

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Monday, 15 July 1957

## Twenty-fourth Session

at 10.30 a.m.

OFFICIAL RECORDS

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

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*President* : Mr. M. MIR KHAN (Pakistan).

*Present* :

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following countries: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Spain.

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, World Health Organization, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization.

## AGENDA ITEM 4

**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**

- (a) **General review (E/2931, E/2953, E/2967, E/2973 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2, E/2974 and Add.1, E/2975, E/2980 and Add.1, E/2993, E/2994, E/3007 and Add.1, E/3011 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2, E/3013, E/3017, E/3024/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1) (*continued*)**

1. Mr. THAJEB (Indonesia), thanking the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies for their reports and oral statements, said that his country had always tried to take an active part in economic, social and human rights projects, all of which were so important for the prosperity and happiness of mankind. Much had been accomplished since the creation of the United Nations, but there was still room for improved co-ordination, and his Government endorsed the principles outlined in the introduction to the Secretary-General's report entitled "Observations on the Work Programme of the Council and on the Financial Implications of the Council's Actions" (E/3011 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2), believing that there should be closer co-operation be-

tween all the United Nations bodies concerned in projects designed to accelerate the economic and social development of under-developed countries. It was therefore gratified to see that possibilities of improvement in that direction had been explored. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) had given proof of its competence to deal with co-ordination problems, but since co-ordination was not an end in itself, but should be directed towards greater efficiency, it should be flexible, and allow freedom in the planning of activities. His delegation might have some comments to make in the Co-ordination Committee on the important work being done by the specialized agencies, which had been of such assistance to countries — like his own — in the early stages of development.

2. On the present occasion he wished in the main to comment on the Secretary-General's memorandum (E/3017) on an international administrative service. In 1956, in a public address, the Secretary-General had stated that whereas the need for assistance in economic development had won recognition, not enough attention was being paid to the shortage of administrative personnel with which under-developed countries were faced, and had emphasized that the administrative apparatus was a limiting factor in the determination of a country's capacity to absorb outside assistance. It was perfectly true that the progress of under-developed countries which had recently acquired their independence was being hampered by the lack of trained administrators, but in his Government's opinion the United Nations could best help by establishing a public administration centre which would not only provide training, but also imbue those attending it with the ideals of the United Nations and with a broader — perhaps even a cosmic — outlook.

3. In response to a request made at the twenty-third session (964th meeting), the Secretary-General had now outlined a plan for helping countries to meet the present critical shortage of qualified civil servants: a task for which the United Nations was particularly fitted. His delegation might have some detailed observations, and possibly proposals, to make in the Co-ordination Committee on that plan, and in the meantime would express its general agreement with it. His Government believed that the members of an international administrative service should be employed as national civil servants responsible solely to the employing government. The United Nations, however, could help greatly by providing funds to supplement local salaries. It was reassuring to learn from the memorandum (paragraph 7) that "Since the administrative support would come through the United Nations but within the framework of the national services concerned, overtones of dependence on another country or risks of divided loyalty on the part of the officials concerned should not arise".

4. One point seemed to have given rise to some doubt — namely, that, although the service would presumably be closely associated with the technical assistance programmes, it was difficult to see how the service could become an integral part of them, because the international staff would be assuming direct administrative responsibility, and would not be acting as experts employed by the United Nations.

5. It might be decided during the present discussion at what stage the Secretary-General could launch his plan, which would have to be regarded both as an experiment and as a stopgap to serve until an international training centre could be established. His Government looked forward with keen expectation to the proposals about the centre that were to be submitted by the Secretary-General at the Council's twenty-sixth session.

6. Mr. COSIO VILLEGAS (Mexico) was glad that the Netherlands representative, at the 981st meeting, with his wide knowledge and delicate sense of irony and proportion, should have restored interest and balance to the debate. United Nations bodies dealing with economic and social matters were now at least ten years old, and some were even older. Like trees, they needed pruning if better growth was to be assured. That was necessary not only because of the passage of time, but also because the sphere of action of each had been but imperfectly demarcated while at the same time each had been given a measure of autonomy.

7. The decisions which determined the work of the specialized agencies were taken by representatives of governments, and hence, presumably, had the support of public opinion, but some United Nations bodies had been created in the light of some special pre-occupation which had, perhaps, now lost some of its force. For example, the regional economic commissions had been set up to deal with economic problems, which had been very much to the fore as a result of the destruction wrought during the war, and because an urgent need had been felt to accelerate the development of underdeveloped countries whose economic backwardness was rightly regarded as a major source of instability. The regional commissions had subsequently learned that any significant economic change must provoke some degree of social maladjustment, and were better placed to detect such maladjustments than higher United Nations organs which lacked first-hand knowledge. It was vital to realize that economic and social issues were inter-related, so that the right answer to the problem of whether social investigations should be undertaken by the regional economic commissions or at Headquarters was, perhaps, to broaden the terms of reference of the former and to re-name them regional economic and social commissions.

8. United Nations bodies concerned with economic and social questions had, generally speaking, made considerable progress. Indeed, some results had been spectacular, and had led to new projects of yet broader scope; but he would not wish to appear complacent. He took warning from such instances as the figures for the world incidence of malaria quoted by the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) which proved that the anti-malaria campaign was still but a first step in tackling the problem.

9. As an example of the kind of progress achieved, some of which passed virtually unnoticed, he described how, as one of the first economists to take an interest in Latin American economic problems as a whole, he had in the middle 1930s wished to initiate comparative economic studies and to arrange a course of lectures on the economic problems of the sub-continent. He had been forced to abandon his plan because it had proved impossible to find a suitably qualified lecturer, and, though at the time there had been some one hundred young, well-trained economists in various Latin American countries, each of them had followed a strictly national approach, apparently totally unaware of the similarity between the problems of each country. That the situation had radically changed was almost entirely due to the creation of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), which now had on its staff some fifty well-trained, competent and hard-working economists who were proud of serving the noble cause of better international understanding and co-operation, and who travelled extensively, made personal contacts and studied economic publications issued in different countries. The secretariat's reports, examined by the Commission itself every other year and by Latin American economists in general, had helped to bring about a regional approach: a far more significant achievement than the minor shortcomings in ECLA's reports which had provoked criticism in the Co-ordination Committee and the Economic Committee.

10. The study of co-ordination problems which had arisen for the reasons he had outlined would be all the better and more realistic if unblemished by any spirit of censoriousness. It was also essential to prevent efforts to achieve co-ordination from affecting the morale of members of the secretariat and from appearing to stand in the way of the legitimate aspirations of governments and the public. He favoured the consolidation of the resolutions adopted by the Council and General Assembly on economic and social problems, and supported further efforts by the functional and regional commissions to concentrate their efforts and make the best use of their resources and the recommendations of the Secretary-General and Co-ordination Committee. The question called for further study and for another report from the Secretary-General at some future date.

11. Mr. BLUSZTAJN (Poland) said that the question under discussion involved one of the Council's main functions, entrusted to it under Article 63 of the Charter of the United Nations. It must be admitted that for years the Council had not taken the provisions of Article 63 any too literally; and in the meantime the specialized agencies had developed their activities partly in order to meet the real needs of their members, but sometimes also in a search for new fields to conceal their inability to face up squarely to fundamental problems.

12. Anyone who studied the specialized agencies' programmes of work could not fail to be struck by the discrepancy between what was actually being done and what might be done if financial and other circumstances allowed. Obviously, the specialized agencies were no more able than the United Nations itself to evade the consequences of the trend in the world situation. However, the fact that concentration of effort was once more

the order of the day could only be welcomed. Perhaps the moment had come to review, in the light of current needs and the situation throughout the world, the programmes of all institutions dealing with economic and social questions and with human rights. Nobody doubted the salutary effects of such a review, provided it was borne in mind that the organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies must be sufficiently flexible to adapt themselves to new situations, that international co-operation had only just begun and that nothing must be done to hamper the development of the potentialities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in that direction. Financial considerations must not be regarded as paramount in all fields. Indeed, the exaggerated importance attributed to them in the discussion was evidence of a lack of determination to go to the root of the problem.

13. Initially, an attempt had been made to lay down certain principles, but without providing any technical procedures for putting them into practice. The Council had taken on a task of considerable magnitude, but such progress as had been achieved had been due rather to the initiative shown by United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies themselves than to the clarity of the Council's directives. The Council had still to show that it was capable of measuring up to the task assigned to it in the Charter.

14. Simply to define problems was not enough. The specialized agencies wanted something more than a mere repetition of well-worn generalizations. The time seemed to have come for the Council to say that it expected the specialized agencies and all United Nations bodies to make fresh efforts to shake off the dead hand of the "cold war" and to broaden economic, social, technical and scientific co-operation, with no exceptions whatsoever on political grounds to the rule of universality, so that all nations could share in progress and make their contribution to the common cause.

15. Mr. SINBEL (Egypt) was gratified by the agreement among members of the Council on certain basic principles and aims of co-ordination, with which his delegation concurred because without them there could be no orderly development of the activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Those principles and objectives could be summarized as being: first, that co-ordination was certainly needed; secondly, that it should not lead to the curtailment of activities or delay the initiation of important projects; thirdly, that the specialized agencies should retain their autonomy, establish their own programmes at the technical level and preserve the authority vested in them by their constitutions, and finally, that the development of underdeveloped countries should be the paramount consideration.

16. The United States representative, at the 980th meeting, had described how the work of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields had grown between 1947 and 1957, and the Netherlands representative, at the 981st meeting, had drawn a similar picture from a different angle. It was precisely because the Organization was now appropriating such enormous sums for economic development that the issue of co-

ordination had become so important. The Council and the specialized agencies must, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 1094 (XI), take stock of the present position and past achievements, and, above all, engineer the most effective utilization of the resources expected to accrue.

17. He would not go into detail about the co-ordination achieved, or cite instances where it was still lacking, but would restrict himself to saying that the specialized agencies had made some progress in co-ordinating activities, both among themselves and with some of the functional commissions. It was noteworthy that in 1951, well before the Co-ordination Committee's recommendation of 1956, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office had decided to amend its Standing Orders and those of the International Labour Organisation's regional conferences and industrial committees to bring them into line with the intention of rule 80 of the Council's rules of procedure, which called for advance consultation on programme proposals. The Governing Body had also proposed that the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference be similarly amended. The International Labour Organisation had been the first to adopt the practice of associating the policy-making bodies of the specialized agencies in the preparation and development of programmes at all stages in order to achieve truly concerted action on major projects involving more than one agency. Such co-operation had been most striking in matters affecting human rights, and the Social Committee had noted with great satisfaction the statement in paragraph 129 of the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/2970). The Social Committee had also paid a tribute to the very thorough work done by Mr. Ammoun, the Special Rapporteur, on discrimination in education, with the unflinching help of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

18. His Government particularly welcomed the activities undertaken, often jointly, by the specialized agencies in Africa and the Middle East. The executive heads of the International Labour Office, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), WHO and other specialized agencies had given an account of the co-operative projects under way in the economic, social and human rights fields, but though he appreciated the agencies' efforts to streamline their operations, to review their programmes and to establish priorities, he hoped they would redouble their efforts to co-ordinate activities at every level, and that the steps already made in the field of human rights would be extended to every other domain.

19. He associated himself with the wise and pertinent comments of the Netherlands representative (981st meeting) on ACC's report. The Egyptian delegation, too, had noted that the report emphasized points on which there was agreement between the specialized agencies but passed over controversial issues in silence. Although it was normal to record the former, it was more important to report the latter, so that some solution might be found to them.

20. He hoped the Secretary-General would complete the round of informal meetings with senior officials of the Council of Europe, the Organization for European Economic Co-operation and the High Authority of the

European Coal and Steel Community, as well as the projected meeting with the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, by making contact with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

21. Turning to some particular aspects of the Secretary-General's report (E/3011 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2) and statement (980th meeting), he expressed great satisfaction with the experiment of seconding social affairs staff and personnel from the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) to the regional economic commissions, and agreed with the Secretary-General that their presence had helped to improve the quality of reports. It was important that such reports should reflect the real situation prevailing in different parts of the world, and it would be easier to ensure that they did if they were prepared on the spot. He hoped that the experiment would be extended, and that the Secretary-General would see fit to second to different regions other officials concerned with economic and social matters.

22. Turning to the memorandum on an international administrative service (E/3017), he emphasized his delegation's gratitude to the Secretary-General for having continuously taken the lead in drawing attention to the needs of the under-developed countries. In principle, Egypt was always ready to support programmes for the advancement of such countries, but he would remind the Council that the latter were somewhat sensitive about allowing foreigners to take up responsible posts in their national administrations. As some delegations had already pointed out, they usually preferred the services of their own nationals once they had acquired the necessary experience. For that reason, they favoured the establishment of training centres and institutes designed to create a nucleus of competent administrators. The public administration centres established by TAA, including that in Egypt, had done remarkably good work.

23. The Director-General of FAO had rightly drawn attention to the fact that such problems as industrialization, automation and the peaceful uses of atomic energy took a much more prominent place in the Council's deliberations than the problem of agricultural development. He (Mr. Sinbel) hoped that, in reviewing their work programmes and priorities, the United Nations and the specialized agencies would consider the ways in which the development of agriculture and that of industry could be co-ordinated at the international level.

24. Mr. EPINAT (France) associated himself with those delegations which had paid tributes to the work of the Secretariat, of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and of the executive heads of the specialized agencies. He wished also to do justice to the progress made, while stressing that outstanding tasks called for unflinching attention.

25. The French delegation wished in particular to emphasize the value of the Secretary-General's observations on the Council's work programme (E/3011) and his statement on the simplification of certain United Nations activities, of which the Co-ordination Committee had made full use. Despite some reservations, particularly on the advisability of convening the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women only once every two years at the very

time when both those bodies were busy on specific and useful tasks, his delegation approved of the Secretary-General's suggestions, by and large.

26. The work of co-ordination had been simplified by the progress made by certain organs of the Council in establishing an order of priority of projects. Though perhaps less extensive, the studies undertaken gained in thoroughness. Such profundity, however, could not be ensured without the close collaboration of all other United Nations bodies.

27. Co-operation of this kind could be effective only if backed up by the action of governments themselves. The French delegation, familiar with the obstacles to co-ordination at the national level, could well imagine how difficult it must be at the international level. It would do its utmost to see that the work of the international bodies was facilitated by consistency of views at the national level and a clear idea of the tasks. At the international level, too, it would seem that the wisest course would be to follow the middle of the road.

28. Essential though it was not to embark lightheartedly on new projects, and to take all necessary steps at the earliest possible moment to avoid such a course, the Council should not lay down rules which resulted in compromising the pursuit or forbidding the expansion of practical action in its fight against ignorance, disease and hunger and in its attempts to achieve a better understanding between nations.

29. It was a matter of regret to his delegation that ACC had not seen fit to carry to their logical conclusion the suggestions made in the report on its twentieth session (E/2931). Perhaps the Committee had been chary of endorsing — before it knew the Council's views — some of the proposals made by a number of specialized agencies, and particularly those of UNESCO, which were summarized in that Organization's excellent working paper issued under the UNESCO symbol 48/EX/19.

30. He noted with regret the contrast between the proposals in the Secretary-General's observations (E/3011 and Corr.1) and ACC's non-committal remarks on consultation procedures to ensure success in the initial stages of concerted action, and hoped that a satisfactory compromise between the different views would shortly be submitted to the Council. Perhaps the best course would be to start by establishing criteria for deciding whether a given programme called for concerted action or not, and then to determine the best procedure for consultation and action by defining the role of each participating organization. Such an approach would at least save time, by ensuring that the projects implemented had been carefully thought out, and would lead to a rational utilization of resources.

31. There was everything to be said for making a thorough study of a clearly defined programme from the standpoint of concerted action. There were several programmes that lent themselves to a study of that nature from which the Council would gain a much better insight into the difficulties encountered than from a superfluous product of long debate and cautious compromise. If such a study, which would serve the purposes of both Council resolution 630 A I (XXII) and General Assembly

resolution 1094 (XI) were submitted every year, the Council would be in a position to grapple more effectively with the task of revising programmes and co-ordination methods.

32. There were still some obscurities in the field of co-ordination. He did not know whether that was due to lack of courage, or to excessive concern for compromise. But the reports submitted by ACC lacked both clarity and virility. Half-truths would be better than nothing at all. There could be no genuine co-operation without plain speaking. All that his delegation asked for was that, in the spirit of Council resolution 630 A (XXII), there should be a clear statement of the difficulties encountered and of possible solutions.

33. With such a veil of silence still hanging over the subject only three months before the opening of the first General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, his delegation feared that it might be impossible to arrange a fair distribution of tasks, unless all the organizations concerned were to approach the problem in the right frame of mind. The interest of all nations in the new industrial revolution was so great and the stakes were so high that every organization should face up to its responsibilities, with no other consideration in mind but the complete success of the venture.

34. He wholeheartedly supported the United Kingdom representative's remarks at the 981st meeting on the economic and social advancement of Africa, and particularly on the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara.

35. The Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of an international administrative service (E/3017) would need to be thoroughly studied before being put into practice. Since the service would constitute a form of technical assistance, every care should be taken to avoid duplication of activity.

36. His delegation would give the Co-ordination Committee its fullest support and was convinced that it could accomplish work of genuine value if it faced the facts. To do so, however, it must have the help of all United Nations bodies, and particularly of ACC.

37. Mr. HOFFMAN (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) said that the discussion on the Secretary-General's proposal concerning the establishment of an international administrative service reflected the Council's concern about the problems of administration with which countries in the early stages of economic development were faced. It was because it shared that concern that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Bank) had decided in 1955 to establish the Economic Development Institute of which he (Mr. Hoffman) was the Director. Furthermore, on 13 June 1957, the Executive Directors of the Bank had approved its President's recommendation that the Institute should be continued as a regular part of the Bank's operations.

38. Two courses had already been held at the Institute, and a third was to begin in October 1957. Altogether, 57 participants, selected from the senior grades of the civil services of countries members of the Bank, would have attended the three courses. Participants were nominated by their governments and occupied positions

carrying wide administrative responsibility. While at the Institute, they continued to be officials of their own governments on leave of absence with pay, and were in no sense "internationalized". They enjoyed the unique opportunity of access to the vast volume of information at the Bank's disposal. The importance of the very close relationship between the Institute and the Bank's operations could hardly be overestimated.

39. Experience acquired during the first two courses showed that so long as the Institute could continue to attract participants of high calibre it could perform a useful function. Current indications were that, as more and more governments came to learn about the Institute and its programmes, there would be more nominations than it would be possible to accept.

40. The subject matter and methods of study were far removed from normal academic practice. The Institute was not a college; it did not hold examinations or award credits or degrees; it did not accept individual applications for participation; it did not engage in research for its own sake.

41. The management of the Bank had encouraged the Institute to develop complete autonomy in drawing up its curricula, in the choice of the material to be studied and in the selection of speakers and specialists to take part in its work. No attempt was made to persuade participants to accept any particular doctrine about economic development, or to impose on them the Bank's views on any subject. However, it was understood that the Institute should carry out all its operations with the object of contributing to the broad purposes of the Bank as set forth in its Articles of Agreement. In that sense, the Institute would continue to be guided by the Bank's general philosophy and would maintain a very close relationship with the Bank's operating departments. Approximately one half of the expenditure incurred on the first three courses would be financed by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations and the remainder by the Bank. But now that the end of the initial period was in sight, the Bank was undertaking full financial responsibility for the Institute, apart from the contribution of \$1,500 made by governments in respect of each of their nominees accepted for the course.

42. The essence of the curriculum was flexibility; it emphasized the kinds of problems with which senior administrators in the under-developed countries were required to deal in the course of their duties. The Institute was developing at least four effective lines of attack on its fundamental objective — the improvement of the quality of economic management in the governments of the under-developed countries.

43. First, seminars were held on a wide range of topics and supplemented by occasional evening lectures by recognized authorities. The Institute was able to draw on the services of many specialists, its small permanent international staff acting as a nucleus, organizing the programme and providing continuity for each course as a whole.

44. Secondly, field trips and visits to institutions were organized with the threefold purpose of giving participants a first-hand impression of a wide variety of undertakings, of enabling them to discuss management problems with

responsible executives and of providing a break in the heavy routine of the course.

45. Thirdly, participants were encouraged to do individual work in some field of special interest to them or to their governments. Some of that work produced material of value to some or all of the other participants, and some was suitable for publication in professional journals.

46. The foregoing three approaches together contributed to the fourth and possibly most important aspect of the Institute's work, which was to open up new channels through which participants could get help on the problems they had met or would meet in the performance of their official duties. The Institute was able to arrange for participants a very large number of contacts, many of which could be substantially developed in the future. Those taking part in the courses were also given access to sources of documentation and to up-to-date information about subjects of special interest to them. Fellows who had completed the course continued to enjoy such facilities after they had returned home.

47. Nearly all participants stated that the opportunity given to them of taking a broader view of their country's problems than was possible under the stress of their day-to-day administrative work was one of the most valuable aspects of the whole operation. The Institute had the additional advantage of being located in one of the world's leading capitals not too far from United Nations Headquarters. It deeply appreciated the co-operation it had consistently received from the Secretary-General and his staff.

48. Clearly, no programme lasting only six months and affecting only 20 or 25 persons per year could provide the answer to the tremendous problems dealt with in the Secretary-General's memorandum. Equally clearly, any lengthening of the course, or any increase in the number of those taking part, would defeat the Institute's purposes. In establishing the Institute, the Bank had undertaken to help to improve the quality of public administration in a small but vital sector. It welcomed the increased interest shown in the development of other sectors within a large and difficult field. The Institute was now in a position to co-operate fully with similar institutions, and would welcome the opportunity of doing so.

49. Mr. FARUQI (Pakistan) said that it had now been established that the economic and social activities of the United Nations family were the most important means of promoting the development of the under-developed countries. His delegation had always maintained that the purpose of co-ordination was to increase efficiency and simultaneously to promote the fullest possible extension of the economic and social activities of the United Nations. In other words, United Nations programmes should be formally examined to ensure that the resources available were being used to the best possible effect. It was of the essence of co-ordination that it should precede final acceptance of programmes, not take the form of periodical pruning. His delegation had observed with some misgiving that some delegations appeared to be seizing on co-ordination as a pretext for curtailing the economic and social activities of the United Nations. Indeed, at the twenty-second session

of the Council one delegation had issued a warning that it might have to dissociate itself from the United Nations' economic and social work if that work continued to expand at the present rate. But it was an indisputable fact that the social conscience of the world had been raised to such a pitch that it was no longer possible to slow down the expansion of economic and social activities; if anything, it would have to be speeded up. Co-ordination was of much greater importance in an expanding than in a contracting programme.

50. His delegation regretted that it could not support the Co-ordination Committee's recommendation that the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women should in future meet only once every two years. As the French representative had already pointed out in the current meeting, both those bodies were doing useful work the continuity of which would be seriously impaired if they were to meet less frequently than once a year. The Council should take a final decision on that issue only after it had learned the views of the two Commissions on the recommendation.

51. Neither could his delegation accept the decision that the Commission on International Commodity Trade (CICT) should meet annually instead of twice a year. The problems of primary commodity trade were very urgent, and the Commission's responsibility for devising measures to prevent excessive fluctuations in the prices of primary commodities — a matter of vital importance for the economic stability of the under-developed countries — could be properly and adequately discharged only if the situation was reviewed at short intervals. His delegation would not press its views on the subject at the current session, but, if nothing were done before the twenty-fifth session to do justice to the problems of commodity trade, would propose that the present practice of convening sessions of CICT twice a year be maintained.

52. His delegation had been impressed by the initiative taken by UNESCO in respect of the co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations family. As early as 1953, the Director-General of that agency had inaugurated a procedure for consultation with the United Nations and other specialized agencies at all stages in the preparation of its programmes. FAO had since followed UNESCO's example, and it was to be hoped that other specialized agencies would do likewise.

53. His delegation had studied very carefully the clear and imaginative statement with which the Secretary-General had introduced the present item at the 980th meeting. It had also studied his memorandum on an international administrative service (E/3017), and was in general agreement with his views thereon. The next step would be for the Council to recommend that the memorandum be transmitted to all governments with the request that they comment on it by the end of January 1958. The matter could then be discussed again by the Council at its twenty-fifth session. If, however, any delegation wished to go farther at the present session, his delegation would be prepared to join with them in submitting an appropriate draft resolution.

54. The Mexican representative had stressed the importance of the social impact of economic change. However, in Asia, the requirements of economic development were

paramount. It had often been stressed in the Council that the provision of social services on an adequate scale was dependent on a strong and viable economy. His delegation would therefore urge that the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East concentrate its activities in the economic field.

55. Finally, he expressed his Government's appreciation of the valuable assistance it was receiving from the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

56. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that he had followed the Council's discussion on item 4 of the agenda with great interest. The Secretariat would find the Council's thorough and constructive debate helpful in the course of the coming year in many aspects of its work.

57. Although the Co-ordination Committee's report on streamlining was not directly under discussion, many references had been made to the efforts of the Secretariat, both at Headquarters and in the regional centres, to give effect to the general directives laid down by the Council in 1956. If the Council so desired, he would be glad to submit in 1958 a paper similar in form to, though probably much shorter and less comprehensive than, document E/3011, which would deal, among other things, with the few matters which had not yet been, or had been only briefly, covered. The paper could, if necessary, contain a kind of forward look into particular phases of United Nations operations, as part of any action under General Assembly resolution 1094 (XI) which the Council might wish to initiate in respect of the specialized agencies and the United Nations itself.

58. Considerable attention had been devoted to the question of co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies on the one hand and the future International Atomic Energy Agency on the other. He proposed to make special arrangements for liaison with the Agency, at any rate in the initial period, and looked forward to its full integration within the machinery of ACC. The responsibility of the Agency under its Statute would naturally be borne in mind in working out practical arrangements for co-ordination. However, many of the matters on which co-ordination was likely to be needed were broad subjects such as industrialization, power development, and workers' protection, in which the peaceful use of atomic energy was merely one of several elements involved.

59. While appreciation had been expressed of the work done through ACC in the past year, there had been some complaint that ACC's reports were insufficiently informative, confining themselves to points of agreement with little mention of failures or divergencies of view. As he had said in his introductory statement at the 980th meeting, the present reports taken together were fuller than those submitted in 1956. Every effort would be put forth to make further improvements along the same lines, subject to the time factor. However, there was another factor which would make it difficult for any body constituted like ACC to respond fully to the Council's wishes in that respect. It should be remembered that ACC represented a method of organized consultation, in the course of which a basis should be laid for a truly common approach, and possible diffi-

culties and differences overcome. To bring possible differences prematurely into the open would not normally serve any useful purpose. That was as true of ACC as of consultations among heads of departments in national administrations. Needless to say, when called upon to report or to formulate proposals on some specific subject, ACC would record any divergencies of view found to be irreconcilable. Such cases should be rare if the right basic attitudes to the question of co-ordination of work within the United Nations family of organizations were maintained and developed.

60. The problems to which he had drawn attention in his memorandum on an international administrative service (E/3017) had been recognized during the debate, and it was gratifying to note the reaction to the proposal from representatives of several of the countries which could speak for those whose needs he had had in mind. It had been suggested that the specific proposals should be referred to the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) or another committee of the Council. He was confident that only benefit would result from constructive and detailed criticism in such a body.

61. He was quite prepared to handle the operation at its present stage within the existing organization. There was no question of creating what one representative had called "a separate order of supra-national civil servants". Certainly, no step in the direction of a special service with a corporate life of its own would be taken until the Council had had further opportunities of considering the matter. If he received the necessary authorization from the Council and the General Assembly, he would do his best to meet governments' requests as adequately as possible without entering into long-term commitments.

62. As stated in the memorandum, newly recruited administrators should have a period of orientation at Headquarters before proceeding to their posts. The period envisaged would be for a few weeks only during which the administrator would be instructed in the rudiments of United Nations procedures and in the amount of support which the United Nations might, if so desired, afford him and the country he would be serving.

63. The prospective beneficiaries of the proposed service were essentially the new States of Asia and Africa which did not have the advantages of a long-established national civil service and whose need of substantial administrative support was immediate and pressing. Demands had been made with increasing insistence by many of those new countries to which the United Nations was surely fitted to lend, at little additional cost, the modest aid required. That fact was obviously the reply to some of the doubts expressed during the course of the debate and to which he had already referred in his initial statement at the 980th meeting.

64. The PRESIDENT declared the general debate closed, and suggested that item 4 should be referred to the Co-ordination Committee, with the exception of the Secretary-General's memorandum on an international administrative service (E/3017), which would be referred to TAC.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.