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63rd meeting
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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 63rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VALDES (Bolivia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 66: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION (A/31/34 and Add.1-2, A/31/3/Add.1 (Part V); A/C.2/31/L.48, L.74, L.84) (continued):

- (a) REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
- (b) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. Mr. DADZIE (Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System) introduced the report prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII). The purpose of the restructuring process envisaged in that resolution was twofold: first, to make the United Nations system capable of dealing comprehensively and effectively with the problems of international economic co-operation, and, secondly, to make the system more responsive to the requirements of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. In order to comply with its mandate the Ad Hoc Committee had been required to develop a set of interrelated guidelines and recommendations, on the basis of which it would prepare the detailed action proposals called for by the General Assembly. The Ad Hoc Committee had identified and defined eight problem areas to be given priority and, after long and arduous negotiations, had reached a wide measure of agreement on the main issues and on the orientation of the restructuring process with respect to some of those areas, which were: the General Assembly; the Economic and Social Council; other forums for negotiation, including UNCTAD and other United Nations organs and programmes, the specialized agencies and IAEA and ad hoc world conferences; structures for regional and interregional co-operation; and planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation. The Committee had agreed, subject to the approval of the Assembly, to continue its work the following year on the basis of the revised version of the consolidated text prepared by the Chairman, which was reproduced in annex 1 of the report. With regard to the three pending problem areas - operational activities of the United Nations system, interagency co-ordination and Secretariat support services - the Committee had agreed to base its future work on the original version of the consolidated text. Consequently, considerable progress had been made and a large degree of consensus had been achieved with regard to many of the fundamental issues with which the Committee had dealt; some of the ideas developed in the process had been taken up in other forums, including the Economic and Social Council, with respect to regional commissions, and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, with respect to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

2. The Committee had not, however, succeeded in preparing the comprehensive package of detailed action proposals called for by the General Assembly. That had

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(Mr. Dadzie)

been due to the pressure of other commitments, and in particular to the constraints imposed on the time and resources of delegations by the crowded programme of United Nations meetings.

3. Structural change necessarily had to proceed pari passu with the establishment of policies, priorities and measures aimed at the realization of the new international economic order, a fact that had been recognized implicitly in General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), which had envisaged all the measures outlined in it, whether concerned with restructuring or substantive, as being interrelated.

4. The Ad Hoc Committee had decided to recommend that the General Assembly should extend its mandate in the belief that it could complete its work in the following year. It was accordingly recommending that proposal to the Second Committee, together with the conclusions contained in section III of the report.

5. Mr. ASHTAL (Democratic Yemen), speaking as Chairman of the Arab Group, said that the Council of Ministers of the member States of the Arab League had, at its meeting at Cairo in March, decided unanimously to give firm support to the proposal to create a new post of Director-General for Development and International Co-operation within the restructured Secretariat.

6. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in view of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation that its mandate should be extended for a further year so that it might submit final recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session, there would be no difficulty from the Secretariat's point of view if the fifth session of the Ad Hoc Committee was held from 16 February to 2 March 1977. On the other hand, bearing in mind the very full programme of conferences and meetings to be held at Headquarters and Geneva, the Secretariat could not provide the necessary services if the Ad Hoc Committee were to convene a sixth session following the sixty-second session of the Economic and Social Council. However, since the Ad Hoc Committee had asked the Secretariat to reconsider the question, he could report that the sixth session of the Ad Hoc Committee could be held for one week only from 16 to 20 May 1977.

Draft decision A/C.2/31/L.84

7. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee decided to approve draft decision A/C.2/31/L.84.

8. It was so decided.

9. Mr. MYERSON (United States of America) said that at the time when resolution 3362 (S-VII) - the resolution containing the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System - had been under consideration, his delegation had made reservations with regard to the

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(Mr. Myerson, United States)

reference in that resolution to the establishment of a new international economic order. Its position had not changed, even though it had joined the consensus on the draft decision. That did not mean that its delegation would not participate in the future work of the Ad Hoc Committee as it had done during the current year.

10. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) said that the Ad Hoc Committee needed to hold two sessions before the sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Council if it was to be able to complete its work, and he asked the Secretariat to do its utmost to ensure that the Ad Hoc Committee could have two weeks, rather than one, available for its sixth session.

11. Mr. QUADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) paid a tribute to the very efficient work of Mr. Dadzie and said that through his dedication and competence the Ad Hoc Committee had made great progress. The fact that the Ad Hoc Committee had been unable to finish its work was due to the complexity of the task assigned to it. The developing countries believed that the section of resolution 3362 (S-VII) relating to the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee should not be considered in isolation but as part of a larger whole, since interdependent and interrelated arrangements and agreements had to be evolved in order to achieve the purposes and objectives associated with the establishment of a new international economic order. Accordingly, negotiations should continue, and he was looking forward to those that were to take place in the coming year.

12. Mr. TREVIÑO (Mexico) endorsed the Pakistan statement. He was concerned about the short time which was to elapse before the dates of the forthcoming session of the Ad Hoc Committee, as announced by the Secretary of the Committee. During the first two months of the following year there would be a very full programme of meetings, so that the Group of 77 would be unable to devote the necessary time to reviewing the document submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee. He therefore asked that the Secretariat should make the necessary arrangements for the Ad Hoc Committee to hold a longer session, possibly in April or May.

13. Mr. van TOOREN (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the nine member countries of EEC, paid a tribute to the competence of Mr. Dadzie and said that it was owing to his determination and summarizing ability that the Ad Hoc Committee had made such good progress in its work. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee was basically a follow-up to the seventh special session of the General Assembly, and its purpose was to enable the United Nations to cope with its future new tasks. Its work demanded an imaginative and thorough search for innovative solutions. It was to be hoped that the Committee could finish its work the following year, and EEC would take an active part in the work to that end.

Draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.48

14. The CHAIRMAN announced that the draft resolution had no financial implications.

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15. Mr. BERG (Norway) said that Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone had joined the sponsors and that, as a result of informal consultations, it had been decided to delete the final preambular paragraph.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee was prepared to approve the draft resolution as revised.

17. Draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.48, as revised, was approved.

18. Mr. van TOOREN (Netherlands) said that his delegation was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution that had just been approved. It endorsed the statement in the Declaration of Principles of the Tripartite World Conference to the effect that equity and efficiency were the main criteria by which an economic system had to be judged. The existing system had failed, and that was why a new international economic order was called for. Nevertheless, a new order was not synonymous with greater justice and would not automatically generate the mechanisms for bringing its benefits to the deprived masses. Consequently, the new international system and policies would have to be accompanied by fundamental changes in domestic systems and policies, prominent among which should be the promotion of employment and the satisfaction of the basic needs of each country's population, rich and poor, as recommended in the programme of action of the Tripartite Conference. Development was an integrated process which should not be limited to élite groups, but required the involvement of all strata of the population, but participation could hardly be expected from those who lived at bare subsistence level and saw no real prospects of improvement for themselves or their children. Redistribution of income was not only desirable in itself but was also conducive to growth. Such a strategy presupposed the granting of priority to the production of essentials and to the choice of labour-intensive technologies adapted to the specific economic, social and cultural conditions of the country concerned. It was within that framework that his country intended to approach the follow-up measures to the World Employment Conference, and to that end it would pursue the common objectives, concentrating on fulfilment of basic human needs through a fair and efficient division of labour.

19. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that those countries supported the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action of the Tripartite World Conference. The strategy for satisfying basic needs reflected growing awareness that economic growth was not the ultimate aim of the planned effort and that rapid growth did not necessarily reduce poverty and injustice and/or substantially increase employment. The objectives of the strategy of basic needs could be achieved only through intense effort at the national and international levels, and they required the participation of all sectors of the population in their chosen organization. Moreover, the right to work was not only an economic factor but a means of personal fulfilment and a right recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The strategy for meeting basic needs should form an integral part of the new international economic order. The Nordic countries were aware of the injustice prevailing under the existing system and advocated its transformation; nevertheless, the new international economic order could benefit the poorest only if measures were taken on a national scale to achieve a more equitable order. Accordingly, the primary responsibility was borne by the

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(Mr. Jödahl, Sweden)

individual country. International support and assistance would contribute significantly to the achievement of those domestic objectives. Barriers to the export of products from the developing countries would have to be reduced and co-operation between individual countries and the international organizations encouraged.

20. Mr. YU Meng-chia (China) said that China had not participated in the Tripartite World Conference and that if the draft resolution had been put to the vote, his delegation would not have participated in the vote.

21. Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus although it would have liked the wording of the draft resolution to have been closer to the text proposed by the Jamaican delegation at the previous meeting, and to have included a reference linking the resolution on the World Conference on Employment to the strategy for the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

22. With regard to the comments made by other delegations, he pointed out that in Pakistan intensive efforts had been made to plan development and improve conditions for the needy. In the process there had been both successes and failures, and considerable experience had been gained. What disturbed his delegation was to find that in international forums the recommendations of developed countries showed a shift in emphasis from relations between countries to conditions existing within individual countries. His delegation fully agreed that development should be associated with an improvement in the situation of the poorer sections of the population. In some developing countries the social welfare system was more advanced than in many developed countries, where great injustices prevailed. However, what was frequently overlooked was the fact that the developing countries were hampered by the international situation in their efforts to meet the basic needs of their population. The developing countries lacked the necessary financial resources not only to carry out social development programmes but even to survive. Only with the establishment of the New International Economic Order could the developing countries and their Governments practise policies that would benefit their people. That interrelationship should be constantly borne in mind, and it was to be hoped that it would be reflected in the report of ILO and other international organizations concerned.

Draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.74

23. Mr. VALLE (Brazil) recalled that the proposal referred to in the draft resolution had arisen at the seventh special session and the thirtieth regular session of the General Assembly at the initiative of the Brazilian delegation. Consultations on that occasion had revealed that there would be no agreement on the establishment of an ad hoc committee for the consideration of a new set of rules governing north-south trade and had led the Brazilian delegation to suggest to the Group of 77, the sponsors of the proposal, that the idea should be deferred to the thirty-first session of the Assembly. At the previous session it had been argued that important negotiations were in progress, such as the Paris Conference, UNCTAD and the multinational trade negotiations, and that GATT rules provided a suitable

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(Mr. Valle, Brazil)

framework for trade relations. However, a year had gone by and those negotiations had not yielded any positive results and the picture indicated that an important part of the international community would still not look favourably upon a new exercise for the reformulation of trade rules.

24. However, the situation was not one of total frustration. During the course of 1976 a proposal had been introduced in Geneva by Brazil for the reformulation of GATT norms which had met with an encouraging response, in that the idea had led to fruitful consultations which were still in progress. His delegation was fully aware of the limitations of GATT, in particular as regards the question of membership, which meant that even positive results achieved would not apply on a universal basis. Nevertheless, it seemed that the seeds for a general reform of trade rules had been sown.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution without putting it to a vote.

26. Draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.74 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/C.2/31/L.35, L.83, L.43/Rev.1) (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.83

27. Mr. GORITZA (Romania), speaking as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.83, which was the outcome of the consultations held in connexion with draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.35, and he expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.83 without a vote.

29. It was so decided.

30. Mr. YU Meng-chia (China) said that if a vote had been taken on draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.35 his delegation would not have participated, and he reiterated that IBRD and IDA should implement General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and immediately expel the representatives of the Chiang clique.

31. Mr. BAKER (United States of America) said that his delegation was very pleased with the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.83 because it appreciated the importance of the function performed by the World Bank in promoting development. He reiterated that his Government was in favour of providing for an increase in the resources for both the World Bank and IDA.

32. He announced that, at present, new negotiations were being held concerning the fifth replenishment of the IDA and the United States was actively participating in them.

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(Mr. Baker, United States)

33. With regard to operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution just adopted, he noted that the negotiations on an increase in capital for the World Bank had been successfully completed and said that his delegation looked forward to appropriate action by Congress in that regard. He urged other States to take action as soon as possible to enable the increase to be approved before June 1977 and he thanked the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.35 for their co-operation, which had made it possible to reach agreement on a question of great importance both to the developing and the developed countries.

34. Mr. KANAZAWA (Japan) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus and expressed appreciation for the spirit of accommodation shown by the delegations that had sponsored draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.35.

35. The Japanese delegation construed operative paragraph 6 as meaning that the increase in capital would be of a selective nature.

36. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said he was pleased at the consensus reached on a question of such importance and, on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.35, announced that they were withdrawing it.

37. Mr. BOEHMER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus and he recalled the statement it had made when General Assembly resolution 3387 (XXX) had been adopted. He understood that the draft resolution just adopted would not prejudice the decisions to be taken by the competent bodies of the World Bank.

38. With regard to operative paragraph 6, he agreed with the United States representative and, concerning the general increase in capital, felt that it should be given favourable consideration by the competent bodies of the World Bank.

39. Mr. ROUGE (France) noted that in the second preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.83 reference was made to General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), in which the Assembly had recommended an urgent increase in the capital of the World Bank. In his delegation's opinion the increase involved three stages, namely, a selective increase in capital, the fifth replenishment of IDA, and the general increase in the capital of the Bank. The word "urgently" in operative paragraph 6 of the resolution that had been adopted should be interpreted in the light of the scale of priorities he had mentioned.

40. Mr. AL-JEAN (Kuwait) said that his was the only developing country among the traditional donors to IDA, and announced that negotiations concerning the fifth replenishment had begun.

AGENDA ITEM 61: FOOD PROBLEMS: REPORT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (A/C.2/31/L.63)
(continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.63

41. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.63, said that its provisions did not call for much explanation. It was designed to ensure

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(Mr. Qadrud-Din, Pakistan)

the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the World Food Council on the subject, that the Council continued to discharge its functions and that the resolutions adopted at the World Food Conference and at the seventh special session of the General Assembly were implemented.

42. Informal consultations had been held on the draft and he hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

43. He said that the words "as contained in document A/C.2/31/L.65" should be added at the end of operative paragraph 1. Foot-note 2/ should therefore be deleted.

44. In operative paragraph 2 the words "to implement" should be replaced by the words "to promote the early implementation of". In the third and fourth lines of that paragraph the words "taking fully into account" should be replaced by the words "and for this purpose to give sympathetic consideration to ...".

45. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.63, as amended, without a vote.

46. It was so decided.

47. Mr. ROSTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not opposed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.63. However, with regard to the questions relating to the second session of the World Food Council, the USSR delegation wished to place on record that it maintained unchanged the position it had taken on that point at the World Food Conference and in the United Nations.

48. Mr. YU Meng-chia (China) said that, although his delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.63, China's position regarding the various resolutions adopted by the World Food Council had not changed.

49. At the second session of the WFC some representatives had claimed that détente was an essential prerequisite for the solution of food problems, but China could never accept that view.

50. In order to solve food problems the developing countries must join together in a struggle against hegemonism, colonialism and imperialism and for the establishment of the New International Economic Order. Moreover, while talking about détente one super-Power was stepping up its preparations for war and attempting to establish a hegemonistic position with respect to the other super-Power, and that would obviously not help to solve the world's food problems.

51. Mr. MOUSKY (United States of America) said that, although his delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.63, it considered it important to recall that, when it had established the World Food Council, the

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(Mr. Mousky, United States)

General Assembly had not intended to created a body that would direct the activities of other bodies. The WFC was a forum for the consideration of major problems regarding food production and the improvement of nutrition levels, and it had not been intended as an executive organ.

52. He understood that the secretariat of WFC was at present carefully considering an agenda for the next session, and he expressed the hope that WFC could make considerable progress towards achieving the goals laid down at the World Food Conference.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.