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*President:* Sir Douglas COPLAND (Australia).

*Present:*

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, India, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following Member States: Brazil, Cuba, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico.

Observers from the following non-member States: Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Spain, Switzerland.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization.

### Question of Spain's becoming a party to the Protocols of 1946 and 1948 on Narcotic Drugs (E/2773)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider whether the question of Spain's becoming a party to the Protocols of 1946 and 1948 on Narcotic Drugs should be included in the agenda and taken with item 10. It would be remembered that consideration of the matter, on which the Secretary-General had submitted a paper (E/2773), had been deferred at the 864th meeting.

2. Mr. STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia) stated that his was one of the delegations which had needed to consult its Government on the question. He proposed that it should be taken up at the twenty-first session of the Council: that would give all Governments time for mature reflection. The Council had adopted a similar

procedure with regard to the Romanian Government's application for admission to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

3. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) regretted that he was unable to support the Yugoslav proposal, because the United States, being one of the principal targets of the drug traffic, was keenly interested in its control and that was most effective when applied universally. It therefore welcomed the news that the Spanish Government wished to become a party to the control system and felt that there should be as little delay as possible in settling the question. The precedent mentioned by the Yugoslav representative was not entirely relevant, since it was one thing to avoid haste in considering an application for membership of a specialized agency and another to decide upon a simple technical issue such as the one now before the Council. He accordingly proposed that the matter, being urgent, should be taken up at the present session.

4. Mr. MORALES (Argentina) fully agreed with the United States representative because the question could be decided fairly quickly. His Government had always advocated that all countries, irrespective of their political characteristics, should be admitted to every international organization and become parties to every international instrument. He would the more readily support the United States proposal because of his country's historic ties with Spain.

5. Mr. MONTOYA (Venezuela) also supported the United States proposal.

6. Mr. DIAZ ORDOÑEZ (Dominican Republic) did not consider that there was any reason for postponing consideration of the question. Drug control, which required prompt action, must be brought to the highest possible pitch of efficiency and adverse effects on public health must be avoided. He therefore opposed the Yugoslav proposal.

7. Mr. Said HASAN (Pakistan) regretted that he would be unable to support the Yugoslav proposal. The control of drugs was the concern of every Government, particularly in the East. Examining the question purely on its merits and apart from any political considerations, he believed that it should be taken up as quickly as possible because it was extremely gratifying that the Spanish Government should wish to fall in with United Nations policy on drug control.

8. Mr. STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia) said that his proposal had not in any way been prompted by political considerations. All that he had sought to ensure was the application of the rules of procedure, whereby documents had to be circulated at least six weeks before their consideration by the Council. It would surely set an

undesirable precedent if the Council were to take up a new item of which due notice had not been given. He was not in any way pre-judging the attitude his Government would take on the substance of the question, but would have thought it a matter of courtesy to defer the matter until the next session if any delegation was not ready. He appreciated the motives of those members who supported the United States proposal because they believed that a decision should be taken as quickly as possible, but pointed out that the question had been no less urgent during the past decade. His proposal, on the other hand, would ensure thorough consideration of the question and could have no harmful consequences.

9. The PRESIDENT observed that, if the Council adhered too rigidly to its rules of procedure, its work, particularly in matters requiring prompt action, would be stultified. The inclusion of new items on the agenda should be allowed if judged necessary, though any objection must of course be given every consideration.

10. Mr. Moustafa HASSAN (Egypt) said that it was most important to consider the question at the present session because of the vital necessity of controlling the drug traffic.

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the Yugoslav proposal to defer consideration of the question until the twenty-first session.

*The Yugoslav proposal was rejected by 14 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.*

12. The PRESIDENT asked the Council to vote on the United States proposal that the question should be added to the agenda of the current session.

*The United States proposal was adopted by 14 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 4

**General review of the development and co-ordination of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole (E/2659 and Corr.1, E/2661 and Add.1, E/2662, E/2668 and Add.1, E/2676, E/2692, E/2717, E/2722, E/2724 and Add.1, E/2728 and Corr.1, E/2733, E/2735, E/2748, E/2749 and Add.1 and 2, E/2753 and Add.1 and 2, E/2769) (resumed from the 879th meeting)**

13. Mr. HAMMARSKJOLD (Secretary-General) referring to the United Kingdom representative's question at the 879th meeting as to whether the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) would have any difficulty in complying with a request by the Council for a study of and report on particular aspects of the relationship between specialized agencies or between the specialized agencies and the United Nations, said that, although he had not had an opportunity of consulting other members of the Committee, he could say with certainty that there would be no difficulty. Indeed, ACC believed that that was precisely the direction in which it could be of service to the Council and he looked forward to fruitful results from such an approach.

14. Mr. MORALES (Argentina) was glad to note that, after discussing co-ordination in the economic and social fields for several sessions, the Council was approaching the relevant problems of both the parent Organization and the specialized agencies in a practical fashion. That had been proved by the admirable statements made at the 879th meeting. As earlier discussions had shown, it was essential to deal with questions of substance rather than questions of form. He suggested that, to assist the Council in that direction, a basic document should be prepared for it, giving an over-all picture of United Nations activities—a document which would round off the note by the Secretary-General (E/2769) and his statement at the 879th meeting, summarize the activities of United Nations bodies and make it possible to tackle the various questions in turn.

15. The co-ordination machinery was working more efficiently at present since problems had been stated more and more clearly, and there were signs of practical results. On the other hand, as the Australian representative had pointed out at the same meeting, when explaining his country's difficulties, the problem of co-ordination at the national level was not yet resolved. While arrangements for co-ordination between the specialized agencies and the national administrations concerned with international questions were fairly satisfactory, a thorny problem still existed at the national level. Too often co-operation ceased at the level of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the offices of Under-Secretaries of State or related departments. The Argentine delegation would be glad to hear the views of the members of the Council on the subject and to learn what their experience had been. It would therefore like the Council to transmit a recommendation to Governments requesting them to improve co-ordination between their national administrations and the international bodies dealing with economic and social problems. It would also like Governments to send the Council memoranda describing the machinery they had introduced to ensure the most effective possible liaison with the international institutions.

16. The question to which he referred directly affected the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, since many special problems required the co-operation of national administrations. Some countries had set up inter-ministerial departments or central offices, but other countries had no such machinery, and that gave rise to difficulties. There was of course no question of the Council interfering with the sovereignty of States, but merely of demonstrating the advantages and disadvantages of existing systems.

17. As far as the practical questions involved in co-ordination were concerned, the Argentine delegation endorsed the observation made in earlier statements that the problems raised were very far-reaching and the means of action limited—a contradiction which made it imperative to concentrate the work. Such concentration, however, should not preclude immediate action. In that connexion, his delegation had listened with keen interest to the United Kingdom representative's remarks at the 879th meeting about the need to match efforts and resources in providing technical assistance. Argentina was also anxious that particular attention should

be paid to ensuring a balance between the tasks to be fulfilled and the means available. The discussion on technical assistance had in any case shown that technical advances were limited by financial stringencies.

18. Furthermore, an order of priority had to be fixed. The United Nations had accepted that view and had given the economic and social development of the under-developed countries top priority. While the United Nations Charter made no express mention of the development of those countries, it did speak of promoting higher standards of living—an objective which could be achieved only by work in the economic and social sphere.

19. He had been most interested in the statement made at the same meeting by the Director-General of UNESCO, who had stressed the connexion between the social and economic aspects of the problems. The Argentine delegation shared that opinion, but advocated a cautious approach. In its view, the United Nations, with its limited resources, should concentrate its efforts on methods that would yield the maximum results. Past experience had shown that programmes based on the idea of the interdependence of the social and economic aspects of problems had led Governments to embark on long-term undertakings with uncertain prospects. On that point, he referred to the campaign against illiteracy, which Mr. Evans set forth as a condition for economic and social progress. In his own view, it might be more profitable in some cases to give precedence, at least for a certain time, to the training of technicians and administrative staff, with a consequent saving of time and money. In the health field, too, an over-extended programme involved the risk of dispersion of effort.

20. Another important aspect of the question was the study of the abstract aspects of problems and the formulation of general programmes, which could contribute largely towards their solution. Citing the example of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which had tackled a problem calling for thorough analysis—namely, that of raising food production to meet the increase in world population—he pointed out that in order to solve it FAO had to deal not only with the problems of increasing production, but also with those of surpluses, about which there had already been prolonged discussion. The FAO Committee on Commodity Problems had embarked on very useful studies in that field; others should be encouraged to follow its example.

21. In conclusion, he expressed his pleasure at seeing the Council undertake its proper task of promoting co-ordination in the economic and social field, and hoped that practical results would be forthcoming.

22. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said that many people wondered what the United Nations and its specialized agencies really accomplished to justify the large sums spent and the work involved and whether the Council's achievements were commensurate with the effort. Members owed it to themselves, their Governments and the peoples of the world to put aside the immediate preoccupations of the moment and contemplate general developments, so as to place them in perspective and thus obtain guidance for future action.

23. When the foundations of the United Nations were being laid at Dumbarton Oaks, economic and social

problems had been treated almost as a side issue and one Government had even advocated that the new organization should confine itself entirely to political and security problems. At San Francisco, however, more attention had been given to economic and social matters and the Council had been established as one of the major organs of the General Assembly. Nevertheless, at that time no one could have predicted the subsequent outstanding developments in the economic and social fields or the creation of the vast network of organizations, agencies and bodies in these fields which had since come into existence.

24. Though the outside world might be ignorant of it, members of the Council were well aware of the useful research these organizations had been carrying out, thereby contributing to a better understanding of world economic and social problems and clarifying objectives for action. Thousands of experts had been sent to the far corners of the world and many more thousands of fellowships and scholarships had been granted to help countries to help themselves and to apply modern techniques to overcome age-old problems. Grants and loans well up in the third billion dollars had been made by them for reconstruction purposes and long-range development schemes.

25. There were other developments which called for comment. Early in the history of the United Nations there had been a shift of emphasis from reconstruction to economic development and the improvement of standards of living, particularly in under-developed countries. Funds were now being almost exclusively directed to those areas where the need was greatest and to long-term programmes rather than to short-term projects. The work of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) afforded a vivid illustration of that trend.

26. His country whole-heartedly approved of top priority being given to assistance to under-developed countries and was resolved to help them to raise their standards of living. There might be differences of opinion as to methods and the timing of certain programmes, but there was agreement on the ultimate goal.

27. He hoped, however, that while the urgency of those countries' needs was being recognized, the economic, social, psychological and other problems of developed countries would also be borne in mind because, if the United Nations in its justifiable concentration on the requirements of the former should overlook the difficulties of the latter, the co-operative basis on which all progress must be built would be destroyed.

28. His Government welcomed the increasing emphasis on work in the field and the "grass roots" approach, because it was at the community level that the battle for better living standards must be fought.

29. It was also following with approval another important development—viz., the increasing recognition by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, at the planning and operational level, of the interrelation between economic and social problems. Now that the prime object was admitted to be the improvement of standards of living, there was an increasing awareness that social progress had a direct bearing on economic development, and the work of the United Nations as a whole had consequently gained in effectiveness.

30. Several speakers had dwelt on the concrete results which had been achieved. Reference had been made, for example, to the joint programmes which were under way in the arid zones. Partly as a result of those efforts, the increase in world food production was now outstripping the increase in population. The point had indeed been reached where FAO could lay emphasis on the selective production of foodstuffs of high nutritive value. Similarly, in housing, although total needs were still very far from being met, greater attention could now be paid to improving the quality of housing. Through the exertions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, effective efforts were being made to increase productivity. If he drew attention to two further examples, it was largely because of the clear manner in which they illustrated the fusion of economic and social programmes. The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) had recently pointed out that with 100 million cases of malaria in India every year, of which one million were fatal, the annual economic loss to that country could be estimated at 2 million man-years. Expressed in financial terms, the direct economic loss, leaving aside funeral expenses, medical expenses and so on, represented some \$100 million annually, whereas the cost of malaria control in the affected areas would not exceed \$20 million annually. As a result of the Government's efforts, supplemented by assistance from international organizations, nearly 65 million people in India had now been given effective protection against that debilitating and economically disastrous disease. In the same way, the Government of Haiti had, in 1950, with the help of UNICEF and WHO, launched a penicillin campaign against yaws, which had previously affected nearly one-third of the rural population. The disease had now been almost completely eliminated, resulting in a \$5 million a year increase in national production, at a cost to the Haitian Government of 20 cents per person cured and protected, supplemented by 10 cents per person from outside sources.

31. Although all those remarkable results were obviously not due entirely, or even primarily, to the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and although the Council should not forget the contribution made by other multilateral and bilateral programmes or, above all, the extraordinary efforts of the peoples concerned and their leaders, those leaders would, he thought, be the first to agree that the United Nations and the specialized agencies had served as catalytic agents, releasing and directing energies which were actively helping to improve the lot of the common man.

32. He wished that some means could be found of telling the world more effectively what was being done. It was not propaganda that was needed, but to let the facts speak for themselves. The facts were all available, even if they were at present hidden in a mass of documentation. His delegation greatly hoped that some improvement could be made in that respect by closer co-operation between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and it was encouraged in that hope by the fact that ACC had recently paid some attention to the same problem.

33. The problem of co-ordination itself had all along been complicated by a number of factors. In the first

place, owing doubtless to its lack of experience, the Council had drafted its commissions' terms of reference so broadly as to invite overlapping and duplication; and the same was true of some of the specialized agencies' constitutions. Article 1 of the Constitution of UNESCO, for example, in its ill-defined vast scope, placed an almost impossible task on that important body. The Declaration of Philadelphia, a great charter of social progress, which had to all intents and purposes become part of the constitution of the ILO, was drafted in such broad and generous terms as to do little to help to define that organization's relations with other agencies. Although some blame for that state of affairs doubtless attached to those who had drafted the texts in question, inasmuch as they had given way to their own or others' enthusiasm, it was none the less true that economic and social affairs presented a continuum and that no hard-and-fast dividing line could be drawn between the responsibilities of the various agencies.

34. The second factor which had made co-ordination more difficult was—as had so frequently been pointed out—the lack of co-ordination within Governments themselves; and the third was the fact that the Council had no legislative and regulatory powers, but had to work by persuasion and recommendation.

35. The progress made in face of those difficulties was truly remarkable. Duplication and overlapping had been practically eliminated. Specialized agencies now exhibited a strong tendency to concentrate on major fields, and even towards concerted and joint action. In addition to the examples which had already been quoted—examples which again were not sufficiently widely known—he would merely refer to the joint campaign which was being waged against kwashiorkor, a protein-deficiency disease which under that or other names had cost hundreds of thousands of lives throughout the world. WHO had studied the disease and had said what dietary additions were necessary in order to eliminate it; FAO had taken steps to ensure that those additions were forthcoming in sufficient quantities; and UNICEF had helped to distribute them.

36. With its continuing emphasis on the establishment of priorities, concentration of effort and so on, the Council itself had made a real contribution to improved co-ordination. As other representatives had pointed out, it might occasionally be necessary for the Council to review the priorities it had previously established; and he hoped that the Council would shortly have before it a proposal from the Social Committee calling for the submission of a memorandum on that subject at its twenty-second session. The United States delegation also looked forward to receiving the short paper which the Secretary-General had promised to submit in the same connexion.

37. ACC also made a valuable contribution to improving co-ordination. Its work now extended far beyond the administrative co-ordination for which it had originally been set up. Under the leadership of the Secretary-General, the executive heads of the specialized agencies were using it to discuss matters of policy and joint action, and had set up working parties to hammer out joint projects and programmes in many fields. At a lower level, working relations among the staffs of the United

Nations and specialized agencies had improved considerably, particularly during the past two years.

38. Governments also, it seemed, were making some progress towards internal co-ordination.

39. The United States delegation was convinced that all those results could hardly have been achieved by the erection of a centralized structure at the outset. The voluntary but purposeful co-operation which growingly existed between the various members of the United Nations family had been achieved in spite of, or even because of, their organizational decentralization. Common ends were being served, while the autonomy of the specialized agencies and the unique contributions of the experts were being safeguarded.

40. In addition to reviewing what had already been achieved, however, the Council must also look to the future to see whether the situation could not be still further improved. In his delegation's view, there were a number of ways in which that could be done.

41. In the first place, the specialized agencies were still engaged in certain marginal activities. Those activities were not necessarily unimportant in themselves, but in view of the limited resources available, they should be postponed or entrusted to some other organization. He congratulated UNESCO in particular on having eliminated certain of such marginal activities, and expressed the hope that it would eliminate others. The drafting of regulations for international competitions for architects was a case in point.

42. Secondly, there were still altogether too many meetings, both of administrative bodies and even perhaps of expert committees. It was very difficult for even such a large country as his own to prepare adequately and spare high-level representatives for them all.

43. Thirdly, the number of publications was still too large. The United Nations itself and several of the specialized agencies published lengthy and elaborate monographs, many of which, by their nature, could find only a very limited number of readers. Some were perhaps necessary for the formulation of policies, others for specific projects in the field. By getting involved, however, in matters of too great detail and by devoting attention to what were almost esoteric questions, the United Nations and the specialized agencies were in danger of losing sight of the purposes for which they had been set up, which had certainly not been to indulge in research for its own sake. The United States delegation strongly supported the action the Secretary-General had taken to reduce the volume of documentation. Both the United Nations and the specialized agencies, however, and sometimes the two together, in ACC, should periodically review all monographs, studies and reports in order to ensure that their continuance was not simply automatic but really valuable. It would also be desirable to find out from sales and distribution figures what use was actually being made of the various publications. Finally, neither the United Nations nor the specialized agencies should engage in research work which was already being done, or which could be done, by other bodies, private or governmental.

44. The fourth way in which improvement could still be made was by better co-ordinating the research work

carried out in various parts of the United Nations family, including the Bank and the Fund. The research activities of the various secretariats, including those carried out under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, should be integrated in such a way that the work done by one would as far as possible benefit another. The practical problems involved were certainly considerable, but he hoped greater efforts would be made to solve them.

45. Fifthly, the battle of jurisdictions between various organs had not yet been altogether eliminated. Some of the organs directly dependent on the Council had assumed new functions or extended their existing functions without good cause. The commissions should keep to their advisory role, and refrain from plunging into studies or action without reference to what was being and what could be done in other organs. It was, for example, not appropriate for the Commission on Human Rights or the Commission on the Status of Women, when considering the implementation of certain economic and social rights or standards, to embark on economic or social studies which were clearly within the scope of other bodies. If either commission felt that those studies were being neglected, it could properly call the Council's attention to the matter. The Council could then give the necessary instructions to the bodies responsible. Similarly, the ties between the Council and the regional economic commissions should be as close as possible. The Council had the inescapable obligation to review their important work carefully, and it was the Secretary-General's responsibility to ensure that their secretariats conformed to the directives laid down for the Secretariat as a whole, of which they formed an integral part. The Secretary-General had referred to certain studies which were under way in order to promote more rational utilization of the resources available in the regional economic commissions and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as well as in the field of technical assistance. His delegation hoped that any new arrangements made would not further complicate the already complicated machinery of the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme. The regional economic commissions could certainly render valuable service in advising on regional technical assistance programmes; but for purposes of country planning the existing machinery—and particularly the role of resident representatives—should not be weakened. The regional economic commissions should be kept firmly out of the operational field.

46. Finally, as the Director-General of UNESCO had pointed out at the 879th meeting, there was a need for more prior consultation before projects were launched. Mr. Evans had said he intended to submit the first draft of his organization's work programme to the United Nations and the specialized agencies before submitting it to the General Conference. In the United States delegation's view, that might well become general practice.

47. The United States delegation intended to submit to the Co-ordination Committee a draft resolution which would cover some of the points he had made.

48. In conclusion, he recalled the United States representative's reference, during the discussion of item 2, to the question of the peaceful use of atomic energy and his statement that the proposed international atomic

energy agency should be in close relationship with the United Nations, and particularly with the Economic and Social Council. He himself was now authorized to say that in his delegation's view the most suitable relationship would be that of a specialized agency, bound to the United Nations by an appropriate agreement. That would facilitate a concerted approach to what might be the most important problem of the age.

49. To sum up, his delegation welcomed the better orchestration of United Nations programmes in the economic, social and related fields. Even if there were still occasional differences of view, particularly with regard to timing, a much wider basis of agreement was now being reached as to what was of permanent value and what was ephemeral; and within the framework of the United Nations and the specialized agencies there was growing up a partnership of all countries, great and small, developed and under-developed—a partnership whose aim it was to promote the well-being which spread goodwill among men and peace among nations.

50. Mr. SCHURMANN (Netherlands) said that he would not attempt to emulate the United States representative's masterly statement, which had ranged over the whole length and breadth of the subject, but would confine himself for the present at any rate to some aspects of the specific problem of co-ordination. The very nature of that problem was in itself some measure of the progress which the United Nations had made in its campaign against poverty, disease and ignorance. Ten years previously the most urgent problem had been to establish a sufficient number of organizations in order to start that campaign. The problem now was to maintain its unity and to ensure that the manifold activities of all the organizations which had been established, and were in full operation, were all kept within their proper fields. The present debate could undoubtedly contribute to that end.

51. To describe the principle which should govern the co-ordination of United Nations activities, the Secretary-General had used the phrase "unity within freedom", which indeed brought out very happily the two essential elements of the co-ordination that was required. The phrase suggested however that there should be only so much unity as was compatible with complete freedom and it might be more appropriate to reverse the maxim to read "freedom within unity". In other words, at the stage which had now been reached, although the Council should refrain from interfering with the specialized agencies in the free exercise of their tasks, the accent should be on the close connexion between those tasks.

52. As his delegation had pointed out at the 868th meeting during the discussion of item 3, in economic and social programmes co-ordination was essential as regards not only the execution but also the drafting of plans. Ideally, the whole campaign should be discussed before the separate plans were drafted. The Secretary-General had shown in his written, as well as in his oral, statement that he was well aware of that need, and the Netherlands delegation confidently expected, therefore, that he would take the necessary steps to bring about such co-ordination from the start.

53. His delegation was not, of course, lacking in appreciation of what had already been done, but, as the Secretary-General had himself pointed out, careful, patient, day-to-day effort was needed to ensure that the established principles were applied as fully as possible. Such effort was at present particularly needed with regard to co-operation between the representatives of various United Nations agencies outside Headquarters.

54. The seventeenth and eighteenth ACC reports (E/2659 and Corr.1, E/2728 and Corr.1) gave an impressive picture of the spirit of co-operation by which the executive heads of the agencies were animated and also of the activities of ACC itself in the field of co-ordination. Indeed, there was some danger that ACC's desire for perfect co-ordination of planning might induce it to try and take the whole policy-planning in certain fields of activity into its own hands. That, of course, would be going too far. The work of ACC and that of the Council had, in fact, to be co-ordinated too, and in his delegation's view the procedure might be as follows: that the agencies should first submit an outline of their plans to ACC, which would consider whether they were consistent and entailed no gaps or overlapping, and would report to the Council accordingly; on the basis of the ACC report the Council would then make its recommendations, under the second paragraph of Article 63 of the Charter, for a co-ordinated general policy, having due regard to priorities; and finally, the specialized agencies would review their plans in the light of the Council's recommendations, complete them and put them into action.

55. If he had rightly understood the United Kingdom representative and the Director-General of UNESCO, that procedure would be in line with their views, as also with those expressed by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs at the opening meeting of the session. Further careful study of the subject was required, however, and in his delegation's view, it would be premature to adopt any formal resolution concerning it at the present session. He hoped that the Secretary-General would bear in mind all that had been said and would give the Council the benefit of his considered views at a later session.

56. The Member States' own record as regards co-ordination of their activities in the United Nations was far from perfect. As the Australian representative had pointed out, their delegates frequently spoke with different voices in different committees or organizations; at other times, they were guilty of duplication by needlessly discussing the same problems independently in different bodies. Conscious of its own shortcomings in that respect, the Netherlands Government had set up an interdepartmental committee in which representatives of all the government departments concerned discussed the different problems with which United Nations organs were to deal and attempted to arrive at a consistent and harmonious general policy. He would not claim that the objective had always been achieved, but the method used was, in his Government's view, the one which offered the best hope of success. In technical assistance in particular, where the need for maintaining the unity of the programme was of vital importance, some such method of co-ordination was indispensable.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.