare of its population artificially and had agreed to subject the economy to continuous adjustment. That effort had resulted in a marked upsurge in the Chilean economy, whose growth rate had been 8.3 per cent per year for the past three years. New exports had increased by more than 1,000 per cent in six years and copper, which had represented 85 per cent of their total volume, now accounted for only 47 per cent, in spite of price increases in 1979.

26. That clearly showed that genuine economic and political independence depended primarily on domestic effort. At the same time, however, interdependence obliged countries to assume and share constantly growing international responsibilities in the economic and social fields; in other words, countries would make interdependence an effective instrument for promoting the independence and welfare of their peoples, to the extent that all concerned assumed their responsibilities in negotiation and co-operation.

27. Mr. ROSSI (France) said that France had taken note of the specific suggestions made by the Secretary-General and would carefully study each of his three proposals. Turning to the agenda item under consideration, he noted that the world economic situation had hardly improved since 1979, and that it had even deteriorated still further. The rise in oil prices had been 115 per cent in 1979 and was continuing, thereby making the oil bill of all countries, advanced or developing, more expensive. The expansion which had been resumed after the first oil shock in 1974/75 had slowed down in 1979. The growth rate of all the industrialized countries might well be zero in 1980, and unemployment would increase again. Inflation remained very high. Lastly, the current account payments in 1980 were expected to show very serious imbalances which threatened to increase currency instability, a major cause of concern.

28. While the situation was serious for the industrialized countries, it was ruinous for the economy of a number of third world countries, beginning with the most disadvantaged, and particularly the least developed. According to the latest IMF forecasts, the current balance-of-payments deficit of the oil-importing developing countries would continue to increase in 1980, while that of the industrialized countries would decrease. Some of the developing countries had been forced further into debt to the international banking system, and the indebtedness of some had reached alarming proportions, which limited their capacity to obtain new loans. For the most disadvantaged, whose access to private capital markets was extremely limited, expansion might be less than the anticipated average if sufficient public capital transfers were not made in their favour.

29. The short-term and long-term prospects for the world economy left little room for optimism. For all the industrialized countries, the most recent forecasts indicated zero growth in the short term. Higher oil prices, combined with the restrictive monetary and budgetary policies which were necessary, would inevitably lead during the year to a slow-down in economic activity and an increase in unemployment in the member countries of OECD. For the least advanced countries, the increase in the external deficit might lead to an appreciable reduction in their import capability, and hence in their development possibilities. Their expansion would be less than the average anticipated for the developing countries. In general, the multiple increases in the price of energy in a single year were nullifying the very genuine efforts which had been made to absorb the effects of what was called the "second oil shock".

30. That analysis, on the eve of the special session devoted to development, at which the General Assembly was to adopt the new international development strategy and start global negotiations, should encourage countries to define the priority objectives of concerted action. In his view, two major topics, energy and financial questions, urgently required careful thought.

31. In so far as energy was concerned, it could no longer be denied that the world had entered a period of continuously rising costs of energy, and principally of oil. Not only would the price of energy continue to increase, but also the fact that reserves were not unlimited constituted a threat to supplies, irrespective of any measures for voluntary production cut-backs that some countries might take. States should immediately draw the necessary conclusions, at both the national and international levels.

32. At the national level, all countries, and especially the advanced countries which accounted for the bulk of world consumption, should promote policies which took into account the scarcity and cost of energy. Those policies should be directed towards more moderate growth and the substitution of hydrocarbons by other energy sources, and should be aimed at conservation and the rational use of existing resources, as well as the development of national energy potential, particularly in the form of new and renewable energy sources.

33. France was pursuing a particularly active policy: it had adopted measures to save energy and reduce its oil consumption, had embarked on an ambitious programme for the development of the nuclear sector, and had undertaken research into new and renewable sources, through which it had already acquired widely recognized experience in the field of solar energy. France intended to increase its energy production by 3.5 per cent and reduce the growth of its consumption by 2.2 per cent annually over the following 10 years, thus achieving a saving of 40 per cent compared with the past trend. The share of oil, which currently accounted for nearly two thirds of French consumption, was to be reduced to less than one third in the energy balance by 1990, on an equal footing with nuclear energy and coal and gas.

34. At the international level, the first requirement was that producer countries and consumer countries should be able, as France had been asking since 1974, to discuss energy problems together, either within an existing body or by setting up a new one. Subsequently, international means of financing should be found to help to develop traditional, new or renewable energy sources, particularly in the oil-importing developing countries. France supported and would continue to support the action taken along those lines by the World Bank. Finally, the problem of being able to anticipate prices and supplies, particularly of oil, should be rapidly settled, in order to help the world economy to recover from the second oil shock and to overcome the current crisis. While it was legitimate for the energy-producing countries to seek to maintain the purchasing power of their exports, it was also essential for them to realize that the consumer countries had to know in advance the quantities and prices of the energy they would be able to import. However, many price rises had taken place in the past six months, although the demand for oil had declined, apparently without their harmful consequences for the world economy being taken into account.

35. With regard to the financial problems to be discussed in the North-South dialogue, it seemed that the existing financing machinery would not suffice to cover the enormous needs arising out of the worsening of the balance of payments of many countries, in view of the debts accumulated by the developing countries, the greater reluctance

of the banks in relation to commitments in the third world, and recent interest-rate trends. The existing machinery should therefore be strengthened, or new machinery set up, in order to make some of the surplus capital available to the developing countries.

36. To that end, the role of the international financial institutions should first be strengthened, in order to encourage the developing countries to resort to them more extensively, instead of systematically applying to commercial banks. As the Managing Director of IMF had suggested, three possibilities could be considered: improving the existing facilities; setting up new, better-adapted facilities (in particular by reviewing the question of the link between SDR allocations and quotas); and extending "conditionality" to enable the particularly disadvantaged countries to achieve some growth and allow sufficiently long periods for economic recovery.

37. Those measures should be supplemented by an increased development aid effort on behalf of the least-developed countries. Despite its current economic difficulties, France had recently increased by 50 per cent the resources of its Aid and Co-operation Fund. It had also taken steps at the international level, raising its share in the capital of the World Bank to F110 million and undertaking to make a further contribution of F2.75 billion in three years, with a view to the sixth replenishment of the resources of IDA. Lastly, France had agreed to increase its participation in the African Development Bank and had increased its contribution to UNDP by over 50 per cent.

38. While the deficit of the non-oil-producing developing countries might well exceed \$70 billion in 1980, the oil-exporting countries' surplus would probably be in excess of \$110 billion. It was therefore necessary to adapt the conditions for recycling those surpluses to the scale of the sums involved and to the conditions for financing the development of the third world. The surpluses in question were essentially those of the OPEC countries, since the industrialized countries were almost all running deficits under the impact of the second oil shock.

39. France was determined to improve international collaboration and achieve progress in the North-South dialogue, and it had therefore taken an active part in the negotiations within the United Nations and between the European Economic Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, and the States members of ASEAN. It welcomed the outcome of the negotiations on the Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, which would help to stabilize commodity prices in the interest of producers and consumers throughout the world. He was sure that all countries, and particularly those of the Group of 77, would spare no effort to solve problems which concerned not merely a particular category of countries but the entire international community.

40. Mr. NISIBORI (Japan) observed that while inflation had reached double figures in many developed countries, it had reached and even exceeded 20 per cent in most developing countries. As was pointed out in the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980*, the oil-exporting developing countries would increase their current-account surpluses from \$8 billion in 1978 to over \$100 billion in 1980, while during the same period the current-account deficits of the oil-importing developing countries would increase from \$35 billion to \$69 billion. The growth rate of the world economy had fallen from 4.4 per cent in 1978 to 3.4 per cent in 1979, and the prospects for world economic growth in the early 1980s were indeed dim.

41. His delegation therefore agreed with the view expressed in the *Survey* that there was a need for a co-ordinated approach to the problems of inflation and current-

account imbalances, paying special attention to the low-income oil-importing countries, which were experiencing particular difficulty. In that connexion, the interesting idea advanced by the Secretary-General (24th meeting) of a special operation for the benefit of the developing countries should be examined at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly, to be devoted to development. It was encouraging to note the decision taken by the participants in the Venice Summit Meeting to give top priority to the problems of inflation and energy, and thus to apply coherent policies of fiscal and monetary restraint and to attempt, within the current decade, to break the link between economic growth and oil consumption by making use of alternative energy sources.

42. In order to combat inflation, Japan was applying a policy of fiscal and monetary restraint, while making every effort to halt the wage-price spiral and increase productivity. In the medium term, it was carrying out broad structural improvements, and the share of oil in its total energy consumption was to be reduced from the present level of 75 per cent to 50 per cent in 1990. In 1979, Japan had achieved a real growth rate of about 6 per cent (while reducing its oil consumption by 5 per cent); it planned to attain a growth rate of 4.8 per cent in 1980, and thus contribute to the stability of the world economy.

43. The North-South dialogue, initiated almost three decades earlier, had steadily developed. The sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and the fourth and fifth sessions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular, had laid the groundwork for the establishment of a new international economic order in the common interest of all countries. Currently, the objective was to finalize the new international development strategy. Although the dialogue was sometimes difficult, it had made possible considerable achievements in the 1970s, since a substantial number of the targets for the Second United Nations Development Decade had been attained. Other achievements included the introduction of the GSP, the conclusion of multilateral trade negotiations, the convening of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, and so on. His delegation particularly welcomed the recent outcome of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, which should help to stabilize commodity prices for producers and consumers, and to which Japan had decided to contribute \$60 million, including \$27 million to the second window.

44. The new international development strategy and the global negotiations would necessitate new initiatives and approaches. The targets would have to be ambitious but realistic, providing an effective framework for improved development co-operation. Although the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy had been unable to produce a final draft, the text it had prepared was balanced and included social aspects, such as the development of human resources, to which his Government attached great importance. It was to be hoped that the Preparatory Committee, as it resumed session in August, would be able to adopt a draft of the new international development strategy.

45. The global negotiations would be of the utmost importance for North-South relations in the 1980s. In its report, the Brandt Commission had stressed that all countries, irrespective of their level of development or political systems, should realize their mutual interests and shared responsibility. The negotiations must therefore be conducted in a realistic manner, squarely confronting the issues of energy and monetary problems, setting specific objectives and avoiding political rhetoric. They would show whether

the United Nations could make a useful contribution to the North-South dialogue. The Japanese delegation hoped that at its special session on development the General Assembly would be able to overcome the divergence of views apparent at the most recent session of the Committee of the Whole.

46. His country had been actively seeking solutions to North-South problems. It believed that the development of human resources was essential for nation-building and would continue to extend co-operation to developing countries for that purpose. Every effort should be made to increase the flow of financial resources to developing countries, in particular to the least advanced developing countries. His country expected to achieve in 1980 its target of doubling its official development aid within three years and would continue to improve the quality and quantity of that aid. With regard to the recycling of oil capital to non-oil-producing developing countries, he said that although private financial markets should continue to play a central role, the role of international financial institutions should be strengthened, as suggested in the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980*, and access for the developing countries' products to international markets should be facilitated. That was why his country had included special measures for the least developed countries in its GSP and welcomed the emergence of newly industrialized countries, which expanded the international division of labour. Japan was supporting the development of all sources of energy and had high expectations of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy to be held in 1981.

47. The important matter of restructuring and co-ordinating United Nations social and economic activities, which had been before the Council for some time, was becoming even more acute with the forthcoming round of global negotiations and the growing proliferation and duplication of institutions and activities resulting from the many conferences organized by the United Nations. If the trend continued without appropriate restructuring, negotiations and conferences would have little impact. It was of the utmost importance for the Council to revitalize its legitimate co-ordinating function, on which its very existence depended. He therefore urged members to deal with the matter more vigorously than ever before and to take into account various proposals, including the enlargement of the Council's membership; the streamlining of its standing committees and the co-ordination of the timing, duration and frequency of United Nations meetings on economic and social matters.

48. In the face of the world energy crisis, United Nations activities in the energy field must be strengthened. The Japanese delegation wished to offer some specific suggestions in that connexion. In the first place, the role of the Committee on Natural Resources should be strengthened, and it should be given the additional task of surveying and assessing United Nations activities in the energy field, as provided in Council resolution 1535 (XLIX); a guideline could then be drawn up for energy activities in the United Nations system as a whole and ACC and CPC asked to play a more active co-ordinating role.

49. Secondly, his delegation welcomed the UNDP special interim financing facility for energy exploration and pre-investment surveys, established with a view to meeting the urgent and growing energy requirements of developing countries, in particular the poorest among them. However, on the question of establishing permanent machinery, it should be borne in mind that the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration already existed to finance the exploration not only of mineral and water resources but also of energy resources. There was therefore no need to set up an additional fund.

50. Thirdly, an essential condition for all those activities was the consolidation of energy statistics in developing countries and the United Nations must be helped to strengthen its services to that end.

*Mr. Xifra de Ocerin (Spain), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

51. Mr. LA ROCCA (Italy) said that prospects for the world economy in the 1980s were not very encouraging. The slowing down of world economic growth, already noted in 1979, was expected to be still worse in 1980. Inflation rates were rising and had exceeded 20 per cent in most developing countries. Serious external payments imbalances, due mainly to movements in the terms of trade, were emerging between major groups of countries. The oil-exporting developing countries would see their current-account surpluses swell from less than \$8 billion in 1978 to over \$100 billion in 1980. Over the same period, the current accounts of the developed market-economy countries were expected to shrink from a surplus of \$36 billion to a deficit of \$33 billion. The trade balances of the planned-economy countries had also been greatly affected by terms-of-trade movements. But it was the non-oil-exporting developing countries that would suffer most. The drastic increase in their current-account deficit from \$35 billion in 1978 to \$69 billion in 1980 had forced most of them to draw on their reserves and some of them were in a very precarious position. A worsening of the debt situation, which might well block the operation of existing financing machinery, was therefore to be expected.

52. Lastly, unemployment persisted in most countries. It affected young people especially and was perceived as a source of economic weakness and social tension.

53. The two meetings of heads of State held recently at Venice had taken all those considerations into account and both meetings had conveyed the same message: the aggravation of the energy crisis, the imperfect functioning of the international monetary system, the difficulties of recycling international liquidity and the failure to make effective use of the interdependence and complementarity of national economies demonstrated the pressing need to strengthen and improve international economic co-operation.

54. No nation could hope to solve the difficulties of the 1980s alone. A common and co-ordinated effort was needed to establish the conditions necessary for orderly economic growth and to lessen the burden of the adjustments that would have to be made in systems of production. It would therefore be necessary to restructure the economic relations between industrialized and developing countries, devise a more co-ordinated approach to the problems threatening economic stability and growth as well as development, and find comprehensive, effective and lasting solutions in the context of a new organization of the world economy without delay. Like other countries, Italy was committed to the progressive construction of a new, more just and equitable

international economic order which would guarantee the developing countries a greater share of the benefits of economic growth and a more active role in international economic decisions. The constraints of the international economic situation must be overcome in a spirit of solidarity. His country confirmed its commitment to pursue, jointly with the developing countries, a coherent and comprehensive policy of co-operation, in particular through the adoption of structural reforms and a new division of labour and production.

55. The eleventh special session of the General Assembly would provide an opportunity for crucial political commitments in an area which directly concerned mankind as a whole. He hoped that it would result in two major achievements: the adoption of the new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade and the launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development. His Government, which had always seen the strategy as a means of accelerating the development of the developing countries through the adoption of carefully defined objectives and measures, would continue to contribute to the final phase in the preparation of that important text.

56. The global negotiations should continue to be based on certain essential features: the need to ensure that the interests of all parties concerned were protected, the need to concentrate on the issues deemed really crucial, and the need to tackle those problems with a sense of urgency, so as to achieve prompt and satisfactory solutions. He hoped that the General Assembly would, at its special session, be able to take a decision on the agenda and procedures for the global negotiations, and on the other measures which were necessary for their success.

57. An important process of restructuring international economic relations and improving the terms of international co-operation was in progress. In that context, his delegation had welcomed the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, concluded at Geneva on 27 June 1980, which would render operational one of the elements of the Integrated Programme for Commodities. Italy, which had already announced its intention of contributing to the second window of the Fund, was confident that that new instrument of international economic co-operation, together with individual commodity agreements, would help to stabilize international commodity markets, and thus improve the terms of trade of developing countries and solve the difficulties often faced by importing countries.

58. His Government had already undertaken to double its official development assistance in 1980. As announced by the Italian Prime Minister in Parliament, it intended to continue that policy and to triple its official development assistance by 1983. That was proof of Italy's commitment to the cause of development.

*The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.*

## 29th meeting

Tuesday, 8 July 1980, at 10.50 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.29

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)\* (E/1980/86, E/1980/88)

1. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the report of the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations on applications for hearings by non-governmental organizations (E/1980/88). In the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to the requests contained in the report.

*It was so decided.*

2. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to a note by the Bureau (E/1980/86) concerning an application received from the African Regional Centre for Technology to participate on a continuing basis in the deliberations of the Council on matters within the scope of the Centre's activities. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to that request.

*It was so decided (decision 1980/151).*

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*)

3. Mr. McHENRY (United States of America) observed that, following 30 years of stable expansion, the world economy had been disrupted by recession, chronic inflation and increased energy prices. The solution to the economic problems which were increasingly becoming world-wide depended on international co-operation. It was in that spirit of co-operation that the United States of America had participated actively in two major international initiatives: global negotiations and the formulation of a new international development strategy. As far as the global negotiations were concerned, many procedural issues, including the form of a final agreement, the nature of the political commitment to be made and the role of the specialized agencies in the negotiations and in implementing their results, remained to be solved. The agenda of the eleventh special session of the General Assembly which was to launch the global negotiations must take account of the particular problems of developing countries and the global nature of world economic problems.

4. One of the impediments to development was the world energy situation, which should be a priority subject for international action in the coming decade. The OPEC countries had acknowledged their responsibility in that respect by deciding to increase the capital of the OPEC Special Fund and to recommend the Fund's transformation into an international development agency. The underlying problem, however, was the need to establish reasonable and predictable energy prices and to ensure reliable supplies. That was of vital importance not only for the developed

countries but also for the developing countries, whose economic development was closely linked to that of the industrialized countries.

5. Other urgent economic problems, such as recycling and food security, called for immediate and effective action. The United States had proposed an action programme consistent with existing needs and short-term possibilities, together with an agenda covering the main world economic problems. It had noted with interest the Secretary-General's proposal for urgent action to meet the problems of the low-income, oil-importing developing countries.

6. The United States viewed the new international development strategy, which had to deal with a most complex and urgent set of economic and social problems, as a conceptual framework for guiding and accelerating the economic and social development of the developing countries. The strategy should therefore contribute to the solution of international economic problems, encourage sustained global development, promote a new and effective international economic order in which the developing countries were full participants, foster non-inflationary growth, stimulate trade and investment and promote the transfer of resources to the developing countries, whose development would also depend on the measures they themselves took to overcome their economic problems. In order to remain effective throughout the decade, the strategy must incorporate an effective review mechanism providing, in particular, for a periodic review of individual country performance in relation to the goals and objectives of the strategy. In order to bring the global negotiations and the international development strategy negotiations to a successful conclusion, countries would have to show ingenuity in finding solutions to meet both the problems of the world economy and national concerns, to show realism in their criticism of the present system, and to show the political will to find means of bringing about global economic reform in the years ahead.

7. The problem of refugees and displaced persons had recently grown to alarming proportions. Within 12 months, the total number of refugees had increased from 4.5 million to 6.5 million and that of displaced persons from 2 million to 2.5 million, and that exodus was likely to continue, since it was rooted in extremely complex problems — war, ethnic, religious and political persecution, and the lack of economic opportunity — which mankind had not succeeded in solving. The international community must face up to that humanitarian crisis and consider the organization of relief. The absorption of refugees and displaced persons posed serious problems even for a country as rich and hospitable as the United States. Since 1975, the United States had accepted over 600,000 refugees for permanent resettlement. For the 1980 fiscal year alone, it would legally admit over 250,000 refugees, including 150,000 Cubans and Haitians. Hundreds of thousands of other persons would enter the United States through legal or illegal immigration. Thousands more would seek unsuccessfully to emigrate. During the current fiscal year, the United States would spend \$1.3 billion on the resettlement of refugees in the United States and \$400 million on the resettlement of

\* Resumed from the 26th meeting.

Cubans and Haitians. An additional \$400 million would be donated to refugee resettlement programmes abroad. The influx of Cuban refugees into the United States had dramatically highlighted the magnitude of the problem. Americans found it difficult to accept that the Government of Cuba or any other country had the right to create such a tragedy for purely political purposes and leave it to others to find a solution. The international community should seek a proper and effective solution to the problem. The principles involved — that every country should respect the immigration laws of other nations, that no country had the right to export its criminals and undesirables to another country and that nations had an obligation to accept the return of their citizens — had been recognized and accepted. Basing itself on those principles, the United States Government had offered to negotiate appropriate departure arrangements for the refugees with the Government of Cuba, and it hoped that that Government would respond favourably to its proposals.

8. The refugee problem was also acute in Africa, where it had too often gone unnoticed. For the current fiscal year, the United States would contribute \$100 million to African refugee relief programmes, but sustained and generous assistance from the international community was essential if the African countries were to cope with the situation.

9. The international relief agencies and voluntary organizations were equally overwhelmed by a problem that had grown too large and too complicated to be solved on an *ad hoc* basis. Two measures at least were needed: co-ordination of world-wide relief, preferably under United Nations auspices, and a change in the attitude of countries which refused to receive refugees and were opposed to immigration.

10. The proliferation of United Nations humanitarian relief organizations caused confusion and overlapping in many programmes, and the presence of hundreds of private groups, together with direct assistance from Governments, further aggravated the problem. It had to be recognized that many refugees and displaced persons would never return home, and resettlement had therefore become a matter of high priority in humanitarian efforts. The world community must share more equally the burden of receiving those who were unable to return home. Too often refugees crowded into a few countries or even into a few regions within countries, where they could not be absorbed. The few countries which currently admitted a significant number of refugees on a permanent basis were rapidly reaching the limit of their capacity. Other countries must agree to receive and assist refugees. The international community should begin by re-examining the international conventions governing humanitarian and refugee questions. It might also seek new ways of encouraging the rehabilitation of ex-refugees once the root cause of their displacement had been eliminated. The refugee problem was an international problem affecting all countries, and all countries must assume their humanitarian responsibilities.

11. The Economic and Social Council and Member States might also consider bringing the problems of co-ordination of world-wide humanitarian relief and refugee resettlement to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. Such action should help to arouse world consciousness of the tragic plight of the human beings who comprised the various refugee and displaced populations. Through a vigorous exchange of ideas, the international community had, over the years, succeeded in solving many humanitarian problems. It should attack the refugee problem with the same diligence.

12. Mr. HOLLAI (Hungary) said that the socialist countries were hoping that the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly would produce results which would

promote the development of international economic relations on an equal footing for all countries, and that the emerging new international economic system would truly reflect the interests of all. The Economic and Social Council, at its current session, would have to adopt such resolutions as would be likely to contribute to the success of that special session. The task would not be easy, for there had been scarcely any improvement in the world economic situation since the Council's preceding session; production, markets, employment and the financial and monetary system were still undergoing a crisis, while the major capitalist countries were striving to shift their problems on to other countries. International economic relations had also deteriorated, for various reasons. Thus, the recent decision of NATO countries on the deployment of nuclear missiles of a new type in Western Europe encouraged an arms build-up, and jeopardized détente. In the economic field, the developed capitalist countries were intensifying protectionist and discriminatory measures, and for many countries the terms of trade were continuing to deteriorate. The crisis in the capitalist countries was also having an adverse effect on East-West relations. Consequently, the rather negative picture of general economic performance presented in the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980* was not surprising.

13. His own country's economy, which was heavily geared to foreign trade, had also continued to suffer from the adverse effects of the international crisis. As a result of the deterioration in its terms of trade, it had lost 1 to 1.5 per cent of its national income for 1979. Thanks to close co-operation with its partners in CMEA, the efforts of the Hungarian workers, and Government measures, Hungary had managed to maintain its standard of living, increase productivity and intensify its participation in international trade, but it must be acknowledged that in some respects the results achieved fell short of the original targets set in the national development plan.

14. That was the background against which the United Nations General Assembly, at its eleventh special session, would be called upon to adopt a new international development strategy, for which, he noted, the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy had failed to produce a text that could be adopted without difficulty. His delegation maintained that the new strategy should promote the fullest restructuring of international economic relations on a democratic and just basis, priority being given to improving the situation of developing countries. It was essential for the new strategy to be based on the principles set forth in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States<sup>1</sup> and on the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.<sup>2</sup> Lastly, the new strategy should not be confined to the transfer of real resources; it must also respond to the need to promote internal socio-economic reforms.

15. The socialist countries had in principle supported the proposal of the developing countries for the holding of global negotiations, provided, however, that the content and orientation of such negotiations were in keeping with the constructive provisions of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. Their participation in the global negotiations would be decided on in the light of the concrete resolution on the agenda item and its nature, and in the light of the rules of procedure applying to the negotiations.

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX).

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).

16. It should not be forgotten that preparations for the special session of the General Assembly were the responsibility not only of the Preparatory Committee and the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174, but also, directly or indirectly, of virtually all the organs of the United Nations system with competence in the economic field.

17. His delegation, which attached great importance to close co-ordination within the United Nations system, and to ensuring that available resources were used to the best possible effect, was following the activities of those bodies closely. That was why his country's representative had paid particular attention to the work of the Third General Conference of UNIDO. At that Conference, the socialist countries, in a joint statement, had expressed their ideas on the industrialization of developing countries, based on concrete experience such as that of his own country, where industrialization had been rapid and had helped to eliminate social inequalities. Some of those ideas were contained in the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the Conference<sup>3</sup> and, while not subscribing to all the ideas in that text, his country had found it possible to go along with the proposal of the developing countries. That did not, however, mean any change in its position, which was strengthened by the facts submitted to the Conference, in particular, the fact that in 1977 the amount of official development assistance provided by the countries members of DAC had totalled \$14.7 billion, while those countries' profits from direct capital investments alone had amounted to \$12.6 billion, not to mention interest on private credits, or the gains derived by developed market-economy countries from unequal terms of trade, the brain drain, etc.

18. His country also attached great importance to the activities of UNCTAD. In particular, UNCTAD should adopt a global approach to certain pressing problems of the world economy, such as protectionism and inflation.

19. In conclusion, he associated himself with those who objected to the presence in the seat of Democratic Kampuchea of a delegation which did not represent anybody.

20. Mr. MULAISHO (Zambia) said that countries today, ranged against a determined enemy called "the economic crisis", were all demoralized in varying degrees. The time had come for the inaction of the 1970s to be brought to an end and for the world to address itself firmly, by joint concerted action, to the task of establishing the new international economic order.

21. The sluggish growth rates of the industrialized countries remained a source of concern to all. For example, in the case of his own country, whose welfare depended on the situation of the copper market, the fortunes of the developed world were directly bound up with those of the third world. However, remedies that focused exclusively on the industrialized countries could have only limited effect. The situation of non-oil-exporting developing countries was also a vital part of the equation whose importance did not yet appear to have been appreciated.

22. Today, 450 million people were suffering from poverty, hunger and malnutrition. They were abjectly poor, due to lack of the material or human resources to improve their lot. There was no other explanation. The developed industrialized countries might not have those resources, either, but that did not prevent them from spending \$450 billion on armaments. It was difficult to convince starving nations that the rich countries did not have any resources to increase their official development assistance, currently representing 0.35 per cent of their GNP, to 0.7 per cent, or even to 1 per

cent by 1985, as advocated by the Brandt Commission. Rather than means, was it not the political will which was lacking in their case? It was too often forgotten that the reason why some countries today were rich was that the entire world had supplied them with cheap raw materials which had made their industrial revolution possible. If a price tag were to be put on the third world's contribution to the development of the rich countries, it would surely represent percentages very close to the GNP of those countries. He was not suggesting that the rich countries should help the poor countries for the sake of redressing old injustices, but because it was in their interest to activate poor economies, create export markets for their products and help to initiate a growth which would be self-sustaining and make those poor countries more equal trading partners.

23. The *IMF Annual Report, 1979* revealed the enormous and mounting deficit in the current account of industrialized countries, due to increases in oil prices. To remedy that situation, it was not enough to apply more effective energy policies, to step up oil prospecting and the search for alternative solutions. It was also necessary to activate the enormous latent purchasing power of the third world. Nor did the anti-inflationary measures taken by industrialized countries, which were reflected in a reversal of the philosophy of aid, ensure growth, but rather continued global stagnation. There was an undeniable relationship between economic activity in the industrialized world and development in developing countries, since the latter's exports were heavily conditioned by demand in the major industrialized countries. Efforts to achieve sustained growth in the industrialized countries must be situated in a broader framework of global structural change, a pre-condition of which was increased aid to developing countries. For most of those countries, official development assistance was the only major source of aid. The deficit in the current account of non-oil-producing developing countries was likely to rise by more than 100 per cent in the period 1978-1981. Prior to 1978, the few developing countries which had met the required conditions had been able to obtain credits on commercial terms, thanks to a mechanism for recycling the surpluses of oil-producing countries. Those surpluses were now much larger and presented serious problems. It was important that the recycling mechanism should work satisfactorily. Countries which were most in need of loans must be able to obtain them, on terms within their reach, and to use them as much as possible to correct their balance-of-payments position and effect the necessary structural adjustments. However, the official assistance and private aid inflows on which the majority of those countries depended were diminishing. The recycling of surpluses and the granting of loans to developing countries on ordinary or concessional terms could not be managed by the commercial banks alone. International institutions such as the World Bank and IMF, OPEC and individual oil producers had a decisive role to play in that key area of international economic co-operation.

24. His country was glad to learn of the World Bank's programme to grant long-term loans for structural adjustments. However, it considered that the conditions of IMF lending were still too restrictive and did not provide any real remedy for the structural defects which were the cause of balance-of-payments problems. IMF should realize that developing countries needed its assistance and play the important role which devolved on it in the recycling of surpluses. It was essential that its conditions should be changed, but that could not be effected without a basic commitment by industrialized countries and oil-producing countries to a philosophy of massive aid to developing countries.

<sup>3</sup> See ID/CONF.4/22 and Corr.1, chap. IV, sect. A.

25. He emphasized the importance of direct transfers of technology and investment to developing countries. The OPEC countries, with their financial resources, and the industrialized world with its technological know-how, could contribute decisively towards realizing the vast potential of non-oil-producing third world countries. The massive transfers which the latter countries needed could be effected as part of the strategy for the new international economic order.
26. Turning to problems of international trade, he welcomed the progress made on the Common Fund for Commodities, but emphasized that the measures adopted could have only a limited effect and that it was questionable whether the planned resources would be sufficient. His country was deeply concerned at the resurgence of protectionism and at the measures taken by industrialized countries against exports of critical significance to developing countries, at a time when emphasis was being placed on promoting those countries' industrialization and the international community was negotiating a comprehensive programme for eliminating all forms of unfair and unjust trade practices. It urged developed countries to minimize such measures, which ran counter to the spirit of the multilateral trade negotiations, and to adopt measures to stimulate industrial activity in developing countries.
27. It had become a commonplace to say that the energy situation was becoming increasingly critical. What needed to be made clear, however, was that the current crisis was not of a temporary nature. To secure adequate long-term oil supplies, it would be necessary to increase exploration, especially in the third world, and to develop alternative and cheaper energy sources. That was yet another field in which international co-operation could and should play a decisive role.
28. His country was greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm with which various countries and regions in the third world were implementing the concept and strategy of international co-operation. In that connexion, mention might be made of the second extraordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, held recently at Lagos, and the meeting of Heads of State of southern Africa, which had been held at Lusaka. At those two meetings, important programmes of action had been adopted which would provide a basis for concrete and mutually beneficial collaboration in various priority areas of common interest.
29. Mr. GAYNOR (Ireland) said he wholeheartedly endorsed the statement made by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community (25th meeting).
30. The Council's current session was taking place at a critical moment, on the eve of the eleventh special session of the General Assembly and at the beginning of a new United Nations development decade. It was hardly surprising, therefore, that statements tended to reflect the hopes and aspirations of countries. All countries wanted to provide their people with the means of leading happy and productive lives in a safe and secure environment and to support individual and community efforts to realize the national potential. Throughout the world, countries now recognized the need to co-operate with each other. Looked at globally, co-operation implied both short-term and longer-term objectives. Even in times of crisis and strain, countries must not become preoccupied with their immediate problems and lose sight of ultimate goals. The Brandt Commission had rightly stressed in its recent report the interdependent nature of today's world. It was essential to continue the international dialogue in the economic and political spheres. The dialogue must be mutually beneficial and constructive and must never become a dialogue of the deaf.
31. The North-South dialogue, for all its difficulties, had been instrumental in creating the kind of environment in which all countries, developed and developing, could co-operate to that end. It was no use being discouraged by slow progress or by differences which inevitably surfaced because of countries' differing perspectives and approaches to problems. In the face of an uncertain economic future, it was more than ever essential that the dialogue between rich and poor should be continued and strengthened and should yield tangible results.
32. His Government deeply regretted that agreement had not yet been reached on the texts which would be submitted to the General Assembly at its eleventh special session. A new development strategy was needed for the coming decade, a strategy that promoted more rapid and balanced growth in developing countries, provided an environment in which the weaker economies could move progressively towards real and sustained growth, and permitted the restoration of the healthy global economy on which the future well-being of all peoples depended.
33. There was no easy solution to the problems underlying the serious current world economic outlook and it was not enough merely to mitigate the consequences. In spite of achievements, especially in bilateral and regional co-operation between developed and developing countries, the situation of many of the poorer countries had now become alarming. The slide into stagnation had already started as their growth prospects dwindled in the face of rising import costs and decreasing export opportunities. It was difficult to see how they could generate sufficient domestic savings or attract enough external finance for their investment needs. Apart from the economic consequences of the situation, the results in social and human terms were unacceptable. Needs were such that only a massive effort locally, backed up by greatly expanded external assistance, could avert disaster. His Government would study attentively the Secretary-General's proposals (24th meeting) concerning a programme of assistance for low-income countries, but it would also have to take account of its own economic problems.
34. The real solution to those problems surely lay in long-term action designed to set the poorer countries on the path to economic recovery and real self-sustaining growth. His own country, which concentrated efforts in its bilateral programme of development co-operation on agricultural and rural development in a number of priority countries, considered that that sector of the developing countries' economy should be given continued attention. The food needs of the developing countries were growing and food aid would continue to be an essential requirement. His country was therefore happy to contribute to the implementation of the new Food Aid Convention. It also looked forward to the successful replenishment of the resources of IFAD since, although food aid had a major role in the immediate future, it was not a long-term solution.
35. He regretted that the Committee of the Whole, at its recent session, had not been able to complete its work on the agenda and procedures for the forthcoming global negotiations. However, his country had not given up hope and would play its part in helping to bring about agreement with a view to launching global negotiations on the restructuring of international economic relations for the benefit of all countries. Such restructuring was essential to the prosperity of the world economy.
36. Mr. ALZAMORA (Permanent Secretary, Latin American Economic System), speaking under rule 79 of the rules of procedure, thanked Council members for permitting SELA to take part in the discussions as an observer. SELA, which had been established five years earlier, included nearly all the Latin American countries; it was thus the only

genuinely and exclusively Latin American authority and hence the legitimate mouthpiece of the Latin American region. Its activities were twofold: regional co-operation for the joint use of the resources and potential of all to ensure the region's independent development; and consultation and co-ordination with a view to the adoption by member countries of concerted positions which would give them more weight in negotiations.

37. The creation of SELA reflected Latin America's desire to affirm its own specific historical character; the small and medium-sized countries of which it was composed had realized that, while they remained separate, they were in a weak position internationally and that they must unite to make Latin America a power in the world. As a new organization with a wealth of new ideas, SELA had its own contribution to make to the restructuring of the international economic system — just as the African countries, which were also in the process of joining together, would doubtless be doing very soon.

38. The modern age was one of blocs; political and economic forces were all organized into alliances and the richest and most powerful countries were themselves forming common fronts to protect their interests, in particular vis-à-vis the third world. The third world was not itself a bloc; the Group of 77 was an inadequately structured alliance and the non-aligned countries had not yet managed to impart the same vigour to their economic activity as to their political activity. The third world needed to find more solid foundations for a combined effort to create an effective common front, starting on the basis of realities and of direct and specific interests, which were easier to organize and co-ordinate. In that perspective, the creation of active and cohesive regional economic organizations was an essential step in the fight for development and international justice. SELA would seem to meet those requirements. Latin America had long been exclusively outward-oriented, without realizing that its own resources and its own creative capacity could, if pooled, provide the motive force for its development. Today, the Latin American countries had come to realize that it was futile to conduct bilateral negotiations with the major Powers in order to obtain a few meagre benefits and that a regional market of nearly \$500 billion which would shortly comprise 600 million persons could strengthen the collective economic security sought by the region, as by the other regions in the developing world.

39. SELA was following with the greatest sympathy the steps being taken in Africa and Asia with a view to concerted regional economic action and the establishment of similar organizations, and it was ready to co-operate in every way possible in those efforts. It was already in contact with African, Arab and Asian economic organizations and with subregional economic groups. Some interesting programmes of co-operation were already being undertaken, the newest and most significant — which was also the first example of interregional interagency co-operation — being the field co-operation programmes in fishing which were shortly to be launched in Africa and were to be carried out jointly by SELA and ECWA. There again, co-operation among developing countries was moving from theory to practice in a series of promising undertakings. It was that same concern for practical collective undertakings, conducted in priority areas and likely to strengthen the self-reliance of the countries concerned, which inspired the activity of SELA in the area of interregional co-operation.

40. Thus, in the field of energy, the major oil producers of the region were now combining their efforts to guarantee oil supplies to the poorer countries on preferential terms, while at the regional level an energy restructuring was being

prepared whereby, in the major financial and technological effort which the region would be required to make in that field, priority would be given to promoting the region's own industrial, scientific and technical development. Similarly, financial co-operation had started. The first meeting of the ministers of finance and presidents of the central banks of Latin America, organized a short time previously by SELA, had, for the first time, provided the region with an independent body capable of analysing its own financial and monetary problems with a free hand, and had set up the first regional financial integration programmes. A regional investment programme had also been started as a joint response to the crucial problems posed by the industrialization of Latin America and its intraregional trade. The first Latin American multinational corporation, created by SELA for the joint marketing of fertilizers imported by the region, had already begun operations. With the same concern for joint action, powerful producers' associations were being established. Endowed with a sufficient capital reserve, they were obtaining appreciable results in the area of price stabilization. That was the case with the Bogotá Group, which included all the Latin American coffee-producing countries and, in close collaboration with the African producers, had established its own marketing company for the world market. Finally, the renegotiation on a new basis of the Treaty establishing the Latin American Free Trade Association lent fresh impetus to the process of integration and to regional co-operation programmes.

41. The countries of Latin America thus currently had a far greater capacity for independent action and decision-making, as was proved, *inter alia*, by the formulation of independent nuclear policies, their non-participation in political embargoes and their rejection of attempts at economic or other intervention. Those various efforts to foster rapprochement and conciliation in particularly important fields thwarted attempts to divide and cleared the way for unity. The establishment of regional economic organizations was particularly important in third world strategy at a time when the political climate in North-South relations was deteriorating. After the very recent setback to the preparatory work on the global negotiations, and the hardening of the position of the developed countries after their Venice Summit Meeting, the third world knew what to expect: the world was witnessing a radical transformation of the concept of international co-operation as it had been known since the Second World War. An approach based on responsibility and solidarity was giving way to a coldly pragmatic policy geared exclusively to the immediate benefits to be derived from bilateral relations and to purely financial and commercial considerations. In those conditions, there was a great danger of division between the developing countries, and they must strengthen their unity at the regional and interregional levels while there was still time.

42. It was ironic in those circumstances that the fate of the developing countries and the reform of the world economic system should depend to a large extent on other developing countries, the oil producers, and that the same appeals to solidarity formerly made by the latter in support of their claims should now be launched in the opposite direction. It would be a grave mistake for the oil-producing countries to succumb to the temptation of joining the closed circle of the old rich countries, in defiance of political and economic realities. Moreover, political precedents mattered. It was the Conference of Developing Countries on Raw Materials, held at Dakar in 1975, when all kinds of threats were being made against the oil front, which had dared to deal a blow to traditional economic relations, that four Latin American countries had proposed a joint strategy of mutual support between oil-producing and non-oil-producing developing

countries, a strategy which had thus far held firm against the whole world.

43. The size of the deficits accumulated by the developing countries required a recycling different from the traditional kind used under the current international financial system by the private or public institutions to which most oil revenues still gravitated. Furthermore, it was essential to use the bargaining power of the oil producers to promote the transformation of the existing economic order, in full awareness of the historic role which the oil-producing countries were called upon to play in that regard and in the knowledge that all the developing countries, with the oil front in the vanguard, had to struggle for a common future. If the countries of the third world had devoted to mutual co-operation the time, resources and energy which they had put into a still uncertain international co-operation, the world might look different, but there was still time. It was imperative not to stand idly by while old or new forms of egoism destroyed systems of international co-operation or permitted the re-establishment of systems of domination. On the contrary, it was essential to strengthen the position of the third world in negotiations and to develop a strategy based on interdependence, which would preserve international co-operation while gradually strengthening indepen-

dent decision-making capacity at the national, regional and interregional levels. That was the task which SELA was pursuing with all the means at its disposal.

44. Mr. PIN (Observer for Democratic Kampuchea), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, noted that the representative of Hungary had raised the question of the representativeness of the Democratic Kampuchea Government. The representative of Hungary had still less right to question the legitimacy of the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea inasmuch as his country was taking an active part in the war of aggression and racial extermination being waged in Democratic Kampuchea by Viet Nam, in defiance of the rules of international law and the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations. For the Kampuchean people, as for the Afghan people and the fraternal African peoples, it was clear that the Hungarian delegation represented only aggressors and expansionists. It had sought to disturb the serenity of the Council's session and to legalize the Vietnamese invasion, but Democratic Kampuchea required neither the opinion nor the authorization of the Soviet Union or Hungary in order to attend the Council's discussions.

*The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.*

## 30th meeting

Tuesday, 8 July 1980, at 3.25 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.30

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)

1. Mr. INAN (Turkey) said that on the eve of the eleventh special session of the General Assembly, at which the international community would have to decide on the new international development strategy and the global negotiations, it was important to draw the necessary lessons from the past decade. In those 10 years, the Western economies appeared to have been caught in a vicious circle. Widespread inflation, whose causes were structural but which was also accelerated by sharp rises in oil prices, accompanied by stagnation and weak industrial investment, due to many factors, both internal, such as excessive uncertainty surrounding investment decisions, poor distribution of resources and declining capital yields, and international, such as the extension of protectionism and instability of currency markets, had all had a harmful impact on the productivity of labour, making it still more difficult to combat inflation. The "stop-go" policies applied had not succeeded in controlling inflation, inadequate growth, unemployment, and trade and monetary problems. Protectionist practices had done no better.

2. The developing countries, especially the oil-importing developing countries, were themselves caught in another vicious circle. They no longer accepted that their development should be a mere by-product of the growth of the industrialized countries. Economic development, however, was possible only with rapid industrialization. As the

industrial sector was strongly affected by outside influences, the industrialization effort of the oil-importing developing countries had resulted only in the sharp deterioration of their balance of payments and a considerable rise in their debt, which had led, particularly in recent years, to a general cut-back in development programmes.

3. Turkey was a significant case in point. Despite the international crisis, Turkey had for years endeavoured to maintain a growth rate of about 7 per cent per year, but the effects of higher prices of imported manufactures and the recession in the industrialized countries had compounded the considerable difficulties created by the rising oil bill, with the result that the growth rate of the GDP had steadily declined. It had amounted to only one per cent in 1979, whereas at the same time the population growth rate remained high. In countries such as Turkey, where the burden of the world economic crisis had fallen most heavily, the industrialization effort had produced results contrary to those desired; the country's economy remained technologically dependent, financially fragile and commercially unstable. As for the so-called basic needs strategy, which was aimed primarily towards agricultural development and social equilibrium, it could not replace industrialization but should go hand in hand with economic growth.

4. For the international economy to work better, it was above all necessary for structural changes to take place not only in the developing countries but also in the developed countries and in the economic relations between the two groups. A radical reform of the rules of world trade was necessary. With regard to commodities, stability should be ensured and marketing and distribution channels improved. In order to solve the particularly severe oil problems, it was

imperative to reform the international monetary system and to combat world inflation. In addition, a world energy strategy should be devised which would guarantee both security of supplies and the maintenance of the real value of export earnings from oil, and would promote the search for new energy sources and energy saving. Trade between advanced countries and developing countries should be based on an exchange of specialized manufactures and no longer on the trading of commodities for manufactures. A restructuring of that kind would be an extension of the industrialization efforts of the third world; industrial growth would in turn stimulate demand for manufactured goods in the developing countries, which would help the developed countries to increase their productivity. The dismantling of the barriers to the access of the developing countries' manufactures to the markets of the advanced countries and the adoption of a programme to assist structural changes were the basic elements of that restructuring. Finally, the industrialized countries should encourage research and innovation and overhaul some traditional ideas, such as those concerning investment and amortization periods.

5. In order to meet the needs of the international community, it was necessary to ensure greater monetary stability and spread the burden of structural change, and above all to take better account of development needs. Coherent and coordinated action by the international community would be more necessary than ever in the 1980s. A more rational operation of the world economy would be in the interest of all groups of countries, for the market-economy developed countries would have everything to gain from smaller fluctuations in commodity prices, a new international division of labour and more stable monetary system, while the planned-economy countries would benefit from structural measures which would increase the possibilities of economic and trade co-operation, particularly with the developing countries. The task to be accomplished was not purely the responsibility of the industrialized countries. It lay with the developing countries to achieve economic and social development and to establish a broad system of economic co-operation among themselves. The oil-exporting countries too bore a great responsibility, in view of their power to influence the course of world economic development.

6. Despite the clear advantages of co-operation and the responsibilities of each component of the international community, a decline in solidarity was more in evidence than harmonious and effective collaboration. Thus, in the North-South dialogue the maximalist demands on the one side were generally matched only by the intransigence on the other. Only the political will of the parties could find a way out of the deadlock. It was therefore necessary to mobilize public opinion and to convince those responsible for the economy, and to that end to put forward proposals which directly responded to the medium-term and long-term economic interests of all the parties. More effective methods of negotiation would certainly produce some progress; that was why the proposed global negotiations were so important. It should not be forgotten, however, that the restructuring of North-South relations was a long-term task which called for the uninterrupted support of the parties.

7. It was being more and more widely recognized that the existing economic order was undergoing a structural crisis with which the traditional remedies could no longer cope. The future of mankind depended on the political will of the parties to pass from the discussion of ideas to practical and effective action.

8. Mr. KOMENAN (Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation) said that the purpose of the Agency he

represented, which had been set up at Niamey in 1970 and had 34 member countries, was to foster cultural, scientific and technical co-operation and economic and social development. It co-operated fruitfully with many specialized agencies of the United Nations.

9. It provided special assistance, particularly in education, health and agriculture, to countries such as Mauritius and Dominica, which had been devastated by hurricanes, or Lebanon, Democratic Kampuchea or Chad. It sought to foster new ideas in the field of human settlements and encouraged young architects in their efforts. With regard to food matters, it participated in the struggle against contamination by mycotoxins and against post-harvest losses, by helping to equip laboratories or by organizing seminars.

10. Since 1977, the Agency had co-operated closely with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and would pursue its co-operation with the new Centre for Science and Technology for Development.

11. With regard to the environment, it had originated a regional co-operation project launched two years previously, whose purpose was to conserve and enhance the ecological resources of the islands of the south-west Indian Ocean. It also sought to promote development co-operation by organizing continual exchanges among partners and international events — fairs, exhibitions, lectures, debates, etc. Under its project "Operation Green Sahel" it helped the authorities of the countries of the Sahel to mobilize young people in reforestation sites. Finally, it was concerned with the development of new and renewable energy sources, particularly solar energy, wind energy and biomass. In that field, it had launched programmes for co-operation among developing countries and had contributed to the dissemination of technology imported from the advanced countries. It was participating in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, to be held at Nairobi, and would facilitate the participation of the less fortunate delegations at that Conference.

12. In order to gain a better understanding of the human and institutional potential of the developing countries and their complementarity with a view to collective development, the Agency had drawn up, following a survey among its members, an inventory of French-speaking research workers and institutions for development. The inventory was currently being printed and should enable better use to be made of the research abilities and structures in the third world.

13. Mr. GARCÍA REYNOSO (Mexico) said that the Council should concentrate its discussion of international economic and social policy on the essential aspects of the establishment of the new international economic order and the obstacles encountered. It should then review what had been done to inform public opinion and should urge the international community to take the action required to obtain better results.

14. Despite some progress in establishing the new order, such as the adoption of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, for the purpose of stabilizing commodity prices and the adoption of the rules for establishing a global system of trade preferences among developing countries, the world economic crisis had worsened since 1979. As the Secretary-General of the United Nations had observed (24th meeting) in introducing the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980*, the consequences of the crisis were particularly serious for the developing countries and the prospects for 1980-1985 gave no grounds for optimism.

15. The pattern of the world economy, which was based on the development of the industrialized countries, did not allow the other countries to speed up their growth rate; hence the need for change. Economic co-operation among developing countries might be the solution. Under the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, which described several forms of co-operation to strengthen economic development, the developing countries had, since 1975, made strenuous efforts which had resulted in the creation of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries and the formulation of the Arusha Programme for Collective Self-Reliance and Framework for Negotiations,<sup>1</sup> which the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had adopted at its fifth session, held at Manila in May 1979. Pursuant to that Programme, the developing countries members of the Group of 77 had established the principles for a global system of trade preferences among themselves, for which tariff negotiations would start in 1981. They had also laid the foundation for co-operation between State marketing enterprises and for the establishment of multinational external trade societies in the developing countries. That was their positive contribution to the restructuring of the world economy.

16. The Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174, responsible for preparing for the global negotiations to implement General Assembly resolutions 34/138 and 34/139, had just ended its work without reaching agreement on the procedures, programme or time-table for the negotiations. In the opinion of his delegation, the global negotiations nevertheless opened up new prospects, in particular the possibility of determining the structural arrangements needed to facilitate the development of countries and to restore the growth of the world economy. The lack of progress in the Committee's work showed that countries had not yet all fully understood the basic objectives of the negotiations. At its eleventh special session, therefore, the General Assembly must do its best to achieve the agreements that the international community, and particularly the developing countries, expected of it.

17. His delegation supported the idea that the Committee should continue its work at Geneva, with a view to eliminating as far as possible the points of disagreement. His delegation was sure that the Committee would succeed in drawing up a draft strategy to enable the General Assembly to take decisions on such crucial questions as quantitative objectives, large-scale transfer of resources, energy problems and the reform of the international monetary system. It hoped that the General Assembly would take into account the constructive attitude of the Group of 77 on the target for official development aid.

18. At its sixth session, which had just ended at Mexico City, the Commission on Transnational Corporations had declared its determination to complete the drafting of the code of conduct for transnational corporations before its following session. It had adopted a resolution on progress in the establishment of the new international economic order and on the role of transnational corporations (see E/1980/40, para. 1), which it had once again condemned for their collaboration with the racist régimes of southern Africa. His delegation was concerned over the lack of agreement on the main provisions of the code of conduct and appealed for flexibility and political will so that the international community could be speedily provided with an effective instrument for controlling and supervising transnational corporations.

<sup>1</sup> TD/236. See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fifth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.II.D.14), annex VI.

19. In May 1980, his country had also been host to the Commission on Human Settlements at its third session, at which the Commission had adopted its rules of procedure, prepared a work programme for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and reviewed policies and programmes in that field in relation to the new international economic order and the new international development strategy. At the regional level, the Commission had stressed the need to discuss with ECLA the establishment of regional units for human settlements and on 15 May 1980 it had adopted an important resolution (resolution 3/7) on co-operation and organization at the regional level.

20. The Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities had finally been approved, after long negotiations. His delegation was convinced that if all countries, particularly the industrialized countries, would demonstrate enough political will to give it the support it needed, the Fund would undoubtedly become an effective mechanism for regulating the international commodity market. Results in that field should serve as an example in international economic negotiations; they showed that, with a genuine spirit of co-operation, it was possible to achieve specific objectives and thus to promote the rapid establishment of the new international economic order.

21. Mr. BHATT (Nepal) said that the world economic crisis which, according to the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980*, would become even more acute in 1980, was a matter of serious concern, particularly for the poorer countries which suffered the most.

22. At the end of two United Nations development decades, it was obvious that most of the objectives of the 1970s had remained unfulfilled and the commitments made had not been respected, since even official development assistance represented only 0.33 per cent of the GNP of countries members of DAC, against the established target of 0.7 per cent.

23. Lack of progress in the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, on the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and on development and international economic co-operation had impeded the economic and social development of many developing countries, where there had consequently been little improvement in the living standards of the population.

24. It was true that the primary responsibility for the development of the developing countries rested on those countries themselves, and they were making sustained efforts to improve the living standards of their people, but effective international co-operation measures were needed to help them to attain their objectives. In its report, the Brandt Commission had recognized that the developed and the developing countries had mutual interests in various fields, such as energy, primary products, trade, food and agriculture, monetary issues, inflation control and development finance, and had emphasized the need to change the character of North-South co-operation and to establish constructive co-operation for development. The Brandt Commission's recommendations should be given serious consideration. Similarly, his delegation fully endorsed the Secretary-General's observations concerning increasing energy requirements and the need for developing countries to invest more in the exploration and development of conventional and renewable sources of energy.

25. The forthcoming special session of the General Assembly had two important items on its agenda: the adoption of a new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade and the launching

of a new round of global and action-oriented negotiations on key issues of international co-operation for development. There was a close connexion between those two issues, since the success of the negotiations should strengthen the general policy measures set forth in the strategy. Such success would, however, largely depend on the positive attitude of all participants, particularly the developed countries. It was regrettable that the Committee of the Whole had not succeeded in deciding upon the agenda, the procedures or the time-table for the negotiations.

26. The new strategy should be an improvement on that of the 1970s and should, in particular, establish a higher growth target, with a view to reducing the disparities between developed and developing countries. It should also be an effective instrument for applying the principles of the new international economic order. While the developed countries were experiencing great difficulties, the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, were facing even greater problems and needed a greater international transfer of resources if they were to attain higher growth rates in the 1980s. Without a substantial increase in official development assistance, it would be extremely difficult for the least developed countries to carry out development activities aimed at reducing the income disparities between them and other developing countries. The total volume of official development assistance was inadequate and his delegation earnestly hoped that the international community would respond favourably to the recommendation by the UNCTAD Group of High-level Experts on the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries that there should be a fourfold increase in real terms in net transfers of concessional assistance to the least developed countries by 1990 as compared to 1977.<sup>2</sup>

27. His country had already expressed its satisfaction at the decision of some donor countries, in pursuance of Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX), to cancel the outstanding debts of the least developed countries. On the other hand, the response to the Immediate Action Programme (1979-1981) under phase one of the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries had been disappointing. The United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in 1981, would provide a new opportunity for drawing attention to the stagnation in the *per capita* income of those countries. As far as the land-locked developing countries were concerned, the reluctance of the major donors to contribute to the United Nations Special Fund for those countries would not help to improve their situation. His delegation urged donor countries to contribute generously to the Fund.

28. Nepal had consistently accorded high priority to economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. The potential in those countries for joint ventures in agriculture, manufacturing, energy and trade-related services should be utilized to mutual benefit; technical co-operation should facilitate the flow of capital, labour and technology among developing countries. The international community should therefore support the efforts of developing countries to strengthen their mutual co-operation.

29. Mr. NOOR (Indonesia) said that the general discussion of international economic and social policy once again disclosed a gloomy and discouraging picture; the economic indicators and expert assessments revealed a situation characterized by slow growth, high inflation rates, substantial changes in current-account balances and increasing

unemployment in all countries, developed and developing. That situation had brought about a widespread protectionist movement and, in the final analysis, it was the developing countries which would bear the brunt of the continuing economic crisis because of the extreme vulnerability of their economies to external factors.

30. Indonesia had always considered that the problems of international economic relations were structural in nature and linked to major distortions detrimental to the developing countries. The existing international economic system was not well equipped to solve those problems, since it was based on the assumption of the automatic transmission of growth from the developed to the developing countries. There was, however, a growing awareness that the current disequilibrium could not be remedied unless the problems of the developing countries were solved, taking interdependence and mutuality of interest as a point of departure.

31. Unfortunately, the negotiations pursued at the world level — the North-South dialogue, the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Third General Conference of UNIDO — had so far shown poor results, owing to the lack of political will on the part of most of the developed countries. The attitude of those countries was partly responsible for the set-back in the discussions of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174, which was to draw up the agenda, procedures and time-table for the global negotiations to be launched by the General Assembly at its forthcoming special session. It was also regrettable that agreement had not been reached in the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy on the growth target to be included in the strategy. The developed countries appeared to be concerned primarily with short-term problems connected with the world economic recession and to take no interest in the global negotiations. The difficulties encountered in reaching agreement on procedural matters showed that there were still fundamental differences to be overcome in order to tackle substantive issues.

32. The developing countries were increasingly basing their development efforts on the principle of collective self-reliance. Indonesia welcomed the specific recommendations just made by the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Group of the Group of 77 on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, which had met at Vienna in June 1980. The measures recommended in various fields were important if the concept of collective self-reliance was to become a reality. It was therefore necessary to establish co-ordination and implementation centres that would provide information on the capacities and resources of each country. The regional commissions, in particular ESCAP, which had included in its programme of work for 1980 intersectoral and interdisciplinary activities that were in future to become an integral part of its activities, also had a role to play.

33. Turning to the industrialization of the developing countries, he said that his delegation welcomed the progress made at the last session of the Industrial Development Board, which contrasted with the lack of consensus at the Third General Conference of UNIDO at New Delhi. If that spirit was maintained, the implementation of the Lima and New Delhi Declarations and the accelerated industrialization of the developing countries should make great strides. It was true that the restructuring of the global patterns of production, consumption and trade was a formidable task which called for sustained efforts by the international community. His delegation hoped that the spirit of co-operation among the international community would be maintained and strengthened in the coming months.

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the Trade and Development Board, Eleventh Special Session, Annexes*, agenda item 2; document TD/B/775, para. 33.

34. Another source of satisfaction was the conclusion, after years of negotiation, of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities. While the Fund was not a panacea for curing all the problems afflicting international commodity trade, it would at least help to serve the interests of producers and consumers by stabilizing the commodity markets. The Fund could become an effective instrument for improving market structures and redressing the economic imbalance between developed and developing countries. The international community could be proud of that accomplishment, which should contribute to the success of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly and of the future global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development.

35. Lastly, he referred to the measures taken to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations operational activities for development. The time had come to consider whether the quality of assistance could be improved and the efficiency and coherence of programme execution increased. His delegation was concerned about the growing gap between the volume of resources available to United Nations bodies for their operational activities, and development needs. It hoped that those resources would be increased on a predictable, continuous and assured basis.

36. Mr. PHAN VAN PHI (European Economic Community), speaking in accordance with rule 79 of the rules of procedure of the Council, described the trade policy activities of the European Economic Community at the multilateral, regional and bilateral level, including those relating specifically to commodities. He noted, first of all, that the efforts to control inflation were liable to increase protectionist pressures and that, at a time of slow economic growth, that would adversely affect the developing countries' prospects of stepping up their sales to the advanced countries and would increase their external balance of trade problems. To reconcile the fight against inflation with the maintenance of trade outlets — in other words, of an adequate revenue for the developing countries — was therefore a matter of priority.

37. It was in that spirit that the Community had signed the Declaration on Trade Policy adopted by the OECD Ministerial Meeting on Economic Policies held in June 1980, which created a political framework for the development of trade in the 1980s and provided support for the results of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations; the latter had led to substantial tariff cuts and the introduction of several codes on non-tariff barriers. Those codes were designed systematically to impose limitations and a certain degree of discipline on government intervention in specific aspects of economic life by establishing a form of international co-operation with its own machinery for conciliation and the settlement of disputes. It was therefore extremely desirable, for the developing countries and for the international community, that the greatest possible number of developing countries subscribe to those codes. The Community agreed with the statement of the representative of SELA (29th meeting) and those of several other speakers to the effect that the developing countries would do well not only to increase their trade with the industrialized countries but also to have practical experience in solidarity among partners of comparable size and importance.

38. In 1979, the Second Lomé Convention had been signed between the European Economic Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries; that was a clear indication that co-operation between the Community and its partners was improving. The Community had also helped to implement a policy of financial and technical assistance to a group of non-associated developing countries. That assistance was directed towards rural sector

development projects, the joint financing of regional projects and reconstruction activities following disasters. In 1979, 75 per cent of the assistance had been earmarked for Asian countries, half of the total going to the Indian subcontinent.

39. The Community was continuing to provide food aid in the form of cereals and other products, part of which was being distributed through WFP. It had also made arrangements to provide emergency aid in critical circumstances resulting from political events or natural disasters. Finally, special Community assistance was available for countries that had been the subject of General Assembly resolutions, whether signatories of the Lomé Convention or not, and for refugee students from Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

40. Without modifying its preference scheme to any great extent, the Community was endeavouring to increase the advantages it offered to developing countries. In 1980, its offer for manufactured and semi-manufactured industrial products other than textiles had increased by 29 per cent over 1979. It had made an offer for tropical products as early as 1977, and the advantages that that represented in 1980 amounted to 1.3 billion ECU. Altogether, the Community's offer had risen from a value of 3.25 billion ECU in 1974 to about 7.5 billion in 1979. The Community had not yet decided on the structure or duration of the scheme to be applied as from 1981. The scheme would probably need to be somewhat simplified and adapted to the situation of the beneficiaries, while maintaining the greatest possible advantages for the poorest countries.

41. The implementation of the UNCTAD Integrated Programme for Commodities promised to be more difficult than had been foreseen. Such progress as had been achieved was therefore particularly welcome, particularly the conclusion of the negotiations on the Common Fund for Commodities, which would facilitate the negotiations in progress on various commodities and the implementation of the conclusions reached. The Community would do everything it could, especially in the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy, to help towards the solution of outstanding problems and to ensure that the Common Fund was operational by the beginning of 1982, as planned.

42. The conclusion of the negotiations on natural rubber, resulting in the International Natural Rubber Agreement, 1979, was also encouraging. It was the first stabilization agreement on one of the 18 products on which agreement had been reached at the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. In the opinion of the Community, which accounted for almost a quarter of world rubber imports, that was a positive step in North-South relations.

43. There were other sectors, however, that were still beset by serious obstacles. The extension of the International Cocoa Agreement, 1975, was problematic and a new agreement would be needed to replace the Fifth International Tin Agreement. The Community had made proposals concerning both those products, of which it was the largest importer. In the case of five or six other products in the Integrated Programme for Commodities, including jute, the prospects were better. In the matter of the conclusion of a new international agreement on wheat, the Community supported the conclusions of the World Food Council with respect to the planning and implementation of strategies in the food sector. The Council's proposals with regard to food security needed to be studied at greater length.

44. In recent times, the Community had endeavoured to establish closer relations with the developing countries. It had already concluded or was about to conclude, co-

operation agreements with India, Mexico, Brazil and the Andean group of countries. The Co-operation Agreement between the Community and member countries of ASEAN, which had been signed on 7 March 1980, would contribute to the development of South-East Asia.

45. The dialogue between advanced countries and developing countries had recently sparked off a flurry of activity and reflection. The report of the Brandt Commission provided a better insight into international development issues. The Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174, which was responsible for preparing for the global negotiations provided for in Assembly resolution 34/138, was faced with a particularly difficult task. Although it had not proved possible to reach agreement on the agenda or on the negotiating procedure, the various positions with regard to energy, food, the transfer of resources and industrialization had apparently come somewhat closer together. The Community, for its part, was endeavouring to promote further rapprochement between those positions. It had accordingly agreed on the essential points of the agenda as proposed by the Group of 77 and had submitted to the Committee of the Whole a list of the items that it would be able to accept, in the light of the discussions at the Committee's third preparatory session. With regard to the procedure for the global negotiations, the Community had suggested a scheme that maintained a balance between the central body responsible for the over-all conduct of the negotiations and the specialized discussion bodies. It considered that the negotiating procedure should be determined in conjunction with the agenda and it would spare no effort to ensure the success of the special session of the General Assembly on development.

46. Mr. SOLÁ VILA (Observer for Cuba) said that he wished to reply to the calumnies and false allegations made by the United States representative at the 29th meeting, and to re-establish the truth. It was incredible that, by referring to social problems for which it was itself responsible, the United States should seek to divert the attention of the Council from the developing countries' economic difficulties arising largely from the position it had adopted in the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy and in the Committee of the Whole, acting as the preparatory committee for global negotiations.

47. Emigration to the advanced countries was a direct consequence of the colonial and imperialist exploitation of the third world and of the unequal distribution of natural resources, which were driving thousands of Haitians and Latin Americans to the United States. It was therefore a matter of analysing and removing the causes of such emigration. Prior to the Cuban revolution, the United States had severely restricted the entry of Cubans into its territory. After the revolution, however, the criminals in Batista's service had been welcomed there as champions of democracy. The United States Government had encouraged thousands of senior officials, members of the liberal professions and artists to leave Cuba, in order to stifle the revolution, and one Cuban doctor out of two had emigrated to the United States. That had been an unprecedented attempt to deprive a country of its cadres, undermine its economy and apply a counter-revolutionary strategy.

48. Yet all United States flights to Cuba had been suspended in October 1962, in order to sow discontent and foster counter-revolutionary initiatives on the part of hundreds of thousands of persons who had been expecting to go to the United States. At the same time, delinquents and anti-social elements had been encouraged to emigrate clandestinely and had been welcomed in the United States as heroes. The United States Government had repeatedly been

warned against the dangers of that policy but, after 20 years, it was still imposing a strict economic blockade on Cuba to keep the country in a state of under-development and to jeopardize its economic and social plans.

49. Why had the United States representative said nothing about his country's anti-Cuban policy of aggression, invasions, attempted assassinations, overflights by spy-planes and the maintenance of a naval base on Cuban territory, and so on? Why had he spoken of human rights and the dignity of the person, yet said not a word about the right of a people to build its future in freedom from foreign interference? How could he speak of international law? What legal and moral grounds had the United States for hampering Cuba's development? What right had it to violate Cuban airspace and authorize subversive intrigues by the Central Intelligence Agency which the United States Senate had itself recognized?

50. Now that efforts were being made to re-examine the attitude to be taken with regard to refugees and the aid given to them, his Government wished it to be known that it would refuse to reformulate concepts that had already been defined in international instruments if the intention was to insert in them vague clauses of a political nature, as the United States wished. On the other hand, if the intention was to specify the real reasons behind the emigration from developing countries — a result of the colonization and under-development for which the United States was largely responsible — and to expose and condemn the political purposes for which such emigration was used, then his country would willingly participate in the discussion.

51. The considerable sums spent by the United States Government on receiving such emigrants also deserved reflection. Even if it might be too much to imagine that the United States expected to benefit from economic co-operation in order to offset that expenditure, that country seemed to regard it as a new way of helping the developing countries; yet how could such an argument hold water in the light of the United States' well-known intransigence in all international economic negotiations? The United States was again clearly trying to turn the situation to its own advantage by provoking misgivings among the international community, particularly among the heads of State or Government of the non-aligned countries, who, at the Sixth Conference held at Havana in 1979, had deplored such exploitation for political ends of the right of the individual to leave his own country. Through propaganda controlled by the transnational information agencies, the United States Government was still maintaining that the Cuban emigrants were refugees, and at the same time affirming that they were not. It was thus trying to cast doubts on the criteria laid down by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, since the High Commissioner himself had let it be clearly understood that the Cuban emigrants were not refugees.

52. Referring to the questions raised by the United States delegation, he fully agreed that Cuba had to respect the law of other countries. Yet the United States itself did not respect Cuban law. The persons leaving Cuba had to comply with the legal emigration formalities; once they had been taken to Florida in American vessels, they presumably became subject to United States legislation. Moreover, Cuba denied that it was exporting criminals and common-law offenders to the United States. It was the United States itself which had taken the criminals of the Batista régime into its territory, so why was it now concerned about the presence of a few delinquents among the Cuban emigrants? Since 1959, 296 vessels and 40 aircraft had been hijacked and taken by force to the United States, often with loss of

human life. Why did the United States Government not regard those responsible for such acts as criminals? As everyone knew, there were hundreds of delinquents and criminals of Cuban origin in the United States, yet most of them were regarded as heroes and were enjoying the beneficence of the Central Intelligence Agency. Lastly, the United States representative had made groundless suppositions concerning the return of the Cuban citizens; Cuba did not prohibit the voluntary return of the emigrants, provided they met the legal immigration conditions.

53. His Government had indicated that it was prepared to discuss all those problems and its relations with the United States, but not isolated questions which were of interest only to the United States. Any such discussions would necessarily have to cover the 20-year-old blockade imposed

on Cuba, the naval base at Guantanamo and the flights over Cuban territory by spy-planes. Those were bilateral problems which the United States Government wished to internationalize in its campaign against the Cuban revolution. His Government strenuously opposed that manoeuvre and reaffirmed the determination of the Cuban people to go on making their own decisions in full freedom.

54. Mr. McHENRY (United States of America) said that he had intended to reply to the charges made by the Cuban representative, but, having heard them, he did not think that they deserved a reply. A quotation which came to mind prompted him to observe that that representative certainly seemed to "protest too much, methinks".

*The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.*

## 31st meeting

Wednesday, 9 July 1980, at 11 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.31

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### **General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)**

1. Mr. CORRÊA da COSTA (Brazil) said that international economic negotiations had reached a critical juncture. Although the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development had been reasonably satisfactory, his delegation had been embittered by the absolute failure of the Third General Conference of UNIDO.
2. He was convinced that the chief responsibility of the Economic and Social Council was to review North-South relations. The developed countries' reaction to the international economic crisis had been out of all proportion to the real need for retrenchment, with the result that the so-called North-South dialogue was still not producing satisfactory results. The preparations for the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly, which were the proving grounds for that dialogue, showed that the international community was still confronted with an inexplicable reluctance on the part of the developed countries.
3. His country had never regarded the establishment of a new international economic order either as a destructive revolutionary process or, on the other hand, as merely a generous gift from the developed countries. It was understandable that the developed countries should resist structural alterations in the international economic and financial system, which put their interests first, but not only had the developing countries not been given any effective role in the establishment of those structures, they had so far not even succeeded in influencing decisions of vital importance to them.
4. The developed economies themselves recognized the crucial role played by the developing countries since 1973 in not closing their expanding markets to the exports of the developed countries. Times were changing, however. Although the choice of principle was still the same, in the developing countries there was more and more a shift in the perception of the consequences. Available information

indicated that the developed North would have an average yearly economic growth rate of about 3 per cent in the current decade. The developing countries, in turn, would need to find ways of reaching annual growth rates of 6 to 7 per cent. Although the developed countries could live with low growth rates, having already reached comfortable levels of progress, for the countries of the South development meant survival itself. The close linkage between the economies of the South and those of the North made it mandatory for the developing countries to insist that such international conditions should be created as to allow them to ensure their development prospects at least partially. There was, in fact, a growing sentiment in the North itself that structural change was mandatory, in order to benefit everybody.

5. Ever since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the Arusha Programme for Collective Self-Reliance and Framework for Negotiations, the developing countries had increasingly turned to reliance on themselves. That approach, however, did not mean that the developed countries were free of the commitment to promote international economic co-operation for development, or that South-South co-operation could replace authentic North-South co-operation. The restructuring of the international economic order would come about as a result of a lengthy process of negotiation between North and South that would benefit from the parallel inputs that might originate from the South-South context. Efforts in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, therefore, did not in any way depend on developments in the North-South dialogue. The developing countries should concentrate on effective action of their own that did not require the blessing of the developed countries. They must join together and work for a common objective, and not just against the North.

6. South-South and North-South co-operation should dovetail with each other. The strengthening of economies of the South and their greater autonomy would be of benefit to all. Although it was natural that vested interests might view

that trend as a threat, it would be short-sighted not to focus on the global advantages to be obtained from an increase in South-South co-operation. Arrangements for such co-operation must be practical and generate concrete benefits.

7. It was universally recognized that the 1970s had been marked by great economic problems that had dramatically aggravated the situation of the developing countries. On the threshold of the 1980s, the position of those countries was even more jeopardized. The international community must seek effective solutions and produce significant results. Concrete results could no longer be delayed.

8. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the economic problems facing the world a year earlier had been far less severe than they were currently. With regard to official development assistance, the performance of most developed donor countries in realizing the 0.7 per cent of GNP target for such assistance had been extremely disappointing and would continue to deteriorate, owing to inflation. As a consequence, many non-oil-exporting developing countries with the necessary creditworthiness had resorted to borrowing heavily from international commercial banks. He wished to re-emphasize the importance of an adequate level of official development assistance for the low-income developing countries, which had only a limited ability to mobilize domestic savings and whose creditworthiness with the international commercial banks was extremely low or completely non-existent. His country was unfortunately in that category of developing countries.

9. His delegation endorsed the view expressed in the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980* that even to maintain growth at the unsatisfactory rates of recent years would require a major domestic and international effort and that the low-income countries would need to have access to adequate balance-of-payments financing and higher levels of official development assistance in real terms. The question, however, was where that financing was going to be found. The international community as a whole would have to give serious attention to that dilemma during the early 1980s, for otherwise the problems of non-oil-exporting developing countries would become so unmanageable that they would soon adversely affect the economies of the developed countries as well. The report of the Brandt Commission would make a useful contribution to the high-level dialogue on that issue. He had been surprised to learn from the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany (25th meeting) that many of the proposals in that report were in the process of being implemented. He wondered which international forum had considered and approved the Brandt Commission's recommendations and which international bodies were implementing them.

10. With regard to the economic problems of low-income developing countries, it was to be hoped that the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries would help to generate the necessary political will among developed donor countries.

11. The existing international monetary situation, which was not considered in the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980*, was of crucial importance. There was a basic weakness in the existing monetary "non-system", which depended on one national currency as the principal source of international reserve and liquidity needs. Although the essential elements of the required international monetary reform did not pose any insurmountable problems, no progress had been made in that respect within IMF. In fact, retrograde developments had taken place regarding the four essential elements: the recent establishment of the European Monetary System had made the existing international monetary "non-system" even less universally accepted than before; the democratization of the decision-making process

in the "non-system" was still being resisted by the developed Western countries; the use of SDRs as the principal source of international liquidity and reserve needs had receded far into the background; and the developed Western countries members of IMF had refused to establish a link between SDRs and the development needs of the developing countries.

12. The developed Western countries continued to support the policies of IMF, which persisted in meting out wrong economic prescriptions to developing countries, based on wrong diagnoses. The Fund, which had recently emerged as the self-appointed financial and monetary policeman of the third world, was thus not utilizing its considerable liquidity for the development needs of developing countries. It was instead using an insignificant part of its liquidity every year just to finance stop-gap measures related to balance-of-payments problems in developing countries. Many developing countries had seriously begun to question the legitimacy of what IMF was doing in developing countries. It was to be hoped that the global negotiations to be launched the following month would at least solve the problem of the reform of the international monetary system, particularly as far as IMF was concerned.

13. His delegation wished, however, to express its appreciation to the World Bank for its new enlightened policy of extending loans for integrated rural development, for multi-year economic structural adjustment programmes, for programmes as opposed to projects, and for petroleum and gas exploration and production in developing countries. Through that new policy, the World Bank, within its limited resources, was meeting some of the most pressing development needs of developing countries, particularly non-oil-exporting low-income developing countries, at a time when the availability of adequate official development assistance was very uncertain. It was his delegation's sincere hope that the sixth IDA replenishment for the period 1981-1983 would be ratified as soon as possible, for IDA was one of the few sources of development assistance.

14. His delegation had welcomed the holding in 1979 of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, at which agreement had been reached on a programme of action—the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development—including the establishment of an Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development. Although the Centre for Science and Technology for Development had been established, his delegation was deeply disappointed that only \$45.7 million had so far been pledged for the Interim Fund, a sum less than one fifth of the \$250 million target recommended at the Conference. His delegation hoped that additional pledges would soon be forthcoming to meet the deficit of nearly \$210 million before 1981.

15. With regard to regional co-operation and development, his delegation was glad to note the satisfactory follow-up to General Assembly resolution 32/197 within the United Nations system as a whole. In section IV of the annex to that resolution, the need had been stressed, *inter alia*, for the regional commissions to intensify efforts to promote regional co-operation and more effective interregional economic co-operation, on the understanding that strengthened regional and interregional co-operation could make an important contribution to over-all economic and social development and to the promotion of the new international economic order. The General Assembly had thus agreed on the need to maximize the capacity of the regional commissions to promote and support regional and interregional co-operation.

16. While the regional commissions had been empowered by the General Assembly to promote, support and co-ordinate all technical and economic co-operation activities in their respective areas, it was surprising to note the contention of certain Member States that it was "illegal" for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to promote and support any activities relating to economic co-operation among developing countries.

17. His delegation expressed its satisfaction with the annual overview report of ACC for 1979/80 (E/1980/34 and Add.1), which showed that everything possible was being done to ensure the maximum co-ordination between the United Nations and its bodies, on the one hand, and the various international organizations or specialized agencies, on the other, in the design and implementation of development programmes, in order to minimize duplication of efforts. Such co-ordination should also ensure that no United Nations body or specialized agency with the required competence was left out in the design or execution of any programme in a Member State, sub-region or region. His delegation welcomed the imminent designation of resident co-ordinators of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in each developing Member State, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/213. His delegation was also glad to note the progress made so far in the implementation of the common register of development activities (CORE) project, as reported in document E/1980/76. While it noted that CORE/1 had been more or less completed, it hoped that work on CORE/2 would begin as soon as possible.

18. His delegation found the world economic outlook very bleak. As the Secretary-General had stated at the opening of the session, the North-South dialogue was not making any real progress. Other ominous clouds on the horizon included the recent failure of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 to reach agreement on the draft agenda for the global negotiations scheduled to be launched at the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly and the fact that up to its fifth session the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy had made no significant progress.

19. In conclusion, he said that it now appeared likely that, although considerable time and resources had been wasted in preparing a new international development strategy for the new decade, there might in the end be no new international development strategy and no third United Nations development decade.

20. Mr. SKALLI (Morocco) said that inflation was a major factor in the current economic crisis but it affected the industrialized and developing countries differently. The developing countries, as importers of industrial equipment and manufactures essential to their development, were more seriously affected by inflation than the rich countries. The developing countries seemed to be condemned to spend more and more for smaller and smaller quantities of manufactures and industrial goods. That problem was so serious as to disrupt their development plans, forcing them to contract substantial loans to pay for the increasing cost of their essential imports.

21. The low level of world economic growth caused distortions in the economies of the industrialized countries, in particular through the increase in the number of unemployed, currently estimated at about 20 million for the OECD countries alone. For the developing countries, in addition to endemic unemployment, the low level of world economic growth brought investments to a virtual halt. Indeed, the Governments of most of those countries made interest-rate control a fundamental element of their financial

and monetary policy. That was the case, for example, with Morocco, which considered that such action served to promote investment and to encourage savings, while making it possible to control credit distribution. Such a procedure was particularly effective for developing countries which, like Morocco, had to deal with the problems of accelerated expansion. That action was neutralized, however, when there was a shortage of international loans, which was inevitable, since they were now subjected to a policy of selectivity. That selectivity of international credits, which the lenders tried to justify by referring to an element of "risk", was accompanied by increasingly high interest rates. The lack or high cost of external financing because of a slow-down in the growth rate of the economies of the industrialized countries necessarily neutralized the action taken by the Governments of developing countries to influence interest rates in order to encourage investment. Those countries were therefore obliged to become increasingly indebted. In his statement at the 25th meeting, the Managing Director of IMF had amply described the balance-of-payments and debt-service problems faced by non-oil-exporting developing countries.

22. It was therefore urgently necessary to bring order into the world economy, since both the North and the South were experiencing the same economic difficulties. That could only be done by the establishment of the new international economic order and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 33/193, in which the Assembly had decided that the new international development strategy should provide a set of interrelated and concerted measures in all sectors of development, in order to promote the economic and social development of the developing countries and to ensure their equitable, full and effective participation in the formulation and application of all decisions in the field of development and international economic co-operation.

23. The international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade should be formulated within the framework of the new international economic order and based on the following changes: the alignment of the industrial sectors of the developed countries with those of the developing countries, in order to facilitate an increase in the exports of the manufactures of the developing countries; a reform of the international monetary system, with a view to putting into effect a series of external financing measures to support the development programmes of the countries of the third world; the adoption of new measures designed to develop the processing of commodities in the developing countries and increase the participation of those countries in the marketing and distribution of their exports; and the abolition of the protectionist policies pursued by the developed countries.

24. His country welcomed the recent Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, which would make it possible not only to stabilize the prices of primary commodities but also to ensure, through its second window, the financing of the product research and development programmes of the developing countries.

25. His Government welcomed the agreement reached in April 1980 on restrictive business practices, but much remained to be done to persuade the developed countries to renounce protectionism in their relations with the developing countries. His delegation hoped that greater results would be achieved in that field at the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly.

26. He stressed that it was for the developing countries to assume responsibility for their own development. He was referring in particular to the strengthening of economic co-operation among developing countries, with a view to ensuring their collective autonomy, which should be based

on the following specific actions: the establishment of a preferential trade system between the developing countries; the strengthening of economic integration and co-operation at the regional, subregional and interregional levels and the creation of multinational production enterprises that could meet their requirements to an increasing extent. It was clear that the implementation of that ambitious programme would involve the responsibility of the developing countries, as well as that of the developed countries. The developing countries should mobilize their financial and human resources, while the developed countries should create a favourable atmosphere for the efforts made by the developing countries. It was noteworthy that the initiatives of the developing countries in that field were beginning to be seen. For instance, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, at its second extraordinary session, held at Lagos, had adopted resolutions on such major items as African self-sufficiency in food.

27. His delegation also wished to stress the role that the transfer of technology should play in the preparation of that programme. Such a transfer would be meaningless, however, unless certain essential conditions were fulfilled: the review of the general context of the problems of the transfer and development of technology; the clear and precise definition of policies and institutions relating to the transfer of technology and its development in the developing countries; the definition of a rational technology policy and strict planning at the sectoral level; and a firm desire to provide the developing countries with the means of strengthening their technological capacity.

28. The restructuring of the world economy was a matter which concerned all countries, since the interdependence of the various economies was becoming more and more apparent. In the current difficult economic situation, international solidarity must not remain an empty word or an abstract concept. His delegation hoped that all industrialized countries, whatever their form of economy, would show greater understanding of the problems facing the developing countries. In so doing, they would make a significant contribution to the elimination of the current inequities and tensions and to the establishment of a more harmonious and peaceful world order.

29. Mr. TERNSTRÖM (Sweden) said that, although the Council had not succeeded in attaining all the goals it had set itself for the decade of the 1970s, that did not mean that the decade had been a period of total failure; there had been progress on many fronts in the fight to combat poverty and promote development. In view, however, of the disquietening trends apparent in the current economic situation and likely to become more marked in the coming years, there was need for intensified efforts. The world was facing a fall in the growth of total output, inflation, deteriorating current-account balances and worsening trends in the pattern of energy supply and demand. As was pointed out in the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980*, the difficulties facing the world economy appeared to require a fresh attempt at international economic co-ordination in matters which were of critical importance to all countries.

30. The forthcoming eleventh special session of the General Assembly would provide an opportunity to take stock of what progress had been made towards establishing a new international economic order. The Assembly would have before it at that session two major issues, both of which offered the means of solving the long-term problems of international economic relations: the new international development strategy and the global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development. He hoped that the informal consultations on the international development strategy would produce a draft text which identified

the principal issues to which the Assembly should address itself at the special session. The strategy should be the expression of the political will to achieve economic and social progress and development; the negotiations on it were therefore not merely of technical but also of political significance. He urged that those involved should be guided not by inward-looking attitudes but by a real concern for the common good.

31. The States members of OECD had recently renewed their pledge to continue efforts to liberalize trade and to combat protectionism. While it was true that the developing countries could be adversely affected by protectionism, it was the stagnation in the growth of industrialized countries, rather than the exports of developing countries, which posed the greater threat to employment in the developed world. It was thus important that the climate of growth in the developed countries should be restored. Energy was an essential factor in the economy of all nations. Co-operation between oil-exporting and oil-importing countries would be of great value in efforts to facilitate the predictability of energy supply, demand and prices.

32. Another important area of international economic co-operation was that of the transfer of resources to developing countries. He hoped that the report on that question to be submitted to the General Assembly at its special session would include practical proposals for action by the international community. At the same time, efforts to increase official development assistance should be vigorously pursued, since such assistance was particularly important for low-income countries without access to capital markets. The United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNP should be reached early in the decade; that target was important, in that it helped to safeguard established levels of official development assistance commitments.

33. His Government regretted that preparations for the global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development had not yet resulted in any substantial agreement either on an agenda or on a programme of work. He hoped that, by the time the special session opened, Governments would have adopted more flexible positions and would be prepared to enter into a fruitful dialogue.

34. The Secretary-General had drawn attention to the need for special action to benefit the weakest members of the international community. Sweden recognized that there were countries whose problems were so urgent that they should not have to await the outcome of a round of global negotiations. A number of countries would have their development efforts seriously jeopardized if the pressures of current economic difficulties were not soon alleviated. He hoped that at the special session further consideration would be given to that problem.

35. While the United Nations system had machinery to provide relief in the case of natural catastrophes, corresponding machinery to deal with man-made disasters was not always adequate. Emergencies were never the same and relief efforts had to be adapted and co-ordinated in different ways, according to whether the task was to combat a famine, assist refugees or meet health needs. On many occasions, relief measures to deal with man-made emergencies had had to be improvised; although a high degree of flexibility was desirable, it was often a severe strain on organizations when so much of their capacity and resources had to be directed to emergency operations. It was important to ensure that the United Nations system was enabled to deal with emergencies in such a way that the regular activities of individual organizations did not suffer; regular programmes should be so designed as to help to prevent such emergencies from arising. The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should address them-

selves to the problem and try to find ways of ensuring that the United Nations would always be ready to respond effectively to emergency situations. That would not require the establishment of new institutions or permanent arrangements, but merely a review of the current allocation of responsibilities. He suggested that the Secretary-General should be requested to report on the various ways in which the United Nations system had responded to major emergency and disaster situations over the past decade, drawing attention to experiences which had been particularly helpful or had caused specific problems.

36. The Charter of the United Nations had assigned a leading role to the Council, but over the past few years it had sometimes been questioned whether the Council was fulfilling its task. The question would reappear when the General Assembly resumed its discussion of the follow-up to its resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. He hoped that the Council would then be accepted as the central body which it was intended to be. That did not mean there was no scope for reform; much could be done to improve the efficiency of the Council and of its subsidiary bodies.

37. The economic and social activities of the United Nations were of the utmost importance not only to Governments but also to individuals, whose present and future well-being was determined by the success or failure of the international community in bringing about improved international economic co-operation for the benefit of the poor and neglected of the world. If that were done, the foundation would be laid on which a world order based on justice, equality and full participation could be built.

38. Mr. SRIVASTAVA (Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization) said that, since his last report to the Council, the membership of IMCO had been increased by 6 and now stood at 118 full members and 1 associate member, thus embracing practically all the maritime States of the world, which further underlined its universal character and mandate. The Assembly of IMCO had accordingly decided that the membership of the IMCO Council, which was the governing body of the Organization in the periods between the biennial sessions of the Assembly, should be increased from 24 to 32, so as to provide for more effective representation of the Governments of member States. The requisite constitutional amendments were being accepted by Governments more rapidly than any previous amendments to the Convention on the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, and there was every reason to hope that they would soon enter into force.

39. The eleventh regular session of the IMCO Assembly had taken a number of other decisions whose influence on the course of events and the work of IMCO would be considerable and long-lasting. The Assembly had unanimously decided that in future the Organization's substantive work should be concerned not principally with the setting of technical standards and the developing of regulations but with more direct and sustained efforts to promote the widest and most effective implementation of the large body of international standards and regulations already embodied in the various international treaties and other instruments developed within or under the auspices of IMCO. The purpose of that reorientation was to enable IMCO and its member States to concentrate a greater proportion of their time, energies and resources on the world-wide implementation of global standards and regulations for improving safety and efficiency in maritime operations and for preventing and controlling marine pollution arising from those operations. The commitment of the Assembly to those objectives was so strong that it had been considered necessary to depart from an arrangement which had been

part of the working practices of IMCO since its inception. The Assembly had decided that not a single new treaty instrument was to be adopted during 1980 and 1981, and, accordingly, no diplomatic conference was to be scheduled during those years.

40. The decision to change emphasis and orientation had also resulted in a full-scale readjustment of the work programme of the main committees of the Organization, including a reduction in the number of their meetings, which would not only result in significant budgetary savings but would help to ensure that time and resources were more effectively utilized to plan, operate and review the practical and administrative measures needed to implement the conventions, codes and recommendations developed by IMPC committees and conferences in the past. To that end, two resolutions had been adopted in November 1979: resolution A.412 (XI), entitled "Acceptance and enforcement of international instruments relating to maritime safety and marine environment protection", called on Governments to make every effort to accept and implement at an early date the principal conventions and instruments on those subjects; and resolution A.449 (XI), entitled "Improved methods and procedures for communication between the Secretary-General and member Governments", suggested a number of ways for improving the co-operation between Governments and the secretariat in promoting the objectives of the Organization.

41. Certain positive effects of those decisions had already become evident. The secretariat of IMCO, in co-operation with Governments of member States, had initiated a number of important measures aimed at increasing the capacity of States to consider, accept and implement the provisions of the various international regulations on shipping and related maritime activities. One of the most important of those measures had been the establishment of more effective channels of communication between the IMCO secretariat and Governments of member States on technical and related matters. Another useful measure had been the organization of special seminars, symposia and workshops for explaining the technical and administrative implications of selected conventions and instruments. Those seminars encouraged Governments, particularly those of developing countries, to accept the conventions and adopt measures for their implementation. The seminars were held at various centres round the world on a global or regional basis and IMCO was grateful to the donor agencies, both international and national, which had provided financial support for them.

42. As a result of those measures, the rate of acceptance by Governments of the IMCO conventions had accelerated considerably over the past year. One significant development had been the entry into force of the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, which now applied between more than 40 Governments, which between them controlled more than 85 per cent of the world's total merchant shipping fleets. He hoped that the 1978 Protocol relating to that Convention and the 1978 Protocol relating to the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships would soon receive the acceptances required for their entry into force and thus bring into operation the interrelated treaty instruments developed by IMCO on the subject of tanker safety and pollution prevention.

43. Perhaps the most important effect of the decision had been its implications for the IMCO technical co-operation programme. The main purpose of that programme was to assist the developing countries in building up their maritime capabilities in accordance with global standards. Thus, the Assembly's decision to concentrate on the effective implementation of standards and regulations meant that the

success of the programme had become a condition for the success of the current objectives of IMCO itself. That was a most welcome development, not only for IMCO and for the shipping community but for the world as a whole, for maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and the protection of the marine environment were indivisible and could only be effectively promoted if they were promoted on a global basis. By enabling the developing countries to accept and implement global standards and regulations, the programme contributed to world-wide efforts to improve maritime safety and to preserve the quality of the marine environment. The areas of emphasis adopted in IMCO technical assistance activities were the same as those adopted for the IMCO programme as a whole, namely, the promotion of the highest level of training and expertise of maritime personnel and the provision of the technical and institutional infrastructure for the establishment of maritime programmes. IMCO had found that the chief needs of developing countries were, first, for trained national personnel, and, secondly, for the requisite technical and administrative infrastructure. It was the aim of the programme to meet those needs by helping to develop training schemes and institutions and by giving advice on how to establish or improve infrastructural facilities. Thanks to the co-operation of Governments, and to the generous support of UNDP and other agencies, IMCO had succeeded in implementing its programme in many developing countries. It was grateful for the assistance it had received so far and hoped that more would be forthcoming in the future, for much remained to be done.

44. In concentrating its efforts over the past year on aid to developing countries, IMCO had not forgotten its obligations towards the global maritime community or its responsibilities as an organization in the United Nations system. For example, the Assembly had in 1979 noted with concern the increase in criminal acts of barratry, unlawful seizure of ships and their cargoes, and other acts of maritime fraud which endangered the integrity of international seaborne trade. The Assembly had called on Governments to take urgent measures to prevent and suppress such acts, in accordance with national and international law. It had also requested the IMCO Council to initiate a study, with a view to determining what steps IMCO should take on the matter; the results of the study were expected to be submitted to the IMCO Assembly in November 1981. The speed with which IMCO had responded to that threat to international trade was an example not only of the adaptability of its working methods, but also of the readiness of its member States to discharge their responsibilities towards the world maritime community.

45. IMCO had also endeavoured to play its appropriate role within the United Nations system. It had participated in the work of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and had been actively involved in preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the new international development strategy. In connexion with the latter, it had sought to emphasize the crucial importance of the technical and institutional infrastructure in the over-all development plans of developing countries. He hoped that that important element would be given the recognition it deserved in the final programme approved by the General Assembly. In the area of marine pollution prevention, IMCO had been encouraged by the recognition given to its work by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/183. As requested in that resolution, IMCO would be submitting a report to the Council early in 1981 for transmittal to the General Assembly.

46. IMCO had continued to co-operate with the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions

and other regional bodies. Its relations with UNEP had been co-operative; in particular, it had continued its participation in the regional seas programme of UNEP. It had followed the work of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and had contributed to it as appropriate; it looked forward to playing an effective role in the implementation of the new régime of the law of the sea.

47. IMCO had participated actively in discussions on the implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and in the discussions on improved co-operation between OAU and United Nations agencies. It had maintained excellent working relationships with UNCTAD, the ILO, UNHCR and the regional commissions. IMCO recognized its role as member of the United Nations system of organizations and would continue, to the best of its ability, to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to improve the economic and social conditions of the peoples of the world.

48. Mr. KOMATINA (Yugoslavia) said that it was indisputable that the crisis in the world economy and over-all economic relations was becoming increasingly grave and the inability of the world community to come to grips with it was a cause of deep concern. Genuine political readiness on the part of all countries, especially the developed ones, was essential if the challenges of the times were to be met and a substantive restructuring of the world economy and international economic relations initiated. The existing obsolete system increased inequalities and imposed the main burden of adjustment on the developing countries. Instead, however, of the clear realization of that fact leading to consensus on the pursuit of common solutions, a movement away from agreed decisions and a departure from accepted concepts seemed to be taking place. There had been a disquieting aggravation of international relations in general and a constant increase in the number of crisis points. In spite of the unanimous agreement that there was no alternative, the process of détente was stagnating, while the arms race continued at a vertiginous pace, and, although the rejection of a bipolar bloc system and the policy of spheres of interest was becoming increasingly evident, bloc rivalry continued to weigh heavily upon international relations. Resort to force, military intervention threatening the independence of peoples, and interference in their internal affairs were assuming increasingly diverse forms. It had long been agreed that a universal assumption of responsibility for the restructuring of international economic relations based on interdependence and equity were required, but action lagged behind the agreements reached and behind the requirements of the world economy, mainly because the most developed countries were not ready to take steps to enable long-term structural modifications of the world economy to be effected, thus initiating a similar process in international economic relations.

49. Full responsibility must be exercised at every stage if some contribution at least was to be made to the halting of negative developments. The current session of the Economic and Social Council was one major event in a continuous process of intensive international activities, most prominent among which was the projected eleventh special session of the General Assembly, whose task it would be to adopt a new development strategy and launch global negotiations. In the 35th anniversary year of the founding of the United Nations, the Council should feel encouraged to make up lost ground and take an energetic step forward. In his opening statement (24th meeting), the Secretary-General had spoken of the most important issues and negotiating processes between the developed and developing countries. The *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980*, reflected the prevailing uncertainty and disarray. The

constant deterioration in the terms of trade of the developing countries had led to low growth rates, high external deficits — expected to reach over \$70 billion in 1980 and compelling many of those countries to jeopardize important development objectives — inadequate financial flows and heavy indebtedness. The rising tide of protectionism and other forms of market restriction were another major impediment to the acceleration of their economic and social development. They were obliged to spend a high percentage of their foreign exchange on the servicing of debts, whose continuing growth might threaten the solvency of many of them and even jeopardize international financial flows and institutions.

50. Developed countries too were faced with decreases in growth rates, alarming increases in inflation and unemployment, and other negative trends. The measures they were taking to cope with the problem had merely served to shift the burden of the crisis on to the developing countries. The non-aligned and other developing countries had long reiterated the view that existing problems could not be overcome and the dynamic and stable development of the world economy could not be secured without the establishment of a new international economic order. To that end, they had taken over the past decade a number of well-known initiatives designed to achieve lasting solutions through constructive negotiations. In initiating a new round of global negotiations at the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, those countries had been actuated by the conviction that solutions of the most important and interrelated problems could be found only in an appropriately high-level political forum, where negotiations could lead to firm commitments to the solution of both short-term and structural problems in one single context.

51. His delegation could not, therefore, do otherwise than express its deep concern at the outcome of the most recent session of the Committee of the Whole. Despite all efforts and the flexibility shown by the Group of 77 with regard to both the agenda and the procedure for global negotiations, the major developed countries had not shown any corresponding readiness to compromise or, by the same token, any genuine desire to enter upon such negotiations. The question, therefore, was what political prospects there could be for any progress in any area of international economic co-operation. The Council must not disregard such a deplorable turn of events or fail to help the special session to achieve the results expected of it, if a further aggravation of the world economic crisis and serious disturbances in international relations in general were to be avoided.

52. His delegation therefore called upon the developed countries to reconsider their position with regard to both the agenda and the procedure, thus enabling an agreement to be reached at the special session. If it had been possible to settle existing issues at the level and in the forums in which they had so far been considered, there would have been no need for global negotiations. It was for that reason that his delegation viewed all approaches that sought to reduce the global negotiations to a continuation of routine practice in the existing forums merely as attempts to avoid effecting any substantive changes. Global negotiations represented a new effort to make a break-through and to cut across rigid institutional competences, for an extraordinary situation required extraordinary measures. The Committee of the Whole was not to meet again, but preparations must continue at the level of individual Governments and of groups of countries. The current session of the Council could provide a stimulus in that direction, particularly through the contacts that would be taking place with regard

to further work on the new international development strategy.

53. If the Council was to exercise its function as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and play its full role in the decision-making process, as had been repeatedly advocated, it was not only institutional improvements that were required but also a more resolute orientation towards the solution of the essential problems of the world economy and international economic relations. The Council should not only analyse and monitor the international economic and social situation but should react to developments in it and take action as appropriate. It should also exercise a more pronounced influence on the Secretariat and provide for better co-ordination of the work of the specialized agencies and other institutions within the United Nations system. A framework also must be provided within which the economic policies of particular groupings of countries could be harmonized, taking into account their impact on general economic developments.

54. In order to enhance the Council's efficiency, its membership should be thrown open to all States Members of the United Nations, in line with the growing need for the greatest possible democratization of the system and the full participation of all countries in the consideration of problems and in the decision-making process. The introduction of a similar practice in UNCTAD had had positive results. Lasting results would not be achieved by the so-called dialogue or the quest for a new philosophy. A series of measures was needed: conditions for development must be created by the affirmation of national sovereignty over resources and the strengthening of the independent national economies of the developing countries, which was the only way in which the principles of equality, interdependence and equity could become active factors in world development; a concept of development strategy must be evolved that would make possible a restructuring of the world economy in the interests of all countries, which would entail the relinquishing of acquired privileges that produced inequality; a system of international financing and trade must be established which would enable the developing countries to achieve rapid development and thus be in a position to solve the problems of hunger, illiteracy and poverty that stemmed from the present system; urgent measures must be taken to assist the more than 40 developing countries whose resources, vital to their survival, were on the brink of exhaustion, such measures to be an integral part of a development strategy founded on the new international economic order; the role of the United Nations system as the most appropriate framework for negotiations and decision-making must be consolidated, and, to that end, the programmes and activities of economic and social organizations, which had their own role and could be more fully utilized for the creation of new relations, should receive full support; economic co-operation among the developing countries, which was a crucial factor in their development and the strengthening of their negotiating power, must be reinforced, not with a view to autarky but as part of the over-all international co-operation that was of great importance for the developed countries as well — the principle of collective self-reliance, encompassing all areas, including energy, was a political and economic priority; there must be constructive negotiations on all substantive issues in international economic relations for the purpose of altering the existing structures of international economic relations on the basis of the new international economic order. Global issues — whether they related to the development of the developing countries, to food, energy, raw materials, commodities, trade, industrial development, etc. — could not be settled within narrow regional or bloc frameworks without the participation of all members of the

international community and without co-ordinated policies; in other words, they could be solved only in those United Nations forums where all countries were represented.

55. The decisions to be taken at the outset of the new decade would determine the course of development for many years to come. There was increasing evidence that more intensive development of the developing countries, which were not only sources of raw materials but also markets of enormous potential, could be an important factor in the advancement of the developed countries as well, and an increase in the transfer of financial resources to developing countries could be of great benefit to both categories of countries. A more rapid development of the developing countries would enhance the dynamism of the world economy and help to eliminate the causes of social and political unrest, while strengthening stability and peace. In spite, however, of a growing awareness of the interdependence and indivisibility of peace, security and world economic relations, the narrow-minded view still persisted that accumulated problems could be solved piecemeal within the existing system or with minor adjustments to it, as was clearly visible in the work so far carried out on the preparation of a new international development strategy and of global negotiations. The way in which the world situation evolved would depend to a great extent on the manner in which outstanding issues were resolved and on whether it was done through joint action and the convergent efforts of the international community.

56. While it was true that international relations had never been at such a crucial point, it was also true that never had there been greater possibilities for embarking upon a new course. The world had become more democratic; there was a sharper awareness of what international relations should be; there was greater readiness to establish a new system of international relations based on the elimination of all forms of dependence, and efforts to that end were better conceived and organized. The underlying drive was the determination of peoples to defend their independence and their right to free development, which had become the essential element of the new world equilibrium. The policy of non-alignment had translated that global aspiration into an organized movement for changing international relations by bringing new vital problems and new moral values to the forefront of active international life. Prospects had thus been opened up for the establishment of a peace-loving and stable world in which freedom, independence, progress and development would be accessible to all peoples and countries. The modification of international economic relations represented the testing ground for the realization of those objectives, which could only be achieved if a more active and responsible attitude towards over-all international relations was assumed.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*

## 32nd meeting

Wednesday, 9 July 1980, at 3.30 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.32

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)

1. Mr. BARAKAT (Jordan) said that, while inflation, recession, unemployment and other negative factors were undermining progress and jeopardizing the economic development and prosperity of all countries, their impact was most severe in the developing countries. Serious negotiations must be undertaken if that situation was to be rectified.

2. His Government expressed its appreciation of the survey of economic and social developments in the ECWA region, 1979 (E/1980/66), which correctly analysed the situation in Western Asia. ECWA members, particularly the oil-exporting countries, were providing more financial aid and playing an active part in international economic negotiations. However, rising demand for food, erratic production and a shift away from agricultural export commodities, coupled with drought conditions in some countries of the region during the last five years, had resulted in a constantly increasing deficit in the agricultural trade balance, which had risen from \$0.34 billion in 1970 to \$6.8 billion in 1978. The region currently had the highest *per capita* food import bill among the developing countries.

3. In its economic development, Jordan was stressing diversification. Agriculture, mining, industry and services,

including tourism, were given priority as productive activities. At the same time, social development, the role of women, the environment, the reform of the educational system, and science and technology, were receiving attention at the highest level. Expenditure for the 1976-1980 development plan exceeded \$2 billion, and it was estimated that for the new 1981-1985 plan it would exceed \$6 billion. Many industrial and tourist projects were executed by the private sector, but infrastructural and service projects and large-scale projects requiring extensive loans were undertaken by the public sector. However, the international economic situation was affecting Jordan's ability to get loans, as it was that of other developing countries. In addition, large sums had to be allocated for defence, owing to the political situation in the region. There was also a brain drain, which Jordan was trying to cope with through the co-operation of the countries of the region and international agencies.

4. Two matters mentioned in the ECWA survey deserved particular attention: one was that the countries of the region had been paying exorbitant prices for imports of goods and services, which offset the gain made from oil and other exports, the other that the countries of the region with no oil resources had financial deficits which would continue to hinder their development.

5. He wished to express appreciation to the international organizations for implementing General Assembly resolution 34/133 and co-operating with the Interagency Task

Force on assistance to the Palestinian people. Unfortunately, the Palestinians living in the occupied territories of Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank were not benefiting from that assistance. On the contrary, action was being taken to destroy the fabric of their society, including extermination through terrorism and bombing and discrimination against Palestinian and Arab women in the occupied territories. According to the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/35/227, para. 43), the Task Force had not been able to visit the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Israeli occupying authorities were planting settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and depleting their natural resources. It was not strange therefore that they would not allow anyone to visit the occupied territories. He hoped that the Council would take the appropriate measures for the implementation of its resolutions and that future reports of the international organizations would include more specific projects which would enable the Palestinian people to benefit from the assistance of all international organizations.

6. Finally, he endorsed the view that economic and social factors were interdependent.

7. Mr. THOMSON (Australia) said that economic pressures were not abating in the new decade. The major problem for nearly all countries was inflation, which led to low economic growth in general, depressed international trade and encouraged protectionism and resistance to structural adjustments.

8. In recent years, the developing countries had also suffered the effects of inflation, both directly and indirectly. Ambitious development programmes had sometimes generated internal cost pressures within their economies. They had also been subjected to external pressures from other parts of the world, mainly through rapidly rising prices of imports, particularly for oil. Narrowly conceived monetary, fiscal and wage policies in other parts of the world had often had adverse effects on the developing countries. In order to achieve high and sustained growth, they needed three things: financial stability, with the climate of confidence necessary to create an environment conducive to investment, production and growth; capital accumulation, requiring savings and investment; and foreign currency to purchase essential imports.

9. It had been argued that inflation could be used positively as a mechanism for promoting growth. It was contended that inflation redistributed income towards profits, increasing savings and diverting resources to investment, that it drew more resources into the growth process by its stimulating effect on economic activity, inducing substantial government investment to eliminate bottle-necks in the economy, and that it was self-liquidating because newly accumulated capital would produce consumer goods, which would eventually eliminate inflationary pressure. However, there was little evidence to support that argument and much to indicate that excessively expansionary policies carried out in unfavourable circumstances such as those currently obtaining had, through their inflationary consequences, many adverse effects on economic growth.

10. If inflation accelerated beyond a certain point, investment patterns would become distorted. Fixed investment in plant and machinery would suffer at the expense of short-term investment, because of uncertainty about the future. The level of savings was also likely to suffer, and domestic savers might tend to transfer their wealth abroad. It would be more difficult to attract foreign capital to fill gaps in domestic savings. There would almost certainly be foreign-exchange problems, with a worsening of the balance of payments as a result of capital outflows and declining export growth through loss of competitiveness. If the imbalance

was corrected by devaluation or increased protection, the cost of imported goods would be increased, contributing to the "cost-push" element in inflation and necessitating even tighter domestic anti-inflationary policies.

11. The harmful effects on developing countries of the worsening of their balance of payments were only too obvious. The foreign currency vital for growth had to be forgone, and cutting imports could have a negative impact on growth. The worsening of their balance of payments had also contributed to the heavy debt burden of some developing countries by forcing them to increase their international borrowing.

12. Many developing countries found themselves at the mercy of fluctuating economic conditions because of their dependence on export and import prices. International assistance could help to limit those fluctuations, but it could not eliminate them. Appropriate domestic policies were also necessary. There had been cases, however, where expenditure programmes embarked upon in good years had not been adjusted to leaner times. Such adjustments could be very painful and difficult, but borrowing from central banks and elsewhere to maintain expenditure programmes could boost the growth of the money supply and bring the balance of payments under pressure.

13. Apart from the obvious effect of imported inflation, developing countries faced many other problems due to inflation elsewhere in the international economy. Inflation could cause wide fluctuation in exchange rates, with adverse effects on world trade. Low growth in developed countries caused by inflation limited the export growth possibilities for developing countries; it also reduced capital flows to them. Fluctuations in the prices of primary exports caused instability of incomes in developing countries and led to uncertainty in planning future production levels. Inflationary pressures on budgets in the developed countries affected the level of overseas development assistance, and inflation reduced its real value to the recipient countries.

14. It was easy enough to describe the consequences of inflation in the world economy, but much less easy to indicate policies for overcoming it. Clearly, it had to be tackled at both the domestic and the international level, and at least three kinds of broad consideration must be taken into account in the formulation of a plan of action.

15. Firstly, firm macro-economic fiscal and monetary policies were required in developed and developing countries alike. Secondly, positive adjustment policies were called for, policies which, relying on market forces, would avoid barriers to capital and labour movement, as well as tariff and non-tariff barriers to freer world trade. Thirdly, the developed countries should accept the responsibility deriving from their preponderant position in the world economy and adopt appropriate policies, refraining in particular from protectionism.

16. The industrialized, oil-producing and non-oil-producing countries, together with the international agencies, must all work together if inflation was to be overcome. At the Summit Meeting held at Venice on 22 and 23 June 1980, the major industrialized countries had shown their awareness of the dangers and had signified their positive approach to the prospect of global negotiations within the United Nations. The international development strategy for the 1980s should indicate an agenda for action, suggest priorities and be a basis for a true international consensus. The recent successful outcome of the negotiations on the Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities gave grounds for hope that such a consensus would emerge.

17. With regard to the situation in Asia and the Pacific, some of the reasons for the region's instability during the

past year were, of course, not economic; it was hoped that they could be removed in a way which fully respected the sovereignty and independence of all Member States. Australia was optimistic about the long-term growth potential of Asia and the Pacific, where some countries had already made definite progress, but there was no disputing the immediate difficulties foreseen in the "Economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1979: recent economic developments, 1978-1979 (see E/1980/33)" for the region's developing economies, not least in domestic management. But the survey also contained useful suggestions in areas such as co-operation with other developing countries and the development of indigenous energy resources, and the growing readiness of ESCAP members to co-operate with each other and seek common positions on international issues would stand them in good stead. Australia would continue to play a full and co-operative role in the region.

18. Turning to the question of refugees, he paid a tribute to the great generosity of the United States of America in providing material assistance and offering places for resettlement. He also commended the agencies concerned, particularly UNHCR and UNICEF, and the voluntary organizations, especially ICRC, for their efforts, without which the refugee problem would have been overwhelming. Australia had for decades been a country of large-scale resettlement and would continue to be so in the face of the current tragedy. But it hoped that, in due course, the international community could look into the root causes of the crises being experienced. The broadest possible international solutions to the problem must be sought; more countries of resettlement must be found and the disproportionate burden borne by first-asylum countries must be eased. The whole procedure for relief needed to be reviewed and the responsibility shared equitably throughout the world community. The General Assembly surely had a role to assume there, and his delegation would support urgent consideration of the topic at its thirty-fifth session.

19. Mr. YU Peiwen (China) said that the progress of international economic development and co-operation during the past decade had been uneven. The adverse effects on the developing countries' economies of the inflation and economic stagnation in some major developed countries had emphasized the shortcomings of the existing international economic order and the need for its reform. Since the General Assembly's sixth special session, there had been some progress in efforts to establish the new international economic order, but no major advances had been made.

20. Of the difficult tasks to be faced in the remainder of the twentieth century, the first was to transform international patterns of production and trade. The price gap between primary and manufactured goods continued to widen, as did the gulf between rich and poor countries. The major developed countries controlled the main links of international trade and although the developing countries, since winning their independence, had to some extent managed to progress from their earlier status of single-product economies, their efforts were being hampered by the resurgence of trade protection in a few leading developed countries. The existing patterns must be reformed so as to enable the developing countries to join as equal partners in all major activities of the world economy.

21. As a result of worsening inflation and financial market fluctuations in some developed countries, the developing countries were facing a grave shortage of financial resources and a mounting burden of debt servicing. It was urgently necessary, therefore, to establish reasonable arrangements for the international transfer of resources and to bring the international financial and monetary systems more in line

with economic needs, and particularly those of the developing countries.

22. One obstacle to the establishment of the new international economic order was the prevailing institutional framework and decision-making procedure of some international institutions, which reflected the traditional concentration of power in a few developed countries. The developing countries had rightly appealed for the necessary reforms and adjustments.

23. The General Assembly, at its forthcoming special session, would adopt an international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade. The Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy had drafted the main parts of the strategy, although many issues remained pending, particularly with regard to basic targets and institutional changes, where no consensus had been reached. The new strategy should fully reflect the developing countries' determination to catch up with the advanced countries. It was hoped that the latter would appreciate the developing countries' urgent wish to change the *status quo* and to speed up development by means of joint efforts.

24. The General Assembly, at its thirty-fourth session, had adopted, on the initiative of the developing countries, an important resolution — resolution 34/138 — concerning global negotiations on co-operation in international economic development. Such negotiations were to be held in order to find a package solution on raw materials, development, trade, energy and the monetary and financial system. Problems had already been encountered in the preparatory work — for example, concerning the agenda and procedures — but in such an arduous task some setbacks were inevitable, and efforts should be continued with faith and perseverance. The recent success, after prolonged negotiations, in establishing the Common Fund for Commodities had shown what could be achieved. Farsighted people now realized that faster economic growth in the developing countries would not only promote world economic recovery as a whole but also combat hegemonism and strengthen world peace.

25. Economic co-operation among developing countries had progressed steadily in recent years, as was instanced by the achievements of many regional organizations in promoting collective self-reliance among their members. New regional organizations were emerging, and the raw-material producers' associations were providing those organizations and the developing countries with exchanges of information and experience concerning the exploitation of natural resources and the protection of economic rights and interests through joint efforts. His delegation warmly supported such efforts and was in favour of further co-operation among the developed and developing countries' regional organizations on an equitable basis.

26. The peace and stability essential for world economic development had been threatened, in recent years, by the growing expansionist ambitions of hegemonists great and small. The invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and Kampuchea had caused millions to flee those countries and had destroyed their economies. The dangerous state of affairs caused by those events together with provocative activities against Thailand and the hampering of relief work there, gave cause for serious concern. The efforts to question the representation of Democratic Kampuchea in the Council had ulterior motives; Democratic Kampuchea was a member of the United Nations, and its Government was the sole legal one of the country. The unjustified attempt to support the Heng Samrin puppet régime was also an attempt to camouflage the criminal occupation of Kampuchea, but it would be of no avail.

27. The prosperity and development of all countries were interrelated. A country must manage its own affairs well before it could contribute to mankind as a whole. China for its part had made great strides but had also learnt serious lessons during its 30 years of national economic construction. Its Government had recently introduced amendments to economic policy guide-lines and was currently formulating long-term development programmes aimed at modernization in socialist construction — which, in a country having such a vast terrain and large population, must be based on self-reliance, full mobilization of its natural and human resources and the development of production institutions and infrastructure suited to its specific conditions. China also wished for economic, scientific and cultural ties with the rest of the world, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, in order to speed up its own modernization. As its own economy developed, China would be better able to contribute, with other countries, to the establishment of the new international economic order.

28. Mr. TREHOLT (Observer for Norway) said that against a background of reviving political antagonism, economic difficulties provided an additional source of tension. The seriousness of the economic situation of the third world could not be exaggerated. An increase of 115 per cent in oil prices in 1979, combined with world recession and increased protectionism, was threatening the entire development process of the non-oil-producing countries, while the oil-producing countries themselves were seriously affected by inflation, currency instability and general uncertainty. In the OECD countries, economic slowdown and increasing unemployment had been forecast. The prospect of large-scale unemployment among young people was intolerable; the right to work was a fundamental human right. The unemployment problem must be given serious consideration at both the national and the international level.

29. In his statement at the 24th meeting, the Secretary-General had made proposals for what amounted to an urgent action programme for some developing countries. His delegation supported the basic idea of certain emergency measures. At its special session, the General Assembly might consider the possibility of selecting some agenda items for priority discussion within the framework of the global negotiations.

30. Adequate emergency measures, particularly for poor countries, would require a substantial increase in official development assistance. It was therefore important for the developed countries, in spite of their economic difficulties, to make serious efforts to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP, which Norway and very few others had already attained. Agreement on an early date for achieving that target would in itself generate additional resources in the short term.

31. His delegation fully agreed with the general tenor of the Secretary-General's proposals for increased investment in the development of conventional and renewable sources of energy in the developing countries. To blame OPEC alone for the sad state of the world economy would be an over-simplification. The present crisis had been partly caused by artificially low oil prices in the past, due to the power of the developed countries, which had given no incentive to develop alternative energy resources. However, oil was a non-renewable resource which, at the current rate of exploitation, would be exhausted in a matter of decades. Huge investment in alternative sources of energy was thus necessary to enable the world economy to adjust gradually to the post-oil era. A combination of measures designed to assist the developing countries to develop new energy resources and the developed world to find alternative energy

resources should be the key element in national and international development strategies; relations between developed and developing countries should be based on the pursuit of shared interests rather than confrontation.

32. The preparations for the forthcoming global negotiations had not so far given grounds for optimism about the ability to find common policies. Earlier mistakes in organization must be avoided; one huge conference producing a spate of resolutions would be of little use. The various issues should be dealt with by competent organs under the guidance of the main negotiating body.

33. General Assembly resolution 34/138 called for an integrated approach to all the five items it mentioned, on the basis of common interests and responsibilities. His delegation was ready to examine such questions as the value of assets, incentives for private loans and investment and volumes, terms and conditions for private, official and multilateral transfers of resources to developing countries. It wondered whether recycling problems could not be better managed by a more flexible use of the rules and procedures governing IMF and the World Bank Group.

34. Norway attached great importance to the work of the new international development strategy, which was an integral part of the efforts to establish a new international economic order. The strategy must achieve its main objective of speeding up the development of the developing countries. Although considerable progress had been made by the Preparatory Committee, some still unsolved problems would require political decisions, which his Government hoped would be taken at the special session of the General Assembly. In spite of existing economic difficulties, international development should be given the highest political priority. To accept a system under which progress in the developing world was merely a by-product of growth in the developed world was to acquiesce in the perpetuation of inequality and social injustice.

35. In conclusion, he referred to Norway's support for the work of UNICEF, to which it was one of the main contributors.

36. Mr. MAPP (Barbados) observed that the outlook for the world economy in both the medium and longer term was bleak. Economic activity throughout the world continued to be slack, as a result of generally high inflation; there had also been substantial changes in current-account balances, mainly because of the doubling of the price of oil since 1978.

37. In the developing countries, the very slight over-all increase in the growth rate had been mainly due to the performance of oil exports. Most of them, particularly the least developed, were witnessing either a drop in that rate or only minimal progress, together with a deterioration in the terms of trade. Moreover, the large rise in international prices had led to a major increase in the current-account deficits of most developing countries, especially the non-oil-exporting ones.

38. The developed market-economies, also plagued by inflation, were showing large shifts in their current-account balances. The result was an increasing trend towards protectionism, which discouraged investment.

39. His Government was deeply concerned at the failure of the international community to act together to reverse the decline which had set in since 1975. It believed that only through immediate, unified action could a catastrophe be avoided. For the developing countries in particular, the abstract concepts of economists reflected such tangible realities as starvation, malnutrition, under-employment, unemployment, poor health, poor housing and depleted social amenities. The standard of living in those countries

was constantly being reduced and the right of entire populations to exist was placed in jeopardy. The failure of the world community to promote international economic co-operation appeared to be due to a lack of genuine political will on the part of Governments to commit themselves to the necessary action and by the persistence of narrow national interests. The Council, and the United Nations system as a whole, must, as a matter of urgency, renew efforts to find lasting solutions to the current economic malaise.

40. If balanced and sustained domestic growth on a long-term basis was to be ensured, inflation must be reduced. Some large industrialized countries with above-average rates of inflation had taken measures to slow down monetary expansion. But more prudent fiscal policies were required in the developed and developing countries alike.

41. It was also necessary, as a matter of priority, to check the massive shift in the pattern of international payments balances, mainly due to oil price changes since 1978. Between 1978 and 1979, the adverse swing in the combined balance of the industrialized countries was expected to have exceeded \$80 billion, and the aggregate current-account deficit of the non-oil-producing developing countries was expected to have risen by more than \$30 billion to \$68 billion. A cyclical weakening in the demand for exports was expected to result in an even larger deficit of about \$80 billion for the non-oil-producing developing countries in 1981. In future, financing for those countries' deficits would be more difficult to obtain than in the past, in view of the uncertainty of additional official development assistance and the uncertainty concerning the future role of the international commercial banks. A number of developing countries would, moreover, find it difficult to meet the increasing costs and stringent terms of international credit. A comprehensive dialogue was required to deal with the problem. The Brandt Commission, on the question of energy, had called for an accommodation between oil-producing and oil-consuming countries to ensure more secure supplies, more rigorous conservation, more predictable changes of prices and more positive measures to develop alternative sources of energy. The four major elements which, in the opinion of that Commission, should be included in any international strategy for energy, could be endorsed by the international community, provided that genuine political will and commitment existed on the part of all countries:

42. Looking beyond the short term, it was clear that strong and active support should be given to increased investment in the field of energy, and his Government welcomed the decision to convene a United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

43. The protection of the developing countries, and particularly the poorest, against disturbances in the world economy was another matter of priority. The prospects for growth in trade and output of the oil-importing developing countries could be brightened if there were a major increase in official financial transfers on concessional terms, a readiness on the part of international capital markets to supply finance on concessional terms and a willingness on the part of the countries with a capital surplus to invest in such a way that those funds would be readily available for recycling in deficit-ridden developing countries.

44. His delegation welcomed the fact that IMF was prepared to assume an increasing role in the recycling of surplus funds, to lend in larger amounts than previously and — where appropriate — to go beyond previously established ceilings in relation to quotas. His delegation had taken note of the decision of the World Bank to make loans for multi-year adjustment programmes and further wel-

comed the Bank's decision to double its capital by some \$40 billion.

45. Noting that the General Assembly would shortly meet to discuss an international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade, he expressed serious concern that the two intergovernmental committees engaged in preparations for the special session were still far from agreement. General Assembly resolution 33/193 was explicit as to the kind of strategy required for the 1980s, as was General Assembly resolution 34/138 concerning global negotiations. The vacillation of certain countries, particularly the developed ones, in the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy and the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174, acting as the preparatory committee for the global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development, was difficult to understand. If the current session of the Council could galvanize the world community into exercising the necessary political will, it would have made a great contribution to the resolution of the economic and social problems with which it was confronted.

46. Mr. POUYOUROS (Cyprus) said that the main objective of global growth must be faster progress by the developing countries, particularly the poorest and those with special problems due to foreign domination, neo-colonialism or other forms of interference in their internal affairs. Other objectives should be the integration of developing countries in the international economic system on equitable terms and the eradication of mass poverty. World opinion must be mobilized to persuade Governments to take the necessary measures to combat inflation. In spite of the improvement in the educational systems of developing countries over the past 30 years, the target of free primary education for all was still far from being achieved. The reduction of unemployment was another important objective.

47. Over the preceding decade, national development plans had been successful in many fields, owing to the general prevailing climate of confidence. Nevertheless, results in some sectors, such as food production, employment and the eradication of mass poverty, had been disappointing. Considerable progress had been made in international co-operation, and developing countries currently took an active part in global decision-making. However, in the North-South dialogue, it was time for those with the wealth and power to move from resolutions to action, for the benefit of both sides. Massive investment by countries with surplus capital, for example, could alleviate the ever-increasing debt burden of the developing countries. Those countries should have a decisive voice in discussions on matters of vital concern to them, such as changes in the international monetary system. Similarly, energy problems must be solved to the benefit of all countries through co-operation and mutual understanding in the adoption of measures to economize energy and develop new sources, as agreed at recent summit meetings of the industrialized countries.

48. The success of development efforts depended not only on the economic situation but also on a relaxation of tension in the political sphere. Indeed, there could be no real economic progress until some countries were forced by the pressure of world public opinion to stop creating political tension by using the anachronistic method of foreign intervention, with its tragic economic and social consequences. Development in every country must be the outcome of the free efforts of its people, who thus established their right to a fair share of the benefits. The successful implementation of the new international devel-

opment strategy would lead to the establishment of a new international economic order. That would call for agreement in the forthcoming global negotiations on difficult but indispensable reforms and genuine co-operation between developed and developing countries.

49. Mr. CHEREDNIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) exercised his right of reply in respect of the remarks by the representative of China, which he considered to be a misrepresentation.

50. His Government's position with regard to Kampuchea had been set out in the statement made during the general debate (27th meeting).

51. As far as Afghanistan was concerned, his delegation considered it essential to point out that the slanderous

campaign concerning assistance to that country was the consequence of the failure by well-known imperialists and hegemonists in their attempts to draw Afghanistan into the orbit of their policy, and to create a threat to the USSR from the south. As had been stated by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the Afghan people must be enabled to build a new life in peaceful circumstances; the prerequisite in that connexion was the complete cessation of aggression against that country, together with guarantees against subversive action from beyond its frontiers.

*The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.*

## 33rd meeting

Thursday, 10 July 1980, at 10.50 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.33

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)

1. Mr. GERBASI (Venezuela) said that the Economic and Social Council's session was taking place in a very special context, at the end of a decade marked by recession in most industrialized countries, international monetary and financial instability and the relative impoverishment of the developing countries, and at the dawn of a new decade for which the outlook appeared to confirm the trends of recent years. The illusions on which development ideology had been based had disappeared; a period of growth in the world economy had been followed by an economic crisis of a structural nature, the most obvious symptoms of which were persistent inflation, worsening unemployment and recession. In the monetary sphere, the Bretton Woods system had collapsed, leaving only IMF, which was seeking to redefine its role in the light of new conditions. The major industrialized countries had been able to revalue their currencies in relation to the United States dollar, but, for the developing countries, the combined effects of the economic crisis, monetary disorder and the protectionist policies adopted by the industrialized countries had aggravated an already precarious situation. Only the member countries of OPEC, because of their solidarity, had been able to react to that situation.

2. He wished to refer to some of the observations and conclusions put forward by the Secretariat in the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980*. In his view, the distinction constantly made between oil-exporting and non-oil-exporting developing countries tended to detract from the importance of the problems shared by all developing countries. An improvement in the terms of trade with respect to a specific product or of a limited group of countries was not enough to make all the problems of underdevelopment disappear. Underdevelopment was a structural and historical phenomenon and not merely an aspect of the world economic situation. The positive impact of effective price protection for the commodities exported by the developing countries

was considerably reduced by the constant worsening of the existing industrial and technological imbalances between developed and developing countries. Furthermore, the authors of the *Survey* appeared to think that the rise in oil prices was the fundamental cause of inflation. However, it was common knowledge that the inflationary process had begun about the mid-1960s and become more generalized at the beginning of the 1970s, well before the first oil price rise in 1973. The price adjustments carried out in 1979 had scarcely compensated for the loss of purchasing power due to the depreciation of the dollar and inflation in the industrialized countries. The increase in oil costs unquestionably affected world inflation, but the scope of its impact should not be exaggerated. There was a considerable difference between the price fixed by OPEC and the price paid by consumers in importing countries; a large part of that difference was accounted for by taxes imposed by the Governments of those countries, which had an inflationary effect that should be explained to everyone. The transnational oil companies' insatiable appetite for profits also contributed to inflation.

3. The destabilization of the oil market was not the result of an arbitrary attitude on the part of the member countries of OPEC, whose output had been higher in 1979 than in 1978, but of the uncontrolled demand of the industrialized countries. It was they who should take action and adopt a new and less consumption-oriented way of life.

4. The fundamental causes of inflation must be sought in the lack of an appropriate long-term monetary policy, the creation of excessive domestic liquidity and various difficulties of a structural nature which had arisen in the industrialized countries, particularly declining productivity and the struggle for income redistribution.

5. The developing countries were the hardest hit by world inflation, because they had to pay higher prices for the durable goods, manufactures and foodstuffs they imported from the industrialized countries. Contrary to what had been stated at the Venice Summit Meeting, for example, the developing countries' large current deficit was not caused only by the rise in the price of oil, since petroleum products accounted for only 20 per cent of their imports. Those

countries were also affected by the deterioration in the terms of trade and the protectionist barriers which prevented them from developing their exports. Alleviating the financial burden of the developing countries was the duty of the entire international community. OPEC had set an example by establishing the OPEC Special Fund, to which it allocated increasingly large sums and which it had endowed with a legal status enabling it to become a flexible instrument for financial co-operation. Such measures should simplify the problem of recycling. However, the majority of the industrialized countries had not respected the commitment to devote 0.7 per cent of their GNP to official development assistance.

6. Economic co-operation among developing countries, another aspect of their solidarity, was becoming broader in scope. It was an effective way to change international relations and accelerate their economic and social development. South-South co-operation had acquired a dynamism of its own, as evidenced by the meetings at Mexico City, Arusha and Havana, and it had just received new impetus following the meetings of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Group of the Group of 77 on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries and the meetings held under UNCTAD auspices.

7. It remained for the developed countries to shoulder their responsibilities. In the new negotiations proposed by the Group of 77 on commodities, development, trade, energy and monetary and financial questions, an integrated approach should give specific results and stimulate action in favour of the developing countries. The participation of all the members of the international community should guarantee the immediate implementation of the decisions taken. In view of the seriousness of the current economic crisis, countries should redouble their efforts to seek concerted solutions. Egoism might well have harmful consequences, as had been proved by the recent failure in New York of the work of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174. However, pessimism must not be allowed to win the day: the outcome of the UNCTAD negotiations on the establishment of the Common Fund for Commodities had proved that, if the political will existed, the objectives sought could be achieved. Venezuela firmly hoped that such political will would prevail during the next special session of the General Assembly and that the agenda and procedures for the global negotiations, as well as the international development strategy, would be adopted by consensus.

8. The 1980s presented an extraordinary challenge. The international community must not only correct the shortcomings and errors of the past, eliminate historical imbalances and avoid rigid policies, but must also promote concerted action to lay the foundations for sustained independent development in the developing countries. A radical reform of the existing system of world economic relations was required. The establishment of a new international economic order had become much more than a legitimate claim; it was an urgent and pressing necessity. If a permanent solution was to be found to the current crisis, it must be recognized that the developing countries had an important dynamic role to play in the world economy.

9. Mr. WIIN-NIELSEN (Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization) described one of the main activities of WMO, the World Climate Programme, which could have an important economic and social impact. The four component parts of the Programme were the Climate Research Programme, the Climate Impact Study Programme, the Climate Data Programme and the Climate Applications Programme. Close co-operation between WMO

and the United Nations system had been established for the implementation of the World Climate Programme.

10. The basic programme of WMO was the World Weather Watch, which played a major role in observation, processing and transmission procedures forming part of the first global experiment under the Global Atmospheric Research Programme. Efforts had been made to increase existing observing capability, particularly by placing five geostationary meteorological satellites in position, and new processing activities had been undertaken, several centres having been equipped with new-generation computers. The Global Weather Experiment which had just ended was one of the largest ever carried out and had provided data of special importance which would be used by meteorologists for many years to come.

11. The Eighth World Meteorological Congress, held in 1979, had decided to strengthen the tropical cyclone component of the Programme. The cyclones which had devastated a number of regions in 1979 had demonstrated the need to increase assistance to affected member countries. The Typhoon Operational Experiment organized under the auspices of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee constituted a valuable step towards improving forecasting and warning systems in the region of Asia and the Pacific.

12. The priority areas of the Research and Development Programme included weather prediction research, extended range forecasting, research in tropical meteorology and climate change, as well as weather modification research, which included the implementation of a precipitation enhancement project.

13. Under the Meteorological Applications and Environment Programme, attention continued to be directed towards agrometeorological activities, as well as activities affecting aviation, atmospheric and marine pollution, industry, land-use planning and energy. In the field of energy, WMO was contributing actively to preparations for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. In all those areas, close co-operation was maintained with the United Nations, FAO, UNESCO, ICAO, IMCO and UNEP.

14. Activities under the Hydrology and Water Resources Development Programme were centred on technical projects within the Operational Hydrology Programme, the institutionalized co-operation of hydrological services at the regional and global levels and participation in the water resources development programmes of other organizations. The Eighth World Meteorological Congress had approved the concept and outline of the Hydrological Operational Multipurpose Programme, the aims of which included the improvement of technology transfer and of the quantity and quality of hydrological data.

15. Satisfactory progress had been made in the various fields of activity of the Education and Training Programme. The Technical Co-operation Programme continued to occupy an important place in WMO activities; assistance was provided through UNDP, by the WMO Voluntary Co-operation Programme and in the form of long-term and short-term fellowships financed by the WMO regular budget. The various large-scale projects under way included a project for the benefit of the drought-affected countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region. The value of the assistance provided to 79 countries through UNDP was \$8.2 million and \$4.3 million was provided through the Voluntary Co-operation Programme.

16. Mr. PICTET (Observer for Switzerland) said that his country, which had an externally-oriented economy, shared the apprehensions that all members of the Council clearly felt in view of the difficult situation facing the world economy.

17. No national economy was sheltered against the disturbances caused by the persistence of a number of major problems, five of which were of particular concern to his delegation: the energy problem, particularly the oil problem; inflation; the growth of protectionism; external imbalances, which had reached disturbing proportions in the case of a number of developing countries with a heavy deficit, and which resulted in priority being given to international recycling action; and persistent poverty, hunger and the refugee tragedy.

18. Those problems, which were obviously interrelated, were world-wide, but the developing countries were certainly the hardest hit. The Swiss authorities viewed the report of the Brandt Commission as an important contribution to the dialogue between industrialized and developing countries, and were broadly in agreement with the Commission's analysis of the situation; first, North-South relations were rightly considered in a global context and areas of interdependence were well highlighted; secondly, the report confirmed the existence of convergent interests which could lead to negotiated solutions; thirdly, it drew attention to the urgency of certain problems and to the economic reasons that justified the relaxation of certain traditional positions, with a view to the renewal of negotiation efforts; and, lastly, in drawing the dividing-line between a limited emergency programme and a longer-term programme, the Commission advanced the principle that the international community should direct its efforts to solving a limited number of priority problems in the present economic context.

19. Switzerland attached the highest importance to the forthcoming global negotiations, in which it hoped to take an active part. Precisely because of their global nature, the negotiations would provide an opportunity to give political impetus to the activities of the competent bodies and institutions of the United Nations system. At the same time, procedures should be adopted for increasing the technical support given by those various bodies to the work of the central body responsible for the global negotiations, without in any way encroaching on the respective fields of competence, which should remain clearly defined. The present state of the preparatory work showed divergencies over such procedural questions, and efforts should be made to remove them, without exaggerating their importance.

20. The Swiss authorities attached equal importance to the launching by the General Assembly of an international development strategy for the 1980s. They hoped that the difficulties remaining in formulating the text could be overcome.

21. Meanwhile, all countries must make every possible effort at the national level to combat inflation, to practise monetary self-discipline and, above all, to respect the principle of international free trade. Switzerland, which had consistently followed a liberal policy in that area, noted with satisfaction that the OECD Ministerial Meeting on Economic Policies, held in Paris in June 1980, had adopted the OECD Declaration on Trade Policy. That commitment was bound to have a favourable impact for the international community as a whole, and in particular for the developing countries.

22. Mr. PASTINEN (Finland) said that he wished to concentrate on two main issues: the situation of the world economy and the ability of the international system to respond to that situation. Those issues assumed particular importance, in view of the fact that the General Assembly was shortly to hold a special session on problems of international economic co-operation for development. In recent years, those problems had no longer had only an economic dimension but had become a central issue of international politics in general. A positive side-effect of

that situation had been a clearer understanding of the fact that, in a world of increasingly interdependent national economies, lasting solutions could be based only on common interest, as had been rightly emphasized by the Secretary-General at the opening of the Council's session (24th meeting) and also by the Brandt Commission in its interesting report published recently.

23. The problem of development had grown not only more acute but also more diversified; the existence of hundreds of millions of people with a living standard below the mere subsistence level represented a true international emergency situation. The same misery affected the massive and increasing flows of refugees. In view of the constantly increasing complexity of the world-wide questions to which the international community must find a solution in the 1980s in the fields of energy, food, the environment, population and social equity, it was understandable that it had proved difficult to define the objectives of international economic co-operation, particularly since, while the problem on a general level was the same for all countries, the form it took was very different for different countries or groups of countries.

24. From the point of view of the industrialized countries belonging, as Finland did, to OECD, traditional economic analysis no longer provided valid answers to the existing situation. As the *World Economic Survey 1979-1980* showed, when countries were faced with a concurrence of inflation, unemployment, high interest rates, rising prices for energy and raw materials, balance-of-payments difficulties, fluctuating exchange rates and stagnant production, it was difficult for them to adopt a national economic policy that would meet both domestic and global requirements. Most developing countries, particularly those dependent on energy imports, experienced the same difficulties, but even more acutely, and they had to cope with them with infinitely more restricted economic resources. Increased energy costs and world inflation had driven their balance-of-payments deficits to unprecedented levels.

25. Despite some useful results, such as the recent UNCTAD Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, the record of international negotiations in recent years was by no means satisfactory. The apparent inability of the international community to focus on priorities was, in particular, causing problems. The result had been a largely repetitive negotiating method which was inappropriate for dealing with structural issues.

26. He therefore wished to single out two topical issues of top priority for the international community: the global round of negotiations on international economic co-operation for development and the formulation of the new international development strategy for the 1980s.

27. The preparations for the global round were making disturbingly slow progress. The recent session of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 had ended in failure not only because of difficulties of substance but also because of the way in which the drafting of the agenda for the global negotiations had proceeded. Efforts to prejudge the outcome of the negotiations, and an over-rigid approach to procedures which meant that the role of the specialized bodies within the United Nations system would be excessively emphasized at the expense of the role of the United Nations itself, were, in particular, the reasons for the slow progress. It might be hoped, however, that by the end of August it would be possible to reach agreement both on the agenda and on procedures, since informal discussions had produced useful results that could be used at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly.

28. Energy was undoubtedly the key to the future development of the world economy in general. It was therefore to be hoped that, both within and outside the context of the preparations for the special session, producers and consumers alike would indicate a willingness to come to an understanding in that area.

29. The monetary issue was also fundamental; the difficulties in that respect were largely linked to the role of the United Nations, as opposed to the role of the specialized agencies, in the planned negotiations. The monetary problem undeniably occupied an important place in international economic co-operation, and consequently in inter-country relations, and should on that account be included in the global negotiations; it was also clear, however, that decision-making in the field of international monetary policy was the constitutional responsibility of IMF. In practice, such division of labour was also beneficial, since IMF was at present considering ways and means of making a constructive contribution to solving the problems of international economic co-operation.

30. While energy and monetary questions were clearly among the major issues for solution during the global negotiations provided for in General Assembly resolution 34/138, the negotiations could only be truly successful if the agreement to be reached at the special session was based on the conviction that the outcome of the negotiations should benefit all participants.

31. So far as the preparations for the new international development strategy were concerned, it was to be expected that, in view of its comprehensive nature, the strategy would give rise to the same difficulties as those encountered in the preparations for the global negotiations. Efforts should therefore be made in the consultations at Geneva to deal with all the other outstanding issues, so that the only questions remaining to be solved at the special session were those known to belong to the "final package".

32. Among the outstanding issues were the scope of the strategy itself and the target to be set for official development assistance. Those questions had until then assumed exaggerated political importance. On the first question, his delegation considered it entirely inappropriate to make the new strategy an exercise in economic forecasting, since it was primarily a normative exercise of establishing priorities in relations between countries. With regard to the second question, his Government had noted with satisfaction that a number of Governments that had lagged behind in their official development assistance performance had declared their intention of increasing their appropriations. His Government intended to reach the intermediate target it had set and was considering the establishment of a higher target in the context of the new international development strategy.

33. If the international community was to meet the challenge before it, the United Nations system must be better equipped to provide effective assistance to the developing countries. The Council, at its current session, had before it a note by the Secretary-General entitled "Comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system" (A/35/224 and Corr.1); his delegation hoped that that document would give rise to a thorough discussion of the fundamental policy issues of the aid programmes of the United Nations system. He would, for the moment, confine himself to observing that the Charter of the United Nations assigned to the Council the role of co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system in its field of competence; the need for co-ordination had increased in proportion to the volume and complexity of operations but the Council had unfortunately lacked the proper means and modalities to carry out its task. The report before the Council provided it with an opportunity to

consider the precise nature of those means and modalities for the future.

34. Mr. VENKATESWARAN (India) said that it was the developing countries that were most seriously affected by the current critical situation of the world economy. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal in his statement to the Council at the opening of the session for the adoption of an immediate programme of action for developing countries. That initiative, however, could not be a substitute for the long-term structural changes that were required in the existing world economic system.

35. Efforts over the past two years, particularly in the Group of 77, to draft a new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade and to launch a new round of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development remained deadlocked. The quest for solutions must continue but deliberations must not become a pretext for perpetuating the existing system of economic exploitation and the current imbalances in international economic relations.

36. On the eve of the General Assembly's special session on international economic co-operation for development, the inadequacy of the preparations was alarming. To ensure that the special session met the expectations of the international community, it was imperative for States to show political maturity and adopt the necessary decisions quickly. The developing countries were determined to renew the search for mutually acceptable solutions, but the dialogue must be without pre-conditions.

37. Interdependence was a reality and a commitment. It was also a dynamic concept calling for changes that would be impossible under present policies and modes of functioning. Proposals involving any change in the structure and functions of the existing system were received with suspicion and hostility, and were often interpreted as a demand for the creation of new institutions. The developing countries were demanding not new institutions but the reorganization of the system to deal with the problems arising from the current economic crisis. One hopeful sign was the successful outcome of the negotiations on the Common Fund designed to stabilize commodity trade, which had been the result of efforts by all the parties in a spirit of mutual accommodation. But success in the establishment of the new international economic order would depend on the reaction of developed countries to attempts to eliminate the flaws in the existing economic system. A negative attitude on their part would force the developing countries to strengthen their national and collective self-reliance. Although the flow of external aid had diminished and despite new barriers to trade and other structural handicaps, the developing countries had already achieved a minimum rate of economic growth. In fact, it was widely acknowledged that they had made a significant contribution to checking recessionary trends in the economies of the industrialized countries. The markets provided by developing countries for the developed countries' consumer goods, capital goods and technology were constantly expanding.

38. The developing countries' self-reliance also continued to grow. In India, for example, more than 15 per cent of total development expenditure had had to be financed externally during the 1950s; that figure had fallen to less than 12 per cent in the 1960s and to less than 8 per cent in the past decade.

39. The need to co-operate and to extend the concept of self-reliance beyond national frontiers was increasingly recognized by the developing countries. The non-aligned movement and the Group of 77 had both adopted programmes and guide-lines on economic co-operation among developing countries. The developing countries were con-

stantly exploring new opportunities and existing complementarities among themselves to exploit their development potential to the full through South-South co-operation. But the North could not escape the responsibilities that international interdependence placed upon it. His country hoped that the Western industrialized countries would have the foresight, the courage and the will to recognize and discharge their responsibilities at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly.

40. Mrs. de METZ NOBLAT (International Chamber of Commerce) said that there were three major problems calling for urgent world-wide action by Governments and the private sector.

41. In the first place, development in the developing countries must be encouraged through policies which stimulated private investment. According to figures recently published by OECD, official development aid during the past year had increased by an average of only 2 per cent. Conditions favourable to investment must therefore be created in the developing countries. To that end, ICC was taking an active part in the activities of the United Nations aimed at the preparation of a code of conduct for transnational corporations. In its view, the code should include the following principles: it should be voluntary, it should apply equally to all privately-owned, State-owned and mixed transnational corporations, and it should take into account the different situations of transnational corporations in the various countries in which they operated.

42. Secondly, new mechanisms for development must be created, combining action by Governments and private enterprise, which would allow the developing countries to benefit from the special expertise of the private sector. Aid must be provided for the infrastructure, the improvement of marketing systems and the transfer of technology and know-how. To that end, the ICC Council had in 1980 established a Development Policy and Services Board to promote contacts between Governments and the private sector to promote development. That Board would promote agrobased industries in the developing countries, help to resolve the problems of small and medium-sized industries in the third world and generally strengthen business organizations in developing countries. That initiative had been welcomed by a number of United Nations bodies. ICC was already implementing a vast programme of assistance to chambers of commerce in developing countries, in close co-operation with the International Trade Center UNCTAD/GATT.

43. The third problem was the crucial role of world trade. Although the agreements reached in the multilateral trade negotiations (the Tokyo Round) were an important step on the road to trade liberalization, there had been evidence in recent months of the increased use by Governments of non-

tariff barriers whose impact was as protectionist as that of tariff barriers. The ICC position with regard to trade and the developing countries was clear: the industrialized countries should accept a lowering of barriers to trade between themselves and the developing countries in order to encourage trade. Such a measure would result in a more efficient division of labour, thus enabling all countries to grow.

44. Mr. TERENCE (Inter-Parliamentary Union) said that, if international action in many economic and social spheres was to be effective, it must be carried out at the governmental and parliamentary levels. The activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which was composed of representatives of the parliaments of 90 countries, were concerned with problems dealt with by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and generally supported and promoted their efforts.

45. In the existing economic situation, it was clear that the Governments of the industrialized countries needed parliamentary understanding and support with regard to measures to be taken and in some cases, such as that of Italy, parliamentary initiatives and policies helped to facilitate participation in the dialogue with the developing countries. The members of parliaments in the developing countries could also contribute to the preparation and implementation of national development plans. The Inter-Parliamentary Union had therefore placed the third United Nations development decade at the centre of its immediate concerns. As a first step, the Inter-Parliamentary Council had prepared a recommendation for submission to the General Assembly at its eleventh special session, setting out the views of its members on the main problems that would have to be decided at the session. The recommendations made at that session would be carefully studied in September at the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, which would try to determine the areas in which parliamentary action and initiative could make an effective contribution to the success of the third United Nations development decade. As a third step, the Union would, with the co-operation of the United Nations Secretariat, organize a meeting of members of parliament attending the General Assembly, to deal with parliamentary action during the decade. In 1981, the Union would organize a regional inter-parliamentary meeting at Nairobi on population and development problems in Africa, with the co-operation and financial support of UNFPA, and would undertake joint action with UNICEF, with a view to promoting greater activity to help children in every country, particularly in the field of legislation. Also in 1981, an inter-parliamentary conference on energy, to be prepared in close co-operation with the competent departments of the United Nations Secretariat, would be held at Geneva.

*The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.*

## 34th meeting

Thursday, 10 July 1980, at 3.20 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.34

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### **General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments** (continued)

1. Mr. AL-QASIMI (United Arab Emirates) reminded the Council that the Secretary-General had referred in his

opening statement (24th meeting) to the difficulties which the petroleum-exporting developing countries were encountering in their efforts to diversify their economies and create a basis for autonomous development, such as difficulties of access to the markets and technology of the developed countries, inflation, currency instability and the uncertainty which prevailed in the world economy. The Secretary-

General had accurately described the situation with which some of the OPEC countries were faced.

2. The United Arab Emirates endorsed the demand of other developing countries for an open trade system; further liberalization of trade and structural adjustments in favour of developing countries. The Government of the United Arab Emirates would contribute directly and indirectly through the OPEC Special Fund to the Common Fund for Commodities, and appealed to all Member States in a position to do so to follow its example, considering as it did the Common Fund to be a key instrument for the attainment of the agreed objectives of the Integrated Programme for Commodities. The United Arab Emirates, whose economy was based on a sole commodity, fully recognized the negative consequences for a developing country of total dependence on export revenues and therefore gave priority to all measures aiming at the diversification of the economy.

3. With regard to financial resources for development, he expressed the hope that all developed countries would rapidly increase their official development assistance, with a view to reaching as soon as possible the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their GNP and doubling the flow of such assistance to the least developed countries. In 1979, the United Arab Emirates' commitments on concessional and non-concessional terms had amounted to more than 15 per cent of its GNP.

4. Several speakers had referred to the problem of energy. The United Arab Emirates, as a producer and exporter of oil, hoped that the international community would take effective measures to rationalize its oil consumption through energy conservation, the exploration of new energy sources and the improvement of existing energy systems.

5. His delegation was deeply disappointed by the negative attitude of the developed countries towards activities to support economic co-operation among developing countries, as proposed by the Group of 77 in the Arusha Programme for Collective Self-Reliance and Framework for Negotiations. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was the basic component of efforts towards the establishment of a new international economic order. The developed countries should therefore assist developing countries in expanding their co-operation with each other, strengthening their economic potential, accelerating their economic growth and improving their position in the system of international economic relations.

6. The Meeting of Experts of Developing Countries on the Reform of the International Monetary System had taken place in June 1980 at Abu Dhabi. Any reform of the international monetary system should take into account the interests of the developing countries; in other words, it should aim at restoring a high growth rate, stabilizing prices, bringing inflation under control, promoting a stable and flexible system of exchange rates, guaranteeing the equitable treatment of countries by IMF and increasing the transfer of financial resources for development.

7. In conclusion, he said that one of the pre-conditions for the establishment of a new international economic order was international political stability, notably lacking in the Middle East because of Zionist aggression and occupation, the establishment of Jewish settlements and the expulsion of the Arab people from Palestine. So long as stability was not re-established, the countries of the region would be unable to work towards peace and the well-being of their own and other peoples.

8. Mr. HERNÁNDEZ (Dominican Republic) remarked that 15 years had already gone by since the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its first session, had called for the establishment of a new international economic order to meet the needs of development, a process

which called for fundamental changes in international trade and in the sphere of financial transfers. While some improvements had undoubtedly taken place (such as the adoption of a GSP, the negotiating of some international commodity agreements, the fixing of assistance targets and, most recently, the establishment of the Common Fund for Commodities), the changes made in the world system to date remained far short of what had been required.

9. The arguments advanced 15 years earlier in favour of an equitable trade policy for development remained valid. Changes which had occurred on the international scene merely emphasized the urgency of the matter: inflationary pressures in the advanced market-economy countries, measures taken by the oil-exporting countries, the collapse of the monetary system and the gold fever. All had grave consequences, particularly for the developing countries, which now formed a united bloc in international bodies — the Group of 77 — and had succeeded in drawing attention to their problems and equipping themselves with two major means of action: their growing weight in the world community and the awakened consciousness of their peoples. The international community could no longer overlook the just and cogent claims of the third world.

10. In adopting its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, in 1974, the General Assembly had echoed the dissatisfaction of third world countries with the existing system of economic relations and their conviction that mere adjustment would not suffice to resolve their problems. The Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States had confirmed the idea that a new economic order was necessary, and the eleventh special session of the General Assembly to be held in New York would mark a fresh stage towards its establishment.

11. The changes which had to be made in the existing economic order concerned all countries, developing and advanced. For the latter, the changes would consist in remedying monetary instability and resolving the energy crisis, the age of cheap energy being a thing of the past. The Dominican Republic, which used more than a third of its export receipts to pay for its imports of oil and oil by-products, would endeavour to deal with that problem by concluding an agreement with its supplier, Venezuela. For the developing countries, changes in the existing economic order would affect those very systems which had slowed down growth and helped to accentuate inequalities. The sectors which suffered most from such unsuitable arrangements were those of commodity trade, the transfer of technology and the provision of financial resources through the international monetary system.

12. Restrictions on trade arising from the difficulty of obtaining access to the markets of advanced countries had been aggravated by the restrictive trade practices of transnational corporations and by the cost of acquiring foreign technology, which amounted to over 5 billion dollars. Shortcomings in the systems which linked the destinies of developing countries to those of advanced countries had not been compensated by the expansion of economic exchanges between the developing countries themselves or between those countries and the socialist countries.

13. The payments deficit of the non-oil-exporting developing countries (\$45 billion in 1975) had reached astronomical proportions in 1979. The international community had reacted by offering to those countries emergency financial assistance, the volume of which had, unfortunately, fallen short of their needs. But assistance was not a permanent solution, since it merely aggravated the foreign indebtedness of developing countries, which were in danger of

becoming eternal recipients of assistance. It was therefore necessary, in the sectors of primary importance for development, to carry through structural reforms which would enable developing countries to gain greater control of their own destiny and to participate in the decisions and systems which determined the progress of events.

14. The first stage would be to reorganize commodity trade. Then, as a second stage, it would be necessary to promote the industrialization of developing countries by opening foreign markets to their manufactures and facilitating their access to technology. That would be followed by the establishment of a new international monetary system, in which all countries of the world would participate and which would be supplemented by measures designed to facilitate the transfer of financial resources. Lastly, co-operation between developing countries would have to be reorganized in such a way as to strengthen their bargaining power vis-à-vis other countries.

15. As the new international economic order could only be introduced very gradually, by a constant effort to adapt and modify international economic relations, involving continuous consultations and negotiations, institutional machinery would have to be set up for that purpose within the framework of the United Nations. On the political level, it would be more and more important to avoid tension, social disturbances and instability in third world countries, since the developed countries could not hope to maintain a regular rate of growth and prosperity in a world where the vast majority were living in a state of unrest. The developed countries should bear that in mind in their response to the claims of the peoples of the third world.

16. Since 1978, the year in which the present constitutional Government had come to power, the Dominican Republic had entered upon an era of radical reform of its institutions, in which all the country's dynamic forces were taking part.

17. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the negotiations on the establishment of the new international economic order which were about to open would not culminate in a simple expression of aspirations but would lead to commitments and political instruments which would make it possible to put into practice the decisions agreed upon. Unless a development strategy accompanied by targets and commitments of universal significance could be drawn up, international meetings all over the world would go on adopting resolutions, decisions and conventions, while poverty, illiteracy and injustice continued to prevail.

18. Mr. POPOV (Bulgaria) noted that the second regular session of 1980 of the Council was taking place at a decisive moment in international economic relations, just before the special session of the General Assembly on the global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development. If the work was to be successful, development questions should be approached in the light of the current international situation. Bulgaria had always considered that development questions and the restructuring of international economic relations were linked to the strengthening of international peace and security. His Government had recently stressed that the problem of overcoming the backwardness of the developing countries was connected with the struggle for international peace and security and that millions of people wished to live in peace, with freedom to dispose of their natural resources. Bulgaria helped such countries to control their resources and their destinies.

19. As a result of the strengthening of détente and peaceful coexistence, the general situation had improved during the 1970s and it had been possible to create the conditions required to solve the problems of the developing countries, which were largely the result of their colonial

past. The will to establish a new international economic order had gathered strength and the Declaration and the Programme of Action on that subject had been adopted, together with the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, which was the legal and political basis for the restructuring of international economic relations.

20. Bulgaria was convinced that the world was heavily committed to détente and that the required conditions existed for the process to continue. However, the international situation called for urgent measures to halt the arms race and speed up disarmament. The Political Consultative Committee of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty had stated on 15 May 1980 that the necessary climate of confidence must be created.

21. Like other countries, Bulgaria regretted that little progress had been made on the new international development strategy and the global negotiations, which augured badly for the special session of the General Assembly. In fact, the world economic situation was getting worse, because the market-economy countries had been going through a crisis since the end of the 1970s, with a decline in the growth of productivity, increases in unemployment and rocketing inflation. The member countries of CMEA did not have such difficulties, which had a heavy impact on the developing countries that were still tied to the economic institutions of the capitalist world. According to UNCTAD, the external debt of the developing countries had exceeded \$350 billion at the end of the 1970s, and since the adoption of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, only the profits made by transnational corporations in the developing countries had increased. The outward flow of capital varied from \$50 billion to \$100 billion per year. There was cause for concern over recent protectionist trends in some countries and attempts at economic boycotting that were incompatible with the new international economic order and inconsistent with equitable and mutually advantageous co-operation.

22. The Declaration, the Programme of Action and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States were the basic instruments of the new international economic order and it was upon them that Bulgaria would base its position at the special session of the General Assembly and in the global negotiations. The new development strategy should try to normalize international economic relations on the basis of equality and mutual advantage, and discriminatory trade practices must therefore be brought to an end and the other artificial barriers to the development of trade relations removed. The strategy should also include measures governing the activities of transnational corporations in the developing countries, so as to prevent them from interfering in the economic and social life of such countries and in world economic relations as a whole.

23. As far as the global negotiations were concerned, as the socialist countries had stated, the developing countries must be helped by the restructuring of international economic relations. Bulgaria supported the draft agenda proposed by the Group of 77 for the negotiations and felt that all States should be able to participate in the negotiations and that the decisions should be taken by consensus. It was also in favour of restructuring international trade so as to raise the standard of living of all peoples. To that end, détente and confidence between States must be strengthened.

24. Bulgaria subscribed to the idea expressed in 1979 by the Executive Secretary of ECE that, in order to implement the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki in 1975, ECE should strengthen regional co-operation. The time had come

to act, and he could not but welcome the activities carried out by ECE to develop co-operation between East and West, particularly the high-level meetings on environmental protection and co-operation in the fields of energy, transport, trade, and so on.

25. His delegation reserved the right to speak again on other items on the Council's agenda. Like other delegations, it was opposed to the participation in the Council's work of the Pol Pot representative on behalf of Kampuchea.

26. Mr. ABDALLAH (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the current economic problems, inflation, unemployment and slow growth in the industrialized countries, called for a fundamental change in the world economic system which was dominated by the major economic Powers and was based on exploitation, domination and inequality. The system should be adapted to the needs and interests of all countries, particularly the developing countries.

27. Since the adoption of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the situation had worsened in the developing countries, where 780 million people lived in absolute poverty and 590 million in even worse conditions. The developed countries, which did not wish to modify the world economic system, were responsible. The Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174, in its capacity as preparatory committee for the special session of the Assembly on international economic co-operation for development had not been able to reach agreement on the agenda for the global negotiations to be launched at that session, because of the attitude of the developed countries, which wanted the negotiations to be devoted only to present economic problems and not to the reconstruction of the world economy. That approach was unacceptable; the negotiations must contribute to the establishment of the new international economic order and the progress of the developing countries.

28. In order to establish a more equitable economic order, it was essential to eliminate colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and zionism in South Africa, Namibia and Palestine. The material and financial assistance provided by the United Nations to the people of Palestine should also be better organized.

29. Since 1973, the information media had misled the public concerning the member countries of OPEC. Statistics showed that world inflation was not essentially due to the increase in oil prices, as the public was led to believe, but to the wasteful policies of the developed countries. Every year, inflation cost the OPEC countries hundreds of millions of dollars which they needed to diversify their economies. However, the OPEC countries continued to allocate a higher proportion of their GNP to the developing countries than the developed countries, which they had always provided with the oil required for their industrial growth. It was illogical that the price adjustments made by OPEC should be greeted by a storm of protest, when the prices of commodities produced in the developed countries were allowed to rise without a word. In fact, the world crisis was the result of the international monetary system, which had been deteriorating since 1971, and not of the rise in the price of oil, which was necessary to protect the natural resources of the OPEC countries. OPEC had agreed to discuss energy problems in the global negotiations, but in connexion with other world economic problems.

30. Since 1973, the OPEC countries had substantially increased their financial assistance to the developing countries, and in some cases it was over 10 per cent of GNP. They had also agreed to replenish the capital in the OPEC Special Fund. But that would not be enough to solve the financial problems of the developing countries. The devel-

oped countries ought at least to reach the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for official development assistance established in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and lighten the debt burden of the developing countries. However, in fact, on the threshold of the third development decade, it was evident that official development assistance, far from reaching that target, was even declining in real terms.

31. The ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 in March 1980 had marked a new stage in co-operation among developing countries, at the bilateral level or through OPEC, to achieve collective self-reliance and reconstruct the world economy.

32. Mr. NANJIRA (Observer for Kenya) said that, although the modern-day world was not ideal, the defeatist philosophies of determinism should be rejected. Men were responsible for the events which shaped the world and must therefore prevent the disaster for which the world economy appeared to be headed.

33. The 1970s and 1980s would go down in history as the decade of social unrest and economic instability, disturbances and crises. In the third world, 800 million people, or 40 per cent of the population of the developing countries, were living in absolute poverty and 1 billion people lacked at least one of man's basic needs. To remedy that state of affairs, the result of colonization, a "reverse transfer" of colonization should be introduced into the North-South dialogue, going from South to North.

34. The 1970s and 1980s would be remembered as the decade of great opportunities lost — "great opportunities" because of the many conferences organized by the United Nations and the recommendations and decisions to which they led; "lost opportunities" because the results of all those conferences fell far short of expectations. Similarly, the first two international development strategies had remained almost dead letters.

35. The Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation had tried for 18 months to reconcile the divergent interests of three groups of countries, the industrialized countries, the OPEC countries and the oil-importing developing countries, before disappearing in June 1977. Unfortunately, the negative attitude of the industrialized countries had once again led to failure. The Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174, set up to monitor the establishment of the new international economic order, had come up against the unwillingness of the North to compromise on its position and display the political will to fulfil its commitments.

36. A preparatory committee was currently working on the new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade. It would have to differ substantially from the strategy for the two previous decades and make radical structural changes in international economic relations, promote the development of the developing countries and achieve the objectives of the new international economic order. It would also have to ensure the active, equal and full participation of the developing countries in the decision-making process on international economic issues.

37. The new international development strategy was to be adopted at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly, to be held from 25 August to 5 September 1980. But the preparations had made scarcely any headway, because of lack of political will and firm commitment on the part of the developed countries. It was therefore to be feared that the special session might find its task too heavy, if the differences between North and South could not be settled before it opened.

38. Among the major problems that the new international development strategy would have to try to solve, he referred, in particular, to food and agricultural production (for which the minimum essential increase of 4 per cent per year in the developing countries would call for far higher capital investment than the \$10 billion reached in 1974) and energy (the "oil price revolution" being largely responsible for world-wide inflation and unemployment and the serious payment problems of the developing countries). In the current situation, it was essential to seek new and renewable sources of energy. Kenya had contributed a great deal to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, to be held at Nairobi in August 1981. During the third United Nations development decade, high priority would also have to be given to science and technology and to industrial development. The General Assembly should proclaim the 1980s the "Industrial Development Decade in Africa", as it had proclaimed the period from 1978 to 1988 "Transport and Communications Decade in Africa".

39. To ensure its development, Africa needed adequate financial contributions and the four special categories of the land-locked, the least-developed, the island and the most seriously affected developing countries should benefit from special measures. The developing countries themselves should strengthen economic and technical co-operation among them. Population and social development issues also had a considerable impact on development and all activities aimed at increasing social welfare were greatly encouraged in Kenya.

40. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of dialogue, not only between North and South, but at all levels: bilateral, regional and interregional; he reiterated Kenya's intention to ratify the Constitution of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a specialized agency and stressed that it was high time that the international community put an end to the economic scourge of the inexcusable gap between rich and poor, North and South.

41. Mr. SOLÁ VILA (Observer for Cuba) expressed the hope that the Council would be able to bring its task to a successful conclusion, in spite of the failure of negotiations on the establishment of the new international economic order and the continuing deterioration in the situation for the developing world.

42. The crisis, which had begun in the industrialized market-economy countries and spread to the developing ones, was not merely a passing phenomenon. It was the result of serious distortions in international economic relations, and restructuring the world economy was the only way to solve it. That was why the heads of State or Government of the non-aligned countries, at their Sixth Conference, held at Havana in 1979, had approved the idea of starting a series of global negotiations, the procedure for which had been clearly defined by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/138. That idea had been fought, and continued to be fought, by a large number of capitalist countries, including the United States of America, which resorted to all sorts of political machinations to defend the inequitable structure of the world economy and prevent the establishment of a new economic order. The developing countries must take advantage of their bargaining power and work to frustrate those machinations, which were designed to divide and weaken them. His delegation firmly opposed any attempt to impose upon them policies which would shift the consequences of a crisis which they could not solve on to their already fragile economies. United action on the part of the developing countries was more essential than ever.

43. At their Sixth Conference, the heads of State or Government of the non-aligned countries had outlined

important measures to defend the legitimate interests of the developing countries, stressed the inalienable right of the raw-materials producing countries to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and taken a position on a large number of problems (protectionism, staple commodities, restrictive trade practices, etc.), on which the survival of many of them depended. It would be recalled that at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, President Fidel Castro had asked for \$300 billion worth of additional resources (at 1977 prices) for the developing countries in the form of gifts and long-term credits at minimum interest over the decade 1980-1989. That request, which was part of the objectives set forth in the draft document on the new international economic order, had been endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/211.

44. The state of negotiations in the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 and the standstill in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy showed that the capitalist countries did not wish to negotiate seriously with the developing countries and were unwilling to renounce any of the advantages they derived from exploiting the natural and human resources of those countries, which for their part had shown moderation in an attempt to arrive at positive results.

45. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the struggle against all forms of discrimination and domination and supported the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa and their liberation movements. The international community could only feel outrage at the countries which continued to collaborate with South Africa, enabling it to increase its military potential and thus perpetrate acts of aggression, of which Angola was a recent victim.

46. At the same time, Cuba welcomed the success of the struggle by the people of Zimbabwe and noted with satisfaction that Zimbabwe would take part in the work of United Nations bodies.

47. Cuba also reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people's struggle for self-determination and noted with satisfaction that several international bodies were providing aid to oppressed peoples. In accordance with the humanitarian principles espoused by the United Nations, those bodies should intensify their co-operation with the victims of colonialism, racism and *apartheid*.

48. Mr. VO ANH TUAN (Observer for Viet Nam) said that the major advanced countries with market economies were arranging for the developing countries to bear the brunt of all the consequences of the crisis by strengthening protectionism and discriminatory trade practices. They were going so far as to use their economic power as a means of blackmail and pressure in order to limit multilateral assistance and to avoid honouring their trade commitments. The developing countries were consequently faced with increasingly unfavourable conditions, because the price of goods and services which they had to import was constantly rising, while the price of the commodities which they exported was decreasing. Their debt servicing was assuming proportions which greatly limited their capacity to import. At the same time, huge financial and material resources were being wasted on the arms race.

49. The struggle of the developing countries to establish a new international economic order was therefore more essential than ever. Those countries must combat imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and all forms of domination and hegemony, which were the major stumbling-block to their economic and social progress and jeopardized international peace and security. The developing countries were determined to assert their political and economic independence and their sovereignty over their natural

resources. Aware of the need to stress the strengthening of co-operation between themselves while developing economic relations with other groups of countries, an increasing number of them were coming to see the diversification of their economic relations with advanced countries, both capitalist and socialist, as an effective means to decrease their economic dependence on the great capitalist Powers. The next special session of the General Assembly should provide a good occasion to find a just solution to the world's economic problems, taking due account of the legitimate interests of the developing countries.

50. After its liberation and reunification, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam had devoted all its efforts to the reconstruction of its shattered economy. In order to overcome countless economic and social difficulties, the legacy of so many years of war, it intended to establish broader co-operation, not only on a bilateral basis with, in particular, the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the Nordic countries and several Western countries, but also on a multilateral basis through the United Nations, both in the humanitarian and in the technical field. It attached great value to bilateral and multilateral aid, which enabled it to make good little by little the terrible havoc brought by the war and to deal with natural disasters. His delegation took the opportunity to renew its thanks to Governments and the international organizations for their generosity.

51. Nevertheless, his delegation could not fail to draw the attention of the international community to the policy of unremitting hostility pursued by those who were responsible for ruining its country. Going back on its commitments, the United States of America had declared a total economic embargo on Viet Nam and was exerting pressure on international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to refuse to finance economic reconstruction projects, which was a serious violation of the rights of Viet Nam as a member of those institutions. The United States had also attempted more than once to use the food weapon against Viet Nam by opposing, without valid reason, the execution of certain projects, particularly a WFP project. That set a dangerous precedent for other countries which also required food assistance. His delegation denounced the policy of non-assistance, economic blockade and pressure practised against Viet Nam in flagrant violation of the rules of international law, the United Nations Charter and General Assembly resolution 32/3 on assistance for the reconstruction of Viet Nam. It fervently hoped that the international community, in accordance with that resolution, would step up its assistance and its co-operation in the reconstruction of Viet Nam.

52. Before it had even recovered from its ordeal, Viet Nam had had to face two frontier wars, in the south-west and in the north, as well as extremely serious natural disasters. Nevertheless, thanks to its own efforts and to bilateral and multilateral aid, it had gradually been able to overcome its difficulties.

53. Viet Nam attached great importance to co-operation with the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Kampuchea. As soon as Kampuchea had been liberated from its

genocidal régime, Viet Nam and the socialist countries had been the first to help the Kampuchean people to reconstruct their country. Viet Nam's aid to Kampuchea in 1979 had been estimated at the equivalent of \$56 million and would reach approximately \$62 million in 1980. It was to be hoped that the Kampuchean people would soon get their proper share of United Nations development aid programmes.

54. In exercise of his right of reply, he said that his delegation rejected the fallacious allegations of China, which were based solely on the fact that that country refused to admit the existence of a reunified, independent and prosperous Viet Nam, the major obstacle to China's age-old policy of expansionism. China wanted to use every means at its disposal to prevent Viet Nam from living in peace and devoting all its efforts to the work of reconstruction.

55. What was involved in Kampuchea was not so much the destruction of an economy as the destruction of an entire nation. China, which had provided the Pol Pot régime with the material, financial and technical means to devastate Kampuchea, had done nothing since January 1980 to help that country to recover. Viet Nam, on the contrary, had on three occasions spilled the blood of its sons to help Kampuchea to free itself from its many invaders, including China.

56. As to Kampuchea's representation in the United Nations, he declared that all Peking's machinations were doomed to failure. Sooner or later Kampuchea's seat would be restored to its lawful representative, the People's Revolutionary Council. China's plan was to transform the Chinese conflict with Kampuchea and Viet Nam into a conflict between the latter two countries and Thailand. Viet Nam's policy toward Thailand was extremely clear. Viet Nam wished to establish with Thailand, as with all the other countries of South-East Asia, peaceful and friendly relations based upon the principles of independence and sovereignty, so as to make that region one of peace and prosperity.

57. Mr. TE SUN HOA (Observer for Democratic Kampuchea), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, pointed out that Kampuchea's affairs were not Viet Nam's business and that if the latter was asking for aid to support its military efforts against its neighbours, it must do so on its own behalf and not on behalf of other countries, in any case not on behalf of Kampuchea. If Viet Nam really was concerned for the welfare of the Kampuchean people, it should withdraw its troops from the country, because their presence was the sole cause of the crisis.

58. There was nothing else to be added to the statement by the observer for Viet Nam. That country was requesting aid from the international community in order to maintain an army of 50,000 men in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and another 250,000 men in Kampuchea. Democratic Kampuchea wished to express the strongest reservations regarding Viet Nam's request for assistance in any form whatsoever, because that assistance was being diverted to military purposes.

*The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.*

## 35th meeting

Friday, 11 July 1980, at 10.50 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.35

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)

1. Mr. COREA (Secretary-General of UNCTAD) said that he was glad to be able to report to the Council that a number of major negotiations that had been under way within UNCTAD had now been brought to a successful conclusion. Earlier in the year, negotiations on the adoption of a body of equitable principles and rules to regulate restrictive business practices had been concluded multilaterally and consensus had been reached on the adoption of the United Nations Convention on International Multimodal Transport of Goods. In addition, a new international commodity agreement on natural rubber had been successfully concluded in October 1979 and articles of agreement on the Common Fund for Commodities had recently been adopted. Those achievements were most encouraging.
2. Negotiation on regulations on restrictive business practices had been launched after the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Nairobi in 1976, and success had been achieved after three years of intensive discussions. The regulations adopted would be forwarded to the General Assembly for adoption. The United Nations Convention on International Multimodal Transport of Goods had even earlier origins; negotiations had covered a period of six years. The Convention would be a legally binding agreement and would be an important contribution to the evolution of international law in the transport field. The establishment of the Common Fund represented a break-through in the implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities, since it would be the first international institution to be set up in that field. It had many features which were new, notably the pattern of decision-making incorporated in its constitution. Although the mere establishment of the Fund would not automatically bring about the transformation that was needed in the economies of the developing countries, it was an instrument for that purpose and under dynamic leadership could make a great difference to the situation hitherto prevailing in the world's commodity trade. He was sure that the Common Fund had the potential to evolve into a major institution.
3. The successes of UNCTAD in those areas showed that the United Nations system had the capacity to undertake and to accomplish successfully complex negotiations, some of them of a legally binding nature. Although the negotiation process had often been slow and difficult, partly because of the large number of participants involved, he was glad that efforts had not been abandoned and that eventually the heavy responsibilities placed on UNCTAD at the fourth session of the Conference had been successfully discharged.
4. Other important negotiations which were still under way concerned the adoption of a code of conduct for the transfer of technology. Although a large measure of agreement had been reached on the contents of the code and significant progress made on several chapters of it, two or three outstanding issues remained unresolved. He had entered into consultations with Governments, with a view to securing a resumption of negotiations on the code and hoped that eventually it would be possible to reach agreement.
5. The renegotiation of some existing commodity agreements had proved difficult; the United Nations Tin Conference had been adjourned, and in the case of the International Cocoa Agreement, the negotiating conference had failed to produce any results. If there were no successful renegotiations, the Cocoa Agreement would lapse and both the International Cocoa Organization and the fund for the financing of the cocoa buffer stock would have to be wound up. He had been holding informal consultations with both producers and consumers, and was glad to say that as a result of those consultations the International Cocoa Council had decided to postpone any decision on winding up the Organization until September 1980. He was encouraged by that development and hoped that a satisfactory solution could be reached.
6. Good progress was being made in UNCTAD in other important fields. Following the fourth session of the Conference at Nairobi and the fifth session at Manila, new impetus had been given to work on the question of economic co-operation among developing countries. Meetings of experts from developing countries had been held at both the regional and the interregional level to identify areas of priority, and as a result several possible areas for economic co-operation were being studied. Economic co-operation among developing countries represented the embodiment of the concept of collective self-reliance, which had been one of the basic themes of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order; UNCTAD intended to give it its fullest support.
7. Studies in the field of shipping were planned, attention being concentrated on how developing countries could strengthen their position in the world's merchant fleets. Work was also in progress on the subject of the problems of the least developed countries; he himself had been designated as Secretary-General of a United Nations conference on that subject to be held in 1981, preparations for which had already begun. UNCTAD was also engaged in studying the problems of land-locked developing countries and of island developing countries.
8. One of the new directions work in UNCTAD was taking as a result of decisions taken at the fifth session of the Conference was a study of how to establish a framework of international co-operation in the marketing, distribution and processing of commodities. Background studies on problems of marketing and distribution were already under way and would at the appropriate time be brought to the attention of member States. That aspect of the work of UNCTAD had gained added significance since the establishment of the Common Fund for Commodities, since the Fund should be able to play a significant part in assisting developing countries in their marketing and distribution problems.
9. At the fifth session of the Conference, the UNCTAD secretariat had been invited to make recommendations on

the subject of protectionism and structural adjustment. He was glad to say that the Trade and Development Board had decided that that question should be studied by a sessional committee on a priority basis in the course of its next session, in September 1980. In the area of finance, UNCTAD would be convening an *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental High-level Group of Experts on the Evolution of the International Monetary System at the end of July 1980. The developing countries had already held a preparatory meeting on that issue in recent weeks and he looked forward to a successful outcome to the work. He hoped that the expertise gained by the UNCTAD secretariat, as also by intergovernmental mechanisms, in the areas of work he had mentioned would serve to contribute to the success of both the new international development strategy and the forthcoming round of global negotiations.

10. Concern had been expressed by many members of the Council at the gravity of the current economic crisis, which was adversely affecting developing and developed countries alike. It was essential that the developing countries should be helped to solve some of the more immediate problems caused by that crisis, notably in regard to their balance of payments, if their development plans were not to be seriously undermined. The monetary system and the system of world trade that had served the world well for many years were proving inadequate to deal with the deep-seated problems facing the world economy and there was need for the reform and restructuring of those systems in the course of the 1980s. In that respect, the activities now under way in connexion with the new international development strategy and the global round of negotiations were of great significance.

11. Mr. STANOVNIK (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe) said that general economic conditions in Europe and North America had been characterized by a slow-down in economic growth, an accumulation of interlocking economic problems and a climate of general economic uncertainty with regard to the future. Against that background, it was gratifying to report that economic co-operation within ECE had been proceeding normally and had achieved a number of notable successes, particularly in the area of the environment. The High-level Meeting within the Framework of ECE on the Protection of the Environment, held in November 1979, had adopted a Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and a Declaration on Low and Non-waste Technology and the Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes. Important discussions had also been initiated on the prevention of water pollution, particularly transboundary and international water pollution. The Meeting had been attended by 21 Ministers and almost all ECE member countries had been represented. A remarkable feature had been the fact that, before the conclusion of the Meeting, the Convention had been signed by 35 participants. Work on the implementation of the Convention had started immediately after the Meeting and machinery for the implementation of the Declaration had been immediately set up. The Committee on Water Problems had proceeded to draft a declaration of policy on prevention and control of water pollution, including transboundary pollution, which had been adopted by the Commission at its thirty-fifth session.

12. No less important were developments in the energy field, which presented a major challenge not only to the ECE region but to the whole world. ECE had already developed international multilateral co-operation in energy, but mainly in the areas of primary and secondary energy — coal, gas and electric power. Only recently had the Commission included the general energy field in its work

programme. During the past year, it had initiated, with singular success, the collection of information in that field. He could recall no parallel to the promptness with which Governments had responded to the questionnaire requesting information not only on resources but also on existing and prospective energy policies. The information thus collected provided a firm basis on which to proceed. In the preceding year, there had been two meetings of the new body of Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Energy Problems, which had launched a new study, in which both secretariat and government experts were co-operating, designed not only to establish the basic facts but to lay down the lines for future co-operation.

13. He was particularly pleased to report that the work programme had been approved at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission and that the necessary legislative basis existed on which to proceed. The problems which might be the subject of a further high-level meeting on energy had been discussed by the Senior Advisers and the matter had been reviewed by the Commission at its session, but no definite decision had as yet been taken. Work so far carried out, however, indicated that certain problems were already emerging clearly which might require very high-level consideration, including the need for a more systematic exchange of information and for discussions on future governmental policies, relating to such matters as the interconnexion of energy systems and industrial co-operation, particularly on large-scale projects, for instance in gas. The special importance of East-West trade in energy was generally recognized. It was therefore particularly encouraging to note that, while planning for the future was still proceeding, practical work was already taking place. An important Seminar on Improved Techniques for the Recovery of Primary Energy Forms was to be held at Vienna later in the year and another Seminar on Technologies Related to New Energy Sources, to be held at Jülich, Federal Republic of Germany, would be the contribution of the ECE region to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

14. Major progress had also been made in the more traditional areas of ECE work, such as trade, transport and industrial co-operation. In spite of the prevailing adverse economic climate, East-West trade had been developing fairly satisfactorily; over the preceding four or five years, westbound trade in real volume terms had increased some 9 per cent per annum and eastbound trade by some 7 per cent per annum. The Commission had continued to carry out its traditional task of removing obstacles to trade but it had also achieved outstanding results in various areas of trade promotion, including industrial co-operation, on which a highly successful meeting had recently been held at Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

15. Turning to the implications of the Commission's regional work for global co-operation, he observed that recent General Assembly resolutions often called upon the regional commissions to co-operate in various undertakings. He regarded that as a most encouraging development. By virtue of the fact that the regional commissions had a very special role to play in the system of international organizations, being closer to "the final user", they could approach problems more specifically and pay due attention to their individual character. That translation of general principles into practical operational activities was, in his view, the specific characteristic of the regional commissions. They were also called upon to promote co-operation among countries which, belonging to a single region, tended to have a greater degree of similarity in their structures and, accordingly, in their problems. Greater unity in the world could be sought only through the recognition of diversity

and it was highly important that, in the regional commissions, that diversity was recognized and used in the building of global co-operation. He wished to state quite clearly that he did not consider the regional or decentralized approach to be in opposition to a centralized or global approach. The game was not one in which one player must lose if the other was winning; on the contrary, in the development process both partners stood to gain if one was gaining. That was the context in which the strengthening of the regional commissions should be considered.

16. With regard to the implications of regional co-operation within ECE for the rest of the world, and more particularly the developing countries, he considered the work that the Commission was doing in the area of long-term projections to be particularly important at a time when the world organization was approaching problems of the future from the structural point of view. As ECE worked in the economically most developed region of the world, all long-term trends and structural developments with which it was concerned were bound to be important for the rest of the world economy, and in his view it was extremely important that they should not be left to evolve spontaneously, but that deliberate policies, agreed intergovernmentally or internationally, should be brought to bear on structural developments in the world economy. He therefore regarded ECE work on projections as an important contribution to the establishment of the new international economic order and to the Council's deliberations at the global level.

17. Another development which had emerged particularly strongly during the past year was the technological exchange among ECE member countries, with the participation of the developing countries in the process. During the past year, participants from developing countries had attended 24 ECE meetings or seminars and it was particularly satisfactory that they had often played an active role and had not been mere observers. He strongly urged ECE member countries, when acting as hosts to technical meetings, to set aside a modest sum to cover the travel expenses of participants from developing countries. Those countries would be greatly assisted and the work of the Commission would be enriched. Another highly important development on similar lines was in industrial co-operation. Hitherto, it had been mainly an East-West process, but, as the Plovdiv seminar had shown, there could be fruitful co-operation on a tripartite basis involving co-operation between East European and West European enterprises with enterprises in the developing world. It had long been a matter of concern and perplexity to him that tension had developed on the North-South axis over transnational corporations, whereas in Europe, which was the most diverse part of the world in terms of systems and ideologies, industrial co-operation was developing with very little tension. It could be that the lines on which industrial co-operation had developed between East and West had a lesson for other areas and could provide a key to the solution of certain North-South problems.

18. He was sorry to say that co-operation in the Mediterranean, where the ECE region bordered upon the developing regions of West Asia and Africa, had not proceeded well, in spite of the efforts of the Executive Secretaries of the three regional commissions concerned.

19. Members of the Council were aware that ECE had received a particularly strong stimulus from the signing at Helsinki in 1975 of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. He was looking forward confidently to reporting to the Madrid review meeting on the Conference and it was his hope that the economic co-operation which had developed so harmoniously and successfully within ECE would make a modest

contribution to the improvement of the political situation in the region and in the world.

20. Mr. AL-ATTAR (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Western Asia) said that, although the past decade had witnessed a number of developments which had shaken the international economic structure and relations and compounded the problems of the developing countries, it had also given rise to new hopes and aspirations. Co-operation among developing countries had gained momentum, control over national natural resources had been achieved to a great extent, and a North-South dialogue had been set in motion, paving the way to the establishment of a new international economic order.

21. The ECWA region, like all developing regions, had suffered from the weakening of the international monetary system, the instability of exchange markets, protectionist trade policies and conditional aid, which had given rise to excessive inflationary pressures, widened the income gap between the industrialized and the developing countries and constrained development efforts in the third world. The region had emerged from the decade with development problems largely peculiar to itself: the rapid depletion of natural resources; the problematic availability of suitable investment outlets for oil-surplus funds; shortages in both indigenous skilled and highly-qualified manpower; increasing vulnerability to external forces; the persistence of inflationary pressures; growing intra-regional and intra-national economic disparities, structural imbalance and imbalance in economic diversification.

22. The basic features of the economy of the ECWA region were the predominance of the oil sector and heavy reliance on imports. Efforts to diversify the economy through industrialization were yet to have their full impact. With almost half the world's recoverable crude oil reserves, the region accounted for some 30 per cent of the world's crude oil production and 44 per cent of oil exports. In 1979, it had produced an average of 18.8 million barrels per day, a 15 per cent increase over the 1978 level. In mid-1979, its five oil-producing countries had accounted for 57 per cent of total OPEC crude oil production — an increase effected at the expense of their non-renewable resources in order to meet growing world demand. Those countries, accordingly, needed to strike a balance between the reasonable needs of the world economy and their own interests with regard to resource conservation. Old patterns of energy consumption were responsible for the current dilemma; a new approach would have to be made within the context of the new international economic order.

23. The predominance of oil in the economies of a number of countries in the region had influenced the pattern of development of the whole region: Oil revenues had enabled those countries to carry out ambitious development programmes, but in consequence of their limited absorptive capacity and limited possibilities for direct investment abroad, they continued to find themselves in a situation in which a substantial proportion of their non-renewable resources was being converted into eroding financial assets, and that despite heavy investment in their national development and the extension of financial assistance and loans to Arab and other developing countries.

24. As far as the other countries of the region were concerned, the oil economies had attracted a large number of skilled and highly qualified personnel, with the result that the host countries were able to satisfy some of their manpower requirements, while the countries of origin benefited from the consequent financial transfers. That spontaneous movement would require regional co-operation, in order to avoid negative social or economic effects.

25. The export/import ratio in the region had generally deteriorated until 1979, when oil prices had risen significantly. Exports were still concentrated on a few primary commodities, with oil heading the list, although there had been some diversification, particularly as a result of industrialization. The structure of imports, by contrast, showed the region's dependence on the outside world, not only for food and capital goods but also for intermediate and numerous non-food consumer goods. Only half the region's food needs were being met at present from domestic sources. The persistent deterioration in food security would have serious implications for the economy of the region, particularly in view of long-term trends in global food supply and population growth. The non-oil-producing countries in the region were particularly vulnerable to changes in world commodity markets. The basis had already been laid for the indispensable joint action at the regional level to cope with that problem.

26. The growth of total imports into the region had slowed down in the post-1974 period, except in 1977, probably as a result of the limited absorptive capacity of the oil-producing countries and of financial constraints in the non-oil-producing countries. Import expansion in the former had, however, been more rapid than in the latter.

27. The ECWA region provided a striking example of opportunities for co-operation based on the complementarity of natural, human and financial resources, helped by historical ties and cultural homogeneity. It was therefore natural to seek solutions for the region's pressing problems within a regional framework. Thus, the formulation of a food-security strategy, the co-ordination of financial policies and the development of natural and human resources had in recent years emerged as the main areas of regional co-operation. Close co-operation with other regions had also been achieved in recent years, resulting in the establishment of regional institutions and organizations, the setting up of joint ventures, and sizeable financial transfers from the major oil-producing member countries to many other developing countries.

28. The financial-surplus oil-producing countries had made important advances in interregional co-operation during the 1970s and a number of national and regional funds had been established to assist Arab and other developing countries. During the first quarter of 1980, those funds had extended loans and granted technical assistance amounting to \$150 million to Arab countries and \$220 million to other Asian and African countries. During the period 1973-1977, concessional aid flows from those countries had amounted to between 4 and 11 per cent of GNP, and in some cases had reached 16 per cent. That trend had continued in the latter part of the decade, with a significant increase in the proportion of aid to non-Arab countries and a marked rise in the proportion of aid channelled multilaterally.

29. The growth performance of the region continued to compare favourably with that of other developing regions. GDP had continued to grow, although there had been a general moderation of the exceptional trends that had characterized the mid-1970s, with the performance of the oil-producing economies remaining ahead of that of the non-oil-producing economies. The recent slow-down in growth had been felt more acutely by the latter group, mainly as a result of the insufficiency of financial resources.

30. The growth in output in recent years had not been accompanied by any significant structural change. The share of agriculture in total output had remained negligible in the oil-producing economies and low in some non-oil-producing economies. The relative regression in the position of agriculture, especially since 1973, was inducing a recognition of the need to develop that sector, particularly

where the potential existed. The increasing contribution of mining and quarrying to total output had been generally maintained throughout the decade. The contribution of manufacturing had ranged between 10 and 12 per cent and had reached 17 to 18 per cent in Bahrain and Jordan. The services sectors accounted for nearly half the total output in the non-oil-producing economies, while in the oil-producing economies their relative importance was about half as great.

31. In almost all countries of the region, investment expenditure had recently risen to a level of about one third of total output, mainly to the advantage of mining, quarrying and manufacturing, and had been concentrated in infrastructure and heavy industries. The allocation for construction had amounted to as much as two thirds of gross capital formation in most cases.

32. In the social field, disparities in the level of living, in access to employment opportunities and services, and in health conditions had continued to increase between rural and urban areas, and between countries. Migration to the towns was on the rise and rapid urban development was adversely affecting the quality of life in cities. Substantial progress had, however, been made during the 1970s, as reflected in a significant expansion of educational systems and a marked improvement in health facilities. Other sectors, however, such as housing and social welfare, were lagging behind.

33. Since its inception, ECWA had sought to promote regional co-operation and development, and its work programme for the 1980-1981 biennium was directed to that objective. It had carried out a number of activities relating to regional integration and development, particularly in the areas of agriculture, transport and communications, water, science and technology, energy and industry. Major studies on economic co-operation and integration and on the co-ordination of industrialization plans and programmes in Western Asia had been launched. A number of meetings had been organized by the Commission on such issues of basic importance in the region as the brain-drain, development planning, human settlements, environment and the international development strategy. The problems and requirements of the least developed countries of the region had continued to receive due emphasis.

34. The ECWA report (E/1980/29 and Corr.1) covered the proceedings of its seventh session. The issues discussed were reflected in resolutions on assistance in the reconstruction of Lebanon, the strengthening of the Commission's financial contributions account, the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, the establishment of a regional water resources council, the formation of an intergovernmental expert committee on the medium-term plan, the census of the Palestinian Arab people, the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people, and the International Year for Disabled Persons. Two other resolutions adopted by the Commission, on the inclusion of a programme on the environment in its work programme and a programme of action on agrarian reform and rural development, represented the region's growing concern with problems of economic growth and development.

35. He wished to express his gratitude to the Government of Lebanon, whose encouragement and generous support had enabled the Commission's secretariat to fulfil its responsibilities at its temporary headquarters. Lebanon needed and deserved all possible attention and assistance from the world community. The Commission would soon be moving to its permanent headquarters at Baghdad, a move which had been greatly facilitated by the generous assistance of the Iraqi Government.

36. Mr. ADEDEJI (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa) said that during the preceding 12 months the African region as a whole had not made any significant changes or improvements in its socio-economic development processes. Although developing African countries as a whole had achieved a growth rate of about 5.5 per cent in 1979, most of the non-oil-exporting countries had suffered a deceleration in their GDP growth rate. The 20 independent African countries classified as the least developed among the developing countries were particularly hard hit. Moreover, the impact of the world economic situation on the economies of the non-oil-exporting African countries had been devastating. Thus, Africa as a whole had been plagued by a whole range of economic problems. Over-all African economic performance, poor as it was, concealed a great deal of disparity among African States. For example, more than 40 African countries had achieved annual average growth rates of a mere 3.8 per cent.

37. The food and agriculture situation had undergone a drastic deterioration; food production and consumption per person had fallen below nutritional requirements. According to the Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture of FAO, there had been widespread unfavourable crop conditions in many parts of Africa in 1979. Many African countries were experiencing severe food shortages, and dependence on food imports was increasing rapidly.

38. The fundamental requisite for an improvement in the food situation in Africa was the political will to channel an increased volume of resources in agriculture, to carry out a reorientation of social systems, to apply policies that would induce small farmers to achieve higher levels of agricultural productivity, and to set up effective machinery for programme formulation and execution. The development of agriculture, however, should not be considered in isolation from the economic and social development processes. Emphasis should be placed on the latter aspect, without losing sight of the fact that in general terms the standard of living of the people was constantly deteriorating.

39. With regard to the manufacturing sector, output was far below all targets for the preceding two decades, owing to the industrialization policies pursued since independence and the failure to integrate the industrialization process with the food and agriculture sector.

40. The African region had not performed well in the field of foreign trade, because its trade pattern continued to be characterized by various concentrations: over 80 per cent of exports and imports were handled by only 12 countries of the region; export trade was concentrated on a relatively small range of primary commodities, and most of the trade was conducted with the developed market economies. Other adverse factors were the position of primary commodities in world trade, the small share of third world countries in imports of manufactures by advanced countries, the insignificance of the African region as an exporter of manufactured products, and the insignificance of the African region as an exporter of primary products and manufactures to third world countries. In its trade with the developed world, Africa received only a small percentage of the final price for the products it exported. The slow growth in intra-African trade was attributable to poor communications, trading practices and institutions geared to overseas trade, and the inconvertibility of African currencies.

41. During the preceding 12 months, there had been a worsening in the social and economic conditions of the region, which had been more hard hit than the other regions. The state of economic and social conditions in Africa gave cause for increasing uneasiness, confirmed by the bleak prospects foreseen for the region in global projections of the world economy. In a recent study undertaken by the

Washington-based Overseas Development Council, it had been shown that of all the third world regions Africa had by far the lowest indicator of the physical quality of life. It was for those reasons that the third United Nations development decade was of crucial importance to the ECA region. During that decade, Africa must lay the foundation for fundamental changes in the structure of its economy, and it was in that area that the ECA secretariat had concentrated its attention during the preceding three years.

42. Over the past year, the ECA secretariat had made tremendous efforts to work out a plan of action for the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of OAU in 1979, which had emanated from the development strategy for Africa for the third United Nations development decade, adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers in its resolution 332 (XIV) of 27 March 1979. At the threshold of that decade, the Commission's activities and the proceedings of its fifteenth session (E/1980/27, part II, sect. C) had been carried out in the light of the need to engineer a socio-economic transformation in Africa. With the adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU of the strategy, to be known as the "Monrovia Strategy for the Development of Africa", and the Declaration of Commitment on Guide-lines and Measures for National and Collective Self-reliance in Social and Economic Development for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, to be known as the "Monrovia Declaration of Commitment", also proposed by the ECA Conference of Ministers (resolution 398 (XV)), the way had been cleared for the translation of the Strategy into an operational plan of action. Fortunately, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU had also decided to hold an extraordinary session of the Assembly devoted to the economic problems of Africa and had directed the Secretary-General of OAU to prepare the ground in co-operation with the Executive Secretary of ECA and the ministers of member States responsible for economic development. Those efforts had been in response to General Assembly resolution 33/193 on preparations for an international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade, particularly paragraph 9 of section II thereof.

43. A plan of action had thus been worked out for consideration by the African Heads of State and Government at Lagos in April 1980. The fifteenth session of the Commission (the sixth meeting of the Conference of Ministers), held at Addis Ababa in April 1980, had been the climax of a series of preparatory meetings, starting with the Inter-agency Working Group on Food and Agriculture, and including a special conference on the problems and prospects of the African least developed countries and a meeting of experts on energy that had been convened before the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole had met at Addis Ababa in April 1980. All those preparatory meetings had been organized jointly by the OAU and ECA secretariats.

44. The main outcome of the meeting of the Conference of Ministers had been the adoption of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, which it had recommended to the OAU Economic Summit Meeting at Lagos. The Plan aimed at achieving, first, the fundamental goal of the Monrovia Strategy and Declaration of Commitment, which was the establishment of self-sustaining development and economic growth, and secondly, the improvement of the standards of living of the mass of the African people and the reduction of mass unemployment. The first objective, in that connexion, was to avert food crises, and the second was to promote the development of the capital goods industries.

Proposals had been put forward in other vital fields. Most importantly, the Plan had raised the question of the mobilization of financial and real resources for its implementation. It had been felt that considerable domestic financial savings could be mobilized for reinvestment in Plan projects by both conventional and new measures and that, with regard to foreign exchange, there was room for savings in out-payments for a series of services. All those questions called for a scrutiny of the invisibles account in the national accounts. It had also been considered that the Plan could not succeed without the identification, specification, instruction or authorization of the principal indigenous, foreign and multinational agents and instruments required for its execution. Moreover, a great deal of political will was needed to ensure its success. In the face of the many adverse forces confronting it, such as industrial, technological and financial power, the region would have to call upon its inner resources once more. It must not wait for the new international economic order; it must help to create it. In the months ahead, the Plan would begin to be put into effect, but, contrary to what had been the case in the preceding two decades, Africa was well prepared for the third United Nations development decade.

45. During its fifteenth session, the Commission had adopted a series of resolutions and decisions (E/1980/27, part II, sect. D), among which the following were of particular importance: resolution 377 (XV) on the Pan-African Documentation and Information System; resolution 391 (XV) on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa; resolution 393 (XV) on the new Statutes of the Regional Institute for Population Studies, Accra, and the Institut de formation et de recherches démographiques, Yaoundé; resolution 397 (XV) on the role of ECA in the development process of the African least developed countries; and resolution 392 (XV) on the establishment of an African Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Some 20 other resolutions dealing with other vital sectors of socio-economic development had been adopted.

46. The period between March 1979 and April 1980 had been a time of challenge for the ECA secretariat. In co-operation with the OAU secretariat, ECA had succeeded in having the strategy for the African region approved by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, which had then adopted the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy and the Declaration of Commitment. It was significant that Africa had reached that position before the eleventh special session of the General Assembly and the launching of the global negotiations. It was incumbent upon the entire international community to understand the African position and to accord it all material and political support.

47. Mr. IGLESIAS (Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America) said that ECLA had made work relating to the preparation of the new international development strategy a focal point of its activities. The Latin American countries hoped that the instrument adopted for the third United Nations development decade would be such as to enable the region to demonstrate the significant contribution that it could make to the implementation of the new strategy.

48. The Commission was carrying out intensive work in the Caribbean. It was also seeking to promote co-operation between the Caribbean countries and the rest of Latin America, and was associated with other regional commissions in developing horizontal economic co-operation between countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

49. According to recent studies, the average GNP in Latin America had risen from 4.7 per cent in 1978 to 6.5 per

cent in 1979. The external sector had continued to grow dynamically. Exports had risen by 30 per cent over the previous year, generating a small surplus in the trade balance. Although the balance-of-payments deficit had reached \$23 billion, that had been largely offset by a record inflow of capital amounting to \$24 billion. It should also be noted that the rate of inflation had continued to increase, despite the efforts made by the various countries to reduce it.

50. A common denominator of the current economic situation was a feeling of generalized pessimism. There had been some good news such as the recent approval of the Common Fund for Commodities, but that could not entirely offset such negative developments as the deadlock relating to the forthcoming global negotiations, in which the Group of 77 had placed great hopes.

51. The international community had reached the end of an important phase in contemporary economic development. Some progress had been made, but there had also been frustrations. He was convinced, however, that remedies could be found for the structural crisis facing the international community. In recent years, the world economy had grown in an unprecedented manner. Inflation and stagnation formed a vicious circle, but inflation could not be attributed solely to the increased cost of energy. According to a recent report by the World Bank, the inflation affecting the industrialized countries arose mainly from domestic sources.

52. In the past few years, the Latin American countries had made important changes in their production structures, which had enabled them to make an economic breakthrough despite the protectionist trends that still persisted in the world. It was clear that the Latin American countries could play a valuable role in the world economy. The region was growing dynamically and could make a significant contribution to the rest of the international community in the economic sphere.

53. Structural changes were urgently needed at both the international and the national levels. It would be dangerous to assume that all the current problems could be solved by the international community, but it would be equally dangerous to go to the other extreme, since the social and political costs of adjustments carried out solely on a national basis could cause instability and have implications that transcended national borders.

54. The Latin American countries had therefore adopted a pragmatic approach. They recognized the need to devise adequate policies in the financial, monetary and fiscal fields, with a view to increasing the national capacity to save. They were also aware of the necessity of enhancing their export capacity to the maximum. Stress was also being placed on efforts aimed at import substitution in many Latin American countries. There must certainly be policies to reduce inflation but they must not be such as to cause painful social and political changes.

55. At the regional level, he drew attention to the efforts being made by CARICOM and the Andean Pact countries to revitalize traditional mechanisms of co-operation. In fact, one of the positive effects of the current crisis was the rediscovery of the co-operation potential of the Latin American region.

56. Structural adjustments in developing countries could not follow the orthodox models of the 1950s and 1960s; new techniques must be devised to facilitate such adjustments.

57. While private financial flows would continue to be an important element in international recycling, there was need for an intelligent association between public and private channels.

58. In conclusion, he said that the required changes would call for political will and the firm conviction that the international community could do much to break the current deadlock.

59. Mr. MARAMIS (Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) said that the current session was being held at a critical juncture in the global development process. The past decade had been marked by economic turbulence and unfulfilled promise, and the low-income developing countries had been those most seriously affected by the adverse economic conditions. At the threshold of the third United Nations development decade, the current session provided an opportunity to appraise the experience of the 1970s.

60. Above all, the 1970s had made it clear that interdependence among nations was growing and that many problems could not be solved without genuine collaborative efforts on the part of the international community. Recent experience, however, had shown clearly the inability of the existing international economic system to adapt itself to rapidly changing circumstances. The developing countries had every reason to feel disappointed at the virtual stalemate in negotiations. The problems faced by the developed economies had become an obstacle to progressive change, and as a result the world community was apprehensively contemplating an uncertain future.

61. In view of that situation, the Governments of the States members of ESCAP and the ESCAP secretariat had devoted considerable efforts to preparing a regional input for the formulation of an international development strategy for the 1980s. The documentation prepared by the secretariat had been carefully considered during the thirty-sixth session of ESCAP, held in March 1980. The report on that session (E/1980/26) defined the common nature of the problems confronting the developing countries of the region and emphasized the new domestic policy initiatives that would be decisive in providing solutions. At the domestic level, the primary problems were to attain and sustain increasing levels of agricultural and industrial output in order to mobilize fully and use effectively available resources, to pursue a greater measure of self-reliance and to ensure a more equitable distribution of income and wealth, as also a greater participation of all in the process of development.

62. The report placed particular emphasis on the vital role which would have to be played by the international community in attacking those problems. Three major areas of reform required particular attention. In the field of international trade, there was need for the comparative advantages of the trading partners to be fully reflected in the system, thereby enhancing the gains from trade to all participants. The best use of the abundant human and scarce material resources in the developing countries would continue to be frustrated if artificial barriers to trade impeded access to markets. Secondly, there was need to examine the existing procedures and processes by which developing countries gained access to technology, particularly that possessed by transnational corporations. Thirdly, there was need for a greater flow of resources to developing countries. The resource requirements for the attainment of even the minimal socio-economic objectives sought by the developing countries of the ESCAP region were beyond the capacity of those countries themselves to harness. A freer and more equitable international trading environment would in itself enable the developing countries to generate more resources for development.

63. The theme of collective self-reliance was rapidly emerging in the ESCAP region as a complement to domestic policy initiatives, on the one hand, and North-

South co-operation, on the other, in devising development strategies for the 1980s. There was an increasing awareness of the need to exchange information about common experiences and to develop a new institutional framework to facilitate economic and technical co-operation among developing countries both at the regional and the subregional levels.

64. Subregional differences in the rate of development, the pattern of structural change, and specific problems had led the developing ESCAP countries increasingly to recognize their subregional commonalities and to search for subregional approaches to development strategies for the 1980s. For instance, chronically low growth rates had been the common source of the problems confronting South Asian countries. In addition to their shared mass poverty and common development priorities, those countries had tended to apply similar socio-economic policies, particularly those emphasizing a greater degree of self-reliance, in their development plans. There appeared to be great potential for collective action by those countries to accelerate their development. The joint exploitation of their shared resources, including watersheds, industrial raw materials, technology and markets, offered a particular area for further work.

65. In contrast, the countries in East and South-East Asia had over the past decade constituted the fastest growing group in the world. As a result of rapid export-led industrialization, those countries had seen dramatic structural changes both between and within production sectors. Despite those changes, and partly because of them, major problems continued to plague the development process. Built-in dependence on the developed countries for technology and capital inflows and for markets for their outputs left them heavily dependent on external factors. In addition, their reliance on the market as a stimulant for growth had left a variety of social welfare issues unresolved.

66. The island countries of the South Pacific faced many common problems. Their remoteness from world markets was a serious barrier to the infusion of technology and capital and reduced the international competitiveness of their products. The sequence of oil price rises in recent years had severely increased their economic isolation. The distinct common features of their problems had already led the island countries to search for means of collective action. Beneficial measures were at hand in such fields as the joint exploitation of maritime resources, the promotion of tourism and the pooling of infrastructural facilities to generate a substantial acceleration in the rate of development of the subregion.

67. There was considerable scope for the exploration of effective means of employing the concept of collective self-reliance to promote development at the subregional level, but such initiatives should be closely co-ordinated with action at the regional level, partly because of the greater capacity of the member nations collectively to tackle certain issues at the regional level and partly because various issues requiring collective action were common to countries cross-cutting ESCAP subregional boundaries.

68. Lagging growth in agriculture continued to be a critical factor in the poor economic performance of most of the region's low-income countries. A regional plan of action in that sector should place considerable stress on measures to ensure food supplies in times of emergency, to work out buffer stock arrangements as a means of stabilizing prices for key agricultural exports, to provide access to adequate supplies of fertilizers and to develop the vast potential for river basin development.

69. The energy problem had reached crisis proportions in a number of countries of the region. Regional action could

assist member States in the development of their programmes to cope with the problem. International action was required to provide technical and financial assistance with which to develop existing traditional energy supplies, to locate new energy sources and to develop alternative energy sources. Collective action could also assist member countries in adopting appropriate policies for energy conservation and in the development of less energy-intensive and more employment-oriented technologies. Action at the regional level could include the co-ordination of national energy development programmes, the research and development of new and cheap energy sources, and training facilities for national energy personnel, as well as other means for the transfer of energy-related technology.

70. The role of transnational corporations would continue to be important in the 1980s. Efforts should be taken at the regional level to increase information flows on the activities of those firms as a means of improving the bargaining positions of host countries. Joint efforts could ensure access to such potentially less costly alternative mechanisms for technology transfer as the use of engineering consultancy firms, turnkey projects, licensing arrangements, and education and training opportunities.

71. The major problems affecting the international trade of the developing ESCAP countries in recent years had been the instability of export commodity prices, non-tariff barriers in the developed countries against the import of primary commodities, and tariff structures in the latter countries which taxed processed primary products relatively more heavily. Other problems were caused by increased protectionism in respect of the manufactured goods in which the developing countries had a comparative advantage, the structural characteristics of existing markets and generally deteriorating terms of trade. International action aimed at reducing the magnitude of that cluster of intertwined problems was urgently required. Given the virtual stalemate in international negotiations, initiatives at the regional level would appear to be one of the most accessible means of generating progress in that field.

72. One dimension of an attack on that problem area lay in the matter of self-reliance at the regional level. Regional

self-reliance could include the mutual granting of trade preferences, co-operation among State trade organizations, the establishment of multinational marketing enterprises, co-operation in the transfer of technology, and the sharing of world trade information. All that required the creation of a new trade-supporting infrastructure in transport, communications, insurance, finance and information to replace the existing system. While trade among developing ESCAP countries and between them and other developing countries had been on the increase, greater efforts by member States would be required to expand those trade flows. Nevertheless, a firm groundwork to facilitate the further development of intra-regional trade had been laid by such institutional arrangements as ASEAN, the Asian Clearing Union and the Bangkok Agreement.<sup>1</sup> The exploitation of the potential that existed would require planned co-operative efforts on the part of member States at both the subregional and the regional levels to ensure that all parties benefited.

73. The list he had given of fields of action available to the ESCAP region in implementing the international development strategy for the 1980s was by no means complete. Nevertheless, the basic point had been established: the 1980s presented a great challenge to the ESCAP region, and collective action at the subregional and regional levels could play a leading role towards achieving the objectives of the third United Nations development decade. The continually growing numbers of those who lived in the despair of poverty were not only an anomaly in a world which clearly had the technology and the resources to eradicate poverty, but were a stigma on the moral conscience of mankind. If the world community continued to ignore the need for practical measures to redress the plight of the underprivileged and was tardy in implementing them, it would do so at the risk of the grave political and social consequences that must inevitably arise from such a situation.

*The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.*

<sup>1</sup> First Agreement on Trade Negotiations among Developing Member Countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, done at Bangkok on 31 July 1975.

## 36th meeting

Friday, 11 July 1980, at 3.30 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.36

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)

1. Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria) said that although over the past two decades the developing and industrialized countries alike had arrived at a clearer understanding of the causes and effects of the world economic situation and a clearer awareness of their own interdependence, the hopes raised by the adoption of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order had not been realized. The theory that the development of the third world would automatically follow from the prosperity

of the developed countries had proved fallacious, and there was evidence that the developed economies were as much dependent on the developing countries as on their own technology and know-how. Yet after more than five years of active negotiations between North and South, the developed countries had still not recognized that it was in the interests of all to rectify existing injustices through structural adjustments, financial and monetary reforms, fair prices for raw materials and the transfer of adequate resources. Indeed, the majority of the developed countries still appeared to consider such measures as an unwarranted erosion of well-earned privileges and to be reluctant to negotiate at all.

2. For too long the so-called energy crisis had been made a scapegoat. As far as oil was concerned, the important

facts were, firstly, that the supply was finite, and secondly, that it had in the past been wasted by the industrialized countries. Moreover, although stockpiling policies and spot-market operations had finally worked to the detriment of those countries, the real burden was borne by the poor nations. Oil itself still accounted for only one fifth of the total imports of the non-oil-producing developing countries; the cost would be manageable if it were not for the higher prices they must pay for their essential imports from the industrialized world. The effects of inflation, though felt generally, were nowhere more devastating than in those countries whose terms of trade had deteriorated dramatically. The world-wide inflationary cycle provoked by the politically motivated fiscal and monetary policies of the industrialized countries had jeopardized the orderly expansion of world trade and slowed down economic growth; high rates of unemployment were inevitable and there was a real danger of increased protectionism. The effects of current uncertainties were most glaringly manifest in the least developed countries; faced with huge import bills, declining export revenues and mounting debts, they were obliged to devote a substantial percentage of the total balance-of-payment financing which they obtained to servicing those debts and offsetting losses due to the deterioration in terms of trade.

3. The African continent, which contained 20 of the world's 31 least developed countries, and had already suffered so much from colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism and *apartheid*, was in a particularly desperate plight. The effect of unfulfilled promises of global development had been felt more sharply in Africa than elsewhere; the net result of successive strategies had been a stagnation rather than an improvement of the economic situation. For that reason, the Plan of Action launched at the second extraordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, held at Lagos in April 1980, which was based on a realistic assessment of the African situation, was of the greatest importance.

4. The Council could help the international community to readjust the structure of the world economy by encouraging the early conclusion of agreements on all commodities and the liberalization of trade, by stimulating assistance to the poor countries in the development of essential infrastructure and by promoting a reversal of the current decline in official development assistance through the transfer of resources on a non-discriminatory basis.

5. The Council could assist the General Assembly at its eleventh special session by urging the re-examination of a number of issues, including the question of special categories of developing countries. The Committee for Development Planning could be authorized to identify the economic sectors in the developing countries that were most seriously affected by the current crisis, with the aim of assisting each developing country — by means of both bilateral and multilateral aid — to eliminate specific sectoral problems.

6. His country set great store by the outcome of the special session. The United Nations was undoubtedly the most appropriate forum for the discussion in a comprehensive manner of the issues raised by the Group of 77, together with others. Needless to say, Nigeria supported the "package agreement" approach adopted by the Group of 77.

7. Mr. AL-SHAMMA'A (Iraq) said that responsibility for the failure of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 to reach agreement on the agenda and rules of procedure for the forthcoming global negotiations lay with the industrialized countries, which had adopted an intransigent position on matters of vital importance to the developing countries. In proposing

that the various issues should be referred to the different specialized agencies for negotiation, and in opting for short-term solutions, they had taken a position entirely opposed to the spirit of General Assembly resolution 34/138 and at variance with the interpretation of the Secretary-General, who — in his statement to the Council at the beginning of its current session (24th meeting) — had called for long-term solutions and lasting institutional changes. Their attitude nullified the efforts by the Group of 77 and placed the global negotiations in jeopardy.

8. His delegation wanted the negotiations to be conducted in a comprehensive manner by a central organ in New York and would oppose any attempt to separate the different areas delimited in General Assembly resolution 34/138. It had been surprised at the accusations levelled by the industrialized countries and certain others against the oil-producing countries, claiming that the weakness of the world economy, particularly in the third world, was due to the increase in oil prices. The fact that the developing countries, which accounted for 70 per cent of the world's population, consumed only 16 per cent of the world's energy, and that the entire African continent had accounted for only 1.5 per cent of the total world consumption of oil in 1977, showed the fallaciousness of that argument.

9. The truth of the matter was that the growth of the developing countries was far more affected by stagflation and protectionism in the market-economy countries than by the price of oil. Had not a study by the World Bank indicated that a swing of 1 per cent in the GNP of the OECD countries would lead to a swing of 0.85 per cent in the same direction in the developing countries?

10. The industrialized countries also argued that their own inflation was due to the increased cost of importing energy resources. In that case, why in 1978 had countries such as the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan, which relied entirely on imports of oil, had an inflation rate of about 3 per cent, while the rate in the United States of America and the United Kingdom, which each possessed their own energy resources, had been of the order of 10 per cent?

11. The OPEC countries were, in fact, providers of aid to the developing world. Figures published by OECD in 1978 showed that those countries were giving 2.01 per cent of their GNP to the developing world, compared with 0.31 per cent given by the OECD countries. Moreover, OPEC aid was essentially directed towards the poorest countries, where *per capita* GNP did not exceed \$800. As far as multilateral aid was concerned, despite the fact that the OPEC countries were themselves developing countries, in great need of resources for their own development, they had accounted for about a quarter of the total, in comparison with the one third provided by the OECD countries.

12. The members of OPEC were simply seeking to obtain a re-evaluation of a raw material which, as their sole and limited source of wealth, must serve to secure their own economic development. They were aware that the world distribution of income resulting from the increase in oil prices posed short-term financial problems for certain developing countries, and that was why — notwithstanding their own needs — they had created an emergency programme of aid and were participating actively with other developing countries in negotiations with the industrialized countries, with the aim of establishing a new international economic order which would lead to a more equitable redistribution of wealth and to general prosperity.

13. Since the second regular session of 1979 of the Council, international economic relations had undergone important changes, and particularly at the Havana Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, where the idea of global negotiations had

originated and the developing countries had consolidated the principle of collective self-reliance. For its part, Iraq made economic co-operation between developing countries the corner-stone of its foreign policy, both in theory and in practice. The Iraqi Development Fund had been increased to an amount of 200 million dinars. Furthermore, President Saddam Hussein had proposed the creation of an international fund, to which the industrialized countries — irrespective of their social and economic systems — would contribute the equivalent of the annual rates of inflation they exported to the developing world, while the oil-producing countries would contribute the equivalent of the annual increase in the price of oil exported to other developing countries. That and a number of other proposals would be submitted to a summit conference of OPEC countries scheduled for late 1980.

14. During the past year, a political event with important economic dimensions had occurred in the Arab world, namely, the isolation imposed on the Egyptian régime as a result of its treacherous abandonment of the cause of the Palestinian people. The imperialists and their protégé, the Zionist entity, had mistakenly believed that the signing of the Camp David agreements would divide and paralyse the Arab world. The result had been quite the opposite. As far as Iraq was concerned, it would in future base its political and economic relations with other countries on their stand with regard to the Palestinian problem. Moreover, in a historic declaration which had been endorsed by the Arab Economic and Social Council, the Iraqi President had called for economic integration and mutual assistance between the Arab countries. The long-term strategy which he had devised envisaged an Arab world that was free from military alliances with other Powers; having no foreign bases on its soil and standing outside the struggles of the super-Powers, it would be able to conduct its affairs independently, to concentrate its efforts on economic development and to allocate its resources in the best possible manner.

15. The Government of Iraq consequently condemned the threats of military intervention in the region of the Gulf emanating from certain circles as being totally at variance with the efforts of the international community to establish a new international economic order for the benefit of all nations. Believing that in such a dialogue the Arab nations must speak with a single voice, it similarly opposed the attempts which had recently been made to divide those nations into separate zones.

*Mr. Xifra de Ocerin (Spain), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

16. Mr. RODRÍGUEZ ELIZARRARAS (Latin American Energy Organization) said that, in November 1973, the Latin American countries, realizing the need for joint action on energy requirements within the framework of the process of integration, had set up the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE). In July 1979, the Energy Ministers of the 22 States members at that time had met to ratify a joint action programme. Many of the steps necessary for action at the world level were already being successfully taken at the regional level by Latin America. For example, machinery was under study by the oil-producing countries of the region to ensure oil supplies to the relatively less developed Latin American countries. Bilateral agreements were being entered into for the orderly use of shared sources of energy and machinery was being set up within OLADE to enable member States to formulate consistent and realistic energy policies, moving from systems almost wholly based on oil to the use of both non-conventional sources of energy and conventional sources such as coal.

17. It was the objective of OLADE to free Latin America from technological dependence by making the maximum

use of the human, technical and institutional resources available in the region, including those of intergovernmental organizations and subregional bodies. OLADE had been given a mandate to co-ordinate all energy activities undertaken by such bodies, in order to avoid duplication of effort. It also undertook operational activities to lay the foundations for the sound development of the energy sector and to catalogue natural and human resources, paying due regard to efforts being undertaken in other sectors, such as the manufacture of capital goods, the transfer of technology and the training of personnel. He was confident that Latin America would be well able to satisfy its own future energy requirements.

18. OLADE recognized the need for inter-regional co-operation, particularly among developing countries, in order to improve North-South negotiations. It had received satisfactory support from OPEC in developing its programmes and had established joint activities with the Arab oil-producing States. It intended to establish contacts at the institutional level with other bodies in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. It had entered into a co-operation agreement with the European Economic Community. In general, such arrangements were mainly concerned with improving the co-ordination of the transfer of technology and ensuring that it was more suited to Latin American regional interests. OLADE was co-operating with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and with ECLA, in order to formulate a Latin American development plan in that important field.

19. Mr. BIRIDO (Observer for the Sudan) said that the forthcoming round of global negotiations assumed additional importance, in view of the gloomy forecasts of continued economic difficulties, which seriously affected developing countries, particularly the least developed. The basic objective of the new international development strategy should be the restructuring of international economic relations, including the immediate implementation of reforms in the field of trade, financial and monetary affairs and other sectors. Official development assistance by all developed countries, irrespective of their economic and social systems, should be increased to exceed the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP by 1984 at the latest and to reach 1 per cent by 1990. The strategy should include a special programme for the least developed countries, of a scope consistent with their national plans and priorities.

20. His delegation considered that the current economic problems were attributable more to failure on the part of some developed countries to take the necessary corrective measures than to the increase in oil prices. Growing protectionism and the deadlock in negotiations on the transfer of technology and the redeployment of industry might be cited as examples. The energy problem should be considered as part of a comprehensive approach to all the interrelated issues. Furthermore, an improvement in the economic situation of the developing countries would have a positive impact on the economic difficulties of the developed countries.

21. He endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal that, without prejudging the outcome of the global negotiations, a special operation should be undertaken for the benefit of low-income countries with serious balance-of-payments problems. His country also looked forward to the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and hoped that it would provide the means to achieve the structural reform of those countries' economies.

22. The Council might decide to refer the refugee problem to the General Assembly at its following session for consideration on the basis of burden sharing, as proposed by

the Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa, held at Arusha in May 1979. The Sudan, like many countries in Africa, was being seriously affected by the continuous influx of refugees. At its first regular session of 1980, the Council had appealed to the international community to ensure the success of the International Conference on Refugees in the Sudan, which had been organized by his Government and held at Khartoum in June 1980, with the collaboration of UNHCR and other international bodies. The Council had also requested the Secretary-General to send an interagency mission to the Sudan to assess the needs of refugees. The Conference, which had been attended by the representatives of many Governments, international organizations and voluntary agencies, had been successful in eliciting pledges of support for the Sudan in its efforts to alleviate the plight of the refugees. The United Nations interagency mission, which had visited the Sudan during the Conference, would shortly submit its recommendations to the Council. He was confident it would reach the appropriate decision on them.

23. Israel's naked aggression in occupying Arab territories continued to be a serious threat to international peace and security in the region and jeopardized the efforts of the States of that region to develop national and regional resources harmoniously for the benefit of their peoples. Lasting peace and security could not be achieved without the liberation of the occupied territories, the realization of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian State under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

24. Mr. DE ANGELI (World Federation of Trade Unions) said that the negotiations on the new international economic order were making no progress. The leading capitalist countries were endeavouring to preserve economic relationships which were unjust and harmful to international co-operation; they were entering a period of acute economic crisis, with falling production, increasing unemployment, monetary upheavals and the disorganization of trade, while the continual deterioration in the terms of trade of developing countries burdened them with an external debt which had serious consequences for their independence and economic and social development. A one-sided approach to the so-called energy crisis resulted in an overestimation of the impact of oil prices on the world situation. In point of fact, the capitalist countries had long had access to cheap energy, which they had wasted. The producer countries had been prevented from enjoying the benefit of their own natural resources.

25. The *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980* indicated that the capitalist economy had entered a very serious recession. With slackening economic growth, the militarization of the economy, unemployment and inflation, the 1980s would present for hundreds of millions of workers a serious threat to their economic, social and cultural rights and their democratic freedoms. It had been estimated that there would be 23 million unemployed in the OECD countries by the middle of 1981 and some 340 million in the developing countries still within the capitalist system. A system unable to guarantee the right to work was a failure.

26. Those developments were leading to an authoritarian approach to relations with workers in many developed capitalist countries, where Governments were challenging acquired rights: changes were being made in working hours, with dangerous effects on the employment situation, and reductions in social security benefits were being proposed in some quarters, with suggestions that the unemployed should engage in "voluntary work".

27. In November 1979, WFTU had proposed a trade union strategy to defeat unemployment, based on the following measures: a guarantee of the right to work both in law and in practice in all countries; a reduction in taxes, higher wages and other measures to increase the purchasing power of workers, so as to bring about increased demand, especially for consumer goods; a reduction in working hours without loss of wages, longer paid holidays and other improvements in the quality of life; the right of trade unions to be consulted at every level on all aspects of employment policy and on all economic and social policies affecting employment; an increase in public investment in social projects; greater international co-operation on the basis of the planned development of trade; the elimination of all forms of discrimination in trade and of domination by transnational corporations; support for United Nations action to stop the plundering of developing countries' resources and increase the finance available to them for development, particularly for the purchase of capital goods from developed countries; the ending of the arms race, the reduction of military expenditures and an initial 10 per cent cut in the military budgets of the big Powers, and conversion from military to civilian production, leading to the creation of more jobs.

28. The establishment of a new international economic order would break the system created in the colonialist and neo-colonialist periods and radically change the international division of labour in trade, science and technology, industry and the international financial and monetary fields. That new order would establish a basis for international economic co-operation in which countries with differing social and economic systems would all participate on a basis of equality, guaranteeing the elimination of all forms of foreign economic exploitation and, in particular, strict control of the activities of transnational corporations.

29. The WFTU bureau had adopted a resolution in May 1980 stating that the problems associated with the introduction of the new international economic order could be solved by developing solidarity among workers and trade unions of all countries. The conditions for the attainment of development objectives were radical socio-economic reforms, the mobilization of domestic resources, agrarian reform, industrialization, national sovereignty over natural resources, the transformation of international trade from an instrument of exploitation into a means for promoting the economic development of liberated countries, strict control over the activities of transnational corporations, the training of national personnel, and an end to the brain drain.

30. The IXth World Trade Union Congress, held at Prague in 1978, had drawn attention to a series of acute problems requiring attention. Primary commodities represented almost the total exports of many developing countries, but the earnings from them were falling in real terms, whereas the capital goods and industrial products they imported were becoming more and more expensive. Those countries were the victims not only of inflation and of the capitalist monetary disorder, but were also the object of plunder and speculation by transnational corporations, which frequently controlled the production or at least the marketing and processing of primary commodities and other basic products. The greatest importance should therefore be accorded to long-term trade agreements between States, enabling developing countries to carry out their modernization and industrialization programmes. Real co-operation in the industrial field required policies diametrically opposite to those of the existing system, which favoured multinational redeployment and over-exploitation of the work force of developing countries. Industrial co-operation should meet the need of newly independent States to establish an

industrial base to exploit their domestic resources for the benefit of their own peoples. The State sector should play an important part in such co-operation.

31. Participation in scientific and technological progress was also an important aspect of the new international economic order. WFTU condemned the attempt by international capital to keep scientific and technological progress for its own benefit. There could not be a real transfer of technology so long as transnational corporations simply transferred techniques which were already out of date, at exorbitant cost to the developing countries.

32. WFTU also condemned the imperialist use of food as a weapon to keep the majority of newly independent States in economic and political dependence. Problems of rural development and food production in developing countries could not be solved by partial reforms which did not bring about a fundamental transformation of rural life. Agricultural production and marketing must be reorganized and co-operation developed with a view to satisfying the essential needs of the masses.

33. He hoped that the third United Nations development decade would see an integrated economic and social approach to development and that the United Nations would provide the means to enable peoples to participate in decisions on matters concerning their development.

*Mr. Mavrommatis (Cyprus) resumed the Chair.*

34. Mr. SENE (Senegal) said that the short-term and medium-term outlook for the world economy gave no grounds for optimism. The decade just ended had begun with high hopes for the developing countries, but the beginning of the 1980s was marked by the slow growth and uncertainty resulting from the setbacks of 1978 and 1979. The average growth of GDP for the developing countries had fallen from 5.4 per cent for 1966-1973 to 5.2 per cent in 1978 and was expected to be 5 per cent for 1980. The non-oil-exporting African countries' present GDP growth rate, according to ECA preliminary estimates, was 3 per cent, compared to an average of some 4 per cent for 1970-1978. The consequences of the world recession, such as inflation and increasing balance-of-payments deficits, were being acutely felt in the developing countries, and the prospects for 1980 seemed even more uncertain. Falls in export earnings and long-term investment had obliged the poorest countries to adopt stringent fiscal and monetary policies, thus delaying many vital development projects.

35. The economies of the African developing countries depended chiefly on agricultural production, which had grown at a rate of 1.4 per cent between 1970 and 1978, while population had grown at a rate of 2.7 per cent; self-sufficiency in foodstuffs had thus diminished and food imports had risen accordingly. That situation had been aggravated by adverse climatic conditions in recent years and by ever-present plagues such as locusts. The East African countries alone would have to import almost 1.5 million tons of foodstuffs during the current year. The World Food Council, at its ministerial session at Arusha in June 1980, had appealed to all countries and international institutions for urgent assistance to that region — an appeal which his delegation reiterated.

36. Faced with the ever-increasing price of petroleum products and the recourse to protectionism by the developed countries, the developing countries had proposed measures to bring equity into international economic relations. The international development strategy for the 1980s should be aimed at correcting the present inequalities, which were mortgaging the developing countries' future. But preparations for it should not distract attention from the immediate problems faced by the developing countries. The Secretary-

General had suggested urgent measures by IMF and the World Bank to enable developing countries to finance their current balance-of-payments deficits and special assistance for low-income countries with serious balance-of-payments problems. If such measures could be speedily implemented, the pressure on those countries' fragile economies would be eased.

37. The developing countries had at times been reproached for proposing objectives which were said to be unrealistic, given the current state of the world economy; but, as the Secretary-General had pointed out, the extreme poverty faced by hundreds of millions called for more ambitious growth targets at all levels. The new international development strategy's chief purpose should be to restructure international economic relations and improve international co-operation. But it was hard to be optimistic about it when the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy had itself failed so far to achieve a consensus and the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 had not even agreed on an agenda and a time-table. It was to be hoped that the consultations begun by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee would help to break down some of the intransigence so far encountered. The new international development strategy and the global negotiations called for a new, integrated approach to the problems and the setting of priority objectives. His delegation hoped that the General Assembly, at its eleventh special session, would be able to agree on global negotiations which would have a decisive influence on the North-South dialogue. Some progress had already been made — as instanced by the conferences on restrictive business practices, on international multimodal transport of goods, and on the code of conduct for the transfer of technology, and by the Diplomatic Conference on the Revision of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. The UNDP Governing Council had agreed to raise the proportion of funds to be allocated to the most disadvantaged countries in the next programming cycle to 80 per cent. Efforts to establish the Common Fund for Commodities had finally succeeded.

38. The developing countries, whilst continuing to negotiate with the industrialized nations, were also co-operating among themselves in order to increase their collective self-reliance. The establishment of the West African Economic Community and the Economic Community of West African States were examples of the steps being taken towards a more integrated African economy.

39. The establishment of a new international economic order was unquestionably a long-term task; a great deal of political will and humanitarian feeling would have to be shown by all countries if the world was to secure peace and prosperity for future generations.

40. The PRESIDENT, referring to requests to exercise the right of reply, made a general appeal for moderation, both in such replies and in the statements to which they gave rise, and for the avoidance of political questions, which rightly belonged in other forums.

41. Mr. KAUFMAN (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the remarks made by the observer for Viet Nam (34th meeting) concerning the alleged economic disadvantages suffered by his country had been untoward. If that country were to redirect the funds and energies it was expending on aggressive acts against its neighbours towards its economic development, its position in world economic and financial affairs, and its development prospects, would improve considerably.

42. Mrs. GU Yijie (China), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the allegations made against China

by the observer for Viet Nam at the 34th meeting were groundless and had already been refuted many times. The fact was that China had not a single soldier stationed outside its borders, whereas Viet Nam had several hundred thousand troops in other countries' territories. Viet Nam's war against Kampuchea and its invasion of Thailand made it clear which country was the aggressor and expansionist. Viet Nam had also stepped up its provocative acts in the border areas of Kwangxi and Yenan and along other parts of its frontier with China, seeking Soviet support for its regional hegemony and trying to divert the international community's attention from Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea and Thailand and from the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan.

43. Mr. TE SUN HOA (Observer for Democratic Kampuchea), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was fruitless for Viet Nam to claim that Democratic Kampuchea no longer existed. With regard to Viet Nam itself, the Council had already heard more than enough evidence not only of that country's aggression against others but of its inhuman acts against its own people.

44. Mr. HASSAN (Egypt), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Egypt had stated many times that it made no claim to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people; it was up to the Palestinians themselves to decide their own future. In concluding the Camp David agreements, Egypt had done no more than put the Palestinian cause on the road towards a just solution. No one could deny Egypt's past efforts for that people, for whose full political rights it continued to strive.

45. Mrs. PHAN THI MINH (Observer for Viet Nam), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the negative attitude of China and the United States of America towards economic co-operation with her country contravened the principles of multilateral aid set forth in the various decisions of the Council and the General Assembly, and in particular General Assembly resolution 32/3 concerning assistance for the reconstruction of Viet Nam. History

would judge those who were responsible for such economic aggression against her country, and the international community could judge for itself whether Viet Nam, weakened as it was from years of war, could really indulge in the sort of provocative and expansionist behaviour against much stronger neighbours of which it was being accused.

## AGENDA ITEM 2

### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)\* (E/1980/L.43 and Corr.1)

46. The PRESIDENT reminded the Council that at its 23rd meeting the Government of Venezuela had orally invited the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to hold its sixth session at Caracas, immediately after the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held at Caracas from 25 August to 5 September 1980. The invitation had been confirmed in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, dated 16 May 1980. The sixth session of the Committee was currently scheduled to be held at Vienna for eight working days in September 1980.

47. In a note by the Secretariat (E/1980/L.43), it was suggested that the sixth session of the Committee should be held at Caracas for five working days (from 8 to 12 September 1980) and that the agenda should be shortened accordingly.

48. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council accepted the invitation of the Government of Venezuela and approved the provisional agenda for the session (E/1980/L.43, para. 7).

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/152).

*The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.*

\* Resumed from the 29th meeting.

## 37th meeting

Monday, 14 July 1980, at 3.20 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.37

### *Tribute to the memory of Sir Seretse Khama, President of Botswana*

*On the proposal of the President, the members of the Council observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Sir Seretse Khama, President of Botswana.*

## AGENDA ITEM 3

### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*)

1. Mr. XIFRA de OCERÍN (Spain) said that the growth rate of the oil-importing developing countries was far below the requisite minimum and that their economic growth was being hampered by the recession in the developed countries. As a result of the rise in the prices of oil and essential

imports of manufactures, many of those countries were in a state of permanent external deficit, their capacity for further borrowing being endangered and as much as 30 per cent of their export earnings being absorbed in debt repayment.

2. The industrialized countries were undergoing a sharp recession; the rate of inflation, which had seemed to be easing, was again soaring. The resultant recourse to protectionist and deflationary policies was creating serious socio-economic and political consequences for those countries, as well as upsetting the equilibrium of world trade.

3. Oil-importing countries at an intermediate level of development, such as Spain, were faced with gigantic annual increases in oil prices, on the one hand, and uncompromising barriers to their exports on the other. Their own efforts to conserve energy could not be carried beyond a certain point without endangering the industry they had so laboriously built up. Alternative sources of energy would

require enormous investment and, in the case of nuclear energy, pose social and political problems.

4. The world had been in constant economic crisis for the past seven years and might still be so in a further seven years' time. A basic cause of the crisis was undoubtedly the oil price rises since 1973; however, the crisis was not temporary but structural and could be solved only by a thorough reform of the world economic order. That was precisely what the United Nations was striving to bring about, with limited success so far. But the agreement reached on the Common Fund for Commodities gave grounds for some optimism; perhaps it would mean that the problem of the International Cocoa Agreement could be solved during 1980; the Fifth International Tin Agreement, which would expire in June 1981, could perhaps be replaced by one more favourable to exporters; and, above all, it was to be hoped that a new international wheat agreement could be concluded. Despite Spain's economic situation, its contribution to the Common Fund of \$6.14 million was the eighth largest from the countries of its group.

5. At its session held in September 1979, the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 had adopted a proposal by the Group of 77, according to which the global negotiations should include issues concerning raw materials, energy, trade, development and monetary and financial questions (A/34/34, annex 1, para. 2 (b)). However, the recent meetings of the Committee had achieved no real progress, despite a narrowing of differences on some points, and his delegation was profoundly disturbed at the failure to reach agreement even on matters such as the agenda and the procedure for the global negotiations and on whether they should result in binding agreements or simply recommendations. In Spain's view, the aim should be a consistent series of related agreements. But neither the problems that arose in that context, nor those connected with the new international development strategy, could be solved in the absence of political will. His delegation hoped that, at its eleventh special session, the General Assembly would look into the proposal made by the Secretary-General concerning a special financial operation for the benefit of low-income countries with serious balance-of-payments problems, which merited the support of industrialized and oil-exporting countries and of any others able to assist.

6. The failure of the latest meeting of the Committee of the Whole was the more regrettable in that the question of energy seemed likely to be among the topics for the global negotiations and the Group of 77 had evinced some flexibility with regard to the discussion of future oil supplies and prices. Three decisions were called for in that connexion. First, there must be some degree of certainty about future supplies and prices. It was quite right that the oil-exporting countries should obtain a remunerative price for a non-renewable product which was often their only source of wealth. On the other hand, the consumer countries, in order to carry out a minimum of budget and investment planning, must know beforehand the price and amount of their imports for a given period. Of course, those who imported goods from the industrialized countries were entitled to similar foreknowledge concerning manufactures. Secondly, there should be an international forum for the discussion of energy problems; the need for one had been felt for several years, although it had not been really voiced until the oil-producing countries themselves had gained control of supplies. Thirdly, a system of international financing was required for the development of conventional, new and renewable energy sources, mainly for the benefit of the oil-importing developing countries, but also for those at

an intermediate level which lacked energy sources. The Secretary-General had made a cogent suggestion in that regard. It was unthinkable that the Economic and Social Council should have to report to the General Assembly that it had made no effort to deal with that matter at the current session.

7. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that the world economy was in a critical state. Recovery from the 1974-1975 recession had halted, the international monetary system was faltering, no effective international food security system had been established, energy sources were becoming increasingly scarce, and the hopes embodied in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation seemed doomed to disappointment. It was sad to reflect that, despite the developed world's productive capacity, degrading poverty was still the lot of some 780 million people. It was particularly unjust that, because of inflation and protectionist measures in the developed world, the poorest countries were bearing the brunt of the problems. Their balance-of-payments deficits were expected to rise from some \$55 billion in 1979 to roughly \$68 billion in 1980, and they faced mounting external debts, which were currently four times the level of the early 1970s.

8. It was heartening to note that IMF would increase its assistance to the poorer countries. In the past, however, it had been of little help, having laid stress on "equilibrium" rather than the promotion of dynamic growth. At any rate, IMF had recognized that, during the past six years, the assisted countries had lost some \$80 billion on account of worsening terms of trade and had had to repay some \$60 billion in interest. Those countries were caught in a vicious circle of stagnation and disequilibrium, and the Secretary-General's appeal for a special programme of aid for them deserved immediate attention. Urgent action was needed to provide such assistance, preferably through regional institutions, if the developing countries were to sustain at least a minimum level of economic activity.

9. It was regrettable that the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 had arrived at an impasse on the global negotiations and the agenda for the Assembly's eleventh special session. It was, of course, hard for those in a favourable position to make concessions, but history had shown that countries which faced up to harsh realities in time were spared the more violent social and political upheavals suffered by those which did not. It was to be hoped that the global negotiations could be steered towards a successful conclusion. The regional commissions could play a greater role in that process. In connexion with the global negotiations, his delegation endorsed the Brandt Commission's recommendation, which represented the minimum action necessary. Total international development assistance did not exceed some \$30 billion, but the level of expenditure on armaments was currently more than 15 times that amount; if agreement could be reached to earmark about 10 per cent of armaments expenditure for development assistance, the poor countries' needs could be met to a very great extent.

10. It was unfair to lay the chief blame for the current situation on the oil-exporting countries. The fact was that oil prices in the 1950s and 1960s had been much too low and had led to a way of life too wasteful to be sustained, particularly in the Western countries. History would doubtless show the sharp price rises of 1974 to have been salutary. The ensuing problems had stemmed not so much from the higher prices themselves as from the failure to adopt fiscal and other anti-inflationary measures with due courage. The oil-producing countries' record was excellent, particularly since their economic resource was non-renewable and they had to transform their own countries' economies; the

official development assistance provided by those countries averaged some 2.5 per cent of GDP and in some cases was between 5 and 10 per cent.

11. Negotiations on the international development strategy should deal not only with the transfer of resources but with the adjustment of the international monetary system. Even the recently established Common Fund for Commodities was but a modest achievement in terms of the figures being spoken of in 1974—although the Fund would, it was hoped, become a major stabilizing factor in world commodity markets. Despite all recent developments, the paucity of the developing countries' resources remained glaringly obvious. For example, the attainment of a growth of merely 3.6 per cent in agricultural production would require an investment of some \$52 billion, of which \$13 billion would have to come from external sources. Unless serious steps were taken at once to remedy current ills, the years ahead would be marked by continuing economic decline, mounting tensions, increasing poverty and growing desperation. What the world must decide was whether it wanted to survive.

12. A number of references had been made during the debate to the conflict in Afghanistan in the wake of foreign military intervention. Pakistan had been directly affected by that crisis, and its position on the issue was well known. While providing, with help from the international community and in the spirit of Islamic solidarity, humanitarian assistance to vast numbers of refugees, it had scrupulously refrained from becoming involved in the conflict itself. In conformity with the principles stated in resolution No. 1 adopted by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers at its first extraordinary session, held at Islamabad in January 1980,<sup>1</sup> the Standing Committee of that Conference, comprising its Secretary-General and the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and Iran, had been authorized to hold consultations with all concerned, in order to seek a peaceful solution. It was Pakistan's hope that the Committee's efforts would meet with a positive response.

13. Mr. TE SUN HOA (Observer for Democratic Kampuchea) stated that his delegation fully shared the concern expressed by the Secretary-General about the prospects for the new international economic order. Despite the enormous difficulties which it was facing, his country was endeavouring to contribute to the North-South dialogue. It welcomed the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, which was an encouraging sign. However, if the quest for solutions to the problems confronting the international community was not entirely fruitless, it must be admitted that the results so far had been meagre. Despite their efforts to develop their economies and to maintain their sovereignty, the developing countries were far from achieving the prosperity which their endeavours merited, and the Brandt Commission had uttered a number of serious warnings concerning the threat to international political stability if there was no progress in economic co-operation.

14. In fact, whole regions of the world, and he was thinking of South-East Asia, the Caribbean, and East Africa in particular, were in a state of profound instability, largely as a result of the massive displacement of refugees. Those responsible for that human tragedy not only tried to place the blame for what was happening on their victims and on the countries which tried to help them, they threatened the host countries and, even more cynically, exploited the generosity of the international community by diverting humanitarian aid to their own belligerent ends.

15. His own country was suffering from the assaults of an aggressor whose expansionist ambitions appeared to have

no limits and whose only language was that of force and menace. Since its behaviour was in flagrant contradiction with the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of the United Nations, which required absolute respect for the principles of sovereign equality of independent States, non-interference in the internal affairs of others and respect for different economic and social systems, he believed that any request which it might make for assistance in any form should be denied. The problems posed by recession, inflation, unemployment and the energy crisis could not be solved until such deliberate trouble-making was brought to an end.

16. Recent events in Kampuchea had nullified all the enormous efforts towards national reconstruction made by the country since 1975. But despite what was becoming a regional conflict, the Government and people of Democratic Kampuchea continued to resist an army of occupation whose morale was undermined by wholesale desertions and by the deteriorating situation in its own country. Successes in the field had enabled the Government of Democratic Kampuchea to strengthen its position and to launch a new programme of social, economic and administrative development, the effects of which could be seen by the many journalists who visited the liberated zones. The Government had, in May 1980, reaffirmed its policy of peaceful coexistence with all countries, including its neighbour Viet Nam. Kampuchea bore no grudge against the people of that country; it would nourish no hatred, nor would it demand reparations, provided that the Vietnamese army left its soil in accordance with resolution 34/22 adopted by the General Assembly on 14 November 1979, thus permitting the people of Kampuchea to choose their own Government through a secret ballot under the supervision of the Secretary-General of the United Nations or his representatives.

17. The Kampuchean's sole desire was to live in peace and security, but, like their brothers in Afghanistan and indeed all the peoples of the world, they refused to live under foreign domination. They regarded their sacrifice and suffering merely as a modest contribution to the defence of international law and morality, without which peace, security and stability could not return to the region, and international co-operation for economic and social progress would be impossible.

18. Mr. GUNA-KASEM (Thailand) noted that the international community was confronted with a situation of multiple economic crisis, involving inflation, protectionism, and problems of money and finance, and energy. The current inflationary phenomenon was critical. The ills it caused were nowhere more painfully felt than in the poorer countries. Individual attempts by countries to come to grips with the problem were hampered by the fact that action which could reduce inflation also led in most cases to a decline in economic activity and hence to increased unemployment. The fight against world-wide inflation must therefore involve co-ordinated world-wide effort, in which the United Nations would have a leading role to play.

19. Protectionism was again rearing its ugly head on the pretext that the exports of developing countries took jobs away from the citizens of developed countries. The share of the non-oil-exporting countries in world trade was diminishing; for most of them, their only major exports were primary commodities, which were beset by the problems of unstable or low prices, inelastic demand and dependence on nature for a high level of production. The imbalance in the exchange of manufactured goods between the developed and the developing world was alarming. Moreover, protectionism prevented the developing countries from achieving

<sup>1</sup> See A/35/109-S/13810, annex.

a higher degree of industrialization and a substantial increase in export earnings. It also had a boomerang effect: unless they could export more, the developing countries were unable to purchase manufactures from the developed countries and thus help to sustain employment in those countries.

20. With regard to money and finance, the 1970s had seen large fluctuations in the value of major currencies, a general collapse of confidence and a considerable rise in the current-account deficits of non-oil-exporting developing countries, which now bore a staggering burden of debt. In fact, much of their export earnings had to be used to service debts rather than import the goods which were essential for their development. Moreover, the flow of official financial resources from the developed to the developing countries had remained depressingly lower than the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. In that connexion, the Secretary-General had rightly pointed out that urgent measures were required to assist low-income countries with serious external-balance problems.

21. As far as the energy crisis was concerned, the age of cheap supplies was over. Ways and means must be found of smoothing the transition to a more realistic price system.

22. Any global effort to deal with those crises would be effective only if it was based on the economic growth of the developing countries. The International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade had failed because too much stress had been laid on the developed countries, while the third world contribution had been neglected. The assumption that growth in developed countries would automatically stimulate growth in developing countries had proved false. Co-ordinated action by the international community must be taken to restructure the existing international economic framework on a long-term basis, along the guide-lines adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session.

23. At least three economic sectors were in need of urgent reform. First, the world trading system must be changed; steps must be taken to facilitate the international division of labour and eliminate protectionism. The products of developing countries, both primary products and manufactures, should bring fair prices. The successful conclusion of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities was a welcome sign of North-South co-operation, but more remained to be done on the marketing, distribution and processing of commodities, in accordance with the relevant resolution (124 (V)) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

24. As far as the area of money and finance was concerned, the existing framework established at the end of the Second World War was too rigid. It should be rendered more responsive to the financial needs of the developing countries, so as to permit a sufficient flow from the developed countries and their financial institutions to help the developing countries to finance the essential imports on which their economic growth depended.

25. Economic co-operation among developing countries was another hopeful area. It was greatly to be regretted that the efforts of the developing countries themselves to develop such co-operation were being obstructed by the developed countries, which were reluctant to support projects linked to that area of co-operation.

26. Stressing that the reforms which he had called for should form part of the new international development strategy for the forthcoming decade, he expressed the hope that current difficulties in preparing for the new round of global negotiations could be resolved. It should be pointed out that, given healthy third world economies, the devel-

oped world would be far better able to cope with the present recession. Indeed, the changes called for by the developing countries would be in the interests of all.

27. His delegation was equally hopeful that the planned United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy would produce tangible results.

28. Economic and social problems could not be dissociated from each other. In fact, the latter were in most cases a consequence of the former. He welcomed the fact that the World Bank and other agencies were placing greater emphasis on such matters as poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and rural migration.

29. Those evils were aggravated by the additional problem of refugees, which created an enormous burden for his country and others. Thailand, therefore, welcomed the successful outcome of the recent Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance and Relief to the Kampuchean People and wished to pay tribute to the international agencies working with refugees. It would continue to give assistance to refugees and to allow those wishing to return home to do so. The recent voluntary repatriation of Kampuchean refugees had been conducted under the auspices of UNHCR. The home countries, in turn, had an obligation to take their citizens back in.

30. Referring to the statement by the observer for Viet Nam on 10 July 1980 (34th meeting), he reiterated that Thailand was not a party to the conflict in Kampuchea. It was Viet Nam that had invaded a neighbouring country and committed an act of aggression against Thailand. Thailand's sole concern was to preserve the integrity of its own frontiers, and it did not threaten any of its neighbours. In response to recent incursions, the Thai Government, supported by the other members of ASEAN, had requested the Secretary-General to send a team of United Nations observers to monitor the situation along its border with Kampuchea, and he hoped that the members of the Economic and Social Council would endorse that request.

*Mr. Xifra de Ocerín (Spain), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

31. Mr. MARTÍNEZ (Argentina) said he wished to deal with two fundamental aspects of the current economic crisis, namely, inflation and protectionism. Inflation was no new phenomenon, but as a result of flabby monetary policies in a system which generated excess liquidity, it had got out of control by the end of 1973. The solution to the problem, as to all international economic problems, lay in financial co-operation, involving the adoption of strict and realistic domestic monetary policies and the readjustment of the international financial monetary system in a way which took due account of the aspirations of developing countries.

32. Without protectionism, the developing countries should have been able to achieve a slow penetration of international markets, which would have brought about healthy changes in the patterns of world trade. That process was being obstructed by developed countries seeking to protect sectors that were not always efficient. Even though, in recent years, developed countries had reduced their tariff barriers, particularly on industrial products, they had at the same time erected all kinds of non-tariff barriers. Argentina, which was a large exporter of food products, had witnessed a constant growth of non-tariff barriers against its beef products in its traditional European markets and the practice seemed to be spreading to other types of meat. The GATT multilateral trade negotiations had in no way solved the problem, which was further aggravated by the fact that the same countries which were applying protectionism were also dumping the large surpluses they had accumulated on

the international market, with the aid of export subsidies. Such conduct harmed their own domestic consumers, who were not allowed to enjoy the benefits of foreign competition. There was a close relationship between the protectionism of the main developed countries and the rate of international inflation. Furthermore, previous experience showed that protectionist measures would tend to become a permanent feature of policy and hence an insuperable obstacle to the establishment of a more just international economic order.

33. In view of the lack of progress in the preparations for the global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development, and the new international development strategy, the Council should seek to restore confidence in international solidarity and co-operation. The industrialized countries should bear in mind that the markets in developing countries were their best hedge against recession and that protectionism was the greatest obstacle to faster development in those countries. It was to be hoped that the recent Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities was a good augury for the renewal of the North-South dialogue at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly. The efforts of developing countries towards collective self-reliance should be a complement, and not an alternative, to that dialogue. In that connexion, he noted that the members of the Latin American Free Trade Association had recently taken an historic decision to extend the integration progress in the region. The 1978 United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Buenos Aires, had been a landmark in the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries, in which UNDP was playing an important part. Argentina appreciated the operational activities of UNDP and noted with satisfaction that they had increased by 25 per cent over the preceding year.

34. The International Wheat Council was the appropriate forum in which to negotiate an international cereals agreement, including the establishment of reserve stocks which would avoid cyclical fluctuations in prices and supplies and hence improve world food security. Argentina was prepared to offer food aid within the limits of its possibilities and in 1980 it had given wheat to a number of countries under the Food Aid Convention.

35. Argentina supported the Latin American proposal that human settlements should be included in the discussions on the new international development strategy. It agreed that regional co-operation was essential. The activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should be supported.

36. On the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), Argentina was gratified to note that over 100 States had become independent since 1960. It particularly welcomed the independence of Zimbabwe, with which the Argentine Government had established diplomatic relations. It was to be hoped that the example of Zimbabwe in applying the principle of majority rule would be imitated by other countries in the region.

37. Mr. BEDJAOU (Algeria) said that all the failures of the 1970s had underlined the threefold contradiction between the general recognition of the economic crisis and the inability of the international community to attack its causes, between the ritual display of good intentions and the failure to carry them out and between the call for combined efforts to tackle growing problems and the withdrawal into isolationism.

38. Some analysts continued to attribute all the current economic ills to adjustments in oil prices — an argument

which in their eyes had the twin merit of ascribing the origin of the trouble to the third world and setting its oil-producing and oil-importing countries against each other. However, IMF statistics showed that four fifths of the deficit of developing countries was attributable to imports of food and services and that the deficit caused by "private services and transfers" alone had increased by a factor of 30 in seven years. The industrialized countries had adopted measures to drain the financial resources of the developing countries. Furthermore, oil prices had risen as a result of inflation in the developed world, set off by the collapse of the monetary system. That crisis seriously damaged the fragile economy of the third world, which was also called upon to shoulder the burden of the consequent adjustments by the developed countries. In the circumstances, to get increased prices for raw materials, including oil, the low price of which had for decades encouraged its wasteful use, was a matter of survival for the developing countries. Furthermore, the rise in oil prices was only responsible for a small proportion of the inflation in the developed countries, as an analysis of their varying inflation rates showed. Finally, the developed countries themselves were currently putting up oil prices by frantic stockpiling and speculation.

39. The challenge of the world situation could only be met by collective action. The industrialized countries must appreciate that the difficulties could neither be papered over nor left to a small élite to solve. The developing countries had been realistic enough to understand that a global approach was required, one based on the close interrelationship of all development questions. For that reason, the non-aligned countries had made the proposal, subsequently endorsed by the Group of 77, that the eleventh special session of the General Assembly should launch global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development. But during the sessions of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174, the Western industrialized countries had maintained the same obdurate attitude as in other international economic meetings. They had evaded substantive questions and stressed procedural matters. The developed market-economy countries categorically refused to place the issue of protecting the purchasing power of exports of raw materials on the agenda for the global negotiations. They demanded a neutral wording of the agenda in order to neutralize the claims of the developing countries, and the phrase "mutual benefit" had been misused to erode the principle of non-reciprocal preferential treatment for developing countries in international trade. Appeals to realism and moderation had masked a basic hostility to any structural change.

40. Action to recast institutions and to restructure the world economy did not obviate the need to adopt urgent measures for the benefit of the poorest countries. His delegation had noted with interest the proposals of the Secretary-General in that connexion. The draft agenda for the global negotiations submitted by the Group of 77 to the Committee of the Whole had contained similar proposals. However, such measures should not aim merely at restoring the balance of payments of such countries. That would not in itself solve their structural problems. Emergency measures must not be regarded as a substitute for restructuring.

41. The Group of 77 had submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy a general policy document which the developed countries had categorized as unrealistic in a time of economic stringency, because it forecast a growth rate of 7.5 per cent per year for the developing countries and asked the industrialized nations to increase official development assistance to 1 per cent of their GNP. But there was no reason

why the developing countries should modify their claims in the light of a temporary recession; their difficulties were inherent in the state of underdevelopment itself. The international development strategy, of course, would have to tackle the problem of the difficulties created for development by short-term economic upsets. It should adopt an approach which based development not merely on assistance but on structural changes which would lead to the establishment of a new system of international economic relations. Finally, it should take account of the institutional changes required to give the third world its rightful place in the world economy.

42. The current international development strategy assigned an important place to co-operation among developing countries, which had in fact proved to be the only method of safeguarding their diminishing chances of development, in view of the bankruptcy of the economic system and the breakdown in North-South co-operation. They should push the process still further and assume collective responsibility for the most vulnerable among them, closing their ranks to promote genuine negotiations with the industrialized countries and face the challenges before them.

43. Success at the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly would depend on the extent to which the industrialized countries realized that structural changes, by contributing to the economic progress of the developing countries, would help in the solution of their own difficulties.

44. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia) did not agree that the increase in oil prices was a major cause of the world economic crisis. The existing international monetary system, the instability of exchange markets, protectionist measures and strict conditions for aid from donor countries had contributed substantially to the widening income gap between the industrialized and the developing countries.

45. As long as conflicts and tensions existed in different regions of the world, no real solution could be found for the international economic crisis. It was pointless to speak of restructuring international economic relations, in other words establishing a new economic order, so long as the forces of imperialism and hegemonism continued to intervene in the internal affairs of independent countries of the third world. That applied particularly to countries which had chosen a policy of non-alignment in order to avoid involvement in the conflicts between super-Powers and opposing power blocs and to concentrate on developing their economies in an atmosphere of peace and stability. The serious situation of the third world countries would continue unless the threats to international political stability were removed by concerted efforts to find mutually advantageous solutions. The United Nations had a significant role to play in reducing international conflict and tension and creating an appropriate climate for economic development by the total elimination of colonialism, racism and all forms of oppression. The oppression and tyranny in southern Africa continued to occupy world attention; in Palestine, the innocent Palestinian people were enduring Zionist aggression and the violation of fundamental human rights. The United Nations and its specialized agencies should continue their support and assistance to those oppressed people.

46. A major issue of serious concern to the international community was the plight of the many refugees, victims of oppression, persecution and economic and social upheavals in certain countries. More than two thirds of the 7 million refugees in the world were to be found in Africa; their number was increasing alarmingly, and Somalia was one of the countries seriously affected by a massive influx. The international community had a moral obligation to alleviate

the suffering of those people, who should be provided with the necessary relief regardless of political, ideological or geographical considerations.

47. The current international economic crisis placed the development programmes of developing countries at risk, particularly those of the least developed countries, whose economic situation was deteriorating rapidly as a result of serious trade deficits. In addition, national disasters in those countries had adverse effects on their socio-economic development. The low income of developing countries was a particularly alarming aspect of the situation. As one of the least developed countries, Somalia hoped that the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries would help to promote the structural transformation of the least developed countries.

48. A fundamental change in the structure of international, economic and social relations must be recognized by all countries as an indispensable component of the international development strategy. The objective should be to ensure the economic and social development of developing countries without endangering the permanent sovereignty of each country over its natural resources and economic activities. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the progress made through establishing the Common Fund for Commodities. The lack of progress in the North-South dialogue was disappointing, but he attached great importance to the General Assembly's eleventh special session, when decisions would be taken to launch a new round of global negotiations.

49. Mr. TERREFE (Ethiopia) said that the world economic crisis was having a considerable impact upon the economies of the developing countries, and especially on those of the least developed. Galloping inflation, higher trade barriers, mass unemployment, a mounting external debt and acute shortages of many basic necessities characterized the economic situation in those countries; in fact, some of them were worse off than they had been 10 years earlier.

50. The First and Second United Nations Development Decades had effected little or no improvement in the gap between the developed and developing worlds. Over 800 million people were living in squalid poverty, and the majority of the world's illiterate, disease-ridden, oppressed and exploited were to be found in the developing countries. Although the industrialized countries now had to face problems of inflation and rising unemployment, as well as financial difficulties, they had for many decades enjoyed an affluent life and had been inclined to dictate the conditions for international co-operation.

51. The negotiations in various international forums afforded no grounds for optimism. The failure of the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the unsuccessful attempt at the Third General Conference of UNIDO to further the industrialization of developing countries, the disappointing outcome of the discussions on global negotiations in the Committee of the Whole and the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy were some examples of the lack of progress in the dialogue between the industrialized and developing countries. The failure clearly was due to the absence of genuine political will on the part of the majority of developed countries. In those circumstances, the action developing countries could take in the direction of the liberalization of trade and the transfer of resources and technology was rather limited. They were forced to take the view that the various international negotiations had not achieved much beyond making an appeal to the industrialized countries to show a sense of justice and establish the new international economic order. The basic causes of

the existing unjust economic order remained; their removal eluded the international community because of its refusal to adopt a bold and radical approach. The world was confronted by a number of acute socio-economic problems while spending on armaments amounted to around \$500 billion each year, which was more than two thirds of the total GNP of the countries comprising the poorest half of the world. The ominous clouds hanging over humanity could be dispersed if resources were used more rationally for the benefit of all human beings. A system of international relations designed to perpetuate the *status quo* would not serve the cause of peaceful development.

52. The tragic victims of the world economic crisis were the least developed countries, which had been hit hardest of all; most of them had also become victims of various natural disasters. Ethiopia, one of the 20 least developed countries in Africa, had been engaged in a bitter struggle to overthrow an archaic, feudal system which for many centuries had kept its people in bondage and exploitation. The Ethiopian revolution had achieved in the past six years what most observers had thought would be impossible: rural land, which had been owned by a handful of members of the ruling class, now belonged to the masses, and through their co-operative efforts cultivated land and agricultural production had been increased. Major industries and financial institutions under government ownership had increased output and improved management techniques; a national literacy campaign and a co-ordinated development programme had been initiated in order to liberate the people from ignorance and underdevelopment. The plight of some 2 million displaced persons in the war-stricken areas had faced his Government with a heavy burden; development projects to a value amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars had been destroyed during the war. That situation, coupled with the drought, had rendered the lives of more than 5 million people, the majority women and children, extremely precarious. To provide relief and rehabilitation to the displaced people, some of whom were in resettlement centres and relief camps, was beyond the meagre resources of a country like Ethiopia in the least developed category. The Council had recognized in its resolution 1980/8 the need for financial and material support to deal with the problem of displaced persons in Ethiopia; an interagency and multi-donor mission under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator was currently visiting Ethiopia to assess the external resources required to ensure the rehabilitation and development of the affected areas. The mission would submit its report to the Council at its current session; his delegation would then explain in detail the nature of the problem and the magnitude of the assistance required. The amount of international and bilateral assistance provided to Ethiopia was totally inadequate to deal with the problem; a larger and more concerted effort by the United Nations system was needed.

*Mr. Mavrommatis (Cyprus) resumed the Chair.*

53. Mr. YÁÑEZ (Ecuador) said that the main factors affecting the world economy were the energy problem, inflation, rising unemployment, the artificial structure of world trade and protectionist measures, difficulties in finding an adequate monetary and financial system, problems relating to debt and international payments, the scientific and technological relationship between the different economies, growing political and ideological rivalries and the increasing waste of resources on armaments.

54. The international economic recession could not be attributed exclusively to the rise in oil prices but had come about as a result of a number of structural problems which had to be considered as a whole. Oil had contributed to a

greater extent than any other product to the prosperity of the industrialized nations and the large international enterprises, which had got used to having cheap energy. A large part of the oil price problem stemmed from that period up to the 1970s during which there had been no adjustment to the realities of supply and demand in relation to the rising prices of other products. The oil-producing countries were aware of the current energy problem and were prepared to continue to co-operate with all countries, and particularly with the most severely affected developing countries; OPEC aid represented approximately 2 per cent of GNP, whereas aid from OECD countries only amounted to 0.3 per cent. It had obviously to be borne in mind that oil was a resource which was likely to be exhausted within the short term and in many cases it constituted almost the sole source of income for the country. The solution to the energy problem had to be found through a joint effort by oil-producing and oil-consuming countries and the introduction of conservation measures, a search for alternative sources of energy and the development of new approaches, such as the recent proposal by UNDP for a fund for exploration in the energy sector and pre-investment studies, which under certain conditions merited the support of the OPEC Special Fund.

55. Concerning the problem of inflation, his delegation was of the opinion that the approach of the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980* was realistic, given that the increase in the rate of inflation was not due exclusively to the increase in oil prices. In point of fact, for many years before prices of crude oil had been increased, the world economy had been suffering from the impact of inflation. The developing countries had suffered to a greater extent from the increased rate of inflation, which had risen above 20 per cent per year, as compared with 10 per cent in the developed market economies and 2 to 9 per cent in the centrally planned economies. The main inflationary element in the developing countries had been the rise in the price of imports, including manufactures from the developed markets, rather than pressures of demand, except in a few countries which had shown more rapid economic growth.

56. Prices had also been adversely affected, both in developing and developed countries, by factors which had no direct relationship with the energy problem, in the form of internal measures to offset imbalances, including those in the balance of payments of developing countries, and by economic factors mainly peculiar to various countries within the European Economic Community and the United States of America.

57. With regard to international trade, the developing countries were concerned at the way in which the results of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations were being applied, bearing in mind in particular that a number of developed countries had imposed conditions which affected most-favoured-nation treatment. In addition, the developing economies were suffering from protectionist measures which made it more difficult for them to have access to markets and to increase their participation in world trade towards the Lima target of 25 per cent.

58. All those problems had combined to bring about a large deficit in the current accounts of non-oil-producing developing countries amounting to \$50 billion in 1979 and expected to reach some \$70 billion in the current year. For those reasons, the developing countries should press for the 0.7 per cent objective in official development assistance, which was far from being met by a number of industrialized countries. Measures had to be adopted to alleviate the developing countries' debt problems, taking into account both official and commercial debts, in order to satisfy their long-term external financing needs and give them access to capital and commodity markets. Such objectives had inevi-

tably to be linked to a new international monetary system which would be more effective and take special account of the interests of the developing world.

59. A number of projects had made progress within UNCTAD, although they still required greater efforts if they were to become systems truly aiding developing countries and the international community. In April 1980, negotiations had been concluded at the United Nations Conference on Restrictive Business Practices, held for the purpose of preparing a body of rules and principles to be applied in that field, which was one of the objectives fixed at the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Nairobi in 1976. If approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, it would become a set of guide-lines applicable to state and private enterprises and to States in general, independently of their economic and political systems.

60. The Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities had recently been concluded. The text of the Agreement differed from the original draft submitted by the Group of 77 with regard to objectives, capital structure, operations and administrative organization, since all the negotiating parties had had to show some flexibility in order to reach a consensus. His delegation hoped that the Agreement would not become a dead letter but would be implemented when the required ratifications had been obtained. It also hoped that commodity agreements would be adopted, in accordance with resolution 93 (IV) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; the only international agreement so far reached within the Integrated Programme for Commodities had been that on natural rubber, and it was to be regretted that negotiations on other agreements, including those which were simply to be renewed, had not met with success.

61. A fundamental element of the new international economic order was economic co-operation between developing countries, on the basis of important resolutions in the General Assembly, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and, particularly, the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Mexico City in 1976, and the Arusha Programme for Collective Self-reliance and Framework for Negotiations. In view of the lack of success of the recent session of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, he hoped that in the future the developed countries would offer the necessary aid to implement resolution 127 (V) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as projects among developing countries could otherwise be seriously affected.

62. His delegation hoped that the international development strategy for the 1980s would lead to the adoption of specific measures which would bring the world safely through one of the most critical stages in the history of international relations. It also hoped that, at the coming special session of the General Assembly on international economic co-operation for development, all countries, participating on the basis of interdependence, might approach the serious international economic problems with the

political will to reach mutually advantageous agreements and get the global negotiations off to a good start.

63. Lastly, he drew attention once more to the fact that peace was one of the highest aspirations of mankind and that it was therefore essential to bring a halt to arms expenditure and to work towards the ideal of a treaty for general and complete disarmament under effective international control. The arms race was contributing to the increase in international tension and the violation of human rights. For those reasons, the third United Nations development decade should be linked with the Second Disarmament Decade.

64. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that the Pakistan delegation's statement was part of a slanderous campaign against his country's assistance to Afghanistan, prompted by the failure of well-known imperialist and hegemonistic circles to draw Afghanistan into their orbit and create a threat to the USSR on its southern border. A political settlement of the situation in Afghanistan had been necessary in order to create a new life for that country, including, as had been stated by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, a guarantee against subversive activities mounted outside its frontiers.

65. Mrs. PHAN THI MINH (Observer for Viet Nam), speaking in exercise of her right of reply, rejected the tendentious allegations of the delegation of Thailand concerning incidents on the border between Thailand and Kampuchea. Following defeat in Viet Nam, the imperialists and expansionists had been working together to get their revenge and oppose the peaceful reconstruction of her country. Having failed to manoeuvre the genocidal régime of Pol Pot into launching a new war in Viet Nam, they were endeavouring to cause trouble between the countries of South-East Asia, in accordance with the policy of "divide and rule". After the failure of the Pol Pot régime to sabotage the reconstruction of Kampuchea, the imperialists and expansionists had used the so-called voluntary repatriation policy, without the agreement of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, to send back to Kampuchea military personnel of the Pol Pot régime who had been re-equipped in Thailand. The People's Republic of Kampuchea respected the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Thailand but would not permit any violation of its own territory or interference in its internal affairs. Despite Thailand's active participation in the Viet Nam war, her country wished to forget the past and begin a new chapter in its relations with Thailand. Viet Nam's policy was to establish peaceful and friendly relations with the countries of South-East Asia, including Thailand, on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of those countries. She hoped that Thailand would respond positively and not allow itself to be dragged along by the United States of America and China into a policy of hostility towards Viet Nam.

66. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its general debate on agenda item 3.

*The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.*

## 38th meeting

Wednesday, 16 July 1980, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.38

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IN RESPONSE TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 1980/9 AND 1980/11, ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES IN DJIBOUTI AND SOMALIA

1. Mr. HARTLING (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that the adoption by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1980 of four resolutions on refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa and the Sudan — resolutions 1980/8, 1980/9, 1980/10 and 1980/11 — testified to widening awareness of the serious humanitarian problems faced by that part of the world and was a powerful incentive for United Nations bodies, and the international community in general, to do more to relieve the human suffering involved and to alleviate the burden on the four Governments concerned.
2. Reporting, in accordance with Council resolution 1980/9, on Somalia, he said that the Horn of Africa and the Sudan had for a number of years been receiving very close attention from UNHCR. The regional character of the problems involved had influenced its programmes. In April 1978, he had appealed to a number of Governments for financial support for a humanitarian assistance programme in that area, and in January 1980 he had appointed a co-ordinator of activities there. UNHCR activities in Somalia dated from early 1978, when two high-level technical missions had visited areas where refugees were concentrated and, in consultation with the Somali authorities, had formulated a \$5 million assistance programme to cover the basic requirements of some 150,000 persons then living in camps. Several upward adjustments had had to be made in the programme throughout 1979, and the growing size of the problem had resulted in the Government of Somalia declaring a state of emergency.
3. In order to reassess the situation, a multidisciplinary United Nations mission had been organized in December 1979, which had concluded that for an estimated average of 640,000 refugees in 1980, various assistance items to a value of \$40.7 million would be required, in addition to over 135,000 tons of food supplies. He had accordingly appealed on 4 March 1980 to Governments and other donors for prompt contributions, in cash or in kind, to enable the Office to respond adequately to the immediate survival needs of the refugees. To date, over \$22 million had been contributed by 12 Governments, the European Economic Community, and seven non-governmental organizations, and efforts to secure additional funds were continuing. Apart from financial contributions, a great deal of other support had also been enlisted. Under the co-ordination of the Office, valuable co-operation had been provided by WFP, WHO, UNICEF and other inter-governmental organizations, and a wide range of technical expertise had been made available by a number of governmental and voluntary agencies. A total of 125 experts had been attached to the programme by June 1980. In recent months, the Office had considerably increased its staff in Somalia, where there were now 10 international and 30 local staff members, assisted by 25 volunteers, either in the Mogadishu office or in the three sub-offices recently opened in the regions of Gedo, Hiran and the North-West.
4. In order to co-ordinate international aid, the Office had also arranged meetings at Geneva and Mogadishu with the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned. At the national level, the National Refugee Commissioner's Office, with which UNHCR acted in close collaboration, had been substantially reinforced. As a result of a special appeal for Somalia by the League of Red Cross Societies, the Somali Red Crescent Society was also operating a relief programme in the transit camps in border areas.
5. Turning to assistance as such, he said that the first six months of the year had been mainly devoted to providing immediate relief — food, health care and medicines, tents, blankets, clothing and other domestic items, and local transport. Attention had also been given to setting up communal facilities, expanding self-help activities and establishing water-supply systems. As to food, for which WFP acted as the main co-ordinator, it was gratifying to report that recent pledges had considerably improved prospects for the third and fourth quarters of the year and that the predicted food deficit had been considerably reduced. In addition to increased local medical staff made available by the Government, some 60 international medical personnel, provided by governmental and voluntary agencies, were currently working in the camps under the Office's auspices. Experts had also been recruited by the Office to develop a co-ordinated health programme in the camps, in which the refugee health unit under the Ministry of Health, the WHO Refugee Health Co-ordinator and UNICEF were working in close co-operation. In addition to a number of bilateral contributions, some \$1.6 million had been earmarked by the Office for medical units, equipment and medicines. Progress had also been made in providing shelter and in meeting various domestic needs. A number of charter flights had been arranged, carrying tents, blankets and clothing purchased by the Office or donated by voluntary agencies. Tarpaulins, plastic sheets and kitchen utensils had also been procured on international or local markets, some \$7.7 million having been committed for the items mentioned, including charter costs. For local transport of relief supplies, 92 trucks and 72 trailers, some purchased by the Office, were available, and procurement had been undertaken to cover other transport needs, such as water tankers, four-wheel-drive vehicles and ambulances, and projects had been started to improve access roads. The total UNHCR commitment under those transport items amounted to \$5 million. Fresh impetus had been given in recent months to the construction of basic communal facilities in the camps, with priority for food stores and medical facilities; the value of the programme was \$800,000 and it would have to be substantially increased. In co-operation

with UNICEF, community development and self-help projects had been established — such as day-care centres in the camps, and small-scale agricultural activities — and plans were being put in hand to develop handicrafts and to engage the refugees in productive activities. \$700,000 had so far been allocated for those purposes.

6. A general water-supply programme for existing camps had recently been agreed by the Somali Government, UNHCR and UNICEF, for which the Office was providing funds of up to \$4.8 million. Taking into account regional projects carried out by local and voluntary agencies, total commitments for the improvement of water supply amounted to \$7.3 million. The UNHCR commitment for the promotion of primary education, scholarship programmes and various forms of technical assistance amounted to \$1.78 million.

7. Although the response to his appeal had been generous, the shortfall was still considerable — contributions of \$22 million compared with the target of \$40.7 million — and he earnestly hoped that additional support would be forthcoming without delay. The Office depended on the goodwill and generosity of the international community to carry out all its programmes.

8. Reviewing, in accordance with Council resolution 1980/11, the situation in Djibouti, where refugees had continued to arrive during recent months, he said that, at the time of the first major influx in 1977, UNHCR had established a branch office there. In his appeal for funds for the Horn of Africa, \$2 million had been earmarked for Djibouti, mainly to finance relief measures and to establish some essential infrastructure. By the end of June 1980, the refugee population in the country was believed to have risen to some 40,000 persons, half of whom had spontaneously settled in the town of Djibouti, where they lived in substandard conditions. The Office had appealed for education and resettlement opportunities, in view of the meagre possibilities of refugees being integrated locally. In 1979, a few students had been able to study in Djibouti, while 280 had been placed in Egypt.

9. In the two main areas in which refugees were concentrated outside the capital — Dikhil and Ali Sabieh — the refugees, assembled in camps, almost outnumbered the local population, and their presence had led to some disruption of public services and imposed a heavy strain on health facilities, water supplies and local transport. The camps had also imposed a heavy burden on an already overtaxed administration.

10. UNHCR assistance had largely taken the form of relief measures, but it had also included improvements in health services and housing and education facilities. Purchases of food had been made to supplement the basic requirements covered by WFP, and a number of items, including food, tents and blankets, had been made available by voluntary agencies. Substantial progress had been made in the construction of traditional dwellings at Ali Sabieh and Dikhil and in the erection of a transit/training centre to improve the chances of resettlement of some 500 young urban refugees.

11. Djibouti, which had generously opened its doors to refugees, was poor in natural resources, and one third of its population was reported to be suffering from the effects of drought. Prompt as UNHCR assistance might have been, a review of the situation had appeared necessary, and a United Nations interagency mission had, in accordance with Council resolution 1980/11, visited Djibouti from 5 to 12 June 1980. Its report was about to be issued. Meanwhile, he was envisaging an increase in the size of the 1980 UNHCR programme and working out an adequate programme for 1981. The increases would apply to such areas as food,

health, housing, education and training, agriculture, transport and storage facilities, and special attention would also be given to water supply and technical assistance in various fields. The Djibouti authorities agreed that longer-term arrangements should be made for refugees to settle in the country, pending any further voluntary repatriation. Once the expanded programme was launched, UNHCR would give all due attention to over-all co-ordination, so that the maximum benefit could be derived from the support of other agencies within the United Nations system and all voluntary agencies concerned, in full co-operation with the national authorities.

12. The plight of the uprooted persons in Djibouti and Somalia was grave and called for an urgent response from the international community as a whole. UNHCR, which had to face many human tragedies — sometimes on a massive scale — would continue to mobilize all forms of support in the particular situations under review and would make every effort, in co-operation with the Governments concerned, to provide badly needed assistance. The understanding which the Council had consistently shown for the activities of UNHCR was a great source of encouragement.

13. Mr. Saleh Haji FARAH (Observer for Djibouti) expressed his delegation's appreciation for the concern shown by UNHCR for the refugee problem in Djibouti and the effort it had made in establishing the relief and rehabilitation programme there.

14. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia) expressed his delegation's deep appreciation for the tireless efforts made by the High Commissioner and his staff to help the millions of helpless, uprooted persons who, for reasons beyond their control, had fled from their homeland. The assistance mobilized by UNHCR on such a generous scale was a matter of particular credit at a time of acute international crisis.

15. His delegation would wait until the High Commissioner's report was discussed by the General Assembly before making a detailed statement on the current situation of refugees in Somalia. He wished, however, to draw attention to the need to update the report in the interim; since the interagency mission had visited Somalia, the situation had rapidly assumed a new magnitude and gravity. His delegation, therefore, suggested that a follow-up mission should be sent to Somalia, in order to review the situation as it currently existed and ensure that it was properly reflected in the High Commissioner's report when it came before the General Assembly.

16. Mr. BARAKAT (Jordan) expressed appreciation for the tireless efforts of the international teams working in Djibouti and Somalia. His delegation endorsed the appeal for assistance for the refugees in question and the follow-up suggestion put forward by the observer for Somalia.

17. Mrs. ZHANG Zongan (China) said that the refugee problems in Djibouti and Somalia constituted a heavy burden for the two Governments in question. It was in accordance with the principles of the United Nations to provide the refugees with humanitarian assistance, and her delegation appreciated the work performed by the High Commissioner and his staff in order to alleviate their sufferings.

18. Mr. BIRIDO (Observer for the Sudan) expressed appreciation to the High Commissioner for the assistance extended to refugees in the Horn of Africa and the Sudan, as well as in the rest of Africa and other parts of the world. His delegation fully supported the suggestion for additional support and appraisal of needs in the Horn of Africa.

19. Although Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/10 requested the Secretary-General to submit the

report of the interagency mission to the Sudan during the Council's first regular session of 1981, he understood that it could in fact be submitted to the Council the following week. He therefore hoped that the Council would be able to consider it and take the appropriate decision.

20. The PRESIDENT said that he would make the necessary arrangements, if the Council so wished.

21. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the statement made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/153).

*The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.*

## 39th meeting

Friday, 18 July 1980, at 3.40 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.39

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)

1. Mr. NAIK (Chairman, Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy) made a statement on the state of preparation of the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade.<sup>1</sup>

2. Mr. PUROSHOTTAM (India), joined by Ms. SPERO (United States of America), Mrs. ZHANG Zongan (China), Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) and Mr. THOMSON (Australia), together with Mr. WOLZFELD (Observer for Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the nine member States of the European Economic Community, thanked the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy for his contribution to the work of the Preparatory Committee and congratulated him on the progress made under his direction.

3. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection he would take it that the Council decided to take note of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy on its fourth and fifth sessions (A/S-11/2 (parts I and II)) and of the statement just made by the Chairman of the Committee.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/154).

*The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.*

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (continued)\*

#### QUESTION OF THE INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE *Ad Hoc* GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN TAX MATTERS (E/1980/83)

4. Mr. DHAR (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the increase in the membership of the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on

International Co-operation in Tax Matters (E/1980/83), prepared in pursuance of Council resolution 1980/13. In increasing the number of members from 20 to 25, the Council could keep to the pattern of representation which had been followed since 1973: three members from developing countries to two from developed countries; but it would also be possible to bring into the Group experts from areas currently under-represented or not represented at all. The proposed increase was made necessary by the increase in the number of Member States since the Group had been established in 1968. The estimated cost of the addition of five new members would be \$14,700 for travel expenses and *per diem* allowances.

5. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) said that he had no objections to the report of the Secretary-General, but, as his delegation had pointed out at the Council's preceding session, the aim should really be to reduce the size of subsidiary organs.

*The proposal to increase the number of members of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters from 20 to 25 was adopted* (decision 1980/155).

#### NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE MEETING ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF TO THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE (A/35/303)

6. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection he would assume that the Council decided to take note of the statement by the President of the Meeting, annexed to the note by the Secretary-General (A/35/303), to transmit it to all States Members of the United Nations and to submit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/156).

7. Mr. POPOV (Bulgaria), speaking on behalf also of the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian SSR, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam, said that those countries reaffirmed their basic objection to so-called meetings on assistance to the Kampuchean people. The socialist States were doing more for Kampuchea by helping it to get back to a normal way of life; they had not taken part in the Meeting convened by the Secretary-General on 26 and 27 May 1980, because it had been concerned with questions within the competence of the Kampuchean Government, which had not been represented at the Meeting.

*The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.*

\* Resumed from the 36th meeting.

<sup>1</sup> The full text of the statement was subsequently issued as document E/1980/105.

## 40th meeting

Monday, 21 July 1980, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.40

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to a draft resolution (E/1980/L.47) on international co-ordination to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations.
2. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, announced that the delegation of Australia had joined them.
3. The international community increasingly found itself facing natural or man-made disasters. States naturally turned to the United Nations system for immediate assistance and longer-term rehabilitation, and the United Nations had become involved in large-scale operations on many occasions. Since the Joint Inspection Unit was currently evaluating the performance of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, it would be necessary to return at a later stage to the question of natural disasters and the role and performance of that Office in that respect.
4. There was no one single focal point available to the United Nations in dealing with emergency situations arising primarily from non-natural causes. There could be no standard reaction to emergency situations, since each situation had unique features. Different organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and different non-governmental organizations would be involved according to the nature of a given situation.
5. The draft resolution before the Council was a starting point in considering whether the United Nations emergency relief system was adequate. Again and again, relief measures in connexion with emergencies resulting from primarily non-natural causes had had to be improvised. Although a high degree of flexibility within the system was necessary, sudden and unforeseen involvement sometimes placed severe strains on organizations. While Governments would always be responsible for providing the system with adequate financial and manpower resources, there remained the question of the balance between emergency and regular activities. It was necessary to ensure that the United Nations system had the capacity to deal with emergencies in such a way that regular activities, including the prevention of emergencies, were not adversely affected. Such action should not require new institutions or permanent arrangements, but perhaps the current delineation of mandates and authority needed reviewing.
6. The sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.47 had full confidence in the many United Nations organizations and bodies involved in the kinds of emergency operations under consideration and they were sure that those organizations and bodies shared their concern regarding the response of the United Nations system to such emergency situations.
7. The sponsors had made a number of revisions to the draft resolution. First, the title should read "International co-operation to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations". Secondly, the following additional preambular paragraph should be inserted between the fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs: "*Recognizing* the essential role played by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme, in such emergency situations". The last preambular paragraph would then start with the words: "*Recognizing also* the important role".
8. The most appropriate way to approach the question of how the United Nations system could best respond to emergencies was on the basis of the summary report, as proposed in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.
9. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that the Council would be able to adopt the text without a vote. They were prepared to enter into informal consultations if other representatives so wished.
10. Mr. THOMSON (Australia) said that his delegation was struck by the number and magnitude of the man-made, non-natural disasters that had occurred over the past decade. Although the international community still responded to such disasters on an *ad hoc* basis, the response had fortunately always been generous and, by and large, effective. That response reflected both the compassion of the constituent peoples of the United Nations and the professional competence and dedication of the United Nations agencies and the non-governmental organizations.
11. At the same time, the provision of relief had not been without strain. His delegation was particularly concerned that the agencies involved in providing relief to Indo-China had had to devote less attention to their regular programme activities. Damage to regular programme activities must be minimized. The solution to the problem dealt with in the draft resolution before the Council was not to be found in new institutions or machinery, nor did the United Nations system need additional resources in order to cope with the requirements of man-made disasters. Rather, it was necessary to consider whether the United Nations system could not be organized and co-ordinated more effectively for that purpose. For example, such questions as the system's flexibility, the authority of the Secretary-General and the agencies' mandates needed consideration.
12. His delegation hoped that the study proposed in draft resolution E/1980/L.47 would provide a sound basis for dealing with such questions and would be but a first step in a concerted effort to streamline the international community's capacity to respond to non-natural disasters.
13. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had no objection in principle to a review of the response of the United Nations system to humanitarian needs in emergency situations. CPC, which had full competence, might be able to play a constructive role in that connexion. In conjunction with the relevant recommendations and conclusions of CPC, the summary report proposed in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution would be useful to the Council. His delegation therefore proposed that the words "through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination" should be inserted in operative paragraph 2, following the words "and to submit

it". Moreover, in view of the programme of work of the Council and CPC, he suggested that the proposed summary report should be considered during the second regular session of 1981.

14. Mr. NISHIDA (Japan) said that his delegation endorsed draft resolution E/1980/L.47, for it was concerned about the increasingly heavy loss of life and property resulting from non-natural disasters and emergency situations. It was important that the United Nations should play a greater role in dealing with those tragedies. There was need for better co-ordination among the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, not only for fund-raising, but also in order to overcome the institutional and other difficulties experienced by the agencies. The summary report proposed in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution would provide factual information concerning the difficulties encountered in providing emergency relief and the steps taken to overcome such difficulties. His delegation therefore wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

15. Mr. HESSEL (France), referring to the statement made by the representative of the Soviet Union, said that the submission of the summary report proposed in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution should not be postponed until the second regular session of 1981. Moreover, it was not appropriate for CPC to be involved in the process in question.

16. He wished to suggest to the sponsors of the draft resolution that the words "to the system and the international community" in operative paragraph 1 should be deleted.

17. The PRESIDENT suggested that further consultations on draft resolution E/1980/L.47 should be held.

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 4

##### Special economic and disaster relief assistance

18. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the annotations relevant to the question of special economic and disaster relief assistance in the provisional agenda (E/1980/100).

19. Mr. Abdulrahim FARAH (Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and Co-ordinator, Special Economic Assistance Programmes) said that the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session and all supporting information on urgent requirements had been brought to the attention of Member States and all organizations concerned. The organization of the special economic assistance programmes had involved the dispatch of interagency or review missions to the countries concerned. Reports on 16 programmes would be available for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

20. With regard to Cape Verde, the special programme recommended for that country by the General Assembly in 1978 in its resolution 33/127 called for international assistance of approximately \$95 million. In addition, a substantial amount was required for technical assistance and the training of local personnel. In March 1980, a review mission visiting Cape Verde had been informed by the Government of that country that the economic and financial situation there remained serious.

21. The food deficit for the current year was estimated to be about 64,000 tonnes. Food aid would cover only about half of that deficit and the Government would find it extremely difficult to cover the remainder by commercial imports. Unemployment and underemployment were high and the rate of inflation had reached 15 per cent during

1979. The estimated recurrent budget deficit for 1980 was expected to exceed \$5.5 million. In 1979, the Cape Verde Government had been able to finance only 61 per cent of its investment budget of \$53 million. For 1980, the Government had an investment budget of approximately \$69 million. The balance-of-payments situation had continued to deteriorate, owing to global inflation and the high price of fuel imports. The need for international assistance, particularly in the form of grants and soft loans, remained as urgent as ever and food aid was especially important.

22. Since the inauguration of the special programme, it had been possible to obtain international funding for a number of projects, but the response had not been commensurate with the needs, and the Government had been obliged to finance several projects itself at the expense of other development needs. In the case of a substantial number of projects, only partial funding had been provided or promised; in some cases, no offers of assistance had been received at all. While the response to the Secretary-General's appeal had made it possible to implement a number of urgent projects, it had fallen far short of Cape Verde's requirements.

23. The 1978 report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Guinea-Bissau<sup>1</sup> had described the country's precarious situation. While the economy was overwhelmingly dependent upon agriculture, the country lacked an adequate infrastructure with which to develop that sector and to achieve self-sufficiency in food production. The mission which had visited Guinea-Bissau in February 1980 had found that the situation continued to be precarious. As a result of inadequate rainfall in 1979, the 1980 harvest was not expected to be more than 50 to 60 per cent of normal and the food deficit was estimated at 46,000 tonnes.

24. The country was also experiencing severe financial difficulties. In 1979, the deficit on the recurrent budget had been about \$17 million. Since the recurrent budget could not be a source of development financing, the country would have to look to external sources if development projects were to be implemented in the foreseeable future. The situation with regard to the balance of payments was no better.

25. The special economic assistance programme recommended for Guinea-Bissau was of approximately \$38 million. Of the 82 projects included in the programme, 18 either had been completed or were to be completed shortly. Only 13 of the remaining projects had received partial funding from international sources. The assistance provided to date had unfortunately fallen far short of the urgent needs of Guinea-Bissau. The projects in the special programme could only be carried out if international funding was available. Guinea-Bissau lacked resources even to finance its food imports. It was hoped that the international community would give greater consideration to the urgent development needs of Guinea-Bissau and provide the resources necessary to strengthen the country's infrastructure.

26. In Seychelles, the main development problems arose from the country's smallness in terms of population, territory and resource endowment, the scattering of its numerous small islands over a vast ocean tract, and the severe imbalance between the traditional agricultural sector of the economy and the highly advanced new tourist and construction industries.

27. The special programme comprised 33 projects, costing over \$16 million. High priority had been assigned to air, maritime and road transport, water supply, self-help housing, the extension of sewage systems, electricity supply and

<sup>1</sup> A/33/179 and Corr.1.

the expansion of pre-school education. In March 1980, a United Nations mission had visited Seychelles and reviewed the progress made in implementing the special programme. It had found that full funding had been secured for nine of the projects, that partial funding had been arranged for nine others, that some contact had been initiated for financing a further six projects, but that no progress had been made with any of the remaining nine projects.

28. In 1979, Seychelles had experienced a moderate rate of economic growth, with the expansion stemming primarily from the tourist industry. The Government's revenue position had improved as a result of more efficient tax administration. On the other hand, the Government had encountered some difficulties with two major traditional sources of bilateral aid and was becoming concerned over future prospects for development assistance. Another major concern had been the increasing burden of the public debt, which had doubled between 1977 and 1978 and again between 1978 and 1979.

29. Assistance was urgently sought from the international community for financing the uncovered portions of the special programme. The projects would do much to strengthen the country's infrastructure and give its people better prospects for their social and economic well-being. Seychelles was not in a position to undertake those projects alone and looked to the international community for the assistance which the General Assembly had recommended.

30. The economic problems of the Comoros were mainly due to its lack of natural resources, the absence of an adequate infrastructure and an acute shortage of trained personnel. The assistance programme endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/127 was in the region of \$26 million. The Government of the Comoros had listed among its most pressing needs budget support and funds for projects related to agricultural development, inter-island and international transport facilities and water supply.

31. In March 1980, a United Nations mission had visited the Comoros. It had noted that most of the technical co-operation needs included in the programme had been met and that full or partial funding, totalling over \$22 million, had been arranged for nearly two thirds of the projects in the special programme. Substantial external assistance was still required for several outstanding priority projects and for the persistent budgetary deficit. The provision of transport facilities and equipment and the creation of strategic reserves of food and fuel were considered particularly urgent. Additional assistance was required for rural development, malaria eradication and the training of technical and professional personnel. A minimum of \$20 million was needed to meet those requirements, including the recurrent budget deficit, which was expected to exceed \$12 million in 1980. Part of the assistance provided could be in the form of resaleable food aid.

32. The United Nations assistance programme for Lesotho had continued to receive generous support from the international community. In January 1977, the Secretary-General had proposed assistance amounting to approximately \$113 million. The size of the programme had increased over the years owing to new needs or a revision of existing projects. The programme was designed to strengthen Lesotho's fragile economy by providing an adequate infrastructure and increasing food production, thus lessening the country's dependence on South Africa. Subsequently, the Government had found it necessary to formulate additional projects to reduce the effects of the pressures arising from South Africa's creation of bantustans on Lesotho's borders.

33. As at May 1980, the international community had provided or pledged over \$169 million in financial, material or technical assistance to Lesotho in the context of the

special assistance programme, an amount representing an increase of more than \$46 million over the figure he had reported the preceding year. A substantial part of the increase in assistance over the past year represented additional funds committed to strengthen Lesotho's external communications system. Over \$22 million had been provided or pledged for the construction of a national airport, the improvement of airstrips in mountainous areas and the establishment of an international communications system by satellite.

34. Projects to establish food reserves in Lesotho had elicited a good response. They had enabled the Government to establish a mountain region food reserve, construct additional food storage space and create a national strategic wheat reserve. Negotiations were under way to enable further wheat donations to be sold and the proceeds to be used for development purposes.

35. In the area of agriculture, the construction of the Lesotho Flour Mills complex had been completed. The new fertilizer and seed project was at an advanced stage of negotiation for a soft loan. In the period under review, additional funds had been pledged for the Agricultural Development Bank.

36. The special programme recommended for Lesotho had placed special emphasis on road construction, not only for development but also for alleviating the problems that had arisen in the border areas. The mission which had visited Lesotho in June 1980 had found that road construction had received a severe setback owing to marked cost escalation. In the case of some roads, the Government intended to proceed with construction, but to standards lower than those previously envisaged. Good progress, however, had been made with the strengthening of feeder roads, using substantial donations of food for the food-for-work component of the project.

37. Progress had been made also with health, educational and industrial projects.

38. With a view to increasing self-sufficiency in key sectors, the Lesotho Government had put forward new proposals related to the original programme, including the extension of the road haulage fleet, the further development of the wool and mohair industry, the strengthening of livestock marketing and the establishment of small plants for the generation of hydroelectric power in rural areas.

39. The generous response of the international community to Lesotho's needs had created new opportunities and improved prospects for the country's development.

40. Upon independence, Sao Tome and Principe had inherited an economy based primarily on plantation agriculture and devoted to the cultivation of commercial crops such as cocoa, copra, oil and palm. As a result, local food production had been given little encouragement and the country had been forced to rely on food imports for its local needs. Moreover, it lacked an adequate economic infrastructure and an administrative system essential for launching a modest development programme.

41. In order to meet the country's food requirements, the Government had launched a food campaign in 1979, but the campaign had made only meagre progress, owing to drought and the shortage of essential inputs. It was estimated that in 1980 some 11,000 tonnes of food would have to be imported.

42. During the past year, a major reorganization of the Government administration and para-statal entities had been carried out, but the desired goals had not been achieved, largely because of the shortage of local professionals.

43. The Government attached high priority to the goals of improving export performance, increasing food production

and expanding its few industries. A major effort had also to be undertaken for the establishment of an adequate land, sea and air transport system, since paucity of communications hindered the development of the national economy.

44. The special programme for Sao Tome and Principe consisted of 48 projects totalling some \$21 million; 30 of those projects had been fully financed and five more had been partially funded. Valuable contributions had been made to the assistance programme, but there were important sectors which still needed urgent funding.

45. With regard to Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique, he recalled that the Security Council had called upon the international community in its resolution 460 (1979) to provide urgent assistance to the front-line States for reconstruction purposes and had requested the Secretary-General to assist in organizing financial, technical and material assistance to the States concerned. In February 1980, the Secretary-General had arranged for missions to visit Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique under the terms of that resolution and of the relevant General Assembly resolutions. The reports of the three missions included details of the assistance required for immediate reconstruction in the three countries and a description of a number of projects designed to take advantage of the new situation resulting from the independence of Zimbabwe.

46. In Security Council resolution 403 (1977), the Secretary-General had been requested to draw up a programme of international assistance for Botswana which would take account of the diversion of resources from normal development in order to undertake unexpected security measures. A programme of international assistance totalling about \$24 million had been recommended initially. Subsequent missions had identified additional projects necessitated by the situation in the country. Altogether, some 16 projects had been recommended to meet Botswana's emergency and strategic needs. Twelve of those projects had been completed and the remaining four were in the process of implementation, with varying amounts of international finance negotiated. The Government considered one project, the creation of oil storage depots and the provision of a petroleum reserve, to be extremely important, since Botswana was a land-locked country dependent on South Africa for its oil supplies. Although funding for the project had been arranged, its implementation had not proved possible, since South Africa had so far not allowed Botswana to import petroleum products in excess of its regular consumption.

47. In the past two years, Botswana had suffered two natural disasters: widespread drought and outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease. The rural population in the north had been particularly badly hit and a number of emergency projects would be required for their benefit.

48. The resumption of normal relations with Zimbabwe had increased the demand for improved communications between the two countries. It was now necessary to pave the road between Francistown and the border and to install a microwave link for improved communications.

49. Development in the border areas had been severely disrupted by attacks, and some \$34 million of international assistance would be needed for rehabilitation and development projects in Botswana.

50. The special assistance programme for Zambia had been the subject of reports to the Council for many years. The application of sanctions against Southern Rhodesia and the closure of the border between the two countries had seriously affected the economic development of Zambia.

51. As a result of the sanctions, the destruction of normal trade and transport and the damage inflicted by armed

attacks by the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia, Zambia had been faced with a major economic and financial crisis. During the past two years, it had successfully carried out an economic stabilization programme. The balance-of-payments estimates for 1979 showed that it had moved from a chronic deficit in its external accounts to a small surplus. The stabilization programme had not been without cost, however, and the GDP in real terms for 1979 was estimated to have fallen by 5 per cent from the preceding year's level.

52. The transport problem continued to be a major restraint on Zambia's development. The critical transport situation had been exacerbated by the destruction of a number of road and rail bridges in the period immediately preceding the cease-fire. In 1979, it had been faced with a severe shortage of maize as a result of drought and the late arrival of fertilizers. The outlook for the 1980 maize crop was again unfavourable as a result of erratic rainfall and drought and it was estimated that Zambia would have to import about 209,000 tons of maize.

53. The independence of Zimbabwe provided new opportunities for Zambia to carry out a normal development programme, but a major reconstruction and rehabilitation programme to assist the economy to recover from the losses of recent years and to take advantage of the new circumstances would be needed. A total of \$365 million would be required for such a programme, in addition to assistance already pledged. While most of the assistance would be required in the transport sector, \$2 million was needed to establish telecommunication links with neighbouring countries and \$33 million to rehabilitate the border areas where development had been seriously disrupted by the war situation.

54. In 1979, the Government of Zambia had signed international assistance agreements that would provide about \$232 million. Only 29 per cent of that amount, however, was in the form of grants. In view of the country's serious financial position, there was an urgent need for additional assistance, wherever possible in the form of grants.

55. The economy of Mozambique had been seriously disrupted soon after independence by the application of sanctions against Southern Rhodesia and the closure of the border with that country. Previously, earnings from transit traffic had covered a large part of Mozambique's trade deficit. Following the closure of the border, the shortage of foreign exchange had had a critical impact on Mozambique's development. While some sectors of the economy, particularly manufacturing, continued to suffer from a shortage of inputs as a result of the foreign exchange situation, the over-all state of the country's economy had shown significant signs of improvement over the past two years. Traffic through the ports had increased significantly, and, according to Government estimates, the value of exports in 1979 had been 40 per cent higher than that of the previous year.

56. Those favourable developments would have had a stronger impact on the economy had it not been for a number of adverse events. For example, economic activities in five provinces had been seriously disrupted by attacks by the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia. The Government estimated that the direct damage from such attacks had amounted to \$26 million in 1979 alone.

57. As a result of the disruption of production in the border areas and widespread drought, Mozambique had faced a severe food shortage in 1979 and had had to import large quantities of wheat, maize and rice. In 1980, it was again suffering from a major drought and, in addition to commercial purchases which the Government had been able to arrange and food aid already pledged, nearly

250,000 tons of cereals would have to be imported before the end of the year. External financing was urgently required for those imports and some \$15 million worth of fertilizer would be needed.

58. The independence of Zimbabwe would enable Mozambique once again to become a transit country for the imports and exports of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Zaire. For that purpose, however, Mozambique would require substantial international assistance for the rehabilitation of its transport sector. The rehabilitation of the ports and railways was particularly urgent in view of their importance to the development of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Zaire. With the resumption of normal trade and travel between Mozambique and Zambia, it would be necessary to re-establish telecommunication links, many of which had been destroyed. Nearly \$2 million was needed for that purpose.

59. In order to rehabilitate agriculture in the war-affected border provinces, Mozambique would require some \$13 million in international assistance. It should be stressed that the rehabilitation programme was in addition to international assistance already pledged or being provided.

60. The United Nations programme of assistance to southern African student refugees (see General Assembly resolution 32/119) had come into being in 1977, following the Soweto riots against the Bantu education system and the flight of many students from South Africa to seek asylum in neighbouring States. The original programme had called for a minimal capital investment of \$7 million and recurring expenditures of some \$1.4 million in order to expand educational facilities, establish reception centres and provide for the maintenance and care of the student refugees.

61. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly had decided in its resolution 34/174 to enlarge the programme to cover the needs of student refugees from Namibia and Zimbabwe. The Secretary-General and UNHCR had been asked to organize a programme of assistance for student refugees from southern Africa who had sought asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia. The General Assembly had urged all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute generously to the programme, and had called on all United Nations bodies to co-operate in its implementation. It had also expressed concern over the adverse effects which the application of *apartheid* was having on settled communities living in South African border areas and the consequent flight of large numbers of families across the border into Lesotho and Swaziland. It had asked for assistance to be mobilized to facilitate the resettlement of such families and to provide for the well-being of the children concerned.

62. In June 1980, the Secretary-General had sent a mission to southern Africa to report on the situation of the student refugees. In the three years in which the assistance programme had been operating, a considerable amount of aid had been received from the international community to help host Governments in southern Africa to provide accommodation, maintenance, care and education. Contributions to the programme through UNHCR had amounted to almost \$16 million and there had been bilateral contributions of about \$5 million; in addition, scholarships had been provided, notably by the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. However, the need for assistance continued. Details of the current situation would be given in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

63. Another refugee problem had been created by the influx of over 4,000 refugees into Swaziland to escape inclusion in the bantustan which the South African Government was creating on their traditional territory. The mission had visited the area where the refugees were being settled

and a tripartite agreement had now been signed between the Swaziland Government, the Lutheran World Federation and UNHCR to provide funds to meet the immediate needs of the refugees and to finance feasibility studies of possible water sources and of the agricultural potential of the settlement. The Government of Swaziland was planning to make additional purchases of land in the area to settle more refugees.

64. Although beset by economic problems, the Governments of countries of southern Africa had shown a commendable willingness to give asylum to refugees, but they could not be expected to carry an inequitable share of the burden. More support from the international community was needed.

65. The Secretary-General had recently dispatched a mission to Zimbabwe to ascertain what assistance was needed for reconstruction. The mission's report would appear shortly and would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. Reports on Equatorial Guinea, Djibouti and Tonga were also near completion. An interagency mission was shortly to visit Equatorial Guinea to draw up a special assistance programme for the rehabilitation and development of the country's economy. That mission, too, would report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. The report of a previous interagency mission in 1979 had shown that the economic and administrative structure of Equatorial Guinea had been completely destroyed and had concluded that it would be several years before production could recover. No stocks of any kind existed and there were no foreign exchange reserves or infrastructure which would allow of the generation of local revenues. Nearly one third of the population had fled the country, and schools, hospitals, shops and other institutions were either closed or functioning at a very low level of activity. The mission had found that the country had insufficient resources either to meet immediate humanitarian needs or to provide essential services.

66. He regretted that, despite that tragic situation, the response to the Secretary-General's appeal for Equatorial Guinea had been very limited. IMF had approved a stand-by arrangement for \$7 million and was providing \$8.3 million under the compensatory financing facility. In addition, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO and WHO, as also the OPEC Special Fund, had all provided some assistance, but — with the exception of Spain — almost no aid had come from donor countries.

67. The country had good long-term economic potential, but in the short term and medium term it required capital, technical assistance and a training programme for personnel at all levels. The report would help prospective donors to identify areas in which they could assist.

68. In regard to Djibouti, a report on the country's development needs and on the progress made in implementing the special assistance programme would be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. The growing refugee problem, combined with a serious drought, had created a grave situation in the country. The interagency mission which had visited the country to assess the needs of the refugees, in response to the request in Council resolution 1980/11, had found that urgent aid was required not only for the refugees but also for the drought-stricken people in the rural areas. The mission's report had noted that there were more than 40,000 refugees now in the country, representing 12 per cent of the total population. In addition, some 20,000 nomads were likely to lose their livestock as a result of the drought and would need to be placed in relief camps during the next six months. While UNHCR and other United Nations bodies had been helping to provide emer-

agency relief assistance, more durable solutions needed to be found for both rural and urban refugees. The Government's policy was to develop long-term programmes that encouraged refugees to become self-supporting and productive members of economically viable communities; an example of that policy was a pilot irrigation programme, operated by refugees and Djibouti nationals working together.

69. The refugees required food, water, blankets, bed-mats, clothing, utensils, medicines and medical equipment. Aid was also needed to strengthen the country's economic and social infrastructure in such areas as agriculture, water supply, fisheries, storage, education and health. Administrative support was needed for Djibouti's National Office of Refugees and Displaced Persons. The report proposed a number of projects to deal with the urgent problems of the refugees and drought-displaced people. The total assistance needed amounted to over \$19 million, made up of \$9.6 million for urgent humanitarian aid, \$5.5 million for urgent development assistance projects, and \$4.3 million for accelerated development projects. In addition, \$8.6 million was required for the victims of the drought.

70. On the subject of assistance to Tonga, the Secretary-General, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 34/132, had sent letters of appeal to States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and other groups concerned, urging them to send aid to that country. He was also arranging for a mission to visit Tonga to assess its most immediate needs for financial, material and technical assistance. When the mission's report was completed, it would be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session and circulated to the international community.

71. In Nicaragua, the state of the economy continued to be precarious. While still suffering from the effects of an earthquake in 1972, the country had been plunged into a civil war which had caused damage estimated at over \$480 million. The national income had fallen by 30 per cent in 1979 and it was currently estimated that the GDP was only at the level attained in 1962. The new Government had been faced with a large budget and balance-of-payments deficit and had inherited the highest *per capita* foreign debt in the world. In response to appeals from the Secretary-General and the General Assembly, the United Nations agencies and programmes had so far provided \$35.7 million in assistance. The contribution of the World Bank would be over \$52 million and a number of bilateral donors and financial institutions had pledged assistance. In spite of that response, the amount fell far short of Nicaragua's needs, and further aid was vital for the early recovery of the country's economy.

72. Both the Dominican Republic and Dominica had been struck by hurricanes in 1979, resulting in the massive destruction of the economic and social infrastructure. In its resolutions 34/18 and 34/19, the General Assembly had called for international assistance to those countries for rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. The economy of the Dominican Republic had begun to recover following the drawing up of an emergency reconstruction plan and the provision of substantial external assistance, but the economic and social situation was still serious. *Per capita* GDP in real terms had shown little change since 1976, unemployment and underemployment were high and the country continued to face a serious balance-of-payments deficit. In addition, it was completely dependent on imported oil for its energy needs. In view of the major obstacles to rapid economic development, particularly the relative scarcity of arable land and the high rate of population growth, the Dominican Republic needed additional aid. A measure of that need was the high current-

account deficit in the balance of payments and the continual decline in foreign exchange reserves.

73. In Dominica, the hurricanes had resulted in the destruction of over one third of all homes. That natural disaster had followed soon after an outbreak of leaf-spot disease which had seriously affected the banana industry. Those disasters had come at the end of a long period of high unemployment, steadily deteriorating public finances and severe economic contraction. The GDP for 1979 had fallen 17 per cent from the already depressed level of the previous year; in consequence, the Government revenues had fallen at a time when heavy expenditures had been needed for relief and rehabilitation. As a result, the Government had had a deficit of nearly \$8 million for the 1979/80 fiscal year. Most of that deficit had been covered by emergency aid from bilateral and multilateral sources. Unfortunately, the Government again faced a substantial deficit for 1980/81, for which assistance was sought from the international community.

74. The situation in Uganda continued to arouse concern. The Secretary-General had been endeavouring to arrange for a mission to the country to draw up a reconstruction programme, as requested by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, but it had not yet been possible. A number of Member States and international financial institutions had pledged assistance at a meeting organized in 1979 under the auspices of the World Bank, but that assistance had not yet been forthcoming. As soon as conditions allowed, a mission would visit Uganda to report on the country's reconstruction and rehabilitation needs.

75. Some urgent humanitarian needs in Uganda, particularly in the northern region, were still not being met. As a result of the breakdown of law and order, and the severe drought, more than half a million people in the Karamoja region were daily facing the prospect of starvation. An emergency airlift of food supplies had been organized through contributions from States and from both governmental and non-governmental organizations. It now appeared that, as a result of major efforts by food aid donors, supplies would be adequate to provide a bare survival ration until the end of September, when local food production was expected to become available. There was still, however, a serious shortage of proteins; 2,700 tonnes of fish or pulses, 800 tonnes of milk, 1,000 tonnes of edible oil, 1,200 tonnes of sugar and 200 tonnes of salt were required for that period.

76. In spite of the efforts made, the situation in northern Uganda remained critical. Further food assistance, both cereals and proteins, would be needed after the end of September 1980. Assistance was also required to transport food and other essentials to the affected regions.

77. With regard to the Sudan, the interagency mission sent in response to Council resolution 1980/10 had found that the country was faced with a massive problem owing to the presence of an estimated 441,000 refugees in its territory. That problem was particularly serious in the eastern provinces. Although UNHCR and other United Nations agencies had been providing help for some years, there was urgent need for additional humanitarian assistance and for more long-term aid in the form of development-oriented programmes which would enable the refugees to become more self-sufficient.

78. The mission had recommended that the Government's policy of adopting programmes aimed at self-sufficiency should be fully supported by the international community. The main feature of such programmes was the promotion of settlement schemes. The Government of the Sudan hoped to accommodate 98,000 refugees in rural settlements by the end of 1980 and it was planning new projects to settle over

100,000 refugees from rural areas in 1981-1982. Since the establishment of refugee settlements needed careful planning, the mission had stressed the urgent need for feasibility studies. Such studies would strengthen the Government's capacity to pursue cost-effective strategies and plans and to locate new settlements as an integral part of over-all rural and urban development.

79. There was a pressing need to strengthen government infrastructure and services in education, training, health and agriculture for both existing programmes and the proposed resettlement schemes.

80. The proposed assistance programme totalled \$229 million, comprising \$140.4 million for urgent humanitarian assistance, \$88.1 million for urgent development assistance to strengthen the Government's economic and social infrastructure, and \$741,000 for pre-implementation sectoral planning assistance.

81. It had not been possible for him to give a full picture of the development problems affecting the countries he had mentioned but he had tried to focus on some of the major economic difficulties which had made the special assistance programmes necessary and to indicate what had been the response of the international community. There were certain difficulties common to all the countries concerned: their resources were limited, they were subject to the ravages of global inflation, and in many cases their economy was at such a level as to place them among the least developed countries of the world. Nevertheless, they displayed remarkable determination to overcome the enormous obstacles to their development and they deserved encouragement and support. He hoped that Member States would include adequate provision for assistance in their bilateral programmes and that multilateral donor organizations would adopt special measures to keep the programmes under constant review, so as to ensure that the plight of those countries was not neglected. Some of the countries concerned were contemplating the organization of donor conferences as a further means of mobilizing international assistance. The Secretary-General hoped that those conferences would be fully supported by the international community.

*Mr. Xifra de Ocerin (Spain), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

82. Mr. SKALLI (Morocco) said that the increasing magnitude and diversity of natural and other disasters constituted a serious threat to the peoples and economies of many countries. The efforts of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in both emergency relief and prevention deserved the active support of the international community. He welcomed the many co-operation agreements and other arrangements made between the Office and other United Nations bodies. UNEP had rightly accorded priority status to natural disasters and was already providing strong support for research and development activities of the Office. UNDP was providing the Office with technical assistance support. Much, however, remained to be done to improve the "contingency plans" on which relief co-ordination operations were based.

83. The effectiveness of such operations depended also on disaster-prevention planning in the countries affected. He wished to pay a tribute to a non-governmental organization, the International Civil Defence Organization, for its tireless efforts to help third world countries in that task. Unfortunately, since, in spite of its universal mandate, it so far numbered only third world countries among its members, the lack of contributions from developed countries seriously restricted its activities. His Government supported that Organization and would shortly be acting as host to its fifth General Assembly and to the ninth Civil Defence Confer-

ence. The meetings would be of particular significance to his country, coinciding as they did with the twentieth anniversary of the earthquake which had almost obliterated Agadir, with a death toll of over 15,000. At enormous sacrifice, and with international assistance, the Moroccan people had reconstructed the town using the latest earthquake-resistant technology. He was happy to say that, with the assistance of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the International Civil Defence Organization, research had been proceeding in methods of preventing and combating the most likely forms of disaster, and a national civil defence organization had been established.

84. Another matter of serious concern to Africa was the struggle against the devastating effects of drought in the Sudano-Sahelian region, which could only be halted by the implementation of the relief and rehabilitation programme adopted by the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel. The responsibility for mobilizing the necessary resources to finance priority projects, designated by the Governments concerned, fell upon the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office. His Government appreciated its valuable activities and was happy to report that several projects had already been completed and that others were being carried out.

85. He supported the classification among the least developed countries of Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Djibouti, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Tonga, which all stood in need of emergency measures to ensure the survival of their economies and to meet the basic needs of their people.

86. In view of the inadequacy of existing means to cope with the magnitude and diversity of disasters, urgent steps must be taken by the United Nations system to establish the organizational structure required and to ensure that it had sufficient resources to provide suitable and better co-ordinated assistance to the peoples of disaster-stricken regions.

87. Ms. PALARCA (Observer for the Philippines) said that the Government of the Philippines had noted with satisfaction the co-ordinated efforts of United Nations bodies for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of natural and other disasters. She fully concurred in the emphasis placed by previous speakers on the need for prompt and continuing assistance measures and their disquiet over the signs of lassitude in the face of existing emergencies, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America; she supported the call for strengthened relief machinery and reiterated the right of refugees, displaced persons and disaster victims to speedy aid from the international community. Within the constraints of its own needs, the Philippines had contributed financially to the relief of displaced persons and its refugee centre remained opened to those arriving under agreed conditions. In addition to some 6,000 refugees accommodated at Puerto Princesa and Tara Island, her Government had offered to provide a processing centre to accommodate 50,000 refugees already accepted for resettlement in third countries.

88. Although situated in a disaster-prone area, the Philippines had not needed to call on international assistance in the year under review. She wished, however, to draw attention to the gravity of earthquake hazards in the Asian and Pacific area. In Asia, the earthquake death toll reached 24,000 a year and United Nations experts estimated that the figure would rise as populations increased. The kind of earthquake disaster which had affected Japan in 1979 was not rare in South-East Asia, which experienced at least one severe earthquake every year and a major disaster every 10 years. The lives and property of some 200 million people

in the region extending from Thailand to Papua New Guinea, which lay on the intersection of two major earthquake systems, were liable to sudden destruction at any time. Studies promoted by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and other United Nations relief agencies in earthquake prediction and readiness were therefore extremely important.

89. An example of the co-ordination which was essential to ensure unified action by the agencies was provided by the regional network for earthquake prediction and preparedness established in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. It had been started in 1971 and the preparatory stage had been completed in August 1979. UNDP had provided \$1.2 million, while UNESCO had provided the requisite technical assistance. The network, now fully operational, provided information on the magnitude and location of earthquakes within the region, thus facilitating the organization of rescue and relief operations. It also gave warning of possible occurrences of destructive tidal waves, which were thought to be caused by sea-bed earthquakes. National seismological headquarters had been established in each of the participating countries and instruments to measure earthquake movements had been installed in the principal cities. Seismic regionalization maps were being prepared on the basis of historical records; information was exchanged through the communications network of WMO and transmitted to the United States geological survey station at Boulder, Colorado, and to the international seismological centre at Edinburgh. Such research could be invaluable in reducing loss of life by the timely evacuation of populations following earthquake forecasts and it enabled earthquake-prone developing countries to prepare and enforce earthquake-resistant building codes. By the end of the preparatory stage, some 76 persons had been trained by UNESCO experts, working with their local counterparts, to operate the network, some of whom had received on-the-job training in Canada, New Zealand, the United States of America and Australia, under the UNESCO fellowship scheme.

90. The provision of assistance and advice to disaster-stricken regions was one of the most inspiring tasks of modern times and it deserved all possible encouragement and financial support from the international community.

91. Mr. Saleh Haji FARAH (Observer for Djibouti) said that his delegation was eagerly awaiting the report of the interagency mission on the assessment of the needs of the refugees in Djibouti. The refugee problem had existed even before his country had achieved independence, but the

situation had subsequently deteriorated with increasing rapidity and it had now assumed unmanageable proportions. The refugees — of rural and urban origin, consisting mainly of women, children and elderly persons — now accounted for some 15 per cent of the total population of the country and their presence seriously hampered the Government's efforts to effect badly needed improvements in social and public services. Such a small country, with a population of only some 350,000 persons, endowed with meagre economic resources and lacking an adequate infrastructure, was not equipped to cope with so many refugees. The situation had lately been aggravated by the displacement of an estimated one third of the population as a result of drought. Even a large, prosperous, industrialized country, faced with a commensurate problem, would find itself in a truly catastrophic situation. The young Republic of Djibouti had, however, opened its doors in accordance with humanitarian obligations and had faced the impossible challenge with dignity. Djibouti had discharged its obligations under the relevant conventions of the United Nations and OAU and merited the respect of the international community.

92. Government policy did not discriminate between the local and the refugee population; as a result, medical services and the school system were under a heavy strain and the serious unemployment situation had been further worsened. The food shortage had also become even more acute as a result of the severe drought that had affected most of the region for the past two years; it had drastically reduced the number of livestock and had caused heavy loss of human life through starvation and disease. There was an urgent and persistent need for increased food supplies, medical facilities, clothing, shelter and educational services. The privations of the refugees were made even more intolerable by the harsh climatic conditions of a land that remained arid for most of the year.

93. It was his Government's fervent hope that the international community would provide adequate assistance to resettle the substantial number of refugees who could not be integrated into the existing community. It deeply appreciated what was already being done by UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and a number of non-governmental organizations, but that assistance was not sufficient to overcome the problem.

94. His delegation was submitting a draft resolution on assistance to the refugees in Djibouti and hoped that it would receive the support of the Council.

*The meeting rose at 1.50 p.m.*

## 41st meeting

Monday, 21 July 1980, at 3.30 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.41

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Xifra de Ocerin (Spain), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

### AGENDA ITEM 4

#### Special economic and disaster relief assistance (continued)

1. Mr. BEER (League of Red Cross Societies), noting that disaster relief and preparedness were among the major

aspects of Red Cross work, expressed the hope that enough resources would be made available to UNHCR, which had not always been the case, and that help for refugees, in countries of first and final asylum alike, would be looked upon as a common responsibility. The League of Red Cross Societies was working with its national member societies in South-East Asia, Pakistan and the Latin American countries, where the Red Cross had often provided a haven for refugees and displaced persons. In southern Africa, in the United Republic of Cameroon, and particularly in the

Sudan, Uganda and the Horn of Africa, national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies were deeply involved in assistance programmes, in collaboration with national and United Nations bodies. But one difficulty was that funds had to be sought from the public, as well as from national societies and Governments, and it was hard for the public to respond to too many crises at once. There was thus a need for some fresh thought on how to tackle the problems in future.

2. After a major emergency, it was not automatically desirable to aim at restoring the *status quo*. The aftermath of such an emergency could be the opportunity for a country to redirect its financial and human resources in more appropriate ways, working with the community instead of merely providing services for it. Examples of that new approach could be seen in Uganda, Zimbabwe and Nicaragua, where, after recent breakdowns in services, the national Red Cross societies were working in close co-operation with the Governments and with United Nations and other agencies. A new set of priorities was being established, with a view to extending the benefits of good community services to greater numbers and at a more realistic cost to them and their countries.

3. The League agreed with previous speakers who had emphasized that assistance activities should not only be better co-ordinated but should also be expanded in new forms. It fully agreed that the refugee problem was international and was every country's humanitarian responsibility. The problem had so large a bearing on questions of peace and international co-operation that it was up to all bodies, governmental and non-governmental, to reappraise not only the amount of resources they allocated but also the principles on which they operated. The League would do its very best to co-operate in such efforts.

4. Mrs. GU Yijie (China) expressed appreciation for the endeavours made by United Nations bodies to provide special economic and disaster relief, particularly since the General Assembly's thirty-fourth session, and praised the efforts undertaken by the recipient countries themselves.

5. By far the majority of countries which requested special disaster assistance were developing countries whose economies were weak, owing not only to their size and geography but also to the long period of colonialism from which they were still emerging. Those countries were both the first to suffer and the hardest hit by any world economic disturbance, but they had faced up to their problems with immense efforts which the international community should support to the utmost. The Chinese delegation endorsed the appeal made by previous speakers for further efforts by United Nations bodies to assist those countries, and it called on the developed countries and all others able to do so to add to those efforts. Urgent priority should be given to fostering the economic growth of the least developed countries, particularly those in southern Africa, which, at great cost to their own economies, had been assisting the peoples of Azania, Namibia and Zimbabwe in their freedom struggle. China had consistently supported those countries and hoped that United Nations bodies too would increase their efforts to alleviate the sufferings of persecuted peoples in southern Africa, including students and others active in the cause of freedom.

6. China welcomed Zimbabwe's independence — a triumph for that country's people and for the African front-line States. Zimbabwe faced a great task of recovery, and the international community and the United Nations should do all in their power to help it.

7. Mr. ACEMAH (Observer for Uganda) reminded the Council that the serious economic situation in Uganda had been recognized by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. Since then, the situation had worsened as a result of

the growing food shortage caused by the drought in the north-eastern region. The Government was doing its best to cope with the problems, but attached great importance to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 34/122; in particular, it hoped that the mission to be dispatched to Uganda by the Secretary-General would arrive before the end of 1980. The Ugandan Government greatly appreciated the emergency relief assistance received from a number of countries, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies. But the assistance so far provided had fallen far short of the country's needs, and he therefore endorsed the appeal made for increased assistance to Uganda. He also supported the appeals made in respect of the other special economic and disaster relief assistance programmes mentioned by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and Co-ordinator of Special Economic Assistance Programmes in his introductory statement at the 40th meeting.

8. Mr. HINKEL (German Democratic Republic) said that assistance to countries affected by natural catastrophes or grave emergencies was an important part of the Council's work. The German Democratic Republic, as a token of its solidarity, had continued to assist such countries during the preceding year by providing food, medical facilities, clothing and other supplies to Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Uganda, Seychelles, Chad and other countries, to a value of some 342 million marks.

9. The situation in many of those countries was made worse by the consequences of long colonial domination and the policies of *apartheid* and aggression pursued by the South African régime; assistance to them should, therefore, be viewed in the context of their struggle for self-determination. The Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic had visited several African States during the preceding year and had again demonstrated his country's solidarity with the newly independent nations — one expression of which was the intensified bilateral co-operation between the German Democratic Republic and those countries in trade, science and technology, based on equality and mutual advantage. That helped the developing countries to make progress in overcoming their colonial heritage and neo-colonialist exploitation and in equipping themselves to cope with emergencies.

10. His delegation endorsed the appeal for the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions relating to emergency relief assistance and would support the draft resolutions submitted to the Council on the subject.

11. Mr. BIRIDO (Observer for the Sudan) said that the interagency mission sent by the Secretary-General to the Sudan under Council resolution 1980/10 was currently preparing its report. It had noted the massive problem caused by the presence in that country of 441,000 refugees; because of its serious economic situation, the Sudan would find it extremely difficult to provide them with normal services and virtually impossible to take any more refugees.

12. The Sudanese Government intended to undertake longer-term plans and programmes aimed not only at providing humanitarian assistance but also at encouraging refugees to become productive members of economically viable communities. The interagency mission had recommended full support of that policy by the international community and had suggested that the implementation of the programme would require some \$229 million, made up of \$140.4 million for urgent humanitarian assistance, \$88.1 million for urgent development assistance and \$741,000 for pre-implementation sectoral planning assistance.

13. The Sudan was grateful to the Secretary-General for having sent the interagency mission so speedily. Council resolution 1980/10 had recommended that the mission's report should be submitted to the Council at its first regular session of 1981, but in view of the worsening refugee situation and the urgent need for international assistance, his delegation hoped the Council would agree that the report should be made available to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

14. Mr. BARAKAT (Jordan) said that, on the basis of his own country's experience in coping with a massive influx of refugees, he could speak with authority of the additional burden which humanitarian activities imposed on Governments and of the disruptive effects of such activities on their national development programmes. For that reason, any assistance from the international community was of immense value, not merely as relief, but also as an encouragement to the hard-pressed Governments concerned.

15. It should, perhaps, be pointed out that while the fate of refugees was a source of constant preoccupation, and while efforts were indeed being made to help them in their plight, little attention had so far been accorded to the question of their rights. The remarks made in that connexion by the representative of the Philippines (40th meeting) had been most pertinent.

16. Of all the cases mentioned by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions in his statement, that of the Sudan was particularly urgent, and he fully endorsed the suggestion that the report of the interagency mission to that country should be made available for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. He hoped that, as a result, specific programmes of assistance would be drawn up for implementation without delay.

17. Mr. KAONA (Zambia) expressed the hope that the text of the statement made by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions at the 40th meeting might be made available to members of the Council.

18. Pointing out that the special assistance programme for Zambia had been the subject of attention for a number of years and that resolutions had been adopted on the subject by both the General Assembly and the Security Council, he said that Zambia, like Mozambique, Botswana and Angola, had suffered greatly from the repercussions of the liberation war in Zimbabwe. The forces of the minority régime had not only struck at refugee camps, but had also attacked a number of vital economic targets, such as road and rail bridges, public buildings and power stations. The effect on the Zambian economy of, for example, the destruction of 12 bridges on vital international rail and road links had been little short of disastrous.

19. Despite the fact that Zimbabwe had now attained independence, the consequences of the liberation war would continue to be felt for a long time in the neighbouring front-line States; and, although they were grateful for the assistance they had received so far, further help would be required to enable them to achieve self-sustaining growth and free themselves progressively from dependence on the economy of racist South Africa. Moreover, the situation in the front-line States would remain precarious as long as racism and *apartheid* continued to exist in Namibia and South Africa. While Zambia and the other front-line States would continue to welcome international assistance as a supplement to their own efforts, they considered that the best service the international community could render to their cause would be to eliminate the major source of conflict and suffering in southern Africa, namely, the bogus notion of white supremacy.

20. Mr. TSOANAMATSIE (Lesotho) said that his country had been deeply moved by the generous support which the international community had provided for its economy. Lesotho for its part had done what it could to provide assistance to student refugees from Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa and hoped that further international assistance would be forthcoming in that connexion.

21. He fully agreed with the preceding speaker that the problems faced by southern Africa as a whole were a direct consequence of the cruel and inhuman system of *apartheid*, the effects of which were felt far beyond the frontiers of South Africa. Until that system was eliminated, there could be little hope of genuine economic development or greater well-being in the countries of the region, and peace and stability would remain illusory.

22. Mr. SALAH-BEY (Algeria) said that the statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions had highlighted the contrast between the immensity of the problems, particularly in Africa, and the paucity of the resources available to deal with them. Individual countries were ill equipped to cope with those problems on their own; international assistance was consequently imperative. Moreover, special economic and disaster relief assistance, by virtue of its essentially humanitarian nature, was not a matter to be haggled over; indeed, the volume of such assistance and the willingness with which it was given were the clearest indicators of genuine international solidarity.

23. After drawing attention to the particular problems posed by persistent drought, especially in eastern Africa and in the Sudano-Sahelian region, he expressed approval of the suggestion that a number of additional countries should be included in the new list of the least developed countries to be drawn up in the context of the third United Nations development decade. He further believed that the front-line countries and independent Zimbabwe, which had suffered so much as a consequence of the colonialist and racist policies of South Africa, should be the subject of specific measures of assistance in their national reconstruction and development efforts. Particular attention should also be given to the grave situation in the Sudan.

24. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia) warmly appreciated the efforts made to help countries affected by disasters. He fully agreed that humanitarian assistance and relief measures in connexion with natural disasters should be accompanied by efforts to help the countries concerned to place their economic development on a sound footing, and more particularly to cope with the problem of refugees.

25. He endorsed the suggestion that the report of the interagency mission to the Sudan should be available for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. More generally, he hoped that little time would be lost in giving practical effect to the proposals contained in the statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions.

26. Mr. WHYTE (United Kingdom) said that, although he had referred to the matter during the general debate, he wished to dwell for a moment on the particular case of Zimbabwe. That country had the potential to become one of the most prosperous nations in Africa, but it must first overcome the massive economic and social problems which were the legacy of years of civil strife and guerrilla warfare. The United Kingdom Government had launched a £75 million programme of aid to Zimbabwe and greatly hoped that other members of the international community would give sympathetic attention to its requirements.

*The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.*

## 42nd meeting

Tuesday, 22 July 1980, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.42

### AGENDA ITEM 4

#### Special economic and disaster relief assistance (continued)

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR ON THE MEASURES TAKEN, IN RESPONSE TO COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1980/8, TO ASSIST THE DISPLACED PERSONS IN ETHIOPIA

1. Mr. BERKOL (United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator), introducing the report of the interagency mission to Ethiopia (E/1980/104), said that Ethiopia had a background of extreme underdevelopment and had received less international aid *per capita* than any other country. Thus, any programme of assistance to displaced persons in that country would have to be in the nature of a comprehensive development programme. According to the Central Planning Supreme Council of Ethiopia, agriculture, industry, power, food, water, training, health, housing, mining, transport and communications were all areas needing priority assistance.

2. The mission had decided to indicate the assistance required over a period of years, so that potential donors could see the whole picture and plan a programme of aid. The report therefore covered, as far as practicable, food requirements for a period of three and a half years and the needs of the resettlement programme over a similar period, together with the expansion of health, education and water and power supplies to bring them to an acceptable level. Special arrangements for the most vulnerable groups, namely, children, the elderly and the disabled, were also touched upon; none of the projects was described in great detail, since it was felt that donors would wish to follow up the proposals themselves, in co-operation with the potential executing agency. In its concluding section, the report referred to the need for some new type of organizational machinery when, as in the case of Ethiopia, no single existing agency in the United Nations system was responsible for implementing a comprehensive relief and development programme.

3. Mr. ADUGNA (Ethiopia), Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation of Ethiopia, said that the war imposed on Ethiopia had claimed thousands of lives. There was widespread devastation, and whole villages and towns had been razed to the ground. Development projects worth several hundred million dollars had been completely destroyed. Various agricultural projects had been severely disrupted and veterinary establishments put out of action. The transport network had been severely dislocated, many roads and bridges being unusable; railway lines had been seriously affected, and air transport facilities worth several million dollars had been seriously damaged. Many schools and hospitals had been destroyed. There were almost 2.5 million displaced persons in Ethiopia, and although in order to feed them the Government had diverted substantial resources from development programmes, their average consumption was still below the daily famine ration of 400 grams per head.

4. The effects of natural and man-made disasters could only be overcome by adequate development efforts, and some three years previously the Ethiopian Government had therefore launched a comprehensive economic development campaign. The initial results were promising, though overshadowed by events. The rehabilitation of displaced persons, as in the case of victims of drought, had to be based on economic self-sufficiency and self-reliance; steps had therefore been taken to resettle some 700,000 displaced farmers and nomads who had elected to become farmers; it was hoped that they would become self-sufficient in food within three and a half years. In addition to the problems of the drought and displaced persons, Ethiopia was also now faced with the need to provide relief and rehabilitation for a large number of people returning from neighbouring countries; in the administrative region of Eritrea alone, there were between 60,000 and 70,000 such people and the numbers were expected to grow over the next few months.

5. With more than 5 million people at risk, the tasks facing the Ethiopian Government were more than it could manage with its own resources. A large external contribution would be needed if lives were to be saved. That meant that the lukewarm attitude of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would have to change; although he had visited Ethiopia and discussed the situation with the Government, no action had so far been taken.

6. At the Government's invitation, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator had organized a multi-donor mission to assess the situation created by the serious drought; following the mission's report, an appeal had been launched for assistance. Subsequently, the plight of the displaced persons had obliged the Government to make a further appeal for international assistance, as a result of which the interagency mission had visited Ethiopia. Its report revealed the full magnitude of the problem. He therefore hoped that the Secretary-General would make a proposal at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly regarding the special arrangements mentioned in the report to co-ordinate both relief and development assistance for displaced persons and people affected by persistent drought and that other countries would respond accordingly.

7. In conclusion, he thanked all those who had already given assistance to the people of his country.

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)\*

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS E/1980/L.50, E/1980/L.47/Rev.1  
AND E/1980/L.48

8. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania) introduced a draft resolution on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia (E/1980/L.50) on behalf of the spon-

\* Resumed from the 40th meeting.

sors, who had been joined by Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nepal, the Sudan and Viet Nam.

9. In operative paragraph 4, the words "the United Nations Development Programme," should be followed by the words "the World Bank, "; the Bank had been a member of the interagency mission, and the sponsors apologized for the omission of its name from the text.

10. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) introduced a revised draft resolution on international efforts to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations (E/1980/L.47/Rev.1) on behalf of the sponsors. The revision contained no changes of substance but was simply a response to drafting comments made during the consideration of the original text.

11. In addition, in the seventh preambular paragraph of the revised text, the words "the International Committee of the Red Cross" should be preceded by the words "inter-governmental organizations, ". In the second line of operative paragraph 2, the words "to prepare" should be followed by the words "within existing financial resources".

*Mr. Xifra de Ocerín (Spain), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

12. Mr. BARAKAT (Jordan) introduced a draft resolution on the situation of refugees in Somalia (E/1980/L.48) on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Burundi, Kuwait, Lesotho, Morocco, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

13. The sponsors had made two revisions to the text. First, the following should be inserted as a new fourth preambular paragraph:

*"Expressing its appreciation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the dedicated and efficient manner in which they continue to work in support of refugees in Somalia".*

14. Secondly, a new operative paragraph 3 should be added, reading as follows:

*"Appeals once again to all Member States and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and all voluntary agencies to increase further their assistance to the Government of Somalia in its effort to provide relief and assistance to refugees in Somalia".*

15. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) expressed the hope that draft resolution E/1980/L.48 would be adopted by consensus.

16. Mr. BLANKSON (Nigeria) said that the African group would like to submit a draft resolution on the refugee question and therefore requested that the time-limit for the submission of proposals should be extended.

*It was so decided.*

17. Mr. WHYTE (United Kingdom) suggested that before the Council considered the various draft resolutions consultations might usefully be held with a view to preparing a consolidated text.

*Mr. Mavrommatis (Cyprus) resumed the Chair.*

18. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia) reminded the Council that on 16 July 1980 the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator had been supposed to make an oral report to it on his visit to Ethiopia. One delegation, however, had insisted on the submission of an extensive written report. For reasons that were not clear to his delegation, that report (E/1980/104) had only just appeared, so far in English only, and there had been no time to study it in depth. He therefore requested that the Council should defer consideration of the report, which in the mean time could not be endorsed by his delegation.

19. At the 38th meeting, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had informed the Council in detail of the serious situation in Somalia and the extent of the assistance required; he had stated on 4 March 1980 that the

number of refugees in that country constituted the most serious problem of that type in the world. The Council was fully aware of the unparalleled influx of refugees into Somalia, which was bearing the brunt of the flight of refugees from Ethiopia, and in particular from Eritrea, to neighbouring areas. Successive official UNHCR reports had clearly shown that the cause was Ethiopian oppression. The phenomena of refugees and displaced persons were interconnected, particularly in the Horn of Africa, where they were attributable solely to the oppressive tyrannical régime in Addis Ababa.

20. The Ethiopian régime had appealed for emergency help from the international community for over 5 million so-called displaced persons reportedly facing starvation. But only one year before, a report by UNHCR had mentioned a request by the Ethiopian authorities for assistance for no more than 150,000 displaced persons. From the disparity in figures, the Council would doubtless draw its own conclusions about the veracity of the Ethiopian régime's statements.

21. Mr. TERREFE (Ethiopia), speaking on a point of order, said that the observer for Somalia should confine his remarks to the topic under consideration, namely, the statement by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, and should refrain from slanderous remarks.

22. The PRESIDENT appealed to all speakers to eschew polemics. Although it was difficult to deal with subjects in isolation, the humanitarian aspect of the topic under consideration was surely the Council's foremost concern.

23. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia), continuing his statement, said it was ironic that a country which could place orders for more than 1 billion dollars' worth of arms from a guardian super-Power in order to spread death and disaster among its people should now be appealing for international aid to provide food and medicine for the victims of its destructiveness.

24. According to a recent issue of *The Sunday Times* of London, a United Nations mission to Ethiopia in May 1980 had reported that there were grounds for questioning the accuracy of the figures provided by the Ethiopian Government on the number of displaced persons. Stringent investigative procedures should therefore be applied to ensure that any international aid which might be given to Ethiopia reached the people who were genuinely affected and was not used to feed Ethiopian troops in their war of repression against the civilian population.

25. Mr. POPOV (Bulgaria), speaking on a point of order, urged that the observer for Somalia should be requested to confine his remarks to the item under discussion, namely, the report of the interagency mission to Ethiopia (E/1980/104), and to refrain from commenting on the internal affairs of that country.

26. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia), continuing his statement, said that his primary concern was to draw attention to the humanitarian problems posed by the plight of the massive numbers of refugees in the Horn of Africa. Was it not pertinent to seek the fundamental causes of that tragic situation? They were to be found in the unprecedentedly brutal oppression imposed on the region by the Addis Ababa régime. The Ethiopian forces were systematically destroying the very fabric of society, transforming many thousands of men, women and children into displaced persons in their own land or refugees beyond its frontiers. At the same time, the Addis Ababa régime was ruthlessly applying an *apartheid* type of policy, dispossessing thousands of farming families and removing them from the Ethiopian highlands to make way for new settlements. Against such a background of misery, international assistance could have no real impact until the Addis Ababa

régime abandoned its commitment to a military solution and acknowledged the will of the people to achieve self-determination.

27. Somalia, in keeping with its humanitarian tradition, was determined to support the call for assistance to refugees and displaced persons wherever they might be found. It would never oppose any action designed to relieve human suffering and misery and to ensure respect for human dignity. But any assistance sponsored by the United Nations must be carefully monitored to ensure that it actually reached the people for whom it was intended and was not diverted in support of the Ethiopian war effort. The United Nations should also address itself to the very heart of the problem, namely, the human rights of the afflicted population and the question of foreign intervention. Without a serious examination of those basic issues, any attempt to solve the region's problems would be doomed to failure.

28. The PRESIDENT pointed out that it was the duty of the international community as a whole, and of the Economic and Social Council in particular, to respond positively and without delay to human disasters wherever they might occur. The Council had indeed acted in that manner at its preceding session. But the root causes of those situations were a subject for discussion in other bodies. There was no place in the current discussion for the apportionment of blame. Moreover, the United Nations agencies responsible for administering relief could surely be trusted to ensure that it served its intended purpose.

29. He rejected the suggestion by the observer for Somalia that the delay in taking up the item under discussion could be ascribed to sinister machinations of some kind and assured him that enough time would be allowed for the Council to discuss the matter thoroughly.

30. Mr. HESSEL (France) welcomed that assurance by the President. Adequate time should be allowed for proper consideration of the documents before the Council. Noting that draft resolutions E/1980/L.48 and E/1980/L.50 each contained references to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, he said that he would be unable to take a position on those texts until the High Commissioner himself had had an opportunity to react to them.

31. Tragic though the circumstances were, the Council should exercise circumspection in its response. Any texts submitted for its adoption should be considered most carefully, with the aim of ensuring in advance, as far as possible, that their wording would command a great measure of support. Pending the submission of the draft resolution referred to by the Nigerian representative, members of the Council might usefully engage in consultations to determine what should be done and what measures of support could be approved by consensus.

32. Mr. INAN (Turkey) commended the report of the interagency mission to Ethiopia and deplored any suggestion that the impartiality of any United Nations mission could be called in question.

33. His delegation supported the aims of each of the three draft resolutions before the Council. It welcomed the oral revision made by the representative of Sweden to operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution E/1980/L.47/Rev.1, the effect of which should be to make additional sums available for relief work.

34. Mr. AL-SHAMMA'A (Iraq) suggested that, in view of the limited time available, the Council might merely take note of the report of the interagency mission to Ethiopia and leave its formal adoption to the General Assembly. Operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution E/1980/L.50 might thus be amended, the word "Endorses" being replaced by the words "Takes note of".

35. Mr. ADUGNA (Ethiopia), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, observed, with reference to the report of the interagency mission to Ethiopia, that there had been no opportunity to study the corresponding report on Somalia which had been submitted to the Council at its first regular session of 1980; it had nevertheless been accepted as a Council document. He appealed to members of the Council, having regard to the magnitude of the problem, not to postpone a decision on the Ethiopian report.

36. The observer for Somalia had raised the question of the root cause of the problems in the Horn of Africa. The world was well aware that it was the myth of Greater Somalia, based on legal and historical fictions, which had prompted successive Somali leaders to pursue a dangerous and colonialist policy of expansion, aimed at incorporating in the Somali State not only part of Ethiopia but also parts of Kenya and the whole of Djibouti. Their expansionist obsession was reflected in the Somali flag and Constitution. The Government of Somalia had pursued it through unceasing propaganda, aggression against Ethiopia and efforts to stop Djibouti from achieving real independence. It had diverted the scarce resources of the region from development, in Somalia and elsewhere.

37. It was not Ethiopia, but rather Somalia, which diverted humanitarian relief supplies to other ends, as was shown by recent newspaper accounts of sacks of grain donated as relief being found in guerrilla camps. Somali aggression violated the letter and the spirit of the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Somalia should respect the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the sovereignty of States, their territorial integrity and the principle of non-interference in their domestic affairs. It should ratify the international instruments on refugees.

38. Somalia's self-inflicted economic distress had recently prompted it to take advantage of a dangerous international situation and offer the country as a base to the highest bidder. It had also attempted to pass off its own widows and orphans as refugees. While there were some Ethiopians in Somalia, there were no *bona fide* refugees; they were people who had been forcibly kept there and trained for guerrilla warfare. It would be unfortunate if in the name of humanitarianism the Council were to lend support to a war of aggression. If, on the other hand, Somalia were to ask for assistance on account of the drought, which was indeed affecting its very limited area of arable land, Ethiopia would be the first to support the appeal.

39. The human suffering in Ethiopia might seem remote to some members of the Council, but it was a matter of life and death. He therefore urged the Council to consider the recommendations submitted in the report of the interagency mission to Ethiopia (E/1980/104).

40. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, wondered whether the Ethiopian representative was really unaware of the reign of terror which was going on in Ethiopia, with loss of life and property and violation of every fundamental human right. There was clear evidence of the Ethiopian Government's inhuman treatment of the population, not just in a few areas, but in many regions of the country. In fact, it had been well said that, in spite of the change of régime, the Empire remained an empire still — autocratic, colonialist and racist. That was the sole reason for the floods of destitute refugees not only to Somalia but to other neighbouring countries. The reports of United Nations officials who visited the refugee camps bore eloquent testimony to the real situation.

41. With regard to Djibouti, Somalia had always been in the forefront of those championing its independence. United

Nations records showed that it was the Ethiopian delegation in imperial times which had consistently opposed it, as the Emperor of Ethiopia had laid claim to Djibouti himself. Somalia, on the other hand, had a tradition of supporting freedom fighters against oppression, whether of the old-style colonialist or the new-style hegemonist sort. The sanctity of frontiers did not apply in a colonialist situation.

42. The Council should exercise care in considering the claim for international assistance advanced by the Ethiopian representative.

43. Mr. CHEREDNIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Council was being somewhat slack in applying the rules of procedure to the statements of one of the observers at the current session. He proposed that the Council should address itself to the specific proposals which had been submitted to it. His own delegation had no difficulty in supporting draft resolutions E/1980/L.47/Rev.1, E/1980/L.48 and E/1980/L.50. Members had had just as much time to study the report of the interagency mission to Ethiopia and the relevant draft resolution as the documents relating to a number of other agenda items. The draft resolution on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia (E/1980/L.50) seemed to be clear and to the point. As the President had already observed in reply to the irresponsible and irrelevant comments by the observer for Somalia, the Council should apply the same principle to all three draft resolutions as it had in similar circumstances at its first regular session of 1980.

44. Mr. Saleh Haji FARAH (Observer for Djibouti), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said his country was grateful to Member States that had supported it in its struggle for independence. However, he was surprised that the Ethiopian and Somali representatives had felt constrained to speak in the name of Djibouti when that country had its own representative present. Djibouti well knew how to speak on its own behalf and would not allow any other delegation to act as its advocate on any political matter.

45. Mr. ADUGNA (Ethiopia), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said he wished to assure the observer for Djibouti that he had not intended to speak on that country's behalf. He had merely referred to the fact that the Somali Constitution and flag implied that Somalia incorporated Djibouti.

46. With regard to the destruction wrought in Ethiopia by Somali aggression, he could not do better than refer to the 1979 report of the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, in which it was stated that all the promising irrigation schemes started in Ogaden

in 1976 to resettle nomads on the land had been destroyed by the war and that the population had been dispersed. True freedom meant freedom from hunger and disease. He again appealed to the Council to consider the report of the interagency mission to Ethiopia as a matter of urgency.

47. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that although the Soviet representative had seen fit to describe his comments as irresponsible, he had never referred to the Soviet Union either by name or by implication. However, it was worth reminding the Soviet representative of the destruction that had taken place in Afghanistan and of the generally disruptive role which, in the name of socialism, the country he represented had played everywhere in Africa and Asia.

48. Mr. CHEREDNIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) enquired how the President proposed to apply rule 46 of the rules of procedure.

49. The PRESIDENT said that when the question of the interpretation of rule 46 had been raised at the Council's first regular session of 1980, he had ruled, in conformity with the practice of the Council since its establishment, that observers could exercise the right of reply. His ruling had not been challenged by any member of the Council. It was for members to take the appropriate action to put an end to the exchange if they so desired.

50. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that observers at meetings of the Economic and Social Council enjoyed full rights, with the exception of the right to vote.

51. It was clearly untrue that the havoc in Ethiopia had been caused by Somali aggression, since conditions in Eritrea and elsewhere were no better than in the Ogaden.

52. The question before the Council was one of procedure; as the Iraqi representative had observed, it was inappropriate for the Council to approve a long and detailed report which it had not had an opportunity to examine. The most the Council could do was to take note of the report and leave it for consideration by the General Assembly or by a subsequent session of the Council, when representatives would have had time to hold the necessary consultations.

53. Mr. ADUGNA (Ethiopia), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that, on the subject of Somali aggression; it was instructive to remember the statement issued by the Somali Government itself on 15 March 1978 announcing that it had withdrawn all its forces from the battlefield.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*

## 43rd meeting

Wednesday, 23 July 1980, at 3.25 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.43

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (continued)\*

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS  
(E/1980/L.41 AND ADD.1)

1. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the Committee for Development Planning, at its sixteenth session, had pro-

posed the changes in the venue and dates of two of its working group meetings recorded in paragraph 5 of the note by the Secretariat (E/1980/L.41). The Secretariat also proposed that the twenty-first session of the Statistical Commission should be rescheduled, as indicated in paragraph 2 of document E/1980/L.41/Add.1. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council concurred in those changes.

\* Resumed from the 39th meeting.

*It was so decided (decision 1980/157).*

## AGENDA ITEM 3

**General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (continued)**

## DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1980/L.54

2. Mr. BLANKSON (Nigeria), introducing the draft resolution on the situation of refugees in Africa (E/1980/L.54) on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Burundi, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania, said that over half of the world's refugee population was in Africa. At the same time, African countries had the unhappy distinction of constituting the majority in the category of the least developed countries. Nevertheless, as a result of their community spirit and tradition of spontaneous hospitality, many African countries had never closed their borders to refugees, even at the cost of undermining their own fragile economies.

3. To deal with the refugee problem, OAU had adopted the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. The Convention was concerned with the peaceful and humanitarian nature of granting asylum and article II set out the obligations of member States in that regard. At the thirty-fifth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of OAU, held at Freetown in June 1980, the membership of the OAU Commission of Ten on African Refugees had been increased to 15. The OAU Council of Ministers had also noted with appreciation the measures taken by the Sudan, including the declaration of 1980 as the Year of the Refugee in the Sudan and the organization of the International Conference on Refugees in the Sudan, held in June 1980 at Khartoum. Another conference on the same subject had been held at Arusha in 1979.

4. OAU set great store by the principle of burden-sharing in dealing with refugees. The African countries were deeply grateful for the assistance so far rendered to them, but unfortunately it had not been commensurate with the size of the problem, particularly in view of the adverse effect on many African countries of the current world economic situation. Africa was therefore appealing for more international assistance.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1980/L.47/REV.1

5. Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium) said that the Swedish representative had made some oral revisions at the Council's 42nd meeting to draft resolution E/1980/L.47/Rev.1, but no revised text had been distributed. In order to facilitate the Council's work, he would not oppose consideration of the draft resolution, but as a general rule, the Secretariat should make available up-to-date texts of draft resolutions in all working languages before they were considered in plenary.

6. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden), thanking the Belgian representative for his co-operation, said he had not requested the Secretariat to issue a revised text because his oral revisions had not seemed extensive enough to warrant one. There were precedents for the Council acting on oral revisions.

7. Mr. MULLER (Secretary of the Council) reminded delegations that, as an economy measure, it was the current practice of the Secretariat not to publish revised texts of draft resolutions, except at the request of the sponsors, who were in the best position to know when a definitive text had been arrived at through consultations. However, the revised version of the draft resolution under consideration was in the process of being prepared for circulation.

8. The PRESIDENT reminded the Council of the oral revisions made to draft resolution E/1980/L.47/Rev.1. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt that draft resolution, as thus orally revised.

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/43).*

9. Mr. TARRAGÓ (Brazil) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution. However, it interpreted the reference to the flexible use of resources in paragraph 1 as relating to the resources available for emergency assistance and not to those available for other purposes, such as UNDP technical assistance funds.

10. Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States, commended the excellent work done by many organs of the United Nations system in meeting humanitarian needs in emergency situations. However, an evaluation was called for; the experience acquired by the United Nations could usefully be put on record and analysed, so that the Organization could cope with future emergencies more flexibly.

11. The summary report referred to in paragraph 2 of the resolution would no doubt show the need for a more efficient management of funds. Such funds should come not only from the traditional donors but also from other countries in a position to contribute.

12. The European Economic Community had noted with satisfaction that the sponsors, in introducing their draft resolution, had stressed that no new institutions or permanent new arrangements were contemplated to replace the existing machinery.

13. The Community hoped that the Secretariat would take its observations into account in preparing the summary report.

14. He requested that the foregoing three paragraphs of his statement should be reproduced in the Council's report to the General Assembly.

## DRAFT RESOLUTIONS E/1980/L.48 AND E/1980/L.50

15. Mr. HESSEL (France) said that he sympathized with the objectives of both draft resolutions under consideration.

16. In draft resolution E/1980/L.48, however, it seemed too categorical to request the Secretary-General to dispatch another mission to Somalia as a matter of urgency. He proposed, therefore, that the word "dispatch" in operative paragraph 1 should be replaced by the words "consider the necessity of dispatching". He agreed with the Jordanian representative's proposal (42nd meeting) to add a new preambular paragraph; however, he was not in favour of a proliferation of appeals and, for that reason, hoped that the Jordanian representative would withdraw his proposal to insert an additional operative paragraph.

17. With regard to draft resolution E/1980/L.50, he suggested that the preamble should end with the fourth paragraph and that the fifth preambular paragraph should replace operative paragraph 1. He proposed that in the first line of operative paragraph 3 the words "in consultation with" should replace the word "and". The Council should not request the Secretary-General to make an appeal on the basis of a report which had not yet been adopted; he proposed, therefore, that the paragraph should end after the word "Ethiopia". Finally, since it was the responsibility of the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, the words "and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" in operative paragraph 5 should be deleted.

18. Mr. BARAKAT (Jordan) said that he would prefer to wait until the amendments proposed to draft resolution E/

1980/L.48 were available in writing before commenting on them.

19. Mr. YU Peiwen (China) said that his delegation supported the amendments proposed to draft resolution E/1980/L.50 by the French representative and those proposed at the 42nd meeting by the Iraqi representative.

20. Mr. GIGUÈRE (Observer for Canada) said that he supported the French representative's amendments to both draft resolutions.

21. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia) said that he wished to see a revised text of draft resolution E/1980/L.50 incorporating the amendments before giving his views.

22. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would assume that the Council wished to defer consideration of draft resolutions E/1980/L.48 and E/1980/L.50 until the revised versions were available.

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 4

##### Special economic and disaster relief assistance (concluded)

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS E/1980/L.52 AND E/1980/L.53

23. Mr. BARAKAT (Jordan) introduced the draft resolution on humanitarian assistance to the refugees in Djibouti (E/1980/L.52) on behalf of the sponsors. Two small changes should be made: in the first preambular paragraph, the word "statement" in the first line should read "statements", and the foot-note symbol in the second line should be followed by the words "and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

*The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 1980/44).*

24. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania) introduced the draft resolution on assistance to refugees in the Sudan (E/1980/L.53) on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Australia, Ethiopia, Iraq and Jordan.

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/45).*

25. Mr. BIRIDO (Observer for the Sudan) expressed his delegation's thanks to the Tanzanian delegation and to all the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.53.

26. Mr. Saleh Haji FARAH (Observer for Djibouti) expressed his delegation's gratitude to the Jordanian delegation and the other sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.52 and to the Council for its support of the measures contained therein.

27. Mr. BLANKSON (Nigeria) noted that a series of special economic assistance programmes had been initiated with a view to alleviating the problems faced by many countries. In his statement at the 40th meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and Co-ordinator of Special Economic Assistance Programmes had referred to the progress made in implementing those programmes, although much more international assistance would be required if the Governments of the countries concerned were to make headway in overcoming adverse economic and social conditions. His delegation suggested that the Council should take note of that statement.

28. It also suggested that, in reports on programme implementation, activities relating to humanitarian assistance and those devoted to economic reconstruction programmes should be dealt with separately. The Council might decide to discuss the schedule for the submission of reports during its organizational session for 1981, since it

might be felt that the two distinct groups of activities should be reported on at different times.

29. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council took note of the statement made at the 40th meeting by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and Co-ordinator of Special Economic Assistance Programmes.

*It was so decided (decision 1980/158).*

#### AGENDA ITEM 7

##### Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

##### REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/91)

30. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution and draft decision reproduced in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report of the First Committee (E/1980/91). The programme budget implications of the draft resolution were shown in document E/1980/C.1/L.20.

31. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution and the draft decision without a vote.

DRAFT RESOLUTION: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS  
DECADE IN AFRICA

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/46).*

DRAFT DECISION: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS  
DECADE IN AFRICA (1978-1988)

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/159).*

#### AGENDA ITEM 8

##### International co-operation in the field of human settlements

##### REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/92)

DRAFT RESOLUTION: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION  
IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

32. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution in paragraph 12 of the report of the First Committee (E/1980/92). The programme budget implications of the draft resolution were given in document E/1980/C.1/L.8.

33. Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia), referring to operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, pointed out that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) had no Governing Council. He proposed, therefore, that the words "its Governing Council" in the fifth line of operative paragraph 5 should be replaced by the words "the Commission on Human Settlements".

34. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution, as orally amended by the delegation of Yugoslavia, without a vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/47).*

35. Mr. POPOV (Bulgaria) requested that the statement made by his delegation, on behalf of all the socialist members and observers in the Council, in the First (Economic) Committee during its consideration of agenda item 8, in connexion with the adoption of the draft resolution on international co-operation in the field of

human settlements, should be reflected in the record of the meeting and in the Council's report.

### AGENDA ITEM 10

#### Science and technology for development

#### REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/94)

##### DRAFT RESOLUTION: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

36. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution in paragraph 7 of the report before the Council (E/1980/94).

37. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/48).*

38. Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community participating in the current session, confirmed the position of those States as expressed in the statement made on their behalf by the representative of Ireland at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held at Vienna. Since that statement had a bearing on paragraph 4 of the resolution just adopted, he would request that it should be included *in extenso* in both the record of the meeting in progress and the Council's report to the General Assembly.

### AGENDA ITEM 11

#### International co-operation on the environment

#### REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/95)

##### DRAFT RESOLUTION: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

39. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution in paragraph 10 of the report of the First Committee (E/1980/95). The programme budget implications of the draft resolution were set forth in document E/1980/C.1/L.12.

40. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/49).*

### AGENDA ITEM 16

**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations**

### AGENDA ITEM 17

**Assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movement by agencies and institutions within the United Nations system**

#### REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1980/102)

41. The PRESIDENT said that the reference to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics inadvertently included in

paragraph 10 of the report of the Third Committee (E/1980/102) should be deleted.

42. He drew attention to the draft resolution and the draft decision in paragraph 12 of the report.

43. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution and the draft decision without a vote.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES AND ASSISTANCE TO THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THEIR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/50).*

#### DRAFT DECISION: ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/160).*

44. Mr. EHRMAN (United Kingdom) requested that the content of the statement made by his delegation in the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee after the adoption by the Committee of the draft resolution should be recorded in the report of the Council to the General Assembly.

### AGENDA ITEM 18

**Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region**

#### REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1980/103)

45. Mr. AL-BAKRI (United Arab Emirates) proposed that in operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution II in paragraph 16 of the report of the Third Committee (E/1980/103), the reference to the United Nations Development Programme should be removed from its current position and inserted after the reference to the United Nations Environment Programme.

46. Mr. HESSEL (France) queried the significance of that proposal.

47. Mr. AL-BAKRI (United Arab Emirates) and Mr. IDRIS (Observer for the Sudan) expressed the belief that the new wording would reflect more accurately the respective competences of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, UNEP and UNDP as far as the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification was concerned.

48. Mr. BRECHER (United States of America) found the proposed new wording quite acceptable. General Assembly resolutions 33/88 and 34/187 specified that the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office was acting on behalf of both UNEP and UNDP.

49. The PRESIDENT, pointing out that paragraph 16 of the report of the Third Committee (E/1980/103) contained two draft resolutions, said that if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt both of them, taking account of the amendment just proposed, without a vote.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION I: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/51).*

**DRAFT RESOLUTION II: IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

*The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted (resolution 1980/52).*

50. Mr. BRESSAN (Observer for the Holy See) reminded the Council that on 10 May 1980, at Ouagadougou, the Pope had launched an appeal to the world to combat desertification and its dreadful consequences for mankind. An extract from that address had recently been circulated to members of the Council.

51. The Holy See could not but applaud the commitment reflected in the two resolutions which the Council had just adopted and would merely stress the importance of the role that could be played by private contributors and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

*The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.*

## 44th meeting

Thursday, 24 July 1980, at 11.20 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.44

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/1980/L.49/Rev.2)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the revised draft decision on the review of the economic situation in Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Tonga, with a view to the inclusion of those countries in the list of the least developed countries (E/1980/L.49/Rev.2).

2. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania), introducing draft decision E/1980/L.49/Rev.2 on behalf of the sponsors, said that since the revised version of the draft decision had been issued there had been further consultations, as a result of which it had been agreed to make a further revision to the text. The words "relating to those criteria" should be added after the words "recent data" at the end of paragraph (c).

3. He hoped that members would find no difficulty in adopting the draft decision since it in no way violated the procedure established by the General Assembly for including developing countries in the list of the least developed countries. The draft decision merely requested CDP to expedite its review of the economic situation of the countries in question, with a view to their inclusion in the list. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly had adopted a number of resolutions (resolutions 34/121, 34/123, 34/124, 34/126, 34/131 and 34/132) inviting the Council to request CDP to give priority consideration to the inclusion of those countries in the list of the least developed countries to be drawn up in the context of the third United Nations development decade.

4. The object of the changes that had been made to the original text of the draft decision (E/1980/L.49) was, firstly, to request that the recommendations of CDP should be submitted to the Council at its first regular session of 1981, and, secondly, to request that the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session should authorize the Council to take final action on the recommendations of CDP. It had been felt necessary to make mention in the revised text of developing countries which had recently become independent, particularly in view of the fact that preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries were under way.

5. Since the consultations which had led to the finalization of the text of the draft decision had involved a wide range of delegations, in addition to the sponsors, he hoped that it could be adopted without difficulty. Its purpose was not to open the door to a wholesale review of a list of the least developed among the developing countries, but simply to enable the countries concerned to be urgently considered for inclusion in the list.

6. Mr. DHAR (Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis) said that the Secretariat had been asked to explore the possibility of arranging a special session of CDP to examine the question of the identification of the least developed among the developing countries. The Secretariat had suggested to CDP that it might consider devoting a session to the issue in the month of November. In suggesting that timing, account had been taken of the work programme of working groups of CDP for that year. Replies received from members of the Committee had indicated that the majority would not find it convenient to attend a session in November, but the Council might wish to consider the possibility of convening a working group of the Committee in the second week of November which could undertake the necessary technical work in preparation for consideration of the question by the Committee itself at its session in March 1981.

7. Mr. MULLER (Secretary of the Council) informed members of the Council that the financial implications of a meeting of a working group of seven experts for four days in New York would amount to a sum of \$14,800 for travel and subsistence and \$7,600 for conference services. The first sum could be entirely absorbed by the provision made under paragraphs 6 and 7 of the programme budget for 1980-1981. The figure for conference services would be absorbed as far as possible by existing services, and only if surplus financing were requested would it be included under the heading of additional expenditure, for submission to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. In other words, additional expenditure for that purpose would be purely hypothetical.

8. Mr. INAN (Turkey) supported the draft decision.

9. Mr. ACEMAH (Observer for Uganda) supported the draft decision and asked to be included among its sponsors.

10. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia) said that, as a sponsor of the draft decision, he wished to express his full support for it.

11. Mr. Saleh Haji FARAH (Observer for Djibouti) said that consideration of his country's case for inclusion in the list of the least developed among the developing countries was long overdue. His Government had been presenting that case in various forums since the attainment of Djibouti's independence. The matter had been raised at the thirty-second, thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the General Assembly, at the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and in the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. In addition, it had been brought before the Ministerial Conference of the Group of 77 held in the United Republic of Tanzania in 1979 and before the Conference of African Ministers of Trade at its sixth session, held at Addis Ababa in March 1980. The revised version of the draft decision was an improvement on the original and he was glad that the lengthy consultations held both inside and outside the Council had borne fruitful results. He hoped that the draft decision would meet with the unanimous agreement of the Council and that when the matter came up for discussion in the competent organs of the United Nations, the difficulties that had been encountered by the countries concerned with regard to their inclusion in the list would be brought to an end.

12. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) expressed his satisfaction that the extensive consultations on the draft decision had finally resulted in the production of a text which could command the support of the Council. He looked forward to receiving the report from CDP, which he was confident would provide a proper basis for compiling an updated list of the least developed countries at the start of the third United Nations development decade.

13. Mr. XIFRA de OCERÍN (Spain) said that he, too, welcomed the appearance of the draft decision in its final form, since his delegation had participated actively in discussions on the question in the General Assembly.

*The draft decision (E/1980/L.49/Rev.2), as revised, was adopted (decision 1980/161).*

14. Mr. THOMSON (Australia) welcomed the adoption of the decision, which would be helpful, in particular, to Australia's neighbour, Tonga. He wished to inform the Council that the Government of Kiribati had asked his delegation to recommend that it should be considered for inclusion in the list of the least developed countries. Kiribati was composed of 31 islands, of a total land area of 684 square kilometres scattered over 13 million square kilometres of the central Pacific Ocean, and had a population of less than 60,000. The major resource of its economy, phosphate, had been exhausted and his delegation considered that it had a strong claim for inclusion in the list.

15. In the light of paragraph (b) of the decision, he wished to place on record his delegation's understanding that Kiribati's application would be considered, with a view to that country's inclusion in the list of the least developed countries.

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (concluded)

##### DRAFT RESOLUTIONS E/1980/L.48/REV.1 AND E/1980/L.50/REV.1

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the revised draft resolutions on the situation of refugees in Somalia (E/1980/L.48/Rev.1) and on relief and rehabilitation for displaced persons in Ethiopia (E/1980/L.50/Rev.1).

17. Mr. BARAKAT (Jordan), introducing the revised text of draft resolution E/1980/L.48/Rev.1, said that the point raised by the representative of France (43rd meeting) in connexion with operative paragraph 1 had been dealt with and the new text commanded general support.

18. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania), introducing draft resolution E/1980/L.50/Rev.1, announced that Liberia had joined the sponsors.

19. The changes included in the revised draft resolution had been introduced at the 43rd meeting by the representative of France. The original operative paragraph 1 had been replaced by the wording of the original fifth preambular paragraph. The new operative paragraph 3 ended with the word "Ethiopia", and the reference to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in operative paragraph 5 had been deleted.

20. The new draft resolution had the full support of the sponsors and of the French delegation. He commended it to the Council.

21. Mr. HESSEL (France), referring to draft resolution E/1980/L.48/Rev.1, said that the words "as a matter of urgency" in operative paragraph 1 should be deleted, in accordance with the agreement reached at the preceding meeting.

22. He had two minor amendments to propose to draft resolution E/1980/L.50/Rev.1. The wording of the fifth preambular paragraph was somewhat negative and he thought that a slightly more positive formulation would be more acceptable to the members of the Council. He therefore proposed that the words following "Ethiopia" should be replaced by the following text: "through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should be substantially increased to meet urgent requirements".

23. He pointed out that the two draft resolutions under consideration did not imply any criticism of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who was doing his utmost with the resources available to him. His delegation was fully aware of the gravity of the situation in the various countries concerned.

24. The PRESIDENT asked the sponsors of the two draft resolutions whether they accepted the amendments proposed by France.

25. Mr. BARAKAT (Jordan) said that the amendment proposed by the representative of France to draft resolution E/1980/L.48/Rev.1 was acceptable to his delegation.

26. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation fully accepted the amendments proposed by the representative of France to draft resolution E/1980/L.50/Rev.1.

27. Mr. KELLER (Observer for Liberia) said that his delegation fully accepted the amendments proposed by the representative of France.

28. Mr. AL-SHAMMA'A (Iraq) said that the text of draft resolution E/1980/L.50/Rev.1 did not seem to tally with what the Council had agreed upon at the preceding meeting. Moreover, there appeared to be a conflict between the title, which referred to displaced persons, and the reference in the preamble and the operative part to returnees. His delegation therefore proposed the deletion of the word "returnees" in the preamble and in the operative part of the draft resolution.

29. Mr. ADUGNA (Ethiopia) said that all those concerned with the question of refugees were aware that the main purpose of the solutions proposed in various forums was to encourage the settlement of refugees in their countries of asylum or their repatriation to their countries of origin.

30. His delegation welcomed the fact that there were returnees in Ethiopia and hoped that their numbers would increase; his Government had entered into an agreement with the Government of Djibouti to that end. It had recently promulgated an amnesty law, inviting the refugees to return to Ethiopia. Moreover, the Head of State of Ethiopia had met with the Head of State of the Sudan and had made arrangements concerning refugees.

31. It should be noted that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had already sent 167 refugees by air to Ethiopia. There were 70,000 returnees from the Sudan in Ethiopia and that number would grow as a result of the agreements concluded between the two Governments. Those were the facts and his delegation was therefore unable to accept the deletion of the word "returnees". He appealed to the representative of Iraq to withdraw his proposal.

32. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia) said that, as the representative of Iraq had rightly pointed out, the inclusion of the word "returnees" conflicted with the concept of displaced persons in the context of draft resolution E/1980/L.50/Rev.1. He therefore fully supported the proposal of the representative of Iraq.

33. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, said that they were unable to support the proposal of the delegation of Iraq.

34. Mr. HESSEL (France) appealed to all the parties concerned not to propose further amendments to a text which had already been discussed in great detail. All those who followed closely the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were aware that no distinction was made between the type of assistance provided to displaced persons and that provided to returnees. The High Commissioner carried out his task solely on the basis of humanitarian considerations. He therefore invited all those who had reservations, including the delegations of Iraq and Somalia, to accept the text.

35. The PRESIDENT appealed to the representative of Iraq and the observer for Somalia not to press the Iraqi amendment to a vote. Their views had been noted and would be incorporated in the summary record.

36. Mr. AL-SHAMMA'A (Iraq) said that his delegation could accept the draft resolution, provided that the word "voluntary" was inserted before the word "returnees".

37. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the sponsors were prepared to accept that last amendment proposed by the representative of Iraq. The insertion of the word "voluntary" did not really change the meaning of the draft resolution, because a person returning to his country was usually not forced to do so.

38. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council was prepared to adopt draft resolution E/1980/L.48/Rev.1 and draft resolution E/1980/L.50/Rev.1, as orally amended by France and Iraq, without a vote.

*The draft resolutions were adopted (resolution 1980/53 and resolution 1980/54).*

39. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia) said that, during the general debate and in the course of the consideration of the question of refugees, his delegation had made its position quite clear and had provided the Council with a detailed description of the serious refugee situation in his country. He thanked all the member States that had shown sympathy and support. He also wished to thank UNHCR and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the voluntary agencies that had helped in tackling the serious refugee problem.

40. Mr. ADUGNA (Ethiopia) said that his delegation had been concerned that the High Commissioner should have a clear mandate, so that UNHCR could play a more active role, and it had been in order to strengthen the High Commissioner's hand that it had considered it desirable that draft resolution E/1980/L.50/Rev.1 should draw particular attention to the involvement of UNHCR in his country. His delegation appreciated what the High Commissioner had done in the past and was requesting that such assistance should continue in the future. It reserved the right to take the question up once again at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, after hearing the High Commissioner's report and learning what action the High Commissioner had taken in the mean time with regard to returnees and displaced persons in Ethiopia.

41. He thanked the representatives of France, Iraq and the United Republic of Tanzania for their efforts to bring about a consensus. He also thanked the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.50/Rev.1 and the members of the Council for their support.

42. With regard to the urgent need for assistance for displaced persons in his country, he noted that the observer for Somalia had been somewhat selective in choosing the passages that he had quoted from an article in *The Sunday Times* at the 42nd meeting and that he had neglected to quote passages that described how serious the situation was in Ethiopia owing to drought and war. The people of his country were suffering for reasons beyond their control and he appealed to all to co-operate with his Government in its life-saving efforts.

43. Mr. Abdullahi Said OSMAN (Observer for Somalia) said that the statement just made by the representative of Ethiopia changed nothing. The international community knew that a war was being waged in Ethiopia, and there was increasing awareness of the root causes of that war.

44. The PRESIDENT asked the Council to consider draft resolution E/1980/L.54 on the situation of refugees in Africa.

45. Mr. BLANKSON (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, announced that they had decided to amend the end of operative paragraph 3 to read: "an adequate publicity programme giving special attention to the conditions and needs of refugees in Africa".

46. Mr. MANDJI (Zaire) said that his delegation wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

47. Ms. SPERO (United States of America) said that in a statement at the 29th meeting her delegation had referred to the question of man-made disasters and had suggested that the international community should consider ways of dealing more effectively with the resulting problems. It therefore supported draft resolution E/1980/L.54.

48. Her delegation would consider carefully the points raised during the debate on the broader refugee problem in Africa, particularly regarding assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa. Her country would remain in close contact with the international organizations that were assisting the Governments concerned in meeting humanitarian relief needs in that area and would continue to co-operate with the study missions that had been sent. The needs were so great in Africa, especially in the Horn, that an effort by the entire international community was required. Her delegation therefore hoped that other Governments in a position to provide assistance would co-operate with the competent international organizations. In the past, a number of Governments had, by rhetoric and by deed, helped to create the problems that the international community was currently facing but they had failed to respond to appeals by international organizations for humanitarian

assistance. It was to be hoped that those Governments would pledge their assistance in response to appeals and inform the Secretary-General of the action that they were taking through bilateral humanitarian assistance programmes.

49. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1980/L.54, as amended by the sponsors, without a vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 1980/55).

50. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the following documents submitted under agenda item 3: the *World Economic Survey, 1979-1980* (E/1980/38 and Corr.1); the summary of the economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1979: recent economic developments, 1978-1979 (E/1980/33); the summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1978-1979 (E/1980/56); the summary of recent economic developments in the ECE region (E/1980/62); the summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the ECWA region, 1979 (E/1980/66); the document entitled "Evolution of the Latin American economy in 1979" (E/1980/71); and the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its sixteenth session (E/1980/3).

51. He added that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of, and transmit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Distribution of income in the nation: rural-urban differentials" (A/35/231).

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/162).

52. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to transmit, without debate, the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/1980/79 and Corr.1) to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/163).

53. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had thus completed its consideration of agenda item 3.

## AGENDA ITEM 6

### Regional co-operation

#### REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/90)

54. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the two draft resolutions in paragraph 22 and the five draft decisions in paragraph 23 of the report of the First Committee (E/1980/90). The programme budget implications of draft resolution I had been circulated in document E/1980/C.1/L.19.

55. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the two draft resolutions and the five draft decisions without a vote.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION I: CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN-AMERICA

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 1980/56).

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION II: RELOCATION OF THE OFFICES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA TO BAGHDAD

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 1980/57).

#### DRAFT DECISION I: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

*The draft decision was adopted* (decision 1980/164).

#### DRAFT DECISION II: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

*The draft decision was adopted* (decision 1980/165).

#### DRAFT DECISION III: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

*The draft decision was adopted* (decision 1980/166).

#### DRAFT DECISION IV: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

*The draft decision was adopted* (decision 1980/167).

#### DRAFT DECISION V: REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

*The draft decision was adopted* (decision 1980/168).

56. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 6.

## AGENDA ITEM 9

### Food problems

#### REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/93)

57. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution and the draft decision in paragraph 11 of the report of the First Committee (E/1980/93). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution and the draft decision without a vote.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION: REPORT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

*The draft resolution was adopted* (resolution 1980/58).

#### DRAFT DECISION: FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

*The draft decision was adopted* (decision 1980/169).

58. Mr. PARANHOS VELLOSO (Brazil) said that his Government's position with regard to a number of points in the resolution just adopted remained unchanged. Food sector strategies should not constitute a condition for assistance from the international community to developing countries in the matter of food problems. Moreover, that position had been taken unanimously by the developing countries prior to the sixth ministerial session of the World Food Council. The question of food development activities and agricultural development could be dealt with in a number of other ways, which had proved quite successful.

59. His country was not a party to the International Undertaking on World Food Security, providing for an international emergency food reserve, as foreseen by the World Food Conference in 1974; it remained committed only to voluntary undertakings in that area. The best approach to emergency situations in the food sector was a conscious effort to increase production and productivity in developing countries. His delegation rejected the view that world food security should depend on the mandatory establishment of stocks.

60. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in connexion with the resolution just adopted, the reservations entered by his country's delegation during the sixth ministerial session of the World Food Council and during the current session of the Economic and Social Council remained valid. He requested that his statement should be recorded in the report of the Council.

61. Mr. DUMONT (Argentina), referring to the resolution just adopted, said that his delegation had already stated its position at the 21st meeting of the First Committee.

62. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had thus completed its consideration of agenda item 9.

## AGENDA ITEM 12

### Transnational corporations

#### REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/96)

63. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the two draft resolutions in paragraph 19 and five draft decisions in paragraph 20 of the report of the First Committee (E/1980/96), and to the statement of the programme budget implications of draft decisions II and III (E/1980/L.55 and Corr.1), submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION I: ACTIVITIES OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THEIR COLLABORATION WITH THE RACIST MINORITY REGIMES IN THAT AREA**

64. The PRESIDENT recalled that draft resolution I had been adopted by the First Committee by a roll-call vote of 32 to 5, with 7 abstentions. He invited the Council to vote on the draft resolution.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 28 votes to 5, with 6 abstentions (resolution 1980/59).*

65. Mrs. SIKRI (India) drew attention to a mis-statement in paragraph 14 of the report of the First Committee: the draft decision which she had introduced in the Committee had had no specific title, and the relevant phrase in the paragraph should read "a draft decision on agenda item 12".

66. In paragraph 15 of the report, the words "the representative of India orally revised the text" were misleading. What she had, in fact, done was to draw attention to discrepancies between the manuscript draft she had presented to the Secretariat and the document as issued. The changes that had been made could not, in her view, be considered merely editorial in character. Moreover, paragraph (c) of the decision, as reproduced in paragraph 15 of the report, did not correspond to the text she had read out in the First Committee. What she had read out was: "That the United Nations conference to adopt an international agreement on illicit payments will be convened only after completion of the United Nations conference to adopt a code of conduct on transnational corporations". Changes of such a nature should not be made in texts submitted by delegations without their being consulted.

67. Mr. XIFRA de OCERÍN (Spain) said that, if his delegation had been present during the vote on draft resolution I, it would have abstained, as it had done in the First Committee, for the reasons it had then stated, which he requested should be indicated in the Council's report.

68. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden), Mr. RUSO (Finland), Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium), speaking also on behalf of

the European Economic Community, and Mr. ALI (Trinidad and Tobago) stated that they had voted on draft resolution I as they had in the First Committee; they drew attention to the explanations of vote they had given on that occasion, and requested that they should appear in the Council's report.

69. Mr. BASKUT (Turkey) wished to state that his delegation had voted in favour of the resolution.

70. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution II and the five draft decisions in the report of the First Committee (E/1980/96) without a vote.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION II: PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND OBSTACLES THAT IMPEDE IT: THE ROLE OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS**

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/60).*

**DRAFT DECISION I: PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS**

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/170).*

**DRAFT DECISION II: SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON A CODE OF CONDUCT**

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/171).*

**DRAFT DECISION III: SESSIONS OF THE Ad Hoc INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING**

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/172).*

**DRAFT DECISION IV: REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS ON ITS SIXTH SESSION**

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/173).*

**DRAFT DECISION V: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES TO CONCLUDE A CODE OF CONDUCT ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS**

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/174).*

71. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 12.

## AGENDA ITEM 13

### Industrial development co-operation

#### REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/97)

**DRAFT RESOLUTION: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION**

72. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution in paragraph 11 of the report of the First Committee (E/1980/97).

73. Mrs. SIKRI (India) said that the text appearing in the report did not accurately reflect the changes that the draft resolution had undergone in the First Committee. The words "as determined by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session" had been omitted at the end of the text of operative paragraph 11 as adopted by the Committee. Reference was,

indeed, made to part of the omitted phrase in paragraph 6 of the report, which made its complete omission from the draft resolution even more glaring.

74. A similar discrepancy between paragraph 6 of the report and the text of the draft resolution concerned operative paragraph 10. Agreement had been reached in informal consultations to incorporate a direct reference to document ID/B/245 by its symbol and not merely to refer to it in a foot-note. The agreed wording was "... taking into account, *inter alia*, document ID/B/245 on a proposal for an industrial project preparation facility".

75. The changes to which she had referred could not be regarded as purely grammatical. While she understood that certain set forms of expression were customary in the Organization, such considerations were surely of less importance than achieving a faithful reflection of agreements arrived at painstakingly. She wished to reiterate her view that Secretariat editors should not make changes of substance in documents without consulting the delegations concerned.

76. She noted, as a minor slip, that the title "Economic Commission for Europe" had been incorrectly incorporated in the heading of the document as circulated.

77. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) apologized to the representative of India for the difficulties experienced by her delegation. On the other hand, he was sure that the Council would understand that the Secretariat had an obligation to establish and maintain certain generally respected standards in reports and other documents, but he agreed that no substantive change should be made without the delegations concerned being consulted. As far as the particular text was concerned, he was informed that, as a result of pressure of work, the changes had had to be made at a late hour when consultation had not been a practical possibility. If such difficulties were to be avoided in the future, it would clearly be necessary for some special arrangements to be made.

78. While the sponsors of draft resolutions obviously had a right to incorporate any points of substance they wished, it was necessary to ensure that a uniformly high standard of formulation, observed by the Organization as a whole, was maintained, and it was an agreed principle that documents should not be referred to by their symbols in the body of a text.

79. As far as the reference to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly was concerned, it should not prove difficult to arrive at wording that avoided the implication that decisions had already been reached on matters still to be considered by the General Assembly.

80. Mrs. SIKRI (India) suggested that a convenient point at which to draw the attention of delegation to discrepancies between a given proposed wording and agreed United Nations practice would be at the time when a resolution was under discussion. There seemed, moreover, to be some inconsistency in practice, since a reference to a forthcoming session of the General Assembly, similar to that under discussion, had passed unchallenged the preceding year. In general, she continued to think that matters of substance, on which agreement had, perhaps with difficulty, been reached, were more important than conventions of drafting.

81. The PRESIDENT said that, in his view, no major editorial changes should be made without the delegations concerned being consulted. In the attempt to achieve consensus, it was sometimes necessary deliberately to choose wording that was imprecise or even not strictly grammatically correct.

82. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that, after informal consultation with the Indian delegation, he was happy to say that agreement had been reached about the necessity for appropriate arrangements to be made for consultation.

83. Mrs. SIKRI (India) said that her delegation accepted a suggestion by the Secretariat that the phrase, about the omission of which at the end of operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution she had complained, should be reworded to read "to be determined by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session".

84. She hoped that the modification she had requested to operative paragraph 10 would also be made.

85. Mr. DIMITRIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) drew attention to a mistranslation in the Russian text of operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution: the Russian word used to translate "agrees" meant "decides". He asked that the mistake should be corrected. In general, more care should be taken to ensure that documents presented to the Council, particularly resolutions and decisions, were correctly translated.

86. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would consider that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

*The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted (resolution 1980/61).*

87. Ms. SPERO (United States of America) said that her delegation had been happy to join in the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote. Her delegation, however, wished to state that with regard to the reorganization of the work of UNIDO, as mandated at the fourteenth session of the Industrial Development Board, her Government's position continued to be that no new budgetary resources beyond those already provided should be required.

88. Mr. POPOV (Bulgaria) said that, during the discussion on agenda item 13 in the First Committee, his delegation, on its own behalf and on behalf of the delegations of the German Democratic Republic, Hungary and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, had made a statement on the draft resolution, which continued to represent their views. They requested that an appropriate reference to it should be made in the Council's report to the General Assembly.

89. Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium), speaking also on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, said that their views were as expressed at the fourteenth session of the Industrial Development Board and as reported in paragraphs 172-175 of the Board's report. The delegations concerned wished an appropriate reference to those views to be incorporated in the Council's report.

90. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 13.

## AGENDA ITEM 15

### Proposed medium-term plan

#### REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1980/101)

##### DRAFT DECISION: PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1980-1983

91. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft decision in paragraph 9 of the report of the Third Committee (E/1980/101).

<sup>1</sup> ID/B/248.

92. If there were no objections, he would consider that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision without a vote.

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/175).*

93. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 15.

*The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.*

## 45th meeting

Friday, 25 July 1980, at 11.15 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.45

### AGENDA ITEM 12

#### Transnational corporations (*concluded*)

#### REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1980/96)

1. Mr. PEREIRA (Argentina) said that his delegation had been absent at the preceding meeting, when the Council had considered the report of the First Committee on agenda item 12 (E/1980/96). It wished the record to show that if it had been present during the vote on draft resolution I, entitled "Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist minority régimes in that area" (adopted as resolution 1980/59), it would have voted in favour, as it had done at the sixth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations and in the First Committee itself.

### AGENDA ITEM 5

#### Comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development

#### REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO- ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1980/98 (PARTS I, II AND III))

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider part I of the report of the Third Committee (E/1980/98). In paragraph 21, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of three draft resolutions, which it had adopted without a vote.

3. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the three draft resolutions without a vote.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION I: UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/62).*

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION II: ROLE OF QUALIFIED NATIONAL PERSON- NEL IN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/63).*

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION III: HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE RE- VIEW OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/64).*

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider part II of the report. In paragraph 22, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of two draft resolutions, which it had adopted without a vote.

5. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the two draft resolutions without a vote.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION I: REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/65).*

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION II: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/66).*

6. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider part III of the report. In paragraph 4, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of three draft decisions, which it had adopted without a vote.

7. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the three draft decisions without a vote.

#### DRAFT DECISION I: REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON THE UNITED NATIONS REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RE- SOURCE EXPLORATION

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/176).*

#### DRAFT DECISION II: REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND FOR LAND-LOCKED DE- VELOPING COUNTRIES

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/177).*

#### DRAFT DECISION III: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTA- TION OF PARAGRAPH 34 OF THE ANNEX TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 32/197

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/178).*

8. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 5.

## AGENDA ITEM 14

## International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system

## REPORT OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION) COMMITTEE (E/1980/99 (PARTS I, II AND III))

9. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider part I of the report of the Third Committee (E/1980/99). In paragraph 18, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of two draft resolutions, which it had adopted without a vote.

10. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the two draft resolutions without a vote.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION I: INTERNATIONAL YEARS AND ANNIVERSARIES

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/67).*

## DRAFT RESOLUTION II: CO-OPERATION IN THE USES OF THE SEA AND COASTAL AREA DEVELOPMENT

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/68).*

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider part II of the report. In paragraph 10, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution, which it had adopted without a vote. He understood that the square brackets in operative paragraph 6 were to be deleted.

12. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION: WORLD COMMUNICATIONS YEAR: DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1980/69).*

13. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider part III of the report.

14. Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium) said that in the Third Committee the document under consideration had met with the agreement of all delegations. Since then, the Council had adopted at its 43rd meeting resolutions 1980/44 and 1980/45 and at its 44th meeting resolution 1980/53. He wished to propose two minor amendments, in order to bring the text of the draft resolution in paragraph 28 of the document under consideration into line with the texts of those resolutions and to avoid any contradiction between the various tasks the Secretary-General was requested to perform. First, in operative paragraph 2, the words "taking into account Council resolutions 1980/44 and 1980/45 of 23 July 1980 and 1980/53 of 24 July 1980" should be inserted after the words "Requests the Secretary-General". Secondly, the wording of paragraph 2 (a) should be brought into line with that of paragraph 1 of resolution 1980/53, so that the opening words would read "To consider the necessity of dispatching a multi-agency mission...".

15. Mr. BARAKAT (Jordan) said that his delegation endorsed the amendments proposed by the Belgian delegation.

16. Mr. IDRIS (Observer for the Sudan) said that his delegation felt that the request to be made to the Secretary-General to send a multi-agency mission should be a matter of urgency. The amendment proposed by the Belgian delegation changed the substance of paragraph 2 (a) of the draft resolution. The countries in question were seriously

affected by the drought and assistance was needed urgently. Moreover, the United Nations bodies concerned had already determined the gravity of the situation. The subject-matter of resolutions 1980/44, 1980/45 and 1980/53 was quite different from that of the draft resolution under consideration and his delegation failed to see why the latter should use the same wording.

17. Mr. Omar Sheikh OSMAN (Observer for Somalia) associated his delegation with the remarks made by the observer for the Sudan. He appealed to the Belgian delegation to withdraw its amendments.

18. Mr. ERNEMANN (Belgium) said that it was not his delegation's intention to complicate matters, but it was essential to consider the various texts in such a way as to ensure that there was no contradiction in their implementation. To meet the point raised by the observers for the Sudan and Somalia, he was prepared to withdraw his second amendment, but he requested that the summary record of the meeting and the report on the session should make it quite clear that the Secretary-General would implement the three resolutions already adopted and the draft resolution under consideration in the spirit in which they had been drafted and adopted.

19. Mr. IDRIS (Observer for the Sudan) said that his delegation could accept the first Belgian amendment, but it would like the record to show that it was its understanding that that amendment would not cause the proposed multi-agency mission to be affected by any interagency mission dispatched in accordance with resolutions 1980/44, 1980/45 and 1980/53. He stressed that the interagency mission on the refugee situation and the multi-agency mission on the drought problem were to carry out their tasks separately.

20. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution, as orally amended, without a vote.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION: ASSISTANCE TO THE DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS IN DJIBOUTI, SOMALIA, THE SUDAN AND UGANDA

*The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted (resolution 1980/70).*

21. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the six draft decisions in paragraph 29 of part III of the Third Committee's report without a vote.

## DRAFT DECISION I: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/179).*

## DRAFT DECISION II: WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAMME

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/180).*

## DRAFT DECISION III: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/181).*

## DRAFT DECISION IV: CONSUMER PROTECTION

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/182).*

## DRAFT DECISION V: THE EFFECT OF CONTINUING CURRENCY INSTABILITY ON THE BUDGETS OF ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/183).*

DRAFT DECISION VI: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

*The draft decision was adopted (decision 1980/184).*

22. Mr. BLANKSON (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Iraq, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Cameroon and the United States of America, whose permanent representatives had been elected to the Executive Committee of WMO, said that the Council, in its role of co-ordinator for the specialized agencies, had just adopted draft decision II of the Third Committee relating to the World Climate Programme. They were sure that there was widespread support for the Programme and would like to express the importance which they attached to it.
23. As the Secretary-General of WMO had pointed out in his statement (33rd meeting), the Eighth World Meteorological Congress in May 1979 had established the World Climate Programme and had recommended that WMO be designated as the lead agency in the United Nations system responsible for the co-ordination and implementation of the Programme. The delegations on whose behalf he was speaking considered that the Council should endorse that recommendation. At its May 1980 session, the WMO Executive Committee had acknowledged the importance of fostering broad participation by the many international governmental and non-governmental bodies involved in the complex activities of the World Climate Programme.
24. Climatic changes could have profound effects on national economies. For example, such changes had undoubtedly been a factor contributing to the severe economic and social conditions in the Sudano-Sahelian region. Climate variability could play a crucial role in agricultural production and the consequent food situation in many countries. Improved understanding of changes of climate was an urgent task deserving international support and encouragement.
25. The members of the Council who had representatives on the Executive Committee of WMO requested the Council to note the work that WMO was starting under its World Climate Programme and to commend the Programme to all States Members of the United Nations.
26. The PRESIDENT, drawing attention to paragraph 27 of part III of the report of the Third Committee, said that the Council had before it a draft decision submitted by a Vice-President of the Council, in the light of informal consultations (E/1980/L.56)
27. Mr. XIFRA de OCERÍN (Spain), Vice-President of the Council, said that the question referred to in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 34/214 had been considered by the Third Committee in connexion with agenda item 14. The Committee had transmitted it to the plenary following informal consultations, under his chairmanship, with the participation of members of the Council and representatives of the specialized agencies, on improving communication between ACC and intergovernmental bodies.
28. The consultations had been carried out in a constructive atmosphere and all participants had demonstrated a clear desire for improved communication between ACC and intergovernmental bodies and to find ways to overcome the acknowledged difficulties. In his opinion, the general conclusions drawn from that informal exchange of views could be summed up in the following manner. First, improved communication required a deliberate effort on the part of the intergovernmental bodies themselves and the specialized agencies. Secondly, improved communication
- was a global process which could not rest on a single body or mechanism but which required the simultaneous and constant operation of a set of mechanisms at various levels. Thirdly, while a search for new or alternative solutions should be undertaken, attention should be concentrated initially on improving the existing machinery. While other forms of consultation should be carried out, the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC should remain the principal instrument for the examination of substantive questions at a high level by both sides. Fourthly, the choice of subjects to be examined at the Joint Meetings was of crucial importance and most of the difficulties had arisen from an unsuitable choice. The selection of appropriate subjects would facilitate the solution of secondary problems relating to the timing, venue, preparation and purpose of the deliberations, which should then be held accordingly. To that end, consultations were to be held early in 1981 between representatives of CPC, the Council and ACC. Fifthly, there should be increased contacts on a continuing basis with a number of intergovernmental bodies at various levels and the process of informal consultation should be strengthened.
29. It was clear that the question called for detailed studies, in respect of which it would be useful to hold informal consultations on a continuing basis, since the matter was far from exhausted. In response to the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/214, however, he proposed that at the current stage the Council, bearing in mind the conclusions just drawn, should adopt the draft decision he had submitted (E/1980/L.56).
30. Mr. KIRDAR (United Nations Development Programme) said that he had a purely drafting point to raise in connexion with paragraph (a) of the draft decision. Since the consultations that had taken place under the chairmanship of the Vice-President had not been confined to representatives of the specialized agencies, he proposed that the last phrase of the paragraph should be amended to read "...representatives of the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system".
- The draft decision submitted by a Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, as amended, was adopted (decision 1980/185).*
31. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 14.
- Report of the Secretary-General containing the summary of estimates of programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council during its first and second regular sessions of 1980 (E/1980/109)***
32. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Secretary-General containing the summary of estimates of programme budget implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council during its first and second regular sessions of 1980 (E/1980/109).
33. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that at the current session the Council had taken a number of decisions which had administrative and financial implications for the Secretariat and for the United Nations budget. While some of the expenditure that had been incurred was unavoidable, there was some which, in his view, was not justified and he reiterated the reservations he had expressed on the subject in the course of the discussions. The administrative and financial implications of the Council's decisions would not constitute such a heavy burden on the United Nations, were it not customary for such decisions, where they involved any practical measures, automatically to be viewed as adding to the volume of existing activities. It had become customary for proposals originating at Secretariat level to be transmitted first to the

Economic and Social Council and eventually to the General Assembly. Thus, the Council was not fulfilling its proper role as co-ordinator, but was taking upon itself the task of decision-making, not only in matters of finance and administration, but also in matters of substance. The situation was made more difficult by the fact that reports on the work of the Council's subordinate bodies often did not reach it until towards the end of the session. The result was that the Council was contributing to the chronic growth in the budgetary expenditures of the United Nations without achieving any corresponding increase in efficiency. It was from that point of view that his delegation viewed the estimates of programme budget implications under consideration.

34. The PRESIDENT said that the comments made by the Soviet representative would be noted.

35. In the absence of any objection, he assumed that the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General containing the summary of estimates of programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council during its first and second regular sessions of 1980.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/186).

## AGENDA ITEM 2

### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/1980/L.57, E/1980/L.58)

36. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to a note by the Secretariat (E/1980/L.57) listing the documentation requested in decisions of the Council under items of its agenda and submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1979/41.

37. The Council also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the resumed second regular session of 1980 (E/1980/L.58).

38. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that the two documents were closely related. It was the first time that the Secretariat had been asked to produce a consolidated list of documentation such as that appearing in document E/1980/L.57 and it would be seen from that list that the Secretary-General alone had been requested to produce nine documents. That meant that the level of documentation had reached the same level as that of 1979, but the Secretariat would make special efforts at least to reduce in length the documents in question.

39. In connexion with the organization of the work of the resumed second regular session of 1980 (E/1980/L.58), it was suggested that the Council should continue the practice, established over the preceding two years, of submitting reports direct to the General Assembly, on the clear understanding that the President, at the request either of a member of the Council or of the Secretary-General, might invite the Council to consider any of the reports in question at the resumed session.

40. Should the Council again adopt that approach, it would still have four agenda items to consider at its resumed session. Those items were: first, the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (item 23); secondly, examination of long-term trends in economic development (item 24); thirdly, nomination of members of the World Food Council (item 25); and, fourthly, elections (item 26) which remained outstanding.

41. Ms. SPERO (United States of America) pointed out that the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its sixth session had not been available to the

Council at the current session. She suggested that that report should be added, in a new subparagraph (e), to the list of reports in paragraph 3 of document E/1980/L.58.

42. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that he assumed that the United States representative would wish the report to be mentioned under paragraph 4, which listed items to be dealt with at the resumed second regular session. There was a slight procedural difficulty, since the Council had already agreed to consider the item on the basis of the text adopted by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its preceding session and that item was closed. The Council had taken no decision on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission, although it was understandable that it would wish eventually to see the full report. He suggested that the Council should decide that at its resumed session the full report of the Commission should be before it, not as a separate item but for transmittal to the General Assembly on the basis of other progress reports submitted to it. Of course, should any representative request it, the Council could add a new item to its agenda to deal with the question.

43. Ms. SPERO (United States of America) said that that procedure was acceptable to her delegation.

44. The PRESIDENT said he would take it that the Council authorized the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session the report of the Trade and Development Board (A/35/15), the report of the Human Rights Committee on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/35/40), the report of the Council of the United Nations University (A/35/31) and the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its first and second sessions (A/35/43). The full report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations would be before the Council and, should it be so requested, the President could invite the Council to consider that report or the others he had mentioned.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/187).

### Statement by the President

45. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had come to the end of the first part of an interesting second regular session. Members could be proud of the fact that, despite a heavy workload, they had completed their task in a shorter time than had been allotted to them the preceding year. The agenda had been a full one, reflecting the major economic ills of the time and the efforts that were being made at both governmental and intergovernmental level to remedy them. Although the reporting by international agencies and programmes to the Council might often seem a routine matter, it had been shown to be of the greatest validity and importance.

46. One of the main conclusions that could be drawn from the current session was that the world refugee situation was at its worst. One of the African delegations had drawn attention to that situation as it affected the African countries. There was no doubt that the problem was a highly serious one, and the time might come when the Council would decide that it should be included as one of the main items on its agenda.

47. A second major issue before the Council had been that of emergency assistance to countries in need of special help. The Council had requested the Secretary-General, on a proposal by the representative of Sweden, to submit a report on ways in which the United Nations system was rendering and co-ordinating humanitarian assistance. The Nigerian representative had suggested (43rd meeting) that the Council, at its organizational session for 1981, should examine

ways in which such emergency assistance to special cases should be handled. There was no doubt that the Council's examination of its operational activities had been a useful one, and he extended his thanks to all those who had taken part in it.

48. Even before the beginning of the session, there had been clear indications of a possible failure of efforts to prepare the way for the successful holding of the eleventh special session of the General Assembly, and by the time the Council's session had opened the worst fears had been confirmed. In the pervading gloom, it was natural for delegations to turn to the Council. With the passing years, new realities had led to a sense of the need to restructure and reorient the Council — a task that was not yet concluded and was becoming increasingly pressing — but the Council still had an important role to play in all the matters within its wide competence. The extremely short time that had elapsed between the failure of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 and the holding of the Council's general debate had not made it possible to ponder the reasons for the failure or to begin to take the bold decisions required to escape from the present impasse. Consequently, the general debate had expressed familiar, static attitudes and views. One gold thread, however, had been clearly discernible running through the discussion — the determination to seek decisions opening the way for the compromises that were essential if failure was to be averted, even at that late stage.

49. That determination had been evident in his numerous consultations with delegations and in the informal meeting of heads of delegations, which had given him a clear mandate on certain lines based, unfortunately, on a minimalistic approach which, in the circumstances, was perhaps the only one possible. All concerned had given much thought to the best way of shaping efforts to give renewed impetus to the special session, but, finding that the options were extremely limited, they had been obliged to restrict themselves to the President's conclusions; to be prepared on his own responsibility. That task he was now performing, with the single aim, shared by each and all, to contribute — modestly, perhaps, but positively — to the work of the special session. It was the hope and prayer of all that success would be achieved, for the difficulties to be overcome were not confined to the economic sector but extended to the political sector, where renewed tensions threatened the very existence of humanity. Success in the former sector would undoubtedly go a long way towards alleviating the problems faced in the latter.

50. In his opening statement, the Secretary-General had, as had all delegations and heads of United Nations institutions, expressed concern about the gravity of the world economic situation, the worsening imbalance of payments, the persisting high level of inflation, the significant slowdown of growth in developed countries, and the adverse consequences of those trends for the economies of the developing countries. The process of adjustment in both developed and developing economies, and the financing of deficits were policy matters of particular importance. The situation required not only strenuous domestic efforts by all countries but also a strengthening of international co-operation.

51. Specific concern had been expressed about the situation of low-income developing countries and their growth prospects in the coming years. It was recognized that current levels of concessional assistance were inadequate and that, if current trends were not promptly reversed, those countries would encounter severe difficulties in financing their current-account deficits. In his opinion, it was essential not to lose sight of the fact that it was the developing

countries, and particularly the most disadvantaged among them, that suffered most severely from the consequences of the crisis.

52. Divergent analyses had been made of both the underlying and the immediate causes of the problems faced by the world economy. In one view, they resulted mainly from an inadequate and inequitable international system which had been showing signs of serious strain for many years. In another view, the main cause was the impact of the recent increases in oil prices on inflation and payments imbalances in the world economy. Although the lively debate on that matter had not resulted in agreement, it had reflected a shared perception that all economies were closely linked, that intense efforts were required to overcome current difficulties and that those efforts would have to be made jointly. He considered that action was needed in a long-term perspective, in order to generate the necessary changes in the structure of the world economy and national economies and to reshape, where necessary, the framework of existing international relations and institutions. Action was also needed in a more immediate perspective, in order to alleviate the pressing problems of certain countries. Both types of action must be launched without delay. In that connexion, the Secretary-General's suggestion that emergency measures might be considered by Governments at the special session had been noted with interest and it was his own opinion that that suggestion should receive, within a wide context, the attention it deserved.

53. The positive outcome of the negotiations on the Common Fund for Commodities was welcome, but it could not alone diminish the concern expressed by delegations at the lack of progress in international economic negotiations in general. Concern had also been expressed about the political climate prevailing in the negotiations on the eve of the special session. He shared the concern over those two matters and believed that there was a need for Governments to focus attention on the forthcoming session.

54. Some progress had been achieved in the drafting of a new international development strategy but it had not been sufficient to overcome a number of differences of opinion on central issues. He was sure that all delegations shared the hope that the major issues still outstanding would be resolved, so that an effective international development strategy could be adopted at the special session.

55. The circumstances in which the most recent session of the Committee of the Whole had concluded had prompted delegations to express their views on what they expected from global negotiations. There had been broad recognition of the fact that, in the context of current economic problems, such negotiations provided a major opportunity for constructive international co-operation in tackling both current and structural problems, and a chance to avoid a further deepening of the crisis of the world economy. As a consequence, it was particularly important to overcome the interconnected difficulties that had been encountered in drafting an agenda and drawing up a framework for the negotiations. There was an emerging recognition that, while it was difficult to define with precision the respective roles of the central body and the specialized forums, a political commitment on the part of those concerned to give effect, singly or collectively, to the results arrived at would be indispensable.

56. Little time remained for Member States to consider those problems and to take the decisions necessary if the special session was to be successful. It was essential that the best possible use should be made of that time to ensure that the requisite political will would be available and that delegations at the special session would be ready to approach outstanding problems in a manner conducive to

results being obtained. Those problems in the texts under consideration were closely related and the issues were clearly identified. If the international community was to find solutions to them, willingness was required on the part of all groups to show understanding for one another's constraints, bearing in mind the paramount need for effective action to overcome the long-term and short-term dimensions of the current crisis. In such circumstances, questions of procedure must not be allowed to prevent Governments from focusing their attention on the substantive issues. The emerging recognition of the necessity for a political commitment to implement the agreed outcome of the global negotiations could perhaps provide a foundation for achieving the requisite degree of agreement on procedures.

57. In bringing to a close his brief conclusions, he felt bound, in view of the one preoccupation which all shared — a fear of the horrible consequences of failure — to address a sombre and serious appeal to all present, an appeal that should be conveyed to the capitals of delegations and to all centres where policy and other major decisions were taken. The appeal, which he made in his capacity as President of the Council, was that all concerned should review the whole situation with all the seriousness that its gravity demanded and take the necessary bold decisions, however painful they might initially appear to be, so that an agreed solution to current problems could be achieved and the way paved to happier days, and so that tensions could be eased and political and other problems solved in an auspicious atmosphere that could only exist if fears for the economic future of the world began to be dissipated.

58. He would also like to address a personal appeal to all developed countries and to tell them that their capabilities made it, perhaps, easier for them to afford to be more magnanimous.

59. In the interval before the eleventh special session, it was earnestly to be hoped that no unilateral action by any country or group of countries would further aggravate the situation, but that, on the contrary, there should be renewed efforts and consultations, both bilateral and multilateral, to overcome difficulties. No fertile imagination was required to perceive the consequences of failure; it sufficed to say that, not only could the world not afford failure, but that, if it came, it would sweep the world into abysmal depths of desperation from which it would be extremely difficult ever to emerge.

60. It was his earnest hope that all concerned would take with them to New York in August a huge stock of the political will required to overcome difficulties, a will that had up to the moment been so tragically absent. Then and only then would success be attainable. There had been setbacks in the past, but it was heartening to remember that they had been overcome. It was currently more than ever necessary for positive action to be taken, in time to avoid a catastrophe of unprecedented proportions.

#### *Adjournment of the session*

61. After an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the second regular session of 1980 of the Council adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*



# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

## RESUMED SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1980

Summary record of the 46th plenary meeting, held at Headquarters, New York, on 7 November 1980

### 46th meeting

Friday, 7 November 1980, at 11 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.46

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the resumed second regular session of 1980 of the Economic and Social Council.

#### AGENDA ITEM 2

##### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*concluded*)\* (E/1980/111 and Add.1)

2. The PRESIDENT drew to the attention of members the annotated list of items to be considered at the resumed second regular session of 1980 (E/1980/111 and Add.1) and, in particular, paragraph 2 of document E/1980/111/Add.1, in which it was stated that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control had decided to request the Council, at its resumed second regular session, to consider the report of the Committee on its sixth session. In that connexion, he drew attention also to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the same document.

3. Mr. SVIRIDOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that consideration of the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at the current session would be outside the scope of the Council's work. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1584 (L) of 21 May 1971, the Committee was to report to the Commission for Social Development and, as appropriate, to the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; as stated in document E/1980/111/Add.1, that provision had not been modified or superseded in any of the resolutions subsequently adopted by the General Assembly and the Council. The Council could take up the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its first regular session of 1981, after it had been considered by the Commission for Social Development, which was scheduled to meet in February 1981. His delegation was therefore opposed to the inclusion at the current session of an additional item relating to the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.

\* Resumed from the 45th meeting.

4. The PRESIDENT said the Council had before it a specific proposal that it should not consider at its current session the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its sixth session. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to consider the item, as originally decided, at its first regular session of 1981.

*It was so decided.*

5. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the question of changes in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1981. On 14 October 1980, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct had informed the Secretary-General that the Group had decided to reduce the length of its eleventh session, scheduled to be held at Geneva from 13 to 31 October 1980, by one week. At the same time, the Chairman had informed the Secretary-General that the Group had decided to request a one-week extension of its twelfth session, which was scheduled to be held in New York from 5 to 16 January 1981. As a result, the twelfth session of the Group would be held in New York from 5 to 23 January 1981. The services at Headquarters could cover a one-week extension of the session from existing resources. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to approve an extension of the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct, which would be held in New York from 5 to 23 January 1981.

*It was so decided (decision 1980/188).*

#### AGENDA ITEM 23

##### Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/CONE/87/14 and Add.1)

6. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/60 of 8 December 1977 and decision 34/405 of 1 November

1979, the report of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/CONF.87/14 and Add.1), held at Caracas from 25 August to 5 September 1980.

7. Miss COURSON (France) pointed out that document A/CONF.87/14/Add.1, containing part of the report of the Congress, had not been circulated in French.

8. Mr. GEIGER (Chile) noted that it had also not been circulated in Spanish.

9. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) said that document A/CONF.87/14, which contained the decisions of the Congress, had been circulated in all languages. Document A/CONF.87/14/Add.1, so far available in English only, contained merely the background to and proceedings of the Congress.

10. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to take note of the report of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and to transmit it to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-fifth session, which was currently in progress.

*It was so decided (decision 1980/189).*

#### AGENDA ITEM, 24

##### Examination of long-term trends in economic development (A/35/345, E/1980/3, E/1980/110)

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider item 24.

12. Mr. FREYBERG (Observer for Poland) said that the importance of the examination of long-term economic trends for all countries, and in particular for the developing countries, had been recognized by the General Assembly in several of its decisions. The recent developments in the world economic situation had emphasized the need for more extensive studies of long-term economic trends and for the elaboration of forecasts to facilitate selection of the most effective solutions to be recommended in the field of international co-operation. The work which the Secretariat had just started would help to develop an additional basis for the forthcoming international negotiations and was also relevant for the review and appraisal process connected with the third United Nations development decade.

13. While welcoming the first attempt by the Secretariat to prepare an over-all socio-economic perspective of the development of the world economy, his delegation felt that that attempt had fallen short of expectations. The proposal put forward in document A/35/345 could serve only as a starting-point for the continuation of the work, in order to have the preliminary draft of the perspective ready for submission to the Council at its resumed second regular session of 1981, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 34/57 of 29 November 1979. He drew attention to the working paper on the subject submitted by his delegation (E/1980/110, annex) in an attempt to suggest the components of the outline of the over-all perspective as well as the methodological approach to and procedure for its elaboration. In some respects, the suggestions incorporated in the Secretariat document and in the working paper were similar. Nevertheless, there were important differences, especially of a methodological nature. Comparison of the two approaches could perhaps yield positive results when the work of the perspective progressed. One important aspect of development was missing in the Secretariat document, namely, the social aspect, and it was to be hoped

that social questions would find their place when work on the perspective was continued.

14. In conclusion, his delegation hoped that the Council would encourage the Secretariat to continue the study in question by building on the results of the work done so far and taking into account the comments offered by Governments in the course of the current session of the Council and that of the General Assembly currently in progress.

15. Mr. PLECHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the question of the preparation of an over-all socio-economic perspective of the development of the world economy was of particular importance in the light of the discussions on the new international economic order which had taken place at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly. Those discussions had shown that, despite some progress, the real economic situation in the developing countries had not improved but in many cases had deteriorated. Instability, inflation, chronic unemployment and other evils of the capitalist system had intensified. To those must be added the trade boycotts practised by some countries.

16. The over-all socio-economic perspective should reflect the work of all United Nations agencies in the economic field and account should be taken of the interests of all countries, particularly the developing countries. Such a perspective would provide a scientific basis for the adoption of policies concerning the restructuring of international economic relations.

17. The Secretary-General's report on the question (A/35/345) contained some positive elements, but its approach was too narrow. In General Assembly resolution 34/57, the need had been stressed for better knowledge of long-term trends in economic and social development and for the continuation of efforts to expand international economic co-operation as a development factor of ever-growing importance and an indispensable instrument in the process of establishing the new international economic order as well as for the international development strategy for the 1980s. In the same resolution, consideration was envisaged of the Secretary-General's proposals on possible methods for the preparation of an over-all socio-economic perspective of the development of the world economy. The Secretary-General's report dealt with only some of the aspects which should be included in the perspective; it was essential that all possible elements should be taken into account. No mention was made in the report of the resources which could be released by a reduction in military expenditures, nor was there any reference to the wide social inequalities which prevailed in some countries.

18. His delegation proposed that the paper submitted by the Polish delegation (E/1980/110, annex) should be used as a possible basis for the preparation of the perspective.

19. The PRESIDENT said that, on the basis of informal consultations, he had prepared a draft decision by which the Council would take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of an over-all socio-economic perspective of the development of the world economy (A/35/345), prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/57 of 29 November 1979 and transmitted to the Assembly for consideration at its thirty-fifth session, and would request the Secretary-General, when preparing the preliminary draft of the over-all socio-economic perspective of the development of the world economy up to the year 2000, with special emphasis on the period up to 1990 and, in particular, on the problems of the developing countries, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its resumed second regular session of 1981, in compliance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 34/57, to take into consideration the working

paper on long-term trends in economic development (E/1980/110, annex), as well as the views expressed at the resumed second regular session of 1980 of the Council and at the thirty-fifth session of the Assembly.

20. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to adopt the draft decision.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/190).

#### AGENDA ITEM 25

##### Nomination of members of the World Food Council

21. The PRESIDENT invited the Council, in accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 to nominate 12 candidates for election to the World Food Council by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. The 12 vacancies would occur on 31 December 1980; three of them were for African States, three for Asian States, two for Latin American States, three for Western European and other States and one for socialist States of Eastern Europe. The African States had proposed as candidates Egypt, Rwanda and Zaire; the Asian States had proposed Indonesia, Japan and Pakistan; the Latin American States had proposed Argentina and Haiti; the Western European and other States had proposed France, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway; and the socialist States of Eastern Europe had proposed Hungary.

22. The number of candidates from all groups was equal to the number of vacancies, except in the case of the Western European and other States, which had proposed four candidates to fill three vacancies. The preceding year, the Council, in a similar situation, had decided to nominate all the candidates proposed by each group, leaving it to the General Assembly to elect the appropriate number of members from each.

23. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to follow the same procedure at the current session.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/191).

#### AGENDA ITEM 26

##### Elections (E/1980/L.42)

24. The PRESIDENT drew attention to a note by the Secretariat (E/1980/L.42) giving the bodies with vacancies

which had not been covered by the elections held at the first regular session. The groups concerned had not so far proposed candidates to fill the vacancies in those bodies, namely, the Committee on Natural Resources, the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. He suggested that the elections be postponed until the organizational session for 1981.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/192).

##### *Report brought to the attention of the Council (E/1980/81)*

25. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action with regard to the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes (E/1980/81). He recalled that the Council, by its decision 1980/184 of 25 July 1980, had decided to consider the report at its resumed second regular session.

26. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to take note of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes.

*It was so decided* (decision 1980/193).

27. Mr. DRUMMOND (United Kingdom) asked whether the decision which had been adopted also included a decision to take note of the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its sixth session (E/1980/40).

28. The PRESIDENT said that the Council, in its decision 1980/173 of 24 July 1980, had already taken note of that report.

##### *Closure of the session*

29. The PRESIDENT said that the Economic and Social Council completed its work for the year 1980 and declared the second regular session of 1980 closed.

*The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.*





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