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## AGENDA ITEM 12

## Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters II, III, IV and V) (continued):

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/3740) (concluded)

1. Mr. SCHMIDT (Brazil) (translated from French): I should like first of all to say that the Brazilian delegation supports the four draft resolutions that the Second Committee has submitted for the approval of the General Assembly in its report [A/3740].

2. I shall simply add a brief comment reaffirming before this plenary meeting of the General Assembly the deep interest which the Brazilian delegation takes in draft resolution I, recommending the establishment of an economic commission for Africa. My delegation hopes that this draft resolution will receive unanimous support, for it was approved almost unanimously—with only two abstentions—in the Second Committee. If a similar vote can be obtained at this plenary meeting also the United Nations will have made a big step towards putting an end to poverty throughout the world, which amounts to making a great step towards peace.

3. We have now grown far more aware that widespread poverty is an injustice, and that in itself is an achievement which we owe largely to the United Nations. I consider it to be far easier for antagonistic ideologies to live peacefully together than for great wealth and abject poverty to exist side by side. In this connexion I should like to express my country's just pride in having sponsored, in circumstances that were sometimes difficult, the draft resolution that we are about to approve.

4. The most remarkable fact is that, through this commission, the African countries themselves will all, with the help of that Commission's technical secretariat, be working together towards their own development. Let us wish them complete success. Let us assure them once again by a unanimous vote that we are solidly behind them and that we have complete confidence in their ability to cope with the enormous and outstanding task which they propose to undertake.

5. Mr. THOMSON (Australia): My delegation will vote in favour of all four of the draft resolutions under consideration in connexion with the Rapporteur's report on the discussion of agenda item 12 in the Second Committee (A/3740).

6. I should like briefly to explain the reaffirmation of our support for draft resolution II, concerning the expansion of international trade, which we originally co-sponsored in the Second Committee. This draft resolution, in our view, follows naturally on resolution 1027 (XI), adopted by the Assembly last year, in which the Assembly urged States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to act with a view to approving the agreement establishing the Organization for Trade Co-operation (OTC).

7. The present draft resolution recalls that the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Co-operation makes provisions with respect to membership for all countries which are or shall become contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) or with respect to the association of countries invited by the Organization for Trade Co-operation to take part in its work. It also urges the Governments of Member States to take action with a view to approving the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Co-operation at as early a date as possible.

8. This draft resolution does not state explicitly what action Member States might take to implement it but I think it was made clear in the discussion that in the minds of the co-sponsors support for the draft resolution had three implications.

9. First, Member States that are Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and that have not yet ratified the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Co-operation might consider doing so as early as possible.

10. Secondly, Member States of the United Nations that are not yet members of GATT might consider adhering to the Agreement and thereby placing themselves in a position to influence directly the ratification of the Agreement on the OTC.

11. Thirdly, Members of the United Nations who do not feel themselves able at present to accept the obligations of GATT membership might, in supporting the resolution, express the hope that Members of the United Nations which are contracting parties will consider favourably ratifying the Agreement on the OTC at an early date. This hope would be based on the belief that, when the OTC is established, it will probably seek specialized agency status and on the fact that the OTC Agreement has made provision for countries at present outside GATT to be invited to participate in the work of the OTC.

12. The co-sponsors and a majority of the Second Committee could not accept the argument that the Committee was out of order in considering this draft resolution, and this for three reasons: first, the precedent set by resolution 1027 (XI); second, the fact that the Committee could hardly ignore, in a debate on the world economic situation, the existence of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which is subscribed to by contracting parties responsible for 80 per cent of world trade and in which membership is open to all countries willing and able to accept the obligations of membership; thirdly, the Organization for Trade Co-operation, which will provide GATT with a permanent organization, is likely, if it is established, to seek a formal relationship with the United Nations, with the status of a specialized agency.

13. My delegation, together with a majority of the Second Committee, could not accept the contention that the GATT organization should be set aside in favour of some hypothetical universal organization which might or might not turn out to be a practical proposition. The GATT organization exists, is working reasonably well, and is undoubtedly capable of further development in many beneficial directions, particularly if it is backed by a permanent organization in formal relationship with the United Nations.

14. My delegation will, as before, give its support to all sections of draft resolution II.

15. Mr. KAMENOV (Bulgaria) (translated from French): The Bulgarian delegation will vote in favour of draft resolutions I, III and IV, but it will vote against draft resolution II, on the expansion of international trade.

16. Draft resolution II by its content and its nature represents something foreign to, and very different from, the draft resolutions which are normally studied and adopted by the United Nations.

17. In this text we are asked to adopt a position with regard to an Agreement concluded among a certain number of countries which represent less than half the Members of the United Nations. In other words, the majority of the Members of the United Nations are not parties to this Agreement. In addition, the Agreement has never been examined by the United Nations. It does not even exist as a United Nations document circulated to Members for information and comment. When the Secretariat was questioned regarding the circulation of the text of the Agreement it became clear that from the procedural point of view circulation was inadmissible for the very reason that this Agreement is not within the scope of the work of the United Nations.

18. In draft resolution II, countries which have signed the Agreement are urged to take action for the establishment at the earliest possible date of the Organization for Trade Co-operation. It is hard to understand why the United Nations should concern itself with these matters, and give advice to the various countries regarding the ratification of agreements which they have signed and the appropriate times for such ratification.

19. It is even more curious to note that even those countries to which the appeal is addressed and which have not ratified the Agreement—and perhaps have no such intention—are voting in favour of the draft resolution and hence in favour of the appeal itself.

20. The Bulgarian delegation considers that the adoption of this draft resolution would constitute a dangerous precedent, as the United Nations is in effect being asked to adopt a position with respect to private agreements between certain groups of countries and to state its views regarding documents of which Member States have no knowledge; indeed these documents could not even be communicated to Member States as it would not be possible to distribute them through official United Nations channels. The establishment of such a precedent and practice would be fraught with serious consequences and should not be allowed by the General Assembly.

21. My delegation has stated that it is in favour of the creation of an international trade organization;

but an organization of that kind must be truly universal, and countries belonging to it must all have equal rights.

22. For these and other reasons connected with the weaknesses inherent in the Agreement and in the proposed Organization for Trade Co-operation, the Bulgarian delegation will vote against draft resolution II.

23. Miss BROOKS (Liberia): On behalf of the Liberian delegation, I wish to welcome draft resolution II concerning the establishment of an Economic Commission for Africa.

24. The fourth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution is fundamental, as it brings out the great need to remove some of the obstacles to the economic growth of underdeveloped countries and stresses the essential need of co-operation among the African countries to bring about this economic growth. The fourth preambular paragraph also recognizes the need for close co-operation with the United Nations and its subsidiary organs.

25. The seventh preambular paragraph mentions the recommendation of the Group of Experts in 1951 that the United Nations should establish an Economic Commission for Africa and provide for it an international secretariat. This is not a new concept but one which has emerged from United Nations experience with this type of body, which has proved very useful in Asia and the Far East and Latin America, for instance.

26. It is obvious then that, should this Assembly endorse the recommendation of the Second Committee embodied in the operative paragraph of draft resolution I, it would be like sowing good seed in rich soil, and when the day of harvest comes, not only will the economic level and the standard of living of the peoples of Africa be raised, but the benefits therefrom will be shared with the outside world.

27. My delegation will therefore vote in favour of draft resolution I and urges the Assembly to adopt it by a unanimous vote. My delegation will also vote in favour of the three other draft resolutions.

28. Mr. ABDEL-GHANI (Egypt): The General Assembly has before it a draft resolution which may prove to be of historic value, namely, draft resolution I, concerning the establishment of an Economic Commission for Africa.

29. The delegation of Egypt wholeheartedly supports this draft resolution, which it co-sponsored in the Economic and Financial Committee with twenty-eight delegations representing African, Asian, Latin American and European States. Our support reflects the importance attached by the Government and people of Egypt to any measure or action for the economic development and social advancement of our continent. I say "our continent" because Egypt has been, and will always remain, an integral part of Africa.

30. Studies on the economic conditions of the African countries and territories are not lacking, but increased efforts to secure more authentic and more impartial studies are indispensable, especially studies which the emerging States and peoples of Africa can use as guides in charting their plans for economic development. Nothing is more needed in Africa than the light of scientific and impartial studies and

research for the benefit of the African peoples; and no institution can cast so much light on the economic conditions of Africa as an economic commission under the auspices of the United Nations.

31. We also believe that the successful establishment of this commission depends on the independent States of Africa playing an active and predominant role in its establishment and operation.

32. We are voting for the draft resolution in the expectation that the Economic and Social Council will take the urgent and active steps necessary for the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa at its forthcoming session, in April 1958.

33. Because of the importance of this draft resolution, my delegation requests that the vote on it should be taken by roll-call.

34. Mr. MENDOZA LOPEZ (Bolivia) (translated from Spanish): I shall not elaborate on the ideas which I expressed in the Second Committee during the discussion of the draft resolutions now about to be put to the vote. My sole purpose in coming to this rostrum is to state that, although not present at the time of the vote in the Second Committee, the Bolivian delegation supported draft resolution II, concerning the expansion of international trade.

35. We did so both because in my country trade and industry are free, without any restriction whatsoever, and because it would like these principles to become universal, and furthermore because the third preambular paragraph was amended, on the proposal of Afghanistan, to include a reference to the needs of the land-locked countries.

36. Bolivia is receiving the permanent co-operation of all its sister Republics in so far as free transit is concerned, but avails itself of every opportunity to emphasize the need for affirming this right in definitive form and to express its desire to see this right maintained.

37. The PRESIDENT: I think that the Assembly is now in a position to proceed to the vote on the various draft resolutions before us. Draft resolution I concerns the proposed Economic Commission for Africa. I have been asked for a roll-call vote.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

Ethiopia, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Ethiopia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaya (Federation of), Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador.



Abstaining: Belgium

The draft resolution was adopted by 78 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

38. Sir Alec RANDALL (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation voted in favour of draft resolution I, which requests the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, to "give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of an Economic Commission for Africa".

39. During the debate in the Second Committee on this draft resolution a number of delegations made it clear that they were mindful of the difficulties and complexities of the whole matter. Those difficulties and complexities were, all along, particularly present to the mind of the Government of the United Kingdom, which has special obligations and responsibilities in Africa—responsibilities which my Government is earnestly trying to discharge, and which I think I may claim it has for a good many years now been discharging with success and with beneficial results to the peoples concerned in all their varying degrees of advancement, in all their variety of cultures.

40. No one who looks round this Assembly could deny that the United Kingdom Government has brought many formerly dependent territories successfully along the road to independence and internal security within a Commonwealth which stands as one of the great unifying and stable elements in a world rocked with insecurity, fear and distrust.

41. It was the United Kingdom Government's special responsibilities and experience in Africa which obliged us, in the Second Committee, to scrutinize the wording of this draft resolution with particular care. In particular, we wished to be sure that its terms would not prejudice the prerogatives of the Economic and Social Council, which has duties under the Charter to deal with matters such as this in order to examine them with the greatest care and to proceed to the solution which seems to it most appropriate and beneficial.

42. Because we had some misgivings on this score and because, moreover, Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom had naturally not had the time to consult all the Governments of the territories concerned, I was obliged to abstain from voting in the Committee, while making it abundantly clear that this was in no way to be interpreted as meaning that we were unsympathetic to the declared basic intention of the draft resolution, which was to have the proposal for an economic commission for Africa examined sympathetically and as soon as practicable by the Economic and Social Council.

43. Now, having thus made its position clear, my Government has had an opportunity to reconsider the question in the light of the consensus of views expressed during the debate that the constitutional prerogative of the Economic and Social Council freely to act as laid down in the Charter would not in fact be infringed by the draft resolution. I am happy to state that my Government reached the conclusion that it could record a favourable vote in this plenary meeting.

44. We have been convinced that the proposal will receive the most conscientious and practical consideration when it comes before the Economic and Social Council, and I need hardly say that the United

Kingdom delegation will be very happy to co-operate to the fullest extent possible with its colleagues in the Council. It will be readily understood, however, that as the consultations which my Government must have with all the Governments in the African territories concerned are not yet completed, our favourable vote cannot be taken as committing us or the Governments in question to any particular position on the matter at this stage.

45. As my colleagues are aware, the constitutional advance which my Government is promoting in its dependent territories has as an essential corollary consultation with the local Administration in an important question of this kind, a question which will directly affect the territories themselves. My vote today must, therefore, not be interpreted as indicating that we have taken any position on the substance of the matter.

46. For the reasons I have explained it is the plain duty of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to remain uncommitted until it has consulted the wishes of the territories for which it is responsible, but we shall not, let me repeat, be found wanting when it falls to the Economic and Social Council to examine this matter with all the care which its importance deserves.

47. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now deal with draft resolution II concerning the expansion of international trade. The USSR delegation has requested a separate vote by roll-call on operative paragraph 2. In those circumstances I propose to put to the vote first the preamble and operative paragraph I.

The preamble and operative paragraph I of the draft resolution were adopted by 55 votes to 7, with 16 abstentions.

48. The PRESIDENT: We shall now vote by roll-call on operative paragraph 2.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

Canada, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Laos, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaya (Federation of), Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma.

Against: Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Abstaining: Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Cambodia.

Operative paragraph 2 was adopted by 49 votes to 8, with 22 abstentions.

Draft resolution II as a whole was adopted by 51 votes to 7, with 19 abstentions.

49. The PRESIDENT: I invite the Assembly to vote on draft resolution III, entitled "Bases for international economic co-operation."

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

50. The PRESIDENT: I will now put to the vote draft resolution IV, concerning the activities of the regional economic commissions.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

#### AGENDA ITEM 27

##### Report of the Agent General of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency

###### REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/3748)

Mr. Hadwen (Canada), Rapporteur of the Second Committee, presented the report of that Committee.

In accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Second Committee.

51. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now vote on the draft resolution contained in the report of the Second Committee.

The draft resolution was adopted by 54 votes to none, with 18 abstentions.

52. Mr. ARKADEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): The delegation of the Soviet Union abstained from the vote on this draft resolution.

53. The Report of the Agent General of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency is a subject which has already been examined on several occasions in the Second Committee. In accordance with the decisions adopted at the fifth session [resolution 410 (V)] of the General Assembly and other similar decisions, all delegations, when they considered this question in the past, paid particular attention to the economic aspects of the reconstruction of both South and North Korea. The problem of economic reconstruction affects the whole of Korea—both South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—in equal measure.

54. It is well known that the Soviet Union and other socialist countries are supplying North Korea with considerable material assistance. To give a telling illustration of the scale of this assistance, the socialist countries have granted the Democratic People's Republic of Korea assistance totalling more than 3,600 million roubles on a non-reimbursable basis, and in the period 1954-1956 supplied it with goods and equipment to the value of almost 2,500 million roubles. This assistance has enabled the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to achieve great successes in reconstructing its national economy and to make progress in expanding and strengthening it and in promoting public cultural activities.

55. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is making every effort to transform the armistice in Korea into a lasting and secure peace and it is taking appropriate steps to establish trade, economic and cultural relations between North and South Korea; the establishment of these relations is fully in accordance with the interests of the Korean people and is one of the most impor-

tant conditions for the peaceful reunification of the country.

56. On 7 October 1957, the Minister of Internal and Foreign Trade of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a letter to the Minister of Trade and Industry of South Korea, in which he proposes that trade between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and South Korea should be expanded. The letter also proposes that preliminary negotiations should be opened at the end of December 1957 between representatives of the authorities of both parts of Korea and representatives of trade and industry on questions relating to the organization of the common market necessary for exchanges of goods between South and North Korea, on the organization of an exhibition of goods from both parts of Korea and on the establishment of a standing committee to deal with trade questions. The implementation of these proposals would pave the way for closer relations between North and South Korea with a view to the eventual conclusion of an agreement for the reunification of the country, and would help to restore the country's economic life to normal.

57. In present conditions, when there are two States with different political and economic systems and two Governments in the territory of Korea, the unification of Korea can obviously be achieved only on the basis of an agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, taking into account their mutual interests and the interests of the Korean people as a whole.

58. The solution to the problem of the peaceful unification of Korea must therefore be sought through the establishment and development of co-operation and mutual understanding between the two parts of the country.

#### AGENDA ITEM 12

##### Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VI: Sections I, II, III and V; chapter VII) (continued)

###### REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/3716)

Mr. Cox (Peru), Rapporteur of the Third Committee, presented the report of that Committee.

In accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Third Committee.

59. Mrs. ROSSEL (Sweden): To my great regret, I have not been able to attend the meetings of the General Assembly since the beginning of this session, and I have therefore been prevented from participating in the Third Committee's debates on the report of the Economic and Social Council. At this time, I should like to say how deeply gratified I am by the expressions of appreciation for, and satisfaction with, the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, of which I have the honour to be Chairman.

60. To my knowledge, it will be the first time that the General Assembly will go on record as expressing in a resolution its satisfaction with the achievements of a functional Commission of the Economic and Social Council. It is my understanding that, in the course of the debate in the Third Committee, several representatives indicated that it would be unfortunate if the Commission on the Status of Women was prevented from continuing its useful task with the same

efficiency as in the past, which in what would happen if its sessions were to become biannual in the future. May I express the hope that such a decision will not be taken by the General Assembly?

61. Draft resolution IV notes with satisfaction the success of the Bangkok seminar on civic responsibilities and increased participation of Asian women in public life. It is a matter of pride to the Commission that the first seminar under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights was devoted to the status of women and that it was, according to all reports, a remarkable success.

62. Let me add my voice to those who have expressed the hope that seminars on the status of women will be held frequently, not merely in the future, as stated in the draft resolution, but in the very near future, and that the necessary arrangements, financial and otherwise, will be made for this purpose. Such seminars are a vital complementary factor towards the implementation of the principles and ideals expressed through the various decisions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

63. The PRESIDENT: I think that the Assembly is now in a position to vote on the five draft resolutions annexed to the report [A/3716]. I observe that draft resolution I, which relates to the United Nations Children's Fund, was adopted by acclamation in the Committee, and I take it that it will be adopted unanimously here.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

64. The PRESIDENT: I will now put to the vote draft resolution II, concerning balanced and integrated economic and social progress.

The draft resolution was adopted by 67 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.

65. The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution III, relating to the participation of women in community development, and draft resolution IV, concerning seminars on the status of women, were adopted unanimously in the Committee; I take it that it is the Assembly's wish to adopt them unanimously here also.

Draft resolution III was adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution IV was adopted unanimously.

66. The PRESIDENT: I will now put to the vote draft resolution V, concerning the development of international co-operation in the field of science, culture and education.

The draft resolution was adopted by 75 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

#### AGENDA ITEMS 30 AND 31

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Review of the Arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner:**

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/3737 AND ADD.1/REV.1)

Mr. Cox (Peru), Rapporteur of the Third Committee, presented the report of that Committee.

In accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Third Committee.

67. Mr. ROSSIDES (Greece): In the Third Committee my delegation was obliged to abstain in the vote on draft resolution II because we did not agree with the advisory nature of the functions of the Executive Committee under paragraph 5 (c) of that draft resolution; we believed that those functions should be executive.

68. However, in the course of the conversations I have had with the sponsors of the draft resolution during the last two days, particularly with the representative of Sweden, it has been explained to me that the purely advisory functions of the Executive Committee laid down in paragraph 5 (c) refer to refugee problems only and not to the refugee projects approved under the programmes of the United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF), for the extension or discontinuance of which the approval of the Executive Committee will still be required.

69. In view of this explanation, which I understand will be confirmed in the Assembly by the sponsors, we are not pressing our amendment. With this understanding, we shall be happy to vote for draft resolution II, with which we are now in complete agreement.

70. I take this opportunity of paying tribute to the excellent work done by the High Commissioner for Refugees and to the very objective manner in which he deals with various problems; I should also like to express my delegation's deep appreciation of the most valuable assistance we have received from his Office towards the solution of refugee problems in Greece.

71. Mrs. ROSSEL (Sweden): On behalf of the thirteen sponsors of draft resolution II and in answer to the representative of Greece, I wish to confirm that the purely advisory functions of the Executive Committee, as laid down in paragraph 5 (c), are to be exercised in connexion with refugee problems and not with refugee projects under the UNREF programmes. For these projects, the approval of the Committee will still be necessary.

72. It was with great satisfaction that I heard that, after this explanation, the representative of Greece would be able to vote in favour of the draft resolution before us.

73. Mr. ARKADEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): The delegation of the Soviet Union deems it necessary to give a brief explanation of its vote on draft resolution III, concerning the so-called Chinese refugees in Hong Kong.

74. The delegation of the Soviet Union considers that this question has been raised artificially in the United Nations for reasons which have no connexion with the humanitarian problem of refugees.

75. It is a matter of common knowledge that the overwhelming majority of Chinese living in Hong Kong are no political refugees and do not, therefore, come within the sphere of competence of the United Nations High Commissioner. The bulk of the Chinese living in Hong Kong migrated there from the Chinese mainland. The Chinese have traditionally emigrated to Hong Kong in substantial numbers in accordance with long-established customs and rules. This trend has developed over a considerable period of time and existed long before the victory of the Chinese revolution and the establishment of the People's Republic of China. On the basis of this tradition, there has



always been a movement of population from the interior of the country to Hong Kong and vice versa.

76. The USSR delegation is accordingly of the opinion that consideration by the General Assembly of the question of the so-called Chinese refugees in Hong Kong, particularly in the absence of the representatives of the People's Republic of China, constitutes direct interference in the domestic affairs of the People's Republic of China and a violation of the rights of the legal Government of that country.

77. For these reasons, the USSR delegation will vote against draft resolution III.

78. The PRESIDENT: It would appear that the General Assembly can now proceed to the vote on the three draft resolutions submitted by the Third Committee in its report [A/3737 and Add.1/Rev.1].

Draft resolution I was adopted by 66 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 63 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 50 votes to 9, with 11 abstentions.

79. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has just adopted three resolutions resulting from the consideration of the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The second of these resolutions, adopted without opposition, deals with the urgent need to close the refugee camps. If I may say so to the Assembly, it is a sobering and distressing thought that there are today some 39,000 refugees still living in these camps. Some of them are the same slave labourers who were obliged to live there thirteen years ago. Many of them have become reconciled, perhaps even accustomed, to crowded camps, cramped quarters and the general lack of privacy. Far more serious is the enervating effect of despair which comes when hope slips slowly, inexorably away as the years pass. Refugees have been called forgotten people; but I should like to see them forgotten in an entirely different way when, as ordinary citizens, they live together with their families and have permanent jobs.

80. What can be done to help? The answer is clear: close down the camps where some of the refugees have spent many long years and re-establish these people with a new sense of purpose in their lives. But this involves money, more money than is now available. A sum of \$7,500,000 is still needed to close down the remaining refugee camps by the end of 1960. This figure has been submitted by the High Commissioner, taking into account all governmental contributions, pledges and promises made up to this time.

81. When we remember that very nearly all of the 200,000 Hungarian refugees have been resettled in less than twelve months, it would seem tragic if a relatively small additional effort could not be made on behalf of the earlier camp refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate. Our task is to help all the uprooted refugees, those who came earlier as well as those who came later.

82. It is my earnest hope that Governments, including those which have not yet contributed to the United Nations Refugee Fund, will consider most favourably the question of making special contributions to the High

Commissioner for the intensification of this programme. I say it with great respect, let us not come back to this Assembly hall year after year with the same good will but without the substantial achievements which those persons who look to the United Nations for help are so anxiously awaiting.

#### AGENDA ITEM 46

**Audit reports relating to expenditure by specialized agencies of technical assistance funds allocated from the Special Account**

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/3727)

#### AGENDA ITEM 47

**Review of audit procedures of the United Nations and the specialized agencies: report of the Fifth Committee (A/3726)**

#### AGENDA ITEM 49

**Financial reports and accounts of the Board of Auditors:**

- (a) United Nations (for the Financial Year ended 31 December 1956);
- (b) United Nations Children's Fund (for the Financial Year ended 31 December 1956);
- (c) United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (for the financial year ended 30 June 1957);
- (d) United Nations Refugee Fund (for the Financial Year ended 31 December 1956)

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/3728)

#### AGENDA ITEM 42

**Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly:**

- (a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
- (c) Board of Auditors;
- (d) Investments Committee: Confirmation of the Appointment made by the Secretary-General;
- (e) United Nations Administrative Tribunal

REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/3703, A/3730, A/3704, A/3725)

#### AGENDA ITEM 41

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1958**

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/3741)

Mr. de Pinies (Spain), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, presented the reports of that Committee.

In accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee.

83. The PRESIDENT: The first report of the Fifth Committee [A/3727] concerns audit reports relating to expenditure by specialized agencies of technical assistance funds allocated from the Special Account. We shall now vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee.

The draft resolution was adopted by 76 votes to none.

84. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee concerning the review of audit procedures of the United Nations and the specialized agencies [A/3726]. Unless any Member wishes to

speak, I shall consider that the Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Fifth Committee that the present system of external audit should be maintained.

It was so decided.

85. The PRESIDENT: We turn next to the report of the Fifth Committee on the financial reports and accounts and reports of the Board of Auditors [A/3728]. We shall now proceed to a vote on draft resolution A submitted by the Fifth Committee.

The draft resolution was adopted by 72 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

86. The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution B has been unanimously recommended for adoption. May I take it that the Assembly adopts this draft resolution unanimously?

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

87. The PRESIDENT: I will now put to the vote draft resolutions C and D.

Draft resolution C was adopted by 59 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

Draft resolution D was adopted by 63 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.

88. The PRESIDENT: The next item is appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly. The first of these is the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. May I take it that the Assembly approves the appointments recommended by the Fifth Committee in its draft resolution contained in its report [A/3703]?

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

89. The PRESIDENT: The Fifth Committee has recommended the appointment of the Auditor-General of Norway as a member of the Board of Auditors in the draft resolution contained in its report [A/3730].

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

90. The PRESIDENT: In connexion with the Investments Committee, the Fifth Committee recommends in its report [A/3704] that the Assembly confirm the reappointment by the Secretary-General of Mr. Leslie R. Roule. I take it that the Assembly is agreeable to this.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

91. The PRESIDENT: Lastly, the Fifth Committee has recommended the appointment of Mr. Forteza and Mr. Petrán as members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, as indicated in its report [A/3725]. If there are no observations, I shall take it that the Assembly approves these appointments.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

92. The PRESIDENT: We now turn to the report of the Fifth Committee on public information activities of the United Nations [A/3741]. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

93. Mr. JUAREZ RODAS (Guatemala) (translated from Spanish): The Guatemalan delegation considers it desirable to explain its favourable vote on the draft resolution annexed to the report of the Fifth Com-

mittee concerning the public information activities of the United Nations [A/3741].

94. At the eleventh session, the Fifth Committee approved the general recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the effect that total expenditure on public information activities falling strictly within the description of public information, that is exclusive of the Visitors' Service and the Sales and Circulation Section, should not exceed \$4.5 million, that goal to be reached in the 1959 budget estimates. [A/3550, paras.58 to 66]

95. The Advisory Committee realized how difficult it is to stabilize expenditure on public information activities and accordingly recommended that a thorough investigation of this service should be undertaken, in the light of the opinions expressed by delegations in the course of the twelfth session.

96. My delegation is very doubtful of the wisdom of any attempt to lay down a specified figure either for the United Nations budget—as has sometimes been urged by some delegations—or for expenditure on the public information service, by means of a ceiling or of a reduction by a fixed and arbitrary percentage of the documentation of any United Nations organ.

97. The public information activities of the United Nations should receive greater prominence, for these services are an essential part of its work and not an extravagant side-line.

98. Five new information centres have been established, at Beirut, Madrid, Rangoon, Rome and Tokyo, without any increase in the regular staff and without any additional expenditure, except in respect of salaries, wages and common staff costs; ideally, there should be an information centre in each Member State, but owing to the shortage of funds it will be many years before this ideal is achieved.

99. Now the Secretary-General has been requested to appoint an expert committee. We hope that the review and appraisal of the work, methods used and effectiveness of the results achieved by the public information services of the United Nations will convince us that the ceiling fixed last session is very low and inadequate, and in no sense too high, given the purposes of this service, in which flexibility is essential if it is not to stagnate. The reason for our hope is principally that we expect the United Nations to grow steadily and believe that it is impossible to forecast the trend of the Organization's activities in the years to come. Therefore, I repeat, we cannot feel favourably disposed towards any action which tends to "freeze" and so to limit the figure and expenditure relating to the public information services.

100. We believe that the peoples of the world should have access to the fullest possible information, so that all moves to keep them in a backward state may be checked and any tendency to subject them to doctrines prejudicial to international peace curbed. That is why we are convinced that the United Nations should do everything possible to break down the barriers which divide men. There is no better way of achieving this aim than the establishment of a large number of information centres—an object unattainable if arbitrary figures are laid down for such a versatile, flexible and important service.

101. But my delegation, after close study of the draft



resolution contained in the excellent report [A/3741] submitted by the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, which requests the Secretary-General to appoint an expert committee to determine how the public information activities can be made most effective, in the light of the opinions expressed by delegations during this session, decided to support the draft resolution, as it takes into account our view that action should be taken after prior study, not arbitrarily.

#### AGENDA ITEM 60

**The question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Union of South Africa**

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE (A/3722)

Mr. Magheru (Romania), Rapporteur of the Special Political Committee, presented the report of that Committee and then spoke as follows:

102. Mr. MAGHERU (Romania), Rapporteur of the Special Political Committee (translated from French): The question of the racial conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Union of South Africa has been discussed every year by the General Assembly since its seventh session in 1952.

103. In the course of eight meetings devoted to the examination of this question, the Committee heard the views of fifty-five delegations and it now recommends to the General Assembly the draft resolution it has adopted, which is contained in its report [A/3722].

In accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Special Political Committee.

104. The PRESIDENT: We shall now vote on the draft resolution on the question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Union of South Africa. A roll-call vote has been requested.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

Uruguay, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Albania, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Liberia, Libya, Malaya (Federation of), Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Against: Australia, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Canada, Dominican Republic, Finland, Honduras, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Peru, Spain, Turkey, United States of America.

The draft resolution was adopted by 59 votes to 6, with 14 abstentions.

105. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria): I should like to explain my vote. The Austrian delegation shares in principle the views of the delegations which voted in favour of the draft resolution on apartheid, as was shown by its attitude in the Special Political Committee.

106. On the other hand, we are fully aware that a solution of this problem as desired by the majority of delegations can be achieved only if the Union of South Africa resumes its co-operation in the United Nations. There is an indication that the Government of that country is considering such co-operation. Our abstention from the vote in the General Assembly was, therefore, guided by the desire to facilitate adequate steps by the Government of the Union of South Africa in this direction, and thus to contribute to a constructive approach to this question.

107. Mr. LONGDEN (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation has had to vote against this draft resolution, as successive United Kingdom delegations have had to do ever since 1946.

108. I want to make it absolutely clear that our reason for having done so is in no way influenced by any opinion we may hold upon the merit or demerit of the Union of South Africa's policy of racial segregation. Our only reason is that the Charter of the United Nations contains Article 2 (7). We have not been able to agree with those representatives who find in Article 55 or in the word "essentially" an exception to the generality of this rule. If the policy of a Government towards any of its own citizens is not essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of that Government, I do not know what is.

109. In our view the terms of Article 2 (7) are clear beyond any doubt and unless and until they are changed by constitutional means they impose an absolute ban upon the discussion of this matter in the United Nations.

#### AGENDA ITEM 61

**Treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa: Reports of the Governments of India and Pakistan**

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE (A/3732)

110. Mr. MAGHERU (Romania), Rapporteur of the Special Political Committee (translated from French): I have the honour to present the report of the Special Political Committee on its examination of the item "Treatment of persons of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa; reports of the Governments of India and Pakistan".

111. This is a question which has engaged the General Assembly's attention at every session except one since 1946. It was placed on the agenda of the twelfth session and the Special Political Committee examined it at six meetings. Following debates in which forty-four members took part, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the draft resolution at the end of its report.

In accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Special Political Committee.

112. The PRESIDENT: Since no representative wishes to explain his vote before the voting takes place, we shall now proceed to vote on the draft resolution

which appears in the report of the Special Political Committee [A/3732]. The Canadian delegation has requested me to put to a separate vote each of the operative paragraphs 1 to 4 inclusive.

The preamble and operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution were adopted by 68 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 2 was adopted by 62 votes to 3, with 11 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 3 was adopted by 65 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 4 was adopted by 63 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.

113. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now vote on the draft resolution as a whole. A vote by roll-call has been requested.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

Uruguay, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Albania, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Liberia, Libya, Malaya (Federation of), Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 64 votes to none, with 15 abstentions.

114. Mr. LY CHINLY (Cambodia) (translated from French): The Cambodian delegation would like to

explain its vote on the two draft resolutions concerning respectively the racial conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Union of South Africa and the treatment of persons of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa.

115. My delegation voted in favour of the two draft resolutions, but it wishes to reiterate in this forum the reservations it made when these two items were discussed in the Special Political Committee. My delegation made it quite clear that the Government of Cambodia would like to see racial discrimination abolished throughout the world, but it would draw the Assembly's attention to the opposite danger: that of forcible assimilation of ethnic minorities by a dominant racial group.

116. My delegation recalled that Cambodian ethnic minorities living in the territory of a country which once formed part of the Kingdom of Cambodia are now being forcibly assimilated despite their clearly expressed desire to retain their original nationality.

117. The Cambodian delegation would also recall the provisions of Article 1 (3) of the Charter which states that one of the principles of the United Nations is to "achieve international co-operation . . . in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion".

118. My delegation also wishes to refer to article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which provides that everyone has the right to a nationality and that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

119. My delegation has voted in favour of these draft resolutions, because they are couched in moderate and conciliatory language and do not prejudice the substance of the problem and the outcome of the discussions which may be held if, as we hope, the Government of the Union of South Africa should decide to respond to the Assembly's appeal and agree to enter into negotiations with the Governments concerned.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.