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President: Mr. Daniel COSÍO VILLEGAS (Mexico)

Present:

Representatives of the following States: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Spain, Sudan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

Observers for the following Member States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Philippines, Yugoslavia.

Observers for the following non-member States: Holy See, Switzerland.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization.

AGENDA ITEM 11

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/3228)

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (E/3280)

1. Mr. BOUQUIN (France), referring to draft resolution F contained in the report of the Social Committee (E/3280), recalled that at the Committee's 391st meeting his delegation had expressed its support for the text submitted by the Commission on the Status of Women, which had been approved by the Commission on two occasions (E/3228, paras. 109-118).¹ On a roll-call vote being taken at the 309th meeting, eleven countries had voted for the proposal, three had voted against and four had abstained. "Differences of opinion" did in fact therefore exist. But that was hardly a reason for

dropping the item from the agenda. Perhaps the ILO, which had not been consulted, could be asked to look into the question. The French delegation regretted that the Social Committee had felt obliged to approve a proposal requesting the Council to take no action. In a spirit of conciliation, it proposed the addition at the end of the operative part of the draft resolution of the words "at its twenty-eighth session", which would enable the question to be reopened later. Should that amendment be rejected, his delegation would vote against draft resolution F.

2. Mr. LUNS (Netherlands) pointed out that in the Social Committee (390th meeting) his delegation too had objected to the draft resolution's being shelved merely because there were differences of opinion. He thought that a more thorough study of the question, based on fuller information, might serve some purpose. He supported the French amendment, as it would enable the Council to revert to the question at a more favourable moment.

3. Sir Samuel HOARE (United Kingdom) said that the main reason for the current text of draft resolution F was that a number of countries with considerable experience in the matter and much goodwill towards the principle under discussion had taken a view diametrically opposed to that of the Commission on the Status of Women on the subject of the pensionable age and retirement age of women workers. That situation explained the reference in the third preambular paragraph to the "differences of opinion" which continued to exist as to whether an age of earlier optional retirement and an earlier pensionable age for women constituted any infringement of the principle that women workers should not be placed at any disadvantage as compared with men workers.

4. It was not the intention of the authors of the draft resolution to preclude any future action by the Council on the matter, which could be brought up again, for example, by the Commission on the Status of Women. He could not, however, accept the French amendment, since the suggestion to take no action at the twenty-eighth session implied that the matter would necessarily be brought up again at the Council's thirtieth session.

5. He suggested that the words "at this time" be introduced after the words "decides to take no action" in the operative paragraph of the draft resolution. That would leave the door open for the Council to take up the matter again in the future.

6. Mr. FARUQI (Pakistan) suggested that the two viewpoints could perhaps be reconciled by re-drafting the operative paragraph in positive terms so that it would simply state that the Council postponed action

¹ See also *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/3096)*, paras. 93-102.

on the draft resolution submitted by the Commission on the Status of Women.

7. Mr. BOUQUIN (France) said that his delegation could accept the Pakistan representative's suggestion.

8. Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America) said that the wording proposed by the United Kingdom representative was eminently satisfactory: it left the door open for the reconsideration of the matter without specifying whether the Council would do so at its thirtieth session or at another session.

9. Miss KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation preferred the United Kingdom proposal and, if it were submitted formally, would vote for it.

10. Mr. FARUQI (Pakistan) withdrew his suggestion.

11. Mr. BOUQUIN (France) said that the terms "at this time" proposed by the United Kingdom representative seemed much too vague. However, in view of the withdrawal of the Pakistan suggestion, he would be willing to accept the proposal provided that it specifically referred to the "present time".

12. Sir Samuel HOARE (United Kingdom) said that the words "at the present time" instead of "at this time" would be quite acceptable to his delegation.

13. The PRESIDENT put to the vote *seriatim* the draft resolutions A to F contained in paragraph 6 of the report of the Social Committee (E/3280).

A. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (thirteenth session)

Draft resolution A was adopted unanimously.

B. STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW

Draft resolution B was adopted unanimously.

C. NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

Draft resolution C was adopted unanimously.

D. EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

Draft resolution D was adopted unanimously.

E. ACCESS OF WOMEN TO EDUCATION

Draft resolution E was adopted unanimously.

F. AGE OF RETIREMENT AND RIGHT TO PENSION

Draft resolution F, as amended, was adopted by 16 votes to none, with one abstention.

AGENDA ITEM 3

World social situation

(a) Report of the Social Commission (E/3265/Rev.1, E/CN.5/334 and Add.1-4)

(b) Survey of programmes of social development (E/CN.5/332)

(c) General Assembly resolution 1283 (XIII) entitled "International Health and Medical Research Year" (E/3281)

GENERAL DEBATE

14. The SECRETARY-GENERAL recalled his comment, with reference to the world economic situation,

made at the 1073rd meeting, that economic thinking had gradually defined and clarified the concept of balance which, initially applied to the various markets taken in isolation, had come to embrace world phenomena and had broadened, going beyond the idea of a static balance designed to ensure the utilization of existing resources and encompassing the dynamic phenomenon represented by a continual expansion of resources. But one aspect of balanced growth was the need, generally admitted at present, for a balance between economic development and social progress.

15. While it was generally agreed that the tempo of social progress was limited by the level of productive resources, it was perhaps less generally recognized that social progress was not only an end in itself, but also a means of fostering economic development. Economists were coming more and more to realize that the most valuable of natural resources was man himself and that investments designed to exploit human resources by eliminating illiteracy and disease were among the most productive elements of a development policy. It would therefore be reasonable to classify funds devoted to education or health, not as current public expenditure, but as public investments.

16. An example of the direct impact of social policy on economic growth was the contribution made by "automatic stabilizers" in the developed countries — largely introduced under the pressure of social aspirations — towards limiting the shock of cyclical fluctuations since the war. In countries still regarded as underdeveloped, the existence of excessive inequality in incomes between one section of the population and another sometimes raised a problem not only of social harmony, but also of economic activity. Even in countries that were still in their industrial infancy, maldistribution of incomes might unduly restrict markets and curtail the expansion of basic industries. It was a fact that almost everywhere the existence of basic social needs limited the capacity for adjustment to changing conditions on the world market and the prospects of following oversimplified economic "models".

17. The picture given by the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* (E/CN.5/332), which illustrated the efforts required to obtain even limited success in the struggle to improve living conditions, was promising, despite the slowness of social progress, political instability, and the lack of administrative machinery and qualified staff.

18. It emerged from the report that the implementation of social programmes during the period under review had not proceeded at the same rate as in the years after the war. It was true that programmes were coming gradually to cover wider and wider fields; their planning and implementation were perfected by improving methods and a clearer knowledge of realities. More often than not, however, the programmes slowed down and sometimes even came to a halt as soon as the countries concerned were faced with financial, political or administrative difficulties. In that average outlook, exceptions were the more striking: in Latin America and the Middle East, a new interest in land reform and the implementation of programmes designed

to raise the standard of living of rural populations; in Africa, great efforts in the fields of education and public health; in the countries of eastern Europe, increased social security benefits and new housing projects.

19. In his view, it was well-nigh inevitable that the extraordinary impetus that had characterized social programmes after the war could not be indefinitely maintained. There was one fact that appeared to him to merit the special attention of the Council; in the case of housing, there had occurred not only a slowing down of progress but, above all, a deterioration in general housing conditions. That situation was directly due to difficulties experienced in financing cheap housing programmes, the demographic revolution and the increasing concentration of population in urban areas.

20. Social progress must always be evaluated in relation to demographic trends. The world population was increasing at an unprecedented rate, and the population of many countries seemed likely to double in little more than twenty years. At the same time the exodus from the country towards the towns was gaining momentum, with the result that the urban population was increasing disproportionately to the absorptive capacity which could be provided by a rational urban development. The rate of economic expansion, which in other circumstances might be regarded as decidedly satisfactory, was barely sufficient to maintain individual levels of living in the under-developed countries. Fortunately, the international organizations were achieving increasing success in measuring the amplitude of the phenomenon. It was in that light that each aspect of the social programme must be considered.

21. For example, the community development projects in rural areas, which aimed not only at the provision of community facilities, but above all at an improvement in agricultural production, had been enthusiastically received by the organs of the United Nations and were regarded in some countries as the keystone of development policy. The results, measured after ten years of experience, were often remarkable and fully justified the effort to continue, extend, intensify and improve the work that had been started. Sometimes, however, the programmes were on too small a scale to accomplish the gigantic task of increasing agricultural production made necessary by demographic growth. The estimated demand for foodstuffs was indeed impressive: in some countries, it could be expected to produce food shortages which could not be covered by imports or a rationing programme and which would have to be dealt with by determined action. In cases where the effects of demographic growth were intensified by a poor soil and a property system not conducive to individual initiative, the existing community development programmes would not suffice to bring about the progress which had been rendered necessary by the increase in population. So far as agrarian reform was concerned, there was not much an international body could do to solve a problem whose elements were so deeply rooted in local institutions and traditions. It was impossible, however, to make an accurate assessment of community development programmes without indicating the extent to which their success depended on the system of farming, whether based on law or custom.

22. The effects of town-planning were better understood owing to the clearer realization that town-planning programmes must be related to the improvement of rural living conditions and to the industrialization effort. There was still some hesitation, however, concerning the definition of the guiding principles which should provide the basis for international programmes intended to help governments in solving the social problems of rapid urban expansion. Those principles would be defined in the light of experience, and in that connexion international work on housing and the application of community development techniques to urban problems would be highly instructive. Housing policy was certainly the most complex central element in a town-planning programme. Experience showed that the combination of individual and community efforts could produce rapid and surprising results.

23. Referring to the training of personnel for carrying out social programmes, he said that with the appropriations at present available it was not possible to meet justifiable requests for assistance, much less to continue assistance throughout the period during which it was regarded as necessary to produce all the desired effects. That was a sphere in which technical assistance had produced its multiple effects, for successful programmes created fresh needs at every moment. The day would come when, thanks to the programmes, governments would be able to do without technical assistance, but that day was still far distant.

24. United Nations work in the field of social development programmes was becoming increasingly realistic and flexible. He paid a tribute to the Social Commission, whose persevering efforts had done much to give the work the necessary continuity and to bring into being a structure which could successfully face the great tasks still remaining to be accomplished.

25. Mr. LUNS (Netherlands) said that since the Council had first discussed the world social situation, its approach to the problems involved had undergone a considerable change; the information contained in the earlier reports and in the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* provided a much more realistic picture of the situation and of the efforts made to improve it.

26. In spite of extended and improved programmes, there still remained, in great areas of the world, varied social needs of frightening magnitude. Social progress was a complex matter and became possible only when obstructions in different fields — economic, financial and administrative — were removed at the same time.

27. The specialized agencies had been set up to meet such human needs as food, health, education and social security. The Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations dealt with such matters as the need for housing, recreation and services to assist human adjustment. In reviewing those fields and considering what could be done to make further progress, two approaches were possible. The specialized approach as adopted in the main by the specialized agencies and by the Bureau of Social Affairs was necessary, but it was essential to watch out for by-products that were not the responsibility of the specialists themselves. Specialized action in one

field often had repercussions in another. Improvements in hygiene and health, for example, created a need for more work, more houses and more schools. It was therefore of paramount importance that specialized action in one field should always be considered and planned with a view to proper co-ordination with other activities.

28. The other approach was to concentrate not on a specific need such as health or education, but on the total needs of a geographical unit. That approach was being followed increasingly in the activities of the members of the United Nations family and had proved particularly useful in the community development and the rural development programmes.

29. Caring for human needs required not only specialized action, but the concentration of efforts on geographical areas and an awareness of the effects which programmes had on each other and consequently on the need for co-ordination and, if need be, concerted action. The geographical approach required not merely co-ordination, but integration of the activities of the various specialists covering both the social and the economic aspects of the problems to be solved.

30. What was needed was comprehensive thinking of the type to be found in the *Survey*. But the new scientific problem involved exceeded the resources of a limited staff. There appeared to be a need for an advisory body of high-ranking social scientists who would work together on the basis of the material already collected and of their own experience; they could help the United Nations and the specialized agencies to discover the interrelationship between the various specialized programmes and to frame development policies for geographical units. The suggestion was a far-reaching one; he did not wish at that stage to do more than offer it to the consideration of the Committee on Programme Appraisals, which might also consider whether the existing machinery of the United Nations was adequate for the inevitable co-ordination and integration of the various programmes.

31. With regard to community development, a stage had been reached where it was being used both by the specialized agencies and by many governments primarily as a method of gaining local popular support for the execution of national development plans. While that use of community development was beneficial, in its original sense it also had an important and distinct part to play. In that sense, the emphasis should be placed not upon the execution of national plans, but on the strengthening of local ties and the stimulation of local initiative and self-help in building up activities and institutions. National welfare required a healthy development of local communities to the point where they could help in solving their own problems. The experience of community development had shown that it was quite possible to bring local communities to greater cohesion, to encourage co-operation and increase self-confidence.

32. The picture of the desirable structure of social service programmes outlined in the report of the Group of Experts on the development of national social service programmes (E/CN.5/333) seemed unduly complicated and contained a curious contradiction: it claimed priority for prevention over remedial programmes and for pro-

grammes for the total population over individualized programmes; the examples given, however, were to a large extent individualized social services of a remedial character. In fact, a community needed both community-building activities and a complex of institutions to help individuals and families to solve their social problems.

33. Whatever the approach adopted to deal with social problems, it was clear that it would never be possible to solve them unless or until a great flow of capital moved from the rich countries of the world to the less-developed ones. His government had repeatedly stressed the need for capital in the form of grants or low interest loans.

34. The Programme Appraisal 1959/1964, referring to the "investment in human beings", reached the conclusion that, in helping the under-developed countries, the most fundamental contribution of all was not so much to create wealth but "to create the capacity to create wealth" (E/3260, para. 21). That statement did not go far enough. The most fundamental contribution of all was the promotion of human welfare transcending material considerations. That principle should be the basis of all social policy, national or international. For social activities to bear full fruit, what was needed was dedication to the creation of human welfare.

35. Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America) said that the international community had a good record of adjustment to changing conditions. Since the Second World War it had established international organizations and developed social programmes to take account of urgent problems as they had emerged. His delegation was proud of the contribution that the United States had made towards achieving that record. The undoubted need for recognizing the interdependence of social and economic policies and plans must not be mere lip-service, but the concrete basis for the United Nations' deliberations and actions. The ultimate objective of economic development was higher levels of living, increased and more secure incomes, better education and better health for all the peoples of the world; in short, the well-being and happiness of the individual.

36. In the United States, that was the objective of social development and, conversely, it was the individual who influenced social development, both in his personal voluntary capacity and by electing government representatives. One of the significant features of social development in the United States was the part played by individuals associated in voluntary organizations. Through open discussion of public affairs and through the secret ballot, individuals decided directly or indirectly what the role of government should be in promoting social programmes. Thus, the people of the United States had decided that substantial areas of social development should be the primary concern of government or should be the object of joint public and private programmes rather than of individual action. The right of every child to a primary education had been a fundamental principle in the United States since early in the nineteenth century. All states provided university level facilities at modest cost. In addition, there were many private colleges and universities. Some 43 per cent of all high-

school graduates continued in schools of higher education. Moreover, more than 50 million adults were enrolled in one or more educational courses. At the last session of Congress, new legislation had been adopted providing for an expansion and diversification of educational methods, with special emphasis on advanced studies and teacher training.

37. A major role was also played by the Government in the field of social insurance, which included unemployment compensation, old-age survivor benefits, welfare services and public health services that supplemented group hospitalization and medical insurance plans in industry, organized labour and other groups.

38. No discussion of social conditions and social progress in the United States would be complete without a reference to unemployment and to racial segregation. The recession had ended and the economy had entered into a period of new expansion. During the previous year, total employment had increased by approximately 2 million, reducing unemployment by approximately 30 per cent. The United States was confident that its unemployment problem would continue to diminish in spite of its consistently increasing labour supply. As to segregation, there were also grounds for encouragement, though where deep-seated beliefs were concerned it was utterly unrealistic to expect instantaneous changes. In that connexion, he was confident that the 1954 Supreme Court decision would be fully implemented throughout the country. The much-publicized, inevitable setbacks were deeply distressing to Americans.

39. Turning to the areas of social development, which in the view of his delegation demanded the immediate and concerted attention of the United Nations, he said that the problem of the accelerating rate of growth of the world's population was a social challenge of the first magnitude and had to be recognized as such before it was too late for remedial action. The Statistical and Population Commissions had done much to alert the world community to the seriousness of the problem, but much still remained to be done. He hoped that the two commissions would be joined in their studies by the Social Commission and the regional economic commissions.

40. Another critical problem was that of mass movements of population to urban centres, which caused far-reaching social, economic and cultural difficulties, especially where existing facilities had already been inadequate. He hoped that the Bureau of Social Affairs would continue to devote attention to the problems inherent in rapid urbanization. Community development programmes should also receive increasing attention in the future in view of the great need in newly developing countries for aided self-help. He suggested that the United Nations Community Development Programme, which was primarily concerned with rural areas, should be further examined from the point of view of its relationship to urban development.

41. He stressed the need for improved studies of family levels of living and for programmes to raise those levels in both urban and rural areas. The participation of social experts in the fields of housing, health and education was vital to the success of such undertakings at all stages.

42. His delegation regretted that such a low priority had been given in the report of the Social Commission to that part of the work programme designed to improve information on social conditions (E/3265, annex II, project 4.2). If governments were to be made aware of the limited resources available and to be guided in deciding which areas of research needed strengthening, they had to be provided with all the necessary information.

43. In the field of housing, the record was disappointing. In virtually all the less developed countries, housing conditions had grown worse rather than better. All too often, planning for housing had not been integrated with other economic and social plans. The funds available for housing might vary, but in every case housing should be an integrated component of the development programme and should receive its proper share of attention. While the proposed long-range programme in low-cost housing might prove of assistance, other alternatives would have to be explored. The most effective attack on the problem might well lie in the encouragement of individual initiative and resourcefulness. In the United States approximately 56 per cent of urban families, and an even greater percentage of farm families, owned their homes.

44. With the assistance of WHO, many countries were providing more comprehensive health services for their people. One of the most dramatic examples was the malaria eradication programme, for which his government had provided 95 per cent of the international funds used. The programme might be even more effective if other Member States would contribute to it. At the same time, it was gratifying to note the interest in international medical research. At the tenth World Health Assembly, his government had contributed \$300,000 for the study and planning of international medical research activities. A truly co-operative effort in that direction should be encouraged and was bound to pay very high social dividends.

45. His delegation was of the opinion that governments needed to review in detail the availability of trained personnel to carry out the social aspects of their economic development programmes, especially in the case of newly-formed and economically under-developed nations. The Secretary-General's reference to the shift of emphasis in over-all social policy from isolated and purely technical activity to that related to the planning, organization and administration of social programmes emphasized the need for such a review and for adequate training of social workers.

46. The Council must take bold and positive action at that session to lift its social programmes to new heights; otherwise another two years of valuable time would be lost.

47. Mr. ENCKELL (Finland) said that there had been less new legislation in the social field during the five-year period under review, but, as the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* reported, there had been a considerable widening of the field of social activities. Far-reaching programmes were being carried out; principles and techniques were being tested and applied; and social measures and laws adopted piecemeal were being co-ordinated and systematized.

48. The *Survey* might well have laid even greater emphasis on the interrelationship between social action and economic and cultural development, especially as its major purpose was, in the words of its preface, "to provide information that might be useful to the underdeveloped countries in the evolution of their social policies". It was unfortunately true that the application of highly developed social programmes and working methods in less developed communities could rarely, if ever, have enduring results. Far-reaching social reforms had to be based on local cultural and economic resources.

49. Another point that might have been brought out more fully was the question of costs. The value of every social innovation had to be carefully weighed against its financial implications. The only really significant criterion was, among the given possibilities for action, which one would produce the greatest material and spiritual benefits for the individuals concerned. While he was aware of the difficulty of assembling comparative material on social expenditure, the lack of information on costs to some extent lessened the practical value of the *Survey*. In that connexion, he recalled that an intergovernmental committee on social statistics appointed by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, had, *inter alia*, prepared a common basis for statistics concerning social expenditure in the five countries. As a result, social statistics prepared in those countries since 1946 were wholly comparable.

50. During the period reviewed by the *Survey*, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden had concluded three plurilateral agreements having important social consequences. The first provided for full freedom of movement for nationals of all the four countries; passports, visas and other official documents were no longer required for inter-Scandinavian travel by such nationals. The second agreements had converted the four countries into a single labour market. A national of one country no longer required a working permit for employment in another country party to the agreement. By the terms of the third agreement, a national of any party residing in the territory of another party enjoyed all the benefits of the social security legislation of that other party, and it should be noted that no reimbursement of any kind was made between the Governments concerned. One of the necessary conditions for the conclusion of those agreements had, of course, been the similarity of social legislation in the four countries. At the same time, an important consequence of the agreements was that they further increased the willingness of the parties to develop their social legislation along parallel lines. In making social benefits available beyond national frontiers, the agreements gave further effect to one of the main principles of what might be called Scandinavian political thinking, that the ultimate objective of the State was to promote in every respect the freedom and security of its nationals.

51. Mr. GARCÍA OLDINI (Chile) referred to the opinion expressed in the *Survey* that social service activities met with an obstacle frequently encountered in national administrations, whatever their degree of development — namely, the dispersal of government

responsibility and administrative and operational machinery. In Chile, the efficient working of government services had been impaired by the proliferation of government bodies. In order to cope with the situation, various technical commissions would shortly be presenting proposals for a thorough-going reform of the services in question.

52. The changes wrought in the intellectual, moral and physical requirements of the new generations by technical progress necessitated careful consideration of appropriate reforms in the systems and aims of education so as to strike the right balance between the cultural heritage and the latest findings of science. Every country admitted the existence of that complex problem. His own government was not only embarking on a plan for new school buildings, it was also intending to introduce reforms ranging from the reorganization of the Ministry of Education to the adoption of educational methods in harmony with modern requirements.

53. Public services were growing in importance as society developed and the State assumed increasingly complex functions. The principles applicable to the selection and training of civil servants had also changed. Even the countries most noted for the capacity of their administrators were now faced with serious problems. Nevertheless, the gravity of such problems was not always precisely proportionate to the degree of development of the country in question, and it was wrong to be led by the *Survey* into making disquieting generalizations. Its observations concerning the technical, legal, political and structural difficulties likely to hamper any attempt to adapt an administration based on a sound but outdated tradition to modern ideas were worth noting. His government hoped to overcome such difficulties and re-organize the administration to fit current needs. To that end, with the help of technical assistance from the United Nations, it had established a special office.

54. There could be no doubt that housing represented one of the most acute and intractable problems of that time. The *Survey* pointed out that during the period under review, the supply of housing at a cost which the low-income groups could afford was still inadequate. No objective appreciation of the situation could everlook the large number of factors involved — i.e., apart from the economic factors, those of rising population, changing tastes, habits and needs, internal migration brought about by availability and conditions of work and the influx of international refugees. The problem was world-wide and the proposal by several Latin American countries that a "Housing Week" be organized was therefore of great interest. The problem as it had arisen in Chile was being tackled in two ways. First, by assistance to the poorest classes which were housed in the slum quarters of the large towns. Four thousand families had already been re-housed in dwellings specially built for them by the State; they could buy their houses cheaply and on easy terms. Secondly, the Government intended to tackle the housing crisis with a plan for the construction of at least 250,000 houses. It hoped to cope with the shortage at the rate of at least 40,000 dwellings a year.

55. The Government's financing project had two aspects. The Housing Corporation, responsible to the Ministry of Public Works, would be concerned with low-cost housing and would carry out the government plan. It would take over all the technical and architectural services of the provident societies and of the National Investment Corporation. Its resources would be used to finance the building of 45,000 dwellings for members of the provident societies under a three-year plan, and would be drawn from their investments, generous Treasury contributions, private capital and savings, which would be protected against any possible devaluation. Further, incentives would be offered to private enterprise in the form of exemptions and subsidies which could not be affected by legislation.

56. Mr. ORBANEJA (Food and Agriculture Organization) said that an account of the progress made by FAO in increasing the availability of food and raising the level of living of rural populations would be found in the material concerning nutrition and home economics, and concerning aspects of rural development, in chapters III and XI of the *Survey*.

57. The organization continued to assist countries in the formulation of national food policies and in programmes of education and training in nutrition. Studies had been projected to collect information on malnutrition, and increased emphasis had been given, jointly with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to supplementary food programmes (E/3251, para. 115).

58. Home economics was slowly finding its place in extension and community development programmes, and continued research concerning patterns of living was expected to provide a sounder basis on which home economics programmes could be established or made more effective.

59. Governments in Asia, Africa and Latin America were giving increasing attention to rural development programmes designed to raise agricultural productivity

and to promote rural welfare. Such programmes involved agricultural extension services, rural co-operatives, rural credit facilities, agricultural price and income supports, crop insurance, agricultural diversification and rural industrialization. All those measures were equally concerned with the ultimate objective of raising rural levels of living.

60. The significance of land reform and land tenure as a pre-condition for raising levels of living had long since been recognized by FAO, whose work programme had reflected that view since 1952. At its ninth session, the FAO Conference had re-emphasized it and had recognized that it was a field in which governments continued to appreciate guidance and information. Assistance to governments in land reform and related subjects was provided at all stages through individual experts, by organizing regional centres, by publications and, more recently, by delegating teams of experts to selected countries. Such a team had just been organized to assist Latin American countries.

61. Some of the most significant of FAO contributions to welfare were made in the context of community development programmes. The concern of FAO in such programmes was with agricultural and home economics extension, nutrition education, co-operatives, rural credit, processing and marketing of agricultural products, and rural sociology.

62. The ninth FAO Conference had approved a re-organization of the secretariat's structure with the aim of achieving greater co-ordination and integration of programmes and bringing into clearer focus basic objectives of welfare, while in order to facilitate co-operation in view of the increasing co-operation with UNICEF in programmes concerned with maternal and child health and welfare, the respective governing bodies had decided to establish a Joint Policy Committee (E/3251, para. 110).

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.