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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: Chile, Cuba, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico.

Observers from the following non-member States: Bulgaria, 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 Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization.

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, E/L.674) (*continued*)

1. The PRESIDENT suggested that, once the general debate on item 4 was concluded and the subject was taken up in the Co-ordination Committee, that committee should not be required to review the work of each of the specialized agencies and commissions in detail—although any representative who wished to do so could, of course, raise detailed points concerning them—but should rather concentrate on any draft resolutions which were submitted, together with any relevant points in the reports which had been or would be submitted by the Economic

and Social Committees. In its task of reviewing work programmes, the Co-ordination Committee would of course also have to refer to the statement of the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs on financial implications (E/L.674).

2. Mr. SINGH (India) said that his delegation associated itself with those speakers who had already expressed their deep appreciation of the personal interest that the Secretary-General had been taking in the work of the Council, and particularly in the difficult and complicated subject which the Council was at present discussing. He agreed with the United Kingdom representative that, for lack of the necessary detailed knowledge, the Council's treatment of the subject must be very general—that it should discuss, for instance, whether adequate machinery existed for bringing about close and intimate contact between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and Member States, both at the stage of programming and subsequently. The Secretary-General's written Statement (E/2769), supplemented by the statements of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO), showed how, through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and through the constant exchange of information, such collaboration was being ensured. The Indian delegation had no quarrel with the co-ordination machinery which had been established and which had so far functioned satisfactorily. With parallel action at the country level, the possibility of any duplication and waste of effort would largely disappear.

3. There was still scope, however, for greater co-ordination between the regional economic commissions and institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. For instance, although the Fund had in recent years materially eased restrictions on the use of its resources by member countries, the amount of new business, in the form of foreign currency purchases made by its members from its stock of foreign exchange, had fallen in 1954 to little more than a quarter of the amount purchased in the previous year, and to less than a third of the Fund's own purchases in 1954. Yet the underdeveloped countries' balance-of-payments situation had deteriorated substantially and they were meeting serious difficulties in increasing their expenditure on development. As the Yugoslav representative had pointed out, those difficulties might to some extent be alleviated if co-ordination of the work of the regional commissions with that of the Fund, and possibly of the Bank, led to a closer link between the process of assessing the underdeveloped countries' needs and that of making funds

available to them. One way of bringing such collaboration about would be for the regional economic commissions to be represented on ACC by their executive secretaries.

4. He also agreed with the United Kingdom representative that there should in future be close collaboration between the regional commissions and the specialized agencies in technical assistance. The commissions should play a more active role than in the past in supplementing the efforts of the Technical Assistance Board (TAB).

5. The general review and evaluation of the development and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies which the Council was called upon to undertake under item 4 of its agenda should, in his delegation's view, be an opportunity for stock-taking, to see how much progress had been made towards the ultimate goal, which was human happiness. While his delegation fully endorsed what had been said about the valuable work so far done, it noted that *per capita* incomes in most countries—at least in the greater parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America—were still, nearly ten years after the Second World War, no higher, and in some cases even lower, than before it. All the manifold efforts which had been made by the United Nations and the specialized agencies had not in fact so far succeeded in making any visible impression on the social and economic life of the less fortunate countries. The magnitude of the task which thus still lay ahead presented a challenge which could not be met by mere resolutions recognizing the need for greater aid to the under-developed countries; and it was of the utmost importance that the Council should consider each year what efforts had been made to meet that challenge, and with what success, not only by members of the United Nations family, but also by other international bodies functioning in the same sphere.

6. For that purpose it would be most useful if the Secretariat could submit a paper analysing what had to be done and what was being done with regard to particularly important aspects of certain general problems, such as the financing of development programmes, the removal of obstacles to a freer flow of trade, agricultural surpluses and problems of commodity prices, community development, literacy and fundamental education, health services, housing and the prevention of discrimination. That would only mean extending the type of reviews which the Secretariat had undertaken for the present session and directing them not only to the abstract studies which had been made—although such studies were very important in determining the types of programme to be adopted—but also to actual achievements, or, if the results achieved fell short of expectations, to the reasons for it. Such a study would not only prompt the agencies whose contributions had been small or ineffective to re-examine their efforts, but would also help to canalize discussions in the Council along more fruitful channels than that of undue emphasis on the procedural and mechanical aspects of co-ordination. It was not beyond the ability of the Secretariat, or outside the scope of the Council, to undertake that review. The co-operation of the different countries would, however, be necessary before such a paper could be produced; because the greater part of the effort had necessarily to come from within the under-developed countries themselves—for external assistance only helped to fill gaps

in respect of technical personnel, equipment and, not least, finance.

7. Now that the International Finance Corporation was virtually a reality, the under-developed countries were looking forward with hope towards the establishment of the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED). There must be cogent reasons for the United Kingdom representative's statement that, while his Government accepted SUNFED in principle, there was some difficulty in providing the necessary resources; but it must be kept in mind that the question of timing was of the greatest importance in a matter of that nature. As the Directors-General of UNESCO and WHO had pointed out, the success of their future plans would largely depend upon the extent of financial assistance which would be forthcoming from special funds. It was no use adopting resolutions stressing the desirability of increasing aid to under-developed countries unless the countries which were able to do so gave practical effect to them.

8. The Indian delegation, in short, would like to believe that the faith which the world had placed in the United Nations would not be allowed to wane, that sustained effort would continue to be made to streamline the administrative apparatus, and that the possibility of taking concrete steps to increase the effectiveness and usefulness of the various organs of the United Nations family would be unremittingly explored.

9. Mr. MONTOYA (Venezuela) was glad that the discussion had been particularly constructive. He congratulated the Secretary-General both on his written Statement and on his introductory remarks. The ACC report (E/2728 and Corr.1) and those of the specialized agencies were likewise of very high quality. He would therefore confine himself to a few observations concerning the co-ordination of programmes and activities—while reserving the right to comment later on the reports submitted.

10. Co-operation between the specialized agencies in the execution of programmes was of considerable importance. Fortunately, certain rivalries existing in the past had now disappeared and co-operation had become a reality. Again, collaboration between Governments and the international organizations seemed to increase as mutual understanding grew. In that connexion, he quoted the supplementary report of WHO (E/2724/Add.1), which stated that the best pointer to the progress made by WHO in 1954 was perhaps the general attitude that most member States seemed to be taking towards the Organization. The report also stated that in all parts of the world there had been a noticeably better understanding of the real purposes pursued by the Organization.

11. There was, however, a long way to go before really effective co-ordination was assured between Governments and the international organizations. Some countries had set up inter-Ministerial committees for the purpose, and they were playing a very useful role. Such was the case, for example, in Venezuela, where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was acting as general secretariat for the committee concerned. In that connexion, he thought it necessary to point out that on many occasions specialized agencies had approached the com-

petent national Ministries direct on certain questions, without troubling to inform either the permanent mission accredited to them—or even the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which often acted as a liaison agency and was responsible for canalizing the various activities. Such an omission certainly impaired the general picture essential to good co-ordination and the planning of programmes.

12. The Venezuelan delegation shared the view expressed by the Argentine representative at the 880th meeting that a summary should be prepared for the Council which would give it a clear view of the programmes of the specialized agencies. Such a document, which should be prepared as soon as possible after the Co-ordination Committee's meeting next spring, could give valuable guidance to Governments; and they, in turn, would make known any comments it suggested to them. Thus Governments would be informed of trends in the specialized agencies and of activities that might be undertaken jointly. Such a summary should be of a very general nature and should not go into details that might cause the main objective to be lost sight of.

13. The Venezuelan delegation also agreed with the delegations which had expressed their views on the question of priorities and the need for concentration of effort. It considered that, so far as priorities were concerned, the specialized agencies should follow the directives of the Council, which, in turn, should refrain from altering the established order too frequently. Moreover, it was obvious that resources were in most cases inadequate to meet needs and that they would continue to be so for a fairly long time; hence it was at all times essential to ensure that the available resources were being put to the best use.

14. He agreed with the United States representative that economic and social factors were interdependent. In that connexion, he referred to paragraph 12 of the written Statement by the Secretary-General (E/2769), which pointed out that in some countries, including Venezuela, the death rate was now no more than two-thirds or one-half of the pre-war figure. That was a clear proof of the interdependence between economic and social factors; for in Venezuela the reduction in the death rate was due not only to economic progress, but also to improved hygiene. On the other hand, the Venezuelan delegation did not share the United States representative's fear that participation of the regional commissions would complicate the machinery of technical assistance; for it believed that the Economic Commission for Latin America could play an important part in the drafting of technical assistance programmes. Venezuela welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal that the regional commissions should be asked to assist in drawing up those programmes.

15. He would like, in conclusion, to make a few comments on the subject of relations between the specialized agencies and Member States. The Venezuelan Government took the view that those relations should be based on rules laid down by the Governments themselves. All international organizations should apply the same general principles, and have a clear conception of the limits set to their activities, in order to avoid—as stipulated in the Charter—any direct or indirect intervention in matters coming within the domestic jurisdiction of States. That

point had recently been made by the Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs at San Francisco, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations, when he had protested against the constant and ever-increasing confusion between the new conception of international action and the tradition of national action, and the erroneous view that the two could not co-exist harmoniously. The result of that confusion was that the international agencies did not always respect the principle of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States, thus giving rise to serious incidents. For example, on 30 April last, the Officers of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office had decided to suspend the session of the Petroleum Committee then meeting at Caracas. That decision, in the opinion of the Venezuelan Government, was completely unjustifiable. Venezuela had accordingly withdrawn from the International Labour Organisation, regarding the decision as the culmination of a series of unfriendly acts which had been tolerated too long. In its view, such action was due to outside pressure designed to distort the purposes of the ILO and jeopardize its existence. That was the first time that a member of a specialized agency had thus had to give the reasons which had led it to withdraw, and to denounce manœuvres calculated to disturb the situation and undermine goodwill. He therefore asked the Council seriously to consider the consequences of political demagoguery within a specialized agency and its possible repercussions on co-operation between States and international bodies.

16. Mr. NOSEK (Czechoslovakia) said that for some years the Council had been dealing with the co-ordination of economic and social programmes, activities and priorities within the United Nations itself, between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and between the individual specialized agencies. He hoped that the different way in which it was dealing with that question at the present session would yield good results and that co-ordination would accordingly figure less prominently on the agenda of future sessions. The intricacy of the problems which arose in the economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields necessarily involved, and would continue to involve, the co-ordination of individual activities and programmes; but he felt that such co-ordination could in the main be confined to technical problems only, provided that the Council, its commissions and the specialized agencies took due note of the current economic and social situation in determining their priorities.

17. The importance the Czechoslovak Government attached to United Nations activities in the economic, social and cultural field, particularly in view of the present relaxation of international tension, explained its deep interest in the activities of the Economic and Social Council, which was entrusted under the United Nations Charter with the task of promoting the development of international economic, social and cultural co-operation and thus broadening and strengthening peaceful and friendly relations among nations.

18. His delegation had made a careful study of ACC's seventeenth and eighteenth reports and of the Secretary-General's written and oral introductions to the present debate. If it understood the Secretary-General and subsequent speakers correctly, the overriding question in

the whole problem of co-ordination was to find the most effective, speediest and least costly means of carrying out the tasks which had been laid on the United Nations by Article 55 of the Charter and on the specialized agencies by Article 57. The Czechoslovak delegation entirely agreed that under Chapters IX and X of the Charter it was clearly the duty of the United Nations, in particular the Economic and Social Council, and of the specialized agencies to concentrate on the main economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems of the day, whose successful solution would contribute to the further relaxation of international tension, the further strengthening of world peace and the development of peaceful co-operation and friendly co-existence between all nations and countries, irrespective of their political, economic and social structure. To devote time and effort to questions of minor importance weakened the effectiveness of the work done and the importance of the recommendations made, as did the singling out for attention of particular issues without regard to current basic economic and social problems of which they were but a part. In that connexion, he recalled that at the eighteenth session¹ the Czechoslovak delegation had recommended the Council to devote its principal attention to the expansion and strengthening of international trade and international economic co-operation as a whole, to the economic development of under-developed countries and technical assistance, to human rights in general and the rights and status of women in particular, to the fight against unemployment and to measures designed to bring about a general improvement in economic, social and cultural levels and raise the standard of living.

19. Under the Charter, the Council had a clear responsibility for determining the nature of the work to be done by its commissions and for making recommendations for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies. As he had already said at the 876th meeting, the work of the regional economic commissions was highly appreciated by the Czechoslovak delegation; and, in addition to taking an active part in the increasingly fruitful work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), as well as of its various committees and sub-committees, Czechoslovakia had sent observers to the last session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) and was also deeply interested in the activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA). The Czechoslovak delegation considered that, in the interest of the Council's work as a whole, in the interest of successful fulfilment of the tasks assigned to it by the Charter and finally in the interest of co-ordination of United Nations activities in the economic field, the regional economic commissions should be given more opportunities for initiative, while remaining firmly and clearly integrated in the structural and organizational framework of the Council, and thus of the United Nations.

20. With regard to the specialized agencies, the Soviet Union representative had pointed out that some of them adopted an attitude towards the people's democracies which was at variance with the principle of international

co-operation. He would not refer to the attitude taken towards Czechoslovakia by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund, as that question had already been dealt with at the nineteenth session.² He did, however, wish to associate himself fully with what the Soviet Union representative had said at the 881st meeting concerning the question of Bulgarian and Romanian membership of UNESCO. On the basis of draft resolutions submitted by the Czechoslovak delegation, the Council had, at its eighteenth session, recommended that those two countries should become members of that organization (resolutions 554 (XVIII) and 559 (XVIII)). The eighth General Conference of UNESCO, however, had failed to take due note of the Council's recommendations; in doing so, it had in no way contributed to the implementation of article 1 of its Constitution, under which it was its task to foster mutual recognition and to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture.

21. The activities of the specialized agencies were also seriously impeded by the fact that so economically, socially and culturally important a country as the People's Republic of China, with its population of 600 million, was not represented in them.

22. He reserved the right to comment further, if necessary, on the activities of individual specialized agencies in the Co-ordination Committee.

23. Mr. CHENG Paonan (China) said that the item under discussion was one of the most important with which the Council had to deal, and it was appropriate that it should be taken up at the beginning of the second decade of the organization's existence. He noted that most of the carefully reasoned statements had been concerned with a review of the work accomplished in the fields of economic, social and human rights and, despite the Secretary-General's suggestion in the concluding paragraph of his written Statement, he proposed to redress the balance a little by discussing the other aspect of the item—co-ordination.

24. The clearly discernible trends of the work done since the establishment of the Council during what had been a period of trial and error had been clearly brought out in the Secretary-General's statement. In the first place, the accent had been on technical assistance, particularly to under-developed countries, and in that connexion it was interesting to note that the Social Committee was discussing technical assistance in human rights questions through advisory services, scholarships and seminars. Secondly, research methods were being continuously developed in the economic and social fields, as well as in that of discrimination. Thirdly, a well-established procedure now existed for a periodic review of the world economic and social situation and, finally, expert bodies, either permanent or *ad hoc*, were meeting to discuss specific questions. It was significant that the techniques used in carrying out the human rights programme of work had now caught up with those adopted in the economic and social spheres.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session*, 797th meeting, para. 55.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Nineteenth Session*, 844th-847th meeting (inclusive).

25. He interpreted Article 57, and particularly paragraph 1, of the Charter as mandatory on the Council and that view was substantiated by the recommendations, most of which had been approved, of the Executive Committee of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations concerning the importance of co-ordination in closely related fields.

26. He felt it would be useful periodically to revert to those recommendations, which had been largely followed up by the establishment of ACC, because he believed that efforts to perfect co-ordination should be intensified and a more realistic approach adopted with a view to eliminating any duplication of function and to reducing the size and number of documents. Perhaps the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the economic, social and human rights fields might be reviewed one or two weeks before the Council's sessions by the Co-ordination Committee.

27. Mr. HAMMARSKJOLD (Secretary-General) thought the debate had been most constructive. It might now interest the Council to know what conclusions the Secretariat had drawn from it, and what further suggestions it had inspired.

28. The review of activities had clearly brought out the enormous growth in the economic and social work of the United Nations as well as the extent of its responsibilities; it had also provided a sound assessment of the goal to be attained and of the directions in which development could best be continued.

29. More than one delegation had stressed the importance of obtaining greater publicity for the work of the United Nations. While that was, of course, desirable, it always entailed certain difficulties and dangers; he thought it best not to run the risk of "over-selling". The best way of selling was to carry on with solid work and simply to ensure that it was known. Such work was not regarded as "hot news"—and he would not like it to be treated in that way. Health and happiness could not be strident while disease and misery cried to heaven; and for that reason he saw difficulties in wider publicity. On the other hand, the Secretariat would certainly see what could be done in a sober way to inform world opinion of what was really being achieved in the social and economic fields by the United Nations and the specialized agencies. But the main accent in such propaganda—if it could be rightly so defined—should be to emphasize the proper kind of effective basis action; and he was confident of general agreement with that view.

30. With regard to co-ordination, he welcomed, on behalf of ACC and the United Nations Secretariat, the emphasis placed on the achievements of the past few years; and his colleagues in the Committee would appreciate as much as he did the suggestions put forward for making its work more helpful—all of which, needless to say, would receive their careful attention.

31. At the eighteenth session he had coined the phrase, which had been repeated here, that co-operation between the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be one of "unity in freedom, or freedom within unity"—a reciprocal conception. Unity was essential if the greatest possible gains were to be derived from the joint

effort, yet such unity in no way precluded freedom of initiative or action. He wished particularly to stress the need for that type of unity, since he believed that within its bounds the various specialized agencies should merit the increasing confidence of the Council and of the General Assembly. As that type of co-ordination developed, it should be possible for the main United Nations organs to entrust increasing responsibility to the specialized agencies and the Secretariat.

32. Among the various methods of improving co-ordination through the Secretariat, obviously none was more important than the development of consultation before commitment. Indeed, such consultation should take place at the earliest stage of drawing up programmes—priorities being at the same time carefully borne in mind. The gesture of UNESCO in submitting its entire draft programme for scrutiny was valuable and an excellent precedent. But some of the procedures suggested during the discussion might be difficult to apply successfully because of the time factor, the very specialized character of the work of most of the agencies and the fact that in many of them the making of programmes was a continuous process. However, he and his colleagues were keenly alive to the problem and were doing all they could to meet it more effectively. They would have to examine the extent to which ACC could be of help, but he was a little apprehensive of putting ACC's responsibility in that respect on too formal a footing, since such a step might easily introduce an element of rigidity in the proceedings which would not be compensated by the advantages gained. Freer preliminary consultation between the agencies and the Secretariat of the United Nations would certainly yield improved results. In that connexion the Council might be interested to learn that the chief programme officers of the five organizations concerned with social programmes had recently held a three-day meeting in Geneva to smooth out problems and to discuss any elements in their respective programmes which might be of common concern.

33. He would be glad to discuss with ACC the possibilities of extending co-ordination procedures at the regional level. In that connexion he would like to clarify a point to which several representatives had referred—namely, the role of the secretariats of the regional economic commissions in the execution of the Technical Assistance Programme. It was, he thought, essential, as the United States representative had pointed out, that the wealth of knowledge represented by the regional commission's staffs should be at the disposal of those responsible for carrying out the Programme. To that end some new internal arrangements might be necessary. But it was essential, first, that the role of the resident technical assistance representatives and of the agency representatives (so far as those were necessary) should in no way be weakened; and secondly, that the secretariats of the regional commissions should not assume or embark upon operational responsibilities or activities which would detract from the authority of the resident representatives or of Headquarters in New York.

34. Reference had been made in the course of the debate to his appeal that Governments should not further complicate but should rather seek to simplify the

structure of international organizations. Specific references had been made to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)—a subject on which he wished to make a few general observations, in the light particularly of a resolution introduced under another item of the agenda. Whatever action the Council might take on that resolution, the question it raised required the most careful attention by the United Nations. It was the Council itself that had convened the Havana Conference; "the promotion of international trade" was one of the Council's priority objectives and much work was being done in that field by the regional commissions. Both the Council and the General Assembly had repeatedly stressed the universal character of the international trade problem and the importance of international trade as one of the essential means for achieving the purposes of Article 55 of the Charter. Thus, politically and constitutionally international trade was firmly anchored in the United Nations. It would be premature to discuss the exact form of international organization most appropriate for dealing with the problems there arising, but two things might perhaps be said at that stage. On the one hand, it was necessary to recognize what existed—what had already been developed over the past eight or nine years. On the other hand, it should not be forgotten that the problems of world trade were, as he had said, an integral part of the general responsibilities falling upon the United Nations, and that central review and co-ordination of work in that or other fields of international economic endeavour were essential. He might perhaps add, although it should not be necessary for him to do so, that the Secretariat, for its part, was ready to assume any responsibility in that field which Governments might wish to entrust to it.

35. Perhaps he should also make one further allusion to ACC's statement on the organizational relations for the Technical Assistance Programme. As he had said before, he attached great importance to that statement. He felt it was right and, indeed, essential. In his introductory statement he had said that the formula introduced by ACC was one of clarification only, as no new legal or constitutional element had been introduced into the organization of the Expanded Programme. There was one term in that formula which it might be useful to explain so that members would know exactly what might be forthcoming. They would remember that it was said that ACC should "endorse" the reports from TAB. The term was vague and he felt that they would wish to know what he read into it; he knew that on that point he was in full agreement with his colleagues in ACC. As they were all aware, the representatives of the various specialized agencies and the Secretariat of the United Nations in TAB sat there as direct representatives of the executive heads of their respective agencies. That followed from the constitutional construction of the Organizations concerned. "Endorsement", accordingly, could only mean that the executive head of an organization or an agency put, so to say, his seal on the stand taken by his representative in TAB. It was an outward expression of the fact that the representative of TAB had spoken with the full authority of and on the basis of instructions from his administrative head. It was obvious that there might be a need for something more

than such a simple affidavit, so to speak, but, if so, that was not within the meaning of the word "endorsement".

36. ACC, where the executive heads of the organizations sat, had its own responsibilities for global policy making. For that reason, it might wish to add some observations to what TAB said. Such observations were not encroachments on TAB's province, but something added on the specifically higher level represented by ACC. That meant that the document which resulted would be the basic TAB document certified, so to say, by the executive heads, who bore the final responsibility, but, perhaps, with additional observations which, although possibly appropriate to the executive heads, did not properly belong to TAB itself. He thought that from what he had just said it emerged that the formula was merely the "spelling out" of what the legal and constitutional relationships necessarily were and what the traditional distribution of responsibility between the ACC level and the TAB level necessarily had been and would remain.

37. Few of the other points made in the discussion called for specific comment at that stage. He sympathized with the appeal for fewer and shorter publications and meetings, and would do what he could to meet it. Under the reorganization plan there was now a far closer, stricter and more continuous scrutiny of all documents within the United Nations than had existed in the past, and substantial results had already been achieved. Without the co-operation of Governments, as well as of commissions and other agencies, the Secretariat's activities were inevitably limited; and he hoped that it might continue to count on such co-operation.

38. It had been suggested that the sales of various documents might serve as a criterion of their importance and interest. While such a criterion was sound in some respects, he would point out that, for instance, the *Yearbook of Human Rights*, one of the major publications of the United Nations and one of great interest to the Council, sold very few copies—yet no one would suggest stopping its publication. But he did feel that the sales figures should strongly influence the way in which the *Yearbook* was planned. In brief, that criterion, though relevant, must be applied with caution.

39. Before concluding, he wished to refer to certain very encouraging statements of governmental policy made during the debate: notably, the United Kingdom's pledge, subject to parliamentary approval, of continued contributions to the Technical Assistance Fund for a further three years; the United States statement that that country favoured bringing the atomic energy agency into relationship with the United Nations as a specialized agency—a view which he believed had been supported by the Yugoslav representative; and the Soviet Union's announcement that it proposed to contribute to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and that it had decided to resume participation in WHO.

40. With regard to the atomic energy agency, which was of the greatest interest to the Council, he had pointed out in the General Assembly that it was a new departure and that the United Nations should therefore not feel bound by traditional patterns when deciding upon the proper relationship to be established with the agency. A close relationship was essential, indeed vital, to both

parties and it would be wise to examine new forms which might provide for firmer formal co-ordination than in the case of a specialized agency, without in any way limiting the new agency's initiative. It could be taken for granted that the discussions at the forthcoming International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy would provide some guidance for the solution of the kind of problems he had in mind; and, though the Conference was in no way concerned with the agency itself, it might throw light on the possible tasks which the United Nations and its specialized agencies might have to carry out in that important field. It would be easier to consider the constitutional question of the relationship between the United Nations and the agency once the nature of the practical problems could be more clearly seen, as was likely after the conclusion of the Conference. Should it appear that special administrative arrangements were necessary within the United Nations itself, the fullest use would, of course, be made of the experience of the specialized agencies in that field.

41. Mr. WILLIAMS (International Monetary Fund), commenting on two points raised during the discussion, said, first, with regard to the United Kingdom representative's question about the relationship between GATT and the International Monetary Fund, that close and efficient inter-secretariat co-ordination and the prompt exchange of information and views would have been much easier if both had had their headquarters in one place. Nevertheless, a great effort had been made to overcome the difficulties, and substantial allocations had been made to meet travelling expenses. The staff of the Fund would certainly pay due attention to the need for close relations which the United Kingdom representative had stressed.

42. Secondly, the United Kingdom representative had asked whether the specialized agencies were making enough use of the regional economic commissions in dealing with problems of the areas concerned. The Indian representative had further elaborated the point by suggesting that the Fund should establish contact with ECAFE for the purpose of discussing the use of Fund resources in the Commission's Member States. He believed that the executive secretaries of ECAFE and ECLA had already referred to the extent and nature of the co-operation between their secretariats and those of the specialized agencies. The Fund had, for example, participated in the Working Group of Experts on Payments Problems of the ECAFE Region and had also greatly benefited from the information and assistance received from the secretariats of the regional commissions. However, it was restricted under article V of its Articles of Agreement to dealing with member countries through government departments. Moreover, the technical nature of the Fund's work also required direct and confidential relations with the responsible financial authorities. Notwithstanding, its relations with the regional economic commissions had been close and constant, and had involved some beneficial interchange of staff. He hoped that those contacts would continue on an increasing scale. The helpful observations made during the discussion would certainly be borne in mind.

43. Mrs. BERESFORD FOX (World Federation of United Nations Associations), speaking at the invitation of the PRESIDENT, said that WFUNA welcomed the fact that the reports of specialized agencies and ACC had been taken up under a single item, and expressed appreciation of the Secretary-General's efforts to develop closer co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies. One of the main tasks of the Federation was to publicize the work of both; and, though it realized the importance of the specialized agencies having their own constitution and governing bodies, it was very conscious that the layman looked upon the United Nations family as one. Nevertheless, from a publicity point of view, there was a certain advantage in being able to stimulate interest in the work of such agencies as UNICEF, UNESCO or WHO, when people were left unmoved by the work of the Fund and the Bank, in spite of their valuable contributions. While maintaining the individual character of each agency, there was, she believed, still room for closer co-ordination.

44. One of the main obstacles to closer co-ordination was caused by variations in membership, which could only be overcome by the admission to the United Nations of the countries which had applied for membership and by the entry into the specialized agencies of countries which had allowed their membership to lapse or had never been members. WFUNA hoped that both processes would be accelerated during the year of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations.

45. WFUNA had the fullest confidence in UNICEF and was glad to make a modest contribution to its work in a number of countries by propaganda, by reminding Governments of the importance of continuing and increasing their support, and by raising voluntary funds. A total of about \$1 million had recently been raised by house-to-house collections in three countries.

46. Her federation also maintained close relations with UNESCO, WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). During the last six years it had organized seminars, in collaboration with UNESCO, WHO, FAO and ILO.

47. WFUNA was very satisfied with the relations between UNESCO and WHO and non-governmental organizations, and welcomed the improvement in FAO's relations with them, hoping that they would continue on the national and international level. It approved the new system of consultation adopted by WMO and sincerely hoped that in response to the wishes of many non-governmental organizations the ILO would soon reform its procedures so as to intensify contacts with a variety of non-governmental organizations of a less specialized character than those which already enjoyed consultative status. In spite of the excellent work of the Public Information Division of the International Labour Office, which probably published material in more languages than any other agency, its work was less well known; and that might be due to the fact that it had so far established consultative relations with so few non-governmental organizations.

48. It was encouraging to see the increased co-ordination between the work of the United Nations and that of

its specialized agencies; and in that connexion WFUNA would like to mention a new field in which the Council might encourage close co-operation. Some six years ago, the Federation had suggested that the Council establish a committee of experts or convene a conference of scientists to discuss the peaceful uses of atomic energy, but it was not until the President of the United States had made his proposal at the eighth session of the General Assembly in 1953, that action had been taken. She welcomed the fact that the specialized agencies were also going to take an active part in the forthcoming International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.

49. The serious question of the effect of atomic and thermo-nuclear explosions on man and his environment, which, as far as she knew, was not yet covered by any United Nations body, was not a political, but an economic and social problem; and the Executive Committee of WFUNA had included it on the agenda of its Economic and Social Commission for the forthcoming Plenary Assembly at Bangkok. She believed that WHO, WMO and UNESCO were studying the problem within their respective spheres of competence, but had not yet found it possible even to submit a progress report. Without making any proposal at the present time, her federation

would like to emphasize the importance of that branch of research for the future of mankind. The Council might at some stage wish to co-ordinate the studies being carried out so as to help allay the public's fears, aroused through incomplete knowledge.

50. In conclusion, she expressed appreciation of the constructive work being accomplished by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, which WFUNA would continue to support.

51. The PRESIDENT, announcing the conclusion of the general debate, said that it had given the Council an opportunity of obtaining a clearer picture of the multifarious activities carried out by the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

52. He suggested that item 4 should now be referred to the Co-ordination Committee, which, besides reviewing programmes, might consider detailed matters arising out of the reports of the specialized agencies, as well as the statement of financial implications of actions of the Council (E/L.674) and any draft resolutions or other matters which might be referred to it.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.