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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Twenty-fifth Session

Volume II**

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH TO
SIX HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETINGS*

Held at Headquarters, New York,
from 23 January to 1 February 1974

Chairman:

Mrs. SHAHANI

Philippines

Rapporteur:

Mrs. MOHAMMED

Nigeria

The list of representatives attending the session is contained in the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council (E/5451) (see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 4).

* No summary records were issued for the 626th and 629th meetings.

** Volume I contains the summary records of the 599th to 612th meetings, held from 14 to 22 January 1974.

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613th meeting

Wednesday, 23 January 1974,
at 10.50 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

The discussion covered in the summary record began at 11.55 a.m.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS CONCERNING A NEW INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (agenda item 4) (E/CN.6/552, E/CN.6/573, E/CN.6/574)

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) introduced, in her capacity as Rapporteur, the report of the Working Group established by the Commission in resolution 5 (XXIV) (E/CN.6/574). The Working Group had studied the views of Governments submitted in compliance with that resolution and had formulated a draft document based on the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. It had been assisted in its task by a joint draft of general provisions submitted by the representatives of the Philippines and the USSR. Alternative texts to the joint draft appeared in brackets in the report.

Mrs. BOKOR (Hungary) recalled that her delegation had proposed an additional article for the final clauses aimed at regulating the relationship of the proposed new convention to existing conventions. Since the Working Group had been unable to consider that proposal, she wished to introduce it in the plenary, since her delegation believed that it was important to ensure that the draft convention did not conflict with existing conventions. The text of the additional article, which would become article 17 (b), read: "Nothing in this Convention or resulting from its application shall affect the provisions of existing Conventions which have been adopted by the United Nations or its specialized agencies concerning the status of women."

Mrs. OBA (Japan) said that her delegation had some difficulties with a number of articles in the draft Convention. Her delegation needed more time to study the draft and its relationship to other conventions before it could approve the text on behalf of the Japanese Government.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) felt that the Commission should have a general discussion on the need for a convention and the procedures to be adopted, before it embarked upon a detailed consideration of the various draft articles.

The CHAIRMAN said that the Commission's deliberations need not be limited to the report of the Working Group but could cover all aspects of the item under consideration.

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) said that her Government supported whole-heartedly the idea of drafting a single legally binding convention to make discrimination against women illegal in ratifying States. Since the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there had been a quickening interest in the situation of women and the obstacles they faced in fulfilling their ambitions. Document E/CN.6/552 showed the inadequacy of existing conventions to provide in a legally binding form the sort of protection envisaged in the Declaration. Attempts to draft a number of conventions dealing with particular problems would be time-consuming and controversial. Even if consensus could be reached, it might take years to reach agreement on the details of the individual conventions and there might still be gaps. It would therefore be more efficient, sensible and acceptable to seek a comprehensive convention.

A single convention must not be too general and mild to provide standards. It was equally important that it should be ratified by a maximum number of countries in the foreseeable future. Although the two objectives were not absolutely reconcilable, the task of steering a middle course should not be beyond the Commission.

Subject to certain important but comparatively minor modifications, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women satisfied her delegation's criteria for an acceptable convention. The temptation to add more detailed clauses to the Declaration should be resisted, in order to avoid raising difficulties for countries which wished to apply the general provisions in different ways. In some countries women's rights were seen as special privileges, while in others emphasis was placed on the right of women to compete with men without legislative limitations on their promotion and prospects. Any substantial departure from the Declaration would put her delegation's general wish for a convention at risk.

(Mrs. Cockcroft, United Kingdom)

The results of the Working Group's deliberations had been disappointing. As the report showed, consensus had been reached on only a few non-controversial articles. Problems had arisen when efforts had been made to spell out in detail such issues as social and economic rights and questions of private and family law. The Working Group had thus shown the fruitlessness of trying to draft a general convention on the basis of particular interests and needs. She suggested that the text of the Declaration, with amendments agreed on by consensus, should be submitted to Governments for comment. Efforts could then be made to produce an agreed text at the Commission's next session.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said her delegation was extremely satisfied with the work done by the Working Group despite the limited time it had had at its disposal. The draft Convention before the Commission was based on a working document that had been submitted by her delegation and that of the Philippines. If adopted, it would undoubtedly be a historic landmark. It called for the elimination of discrimination against women and showed concern for women in their various social roles. It naturally went further than the ILO Conventions; since their adoption, women had grown in status and had acquired greater rights.

Some of the provisions of the draft Convention might not be acceptable to all countries in the light of existing legislation, while certain provisions might even conflict with internal legislation. But the convention should be seen as a challenge, for the time would come when internal legislation must change. Such changes were frequently to the advantage of women.

Acceptance of the alternative texts which appeared in brackets would weaken the convention considerably, so that it would not even equal the standards set by ILO Conventions.

Part of the alternative text not adopted by the Working Group was a proposal to set up a committee to monitor the application of the convention. Such a committee would have financial implications that were quite unacceptable to her delegation. Moreover, it would be set up outside the Commission, which would then have nothing to do with the application of the convention. The Commission

(Mrs. Nikolaeva, USSR)

would then be divorced from practical issues and would be unable to build up the body of experience it required. She warned the Commission that a committee of the type envisaged could also be used as a lever to abolish the Commission itself.

In reply to the comments made by the representative of the United Kingdom, she said that it would hardly be possible to deprive women of the special privileges and benefits to which they were entitled under ILO and UNESCO Conventions. It was the duty of States to protect mothers and to ensure the physical and moral health of future generations. Women in many countries had won the right to such privileges and benefits, which could not be discontinued arbitrarily. Her delegation supported a convention that would be a move forward and would improve the status of women; it would oppose any convention that represented a step backwards. The alternative text proposed for the preamble, for example, made no reference to the impact of the scientific and technical revolution; it did not even mention the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

She wished to know why the Secretariat had included the phrase in square brackets in article 2 (a) of the draft Convention, despite a decision by the Working Group that the words were inappropriate and should be deleted. It should not be necessary for delegations to have to check the texts of documents word by word when they were issued. She also wished to know why the alternative text appearing on pages 18 and 19 of the report had been inserted between articles that had been accepted.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) agreed with the Norwegian representative that the Commission should have a general discussion before it attempted to consider each individual article. The status of the text submitted jointly by the delegations of the Philippines and the USSR should be clarified. Her delegation maintained that the alternative texts appearing in brackets had the same validity as the draft articles in the joint text, which should not be regarded as final. Moreover, in the view of her delegation, due consideration had been given to the Declaration in the preamble; the alternative text for the preamble had been taken from the Declaration itself.

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Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) apologized for the errors in document E/CN.6/574. The report had been prepared in great haste, and she assured the Soviet representative that every effort would be made to avoid mistakes in the final version.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) said that as Rapporteur of the Working Group she shared the responsibility for the errors in the report. However, it had been a difficult task to combine the various proposals and to incorporate them into the report. She pointed out that the square brackets should have been removed altogether from draft article 11 (e) and (g).

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) said that she would like to make a slight amplification of the statement by the United States representative. The Working Group had had in its possession a text of a draft convention submitted by the Philippines. At the first meeting of the Working Group, the representative of the USSR had announced that her delegation had also prepared a draft convention. It had been agreed that the delegations of the Philippines and the USSR should try to formulate a joint text. However, those delegations had not been able to reach complete agreement on all the articles and, in consequence, there had been some alternative texts from the very beginning. The Working Group had therefore accepted the premise of alternatives, and her delegation wished to stress that all alternatives had equal status and equal value. They should be regarded not as amendments but as alternatives.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in accordance with the procedure agreed at a previous meeting, she should invite the representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to address the Commission.

It was so agreed.

Miss von ROEMER (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) recalled that representatives of ICFTU had on previous occasions expressed serious reservations with regard to the advisability of transforming the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women into a comprehensive convention. In that connexion, she would like to associate herself with remarks made by the representative of the ILO at the previous session as well as in the Working Group.

(Miss von Roemer, ICFTU)

ICFTU was concerned about the possible implications of the proposed new convention in the area of women's rights, which was already covered by a series of detailed ILO instruments. Duplication and conflict would seem difficult to avoid. Moreover, as her organization and the representative of the ILO had previously pointed out, ILO standards were not immutable; they were subject to revision and adjustment to changing circumstances. Due to the tripartite structure of the ILO, workers' representatives were able to participate on an equal footing with representatives of Governments as well as of employers in any such process of revision.

Her organization therefore strongly supported the proposal by the Hungarian delegation to insert a paragraph stating that nothing in the Convention should affect existing Conventions adopted by the United Nations or its specialized agencies concerning the status of women. The inclusion of such an escape clause was of utmost importance. However, her delegation viewed with uneasiness some of the proposals in the report.

She had listened with great interest to the deliberations of the Working Group and felt that the difficulty in striking the correct balance between equality and protection had been clear to everyone. As the representative of the ILO had indicated, there was a growing desire on the part of working people to see protective measures, such as those concerning heavy and physically harmful work, extended to men. While ICFTU was opposed to a hasty revision of the ILO Convention on Night Work, it was currently engaged in a study of the social, medical, and occupational aspects of night work, as they affected both men and women. Her organization therefore felt some apprehension at the prospect of standards of protection of women that were not related to their maternal function being enshrined in a United Nations convention. There was a danger that progress would be frozen and the evolution of standards more adapted to modern life arrested.

With regard to questions of pension and retirement, ICFTU advocated flexible rules governing retirement age and an adequate income for both men and women. Provisions such as those in draft article 11 (g) for part-time work should similarly apply to both men and women.

Her organization held the view that, as far as possible, maternity protection

(Miss von Roemer, ICFTU)

should be the responsibility of society. Unless the responsibility for the family and home were shared equally by men and women, true equality in the labour market could not be achieved. It therefore welcomed proposals for measures to assist parents of either sex.

In conclusion, as had already been mentioned, the ILO Governing Body had decided to place the question of equal treatment of women workers on the agenda of the 1975 International Labour Conference, where all those questions would, of course, be taken up. The basic position of ICFTU with regard to the proposed convention remained that those issues falling within the sphere of activities of the ILO would best be left to that organization, where those most concerned, namely the women workers, had a voice in decision-making.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

614th meeting

Wednesday, 23 January 1974,
at 3.25 p.m.Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS CONCERNING A NEW INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (agenda item 4)
(continued) (E/CN.6/552, E/CN.6/573, E/CN.6/574)

Mrs. OBA (Japan) drew attention to the articles of the draft convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women which concerned women's rights with regard to opportunities for employment and vocational training. Those articles were of interest not only to the Government of Japan but also to Japanese workers and their employers, who should be given an opportunity to discuss them at the national level and at ILO meetings at which all three would be represented. She felt that it would be more appropriate for the problems of working women to be discussed at ILO's conferences. While she did not object to the proposed draft convention her delegation could not take a position on it because it covered a too wide range of subjects. To ratify such a text, Japan would be obliged to adopt a number of laws touching upon questions within the provinces of a number of ministries and it would take a long time for the latter to reach a compromise. However important a convention, it would mean very little if it was not ratified.

Mrs. SEKELA KANINDA (Zaire) commended the Philippine and Soviet delegations for their helpful initiative in connexion with the preparation of a new legal instrument concerning the elimination of discrimination against women. The delegation of Zaire hoped that the Commission would continue the general debate on the question so that a text could be adopted which reflected the opinions of all delegations. Such an instrument should be realistic so that it could be more easily applied.

As to the establishment of a committee responsible for supervising the application of such a convention, it was not the intention of the delegation of Zaire that the Commission on the Status of Women should cease to exist; at the fifty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council the delegation of Zaire had been against that proposal. In suggesting to the Working Group that such a body should be established, her delegation was aware of the fact that States parties would defray the expenses of members of the Committee for the period during which

(Mrs. Sekela Kaninda, Zaire)

they were discharging their functions. If members of the Commission considered that such a proposal might delay ratification of the convention, her delegation would accept their view.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) agreed with the representative of Zaire with regard to the establishment of a body responsible for supervising the application of the Convention.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) expressed gratitude to the Working Group and to the delegations which had taken the initiative in preparing a draft convention. She was pleased that a document was available for reference and pointed out that it was not unusual for the elaboration of an instrument to be carried out in several stages. The Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had proved to be a valuable instrument but it was not binding - except, perhaps, morally. It might be helpful, therefore, to have a binding instrument to which States would adapt their legislation. Furthermore, the study of the existing conventions (E/CN.6/552) showed that a number of questions had not been covered by the legal rules already in force. Nevertheless, a new instrument would also contain provisions embodied in other international documents, as had been the case on other occasions.

Although it did not regard the adoption of a new international instrument as absolutely essential, the Norwegian delegation would support the position of delegations which considered it useful to have such a document as a means of applying the ideas stated in the Declaration.

Many States would find it impossible to accept a convention which was too detailed and that seemed to be the case with the draft convention before the Commission. She pointed out that the Working Group had never voted on the draft convention even though the proposals appearing in square brackets should be regarded as alternatives, not amendments, or as provisions reflecting a minority view. She pointed out that her own delegation supported those alternatives.

During the previous meeting, the USSR representative had expressed support for the adoption of laws protecting working women. While all members of the Commission considered it essential to protect mothers, many thought that protection of women as mothers or potential mothers would be the same as discrimination against working women. She reserved the right to return to that question again and to the question of the optional protocol or other instruments necessary to follow up the application of such a convention.

Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) recalled that several delegations had advocated a general discussion by the Commission on the advisability of having a convention or several conventions on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. The Finnish delegation favoured the preparation of a single convention of a general type covering the whole field of the Declaration.

The Working Group, which had met for five days before the Commission, had done admirable work but had not provided the Commission with a complete text adopted by consensus. There never had been an international legal instrument prepared in five days and he therefore proposed that the Commission should decide during the meeting whether or not its aim was the finalization of the text of a convention. Should it decide that it was, it would have to abide as closely as feasible to the text of the Declaration. On the other hand, if the Commission decided to prepare a convention which was more detailed than the Declaration it should abandon the idea of completing its work during its current session and agree on a work programme for the next two years. While it did not oppose either of the two solutions, it tended to favour the rapid preparation of a general convention.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, if there was no objection, the meeting should be suspended.

The meeting was suspended at 3.45 p.m. and resumed at 4.15 p.m.

Mrs. MARINKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), who favoured a single comprehensive convention, thought that the adoption of such an instrument would ensure the rapid elimination of all manifestations of inequality based on distinctions relating to sex.

While she understood the United Kingdom delegation's misgivings regarding the difficulty of preparing a universal text, the Byelorussian delegation considered that work should begin and that the draft convention prepared by the Working Group should be taken as a first working basis.

Furthermore, the Byelorussian delegation opposed the establishment of a committee to supervise the application of the new instrument. Such a decision might undermine the prestige of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Mrs. BOKOR (Hungary) said that a consensus appeared to be emerging in favour of the adoption of a draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women, which would thus come into force several years after the adoption of the Declaration of 1967, as was the general practice. As the nature and tenor of the new instrument were giving rise to divergences of view the Commission might take a decision in that connexion by a vote.

The Hungarian delegation, which was a member of the Working Group, was perfectly aware of the difficulties which certain countries might have but thought it advisable to point out that there were a variety of legal modalities which would permit accession to such an instrument. The question under discussion was extremely delicate so that the text of the Convention could contain certain alternative provisions designed to make it more acceptable for countries like those of the third world which could still not subscribe to certain provisions although they accepted them in principle.

The PRESIDENT said that it was her intention to request the Commission to vote on the advisability of preparing one or several conventions on the question of discrimination against women.

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) pointed out that at its second meeting the Working Group, of which she had been Chairman, had decided by consensus to recommend to the Commission the preparation of a draft single comprehensive convention on the elimination of discrimination against women. Although that decision had in fact already been taken, her delegation would have no objection to the Commission's voting on that question.

She reserved the right to speak later on various important aspects of the proposed instrument.

The CHAIRMAN said it would be quite appropriate for the Committee to vote on the question, in view of its importance.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway), supported by Mrs. AYISO (Kenya), Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) and Mrs. MOHAMMED (Nigeria), pointed out that those delegations which had not been members of the Working Group had not had an opportunity to consult their Governments on the question, and she therefore opposed a vote at the present stage.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said that she too would be unable to vote because her Government had not yet received the relevant documents, in particular the report of the Working Group (E/CN.6/574), and had therefore not given her instructions.

The PRESIDENT felt that at the present stage the members of the Commission could at least state their position on the principle of the elaboration of a draft single convention on the elimination of discrimination against women, without prejudice to recommendations concerning the preparation of one or several instruments that might be made by the United Nations or by the specialized agencies as regarded discrimination in specific fields.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed surprise at the objections made by various delegations on the advisability of voting at the present time. The question of the preparation of a new draft international legal instrument or instruments on the elimination of discrimination against women had been raised at the twenty-fourth session, in which many of the representatives now present, including the representative of Norway, had participated.

She asked the Chairman to put the Hungarian proposal to a vote.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway), supported by Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia), pointed out that few Governments would be willing to submit their observations on the question of a new international legal instrument or instruments on the elimination of discrimination against women before they knew what the proposals of the Working Group, responsible for considering the question and making a recommendation, were. Before proceeding to a vote, Governments should be given time to transmit instructions to their representatives.

Mrs. BOKOR (Hungary) asked if the representative of the Soviet Union had formally moved the closure of the debate.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that she had.

The CHAIRMAN, at the request of the representative of Hungary, read out rule 48 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and asked if any representatives opposed the proposal made by the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) pointed out that the members of the Commission all agreed that they should proceed to consider a new instrument.

Mrs. BOKOR (Hungary) asked the Secretariat if the decision taken by the Working Group concerning the preparation of a draft single comprehensive convention on the elimination of discrimination against women was binding on the Commission.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) drew the Commission's attention to the fact that document E/CN.6/573 had been prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 5 (XXIV) of the Commission to assist the Working Group of the Commission in its consideration of the question. She referred members of the Commission to paragraphs 1, 115 and 116 of that document for more information and also to paragraph 18 of the report of the Working Group to the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/574), which stated that the Working Group had decided by consensus to recommend to the Commission the preparation of a draft single comprehensive convention on the elimination of discrimination against women, without prejudice to recommendations concerning the preparation of any future instrument (or instruments) which might be elaborated.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said that she had not received a copy of the working document (E/CN.6/574) until after the session had begun and that her Government had not had time to give her instructions on whether one or several instruments should be prepared.

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the representative of Hungary to the fact that the decision taken by the Working Group was in the nature of a recommendation, that it was not binding, and that the Commission was free to act as it saw fit. In that connexion, she read out paragraph 18 of the report of the Working Group (E/CN.6/574).

After a debate on the question of whether there existed a consensus in the Commission that a draft single comprehensive convention should be drawn up, Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) restated her motion for the closure of the debate.

The CHAIRMAN said that, under rule 48 of the rules of procedure, only two speakers could speak against that proposal.

Mrs. MARINKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that she supported the closure of debate.

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) pointed out that there were two proposals currently before the Commission, one relating to the advisability of drawing up one or several conventions, the other for the closure of the debate.

Miss ST. CLAIRE (Secretary of the Commission) read out article 48 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council relating to closure of the debate.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Soviet motion for the closure of the debate on the question of whether a single comprehensive convention on the elimination of discrimination against women should be prepared.

The proposal was adopted by 13 votes to 6, with 10 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.

615th meeting

Thursday, 24 January 1974,
at 11.50 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS CONCERNING A NEW INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (agenda item 4) (continued) (E/CN.6/552, E/CN.6/573, E/CN.6/574)

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) asked for a clarification concerning the vote taken at the previous meeting.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the previous meeting the Commission had voted on the Soviet motion for closure of the debate, adopting it by 13 votes to 6, with 10 abstentions, and had postponed the vote on the proposal made by the delegation of Hungary.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) proposed that the Hungarian proposal be put to the vote.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Hungarian proposal, which read:

"The Commission decides in principle that a single comprehensive draft convention should be prepared, without prejudice to the preparation of any future instrument or instruments which might be elaborated either by the United Nations or by the specialized agencies dealing with discrimination in specific fields."

The draft decision was adopted by 22 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Miss JAUREGUIBERRY (Argentina) said that her delegation considered that various aspects of the question should be examined: the number of conventions which would be adopted, the nature of the conventions, their content and the procedure of adoption. Her delegation thought that a single legal instrument would be more practical and at the same time easier to promote, and had expressed that view throughout the debate. A vote on the issue would be appropriate, since the Working Group had not been competent to substitute its own decisions for the will of sovereign States, which had to decide, in the last instance, the conditions under which they would agree to commit themselves in an international instrument. In addition to preferring a single convention, Argentina favoured a document of a general nature which would constitute an effective mechanism for the achievement of the objectives proclaimed in the United Nations Charter and the Universal

(Miss Jaureguiberry, Argentina)

Declaration of Human Rights, as well as an up-dated ratification of the principles contained in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and in the other conventions adopted by various international bodies. Moreover, a single text would produce the impact enjoyed by a convention which could be easily identified and recognized. Her delegation's preference for a single instrument of a general nature should not, however, be interpreted as a rejection of any agreements of a specific nature which might be reached and which would help to speed up the process of improving the status of women. On balance, her delegation supported the statement made by the United Kingdom representative to the effect that it was necessary to draw up an instrument "with teeth", which would not constitute a merely theoretical enumeration of the rights sought by women. Moreover, in order to ensure the effectiveness of the convention, account should be taken of the need to elaborate a text which would reflect the interests of at least a substantial majority, if not all, of the Member States, so as to ensure an overwhelming ratification which would serve to indicate the importance of the question from the legal, political, economic and social points of view. She regretted to have to recall the small number of ratifications obtained by the ILO and UNESCO conventions on the same subject and considered that it would be necessary to carry out, immediately after the adoption of the text before the Commission, an active campaign to persuade Governments to adopt a favourable attitude toward the Convention.

In the Argentine Republic, there was no discrimination against women, and for many years most of the principles enumerated in the Convention had been incorporated in its positive law. Argentina's attitude in the international field had also been very clear, since it had ratified all the international instruments relating to the status of women. However, despite its favourable attitude toward the Convention, her delegation did not wish to take a position on the substantive issues involved, since it had not belonged to the Working Group, and had had only a very few days to consider the text. Its abstention was of a constructive nature, inasmuch as it wished to allow the competent national bodies to make known their views on the text, since it considered that every draft instrument was capable of improvement, and that the possibility should be left open for the submission of the appropriate amendments in due time.

The adoption of the draft convention by the General Assembly in 1975 might be a suitable step to take during International Women's Year. Her delegation was

(Miss Jaureguiberry, Argentina)

therefore prepared to give sympathetic consideration to the proposals aimed at immediate consultations with Governments, which it considered indispensable, and at the final drafting of a convention in the light of the views expressed. Her delegation was ready to make a serious contribution of its own to such work, with the knowledge that, once an acceptable final text was achieved, an important step would have been made towards enabling men and women enjoying equality of rights and responsibilities to achieve complete fulfilment.

Mrs. LI Su-wen (China) said that the delegation of the People's Republic of China considered it useful, in considering the draft convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, for representatives of different countries to exchange their experiences and views on how to eliminate discrimination against women and secure their rights and emancipation. The emancipation of women, who made up half the world's population, had been a serious and urgent social problem. The history of the international women's movement showed that, since the beginning of the current century, women in various countries had carried on valiant and unflinching struggles for equal rights and for the emancipation of women. However, to date, women in many countries were still deprived of their rights and suffered from oppression and discrimination of all types. In some countries, although there were legal provisions granting women equal rights with men, such rights had not been guaranteed in practice. It was therefore necessary to give serious consideration to the way in which women could achieve their emancipation and make substantial progress towards an improvement in their status. In old China, women as well as men had been victims of ruthless oppression and discrimination. In addition to aggression, oppression and enslavement by imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism, they had been shackled by feudal ways of thinking which had attached importance to men and belittled women, who had been regarded as the "lowest creatures". About a century previously, many progressive women in China had raised the question of women's rights and equality between men and women, but they had not been clear as to the correct way to achieve those ends. Some activists in the women's movement had tried, by tackling the women's problem alone, to achieve an equality of rights between men and women and the legislative guarantee of those rights. They had organized the League of Feminists and the League of Suffragettes. Neither of those enterprises had proved successful. They had suffered many setbacks and paid a heavy price for striving

(Mrs. Li Su-wen, China)

for the emancipation of women. It had been only under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Communist Party of China that Chinese women had found the true path to self-emancipation. Chinese women had gradually come to realize that the emancipation of women was not an isolated matter, for it was inseparable from the liberation of the whole nation, the liberation of the working people and social liberation. When the Chinese people had been suffering from ruthless oppression and exploitation at the hands of foreign imperialists and the Chiang Kai-shek reactionaries, with tens of thousands of families broken up and the people deprived of their minimum right to live like human beings, women's rights and equality between men and women had been out of the question. The facts had shown that the women's movement was an integral part of the revolutionary movement as a whole, and that in order to achieve the emancipation of women it was imperative, first of all, to fight for national independence and social liberation together with the entire people. Only by taking part in the common struggle with the rest of the people was it possible for women to win the support of the people and successfully free themselves from bondage. With the liberation of the nation and society, women would achieve their own liberation. Conversely, an isolated feminist movement divorced from the common struggle for national and social liberation would only weaken and split up the forces united against the enemy, and the women's movement itself would come to nought. Chinese women, following the correct path, and after 28 years of arduous and valiant struggle together with the rest of the people, had overthrown the reactionary rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism, and founded a new China in which the people were the master. At the same time, women had achieved genuine emancipation; their rights and status had been enhanced in political, economic, social and cultural as well as domestic life, and their conditions had undergone a fundamental change.

Women in many countries wished to help eliminate discrimination against women and to enhance the status of women through the adoption of a convention. That desire was understandable. However, Chinese women, whose movement had traversed a long and tortuous path, were keenly aware that, in order truly to eliminate discrimination against women and to secure the rights and emancipation of women, it was necessary, first of all, to mobilize the hundreds of millions of women for participation in the revolutionary movement of the people and the waging of long and hard struggles. It was impossible to win the genuine rights of women without

(Mrs. Li Su-wen, China)

their integration with the masses, without their active participation in the struggle for national and social liberation, and without victory in that struggle. Even though some legal provisions might be enacted, they either could not be fully materialized or could not be materialized at all. Her delegation believed that the correctness of the experience of the Chinese women's movement had been confirmed by the history of women's movements in other countries. Therefore, in order not to mislead women, it was essential to bear in mind, in drafting the convention, that the primary objectives and task of the women's liberation movement was the mobilization of women for their active participation in the common struggle for national and social liberation, and their close integration with the entire people for the achievement of victory in that struggle. Her delegation was ready to give close consideration to, and learn from, the valuable experiences of women in other countries in their struggle for the rights and the emancipation of women, so as to help promote unity and co-operation in the effort to advance the common cause of women's emancipation throughout the world.

Mrs. CADIEUX (Canada) said that her Government had already expressed its preference for a single comprehensive convention and hoped that the draft convention would become a reality. To that end, it should be so worded that the greatest possible number of countries could ratify it. It was also important that the convention should not request special privileges for women. Her delegation agreed with the representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions that reference should be made to "parents" in general and not to "mothers" in laws relating to working women.

It would be difficult to complete the convention by 1975 because, as the representative of Romania had said, Governments would have to be consulted.

Her delegation reserved the right to speak later on specific points in the draft convention.

The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the International Council of Social Democratic Women, to which the Economic and Social Council had granted consultative status in category II, had asked to speak. If she heard no objections, she would take it that the request was granted.

It was so decided.

Miss SIMON (International Council of Social Democratic Women) said that the Council was in favour of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as a basis for a draft convention. However, it would regret the inclusion of article 4 and article 12 (a) of the draft in the report of the Working Group, document E/CN.6/574). Their inclusion would make it difficult, if not impossible, for many States to adopt the convention, among them the United States of America, should the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution be ratified. Her organization agreed with the representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions that those matters should be dealt with by the ILO.

Her organization would like to suggest, for various reasons, that the adoption of a draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women should be postponed. Firstly, the idea of the convention had not yet been made sufficiently popular among women, let alone among men, who unfortunately were still the decision-makers. Secondly, International Women's Year afforded a good opportunity to propagate the idea of a convention. Thirdly, unless widely accepted, the convention would not fulfil its aims. Her organization, whose national affiliates had close links with political parties, could play an important role in the education of women and men regarding the need for a convention.

The Council hoped that the Commission would adopt the resolution proposed by the United States for a conference to be held during International Women's Year. Perhaps the Commission might request the Economic and Social Council to call a special session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to take place either before or after the conference, for the purpose of adopting a draft convention. If the draft convention were adopted in time to be submitted to the General Assembly, the latter could pass it by the end of International Women's year, which would be the most effective publicity possible for the convention.

Mrs. HUVANANDANA (Thailand) said that her delegation appreciated the efforts made by the representatives of the Philippines and the Soviet Union to shape the draft convention. It approved the principle of the document and would not oppose it, but would abstain in the voting since her Government had not yet had an opportunity to study the draft convention and, moreover, there was no discrimination against women in her country.

(Mrs. Huvanandana, Thailand)

She promised to do everything possible to persuade her Government to ratify the draft convention.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) said that the draft convention had good legal provisions and she generally accepted its broad lines, but could not agree to the provisions concerning the measures to ensure protection for women in absolute or general terms. Although recognizing the need for protective measures, especially for working women, who had suffered the worst discrimination, any idea that women were the weaker sex must be avoided.

Her delegation supported the proposal of the representative of Hungary that steps should be taken to ensure that the convention would not hamper the application of other existing conventions. It also felt that Governments should be given the opportunity of expressing their views.

Mrs. BROWN (Women's International Democratic Federation) said that her organization supported the preparation of a single instrument covering all the articles in the Declaration and containing legal obligations as outlined in document E/CN.6/NGO/254. That proposal was supported by many of the 110 national organizations in the Federation.

Such an instrument should cover all political, social and cultural aspects; moreover, it was important to include the needs of working mothers, which required protection.

The adoption of such a convention would not eliminate any declaration now in force and would give women the opportunity to defend their rights.

If the Assembly adopted the draft convention in 1975, that would be a significant contribution to International Women's Year.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) said that her delegation had not taken part in the Working Group, but supported the recommendations put forward in documents E/CN.6/573 and 574, particularly in paragraph 18 of the latter, and felt that the Working Group had fulfilled its difficult mandate.

However, the draft convention needed to be drawn up in greater detail, and her delegation agreed with the delegation of Romania and others that the draft convention and the records of the Commission's meetings should be submitted to Governments for comment.

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Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) said that a spirit of compromise had prevailed during the preparation of the draft convention: there had been no question of trying to draw up a complete draft in five days.

Her delegation had serious reservations about the wording of the draft, particularly regarding the protective measures for women, because it considered it fundamental to stress the equal rights of men and women. Article 25, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights referred to motherhood; that article was very sound and there was no need to supplement it with physiological or psychological details.

Her delegation was pleased to have taken part in the Working Group. It supported the idea that the draft convention should be sent to Governments for their comments. Once those comments had been made known, measures could be taken to obtain the greatest possible number of ratifications.

The women of the world must realize the need to press not only for signature of the legal instrument but also for implementation of all the legal measures which it outlined.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) regretted that, owing to circumstances beyond its control, her delegation had been unable to participate in the meetings of the Working Group. In expressing its appreciation for the work done in the Group on the draft in document E/CN.6/574, it would like to compliment the delegations of the Soviet Union and the Philippines on the spirit of co-operation and understanding which they had displayed in merging their proposals.

In spite of the various international instruments and national laws relating to the advancement of women, and the granting of political rights to women by most Governments, discrimination against women still existed in various forms, and there were great discrepancies between the situation in law and the situation in practice.

In view of the slow progress in improving the political and social status of women all over the world, there was a need to prepare and adopt an international instrument that would translate the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women into rights recognized in law. Such an instrument should be comprehensive and dynamic, and contain measures that would be universally acceptable for the implementation of long-term programmes to ensure that women played their maximum role in modern society.

(Mrs. Stevenson, Liberia)

While the draft convention was acceptable, her delegation shared the view of previous speakers that the Commission had not had time at the current session to give due consideration to such an important document, which should be referred to Governments for their observations and comments. Consideration of the convention could be resumed at the next session.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

616th meeting

Thursday, 24 January 1974,
at 3.30 p.m.Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS CONCERNING A NEW INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (agenda item 4)
(continued) (E/CN.6/552, E/CN.6/573, E/CN.6/574)

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) announced that her delegation would, together with other delegations, be submitting a draft resolution* to give expression to the misgivings felt by many delegations about the proposed draft convention. The draft resolution would propose that the draft convention be sent to Governments for study, comments and opinions to enable the Commission to prepare a final document at its next session with a reasonable prospect of majority acceptance.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) said that many delegations appeared to be having difficulty because they had not received instructions from their Governments. While some preliminary comments could be made, they should not be taken as binding. She welcomed the fact that a draft resolution had been prepared and hoped that it might lead to useful discussion. She was concerned, however, that there would be a paucity of comments from Governments. The Working Group's report (E/CN.6/574) was difficult to read and would take too much time for study. If there were only a few replies from Governments, they would be of little help.

There were three courses of action open to the Commission. Discussion could be postponed for a few days, after which the draft convention could be voted on article by article; the report of the Working Group could be sent to Governments; or the report could be made clearer in order to assist Governments in formulating their comments.

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) welcomed the idea of a draft resolution. It must be made crystal clear that the document to be sent to Governments emanated from the Commission and had been approved by it, and was not just a series of ideas from the Working Group. She agreed with the representative of Norway that the report of the Working Group was a confusing document. The way it had been compiled must be made clear; it should be provided with a preface with suggestions as to how the document was to be used.

* Subsequently circulated as document E/CN.6/L.667.

(Mrs. Cockcroft, United Kingdom)

At the time when the original papers had been submitted to the Working Group, it had been clear that there were areas both of agreement and of considerable disagreement. The delegations of the Philippines and the Soviet Union had prepared a combined text with alternative versions where there had been disagreement. It had been emphasized that the combined text did not involve any commitment. It was also important to note that no vote had been taken in the Working Group, and that there had been no over-all consensus at any time. The alternative texts were all of equal standing; it was unacceptable to her delegation that one of the original texts should serve as a basic or preferred draft. Those points should be made clear in the preface to the final document, from which the square brackets should certainly not be deleted. It would be very useful for the Commission to consider the draft convention article by article to ascertain whether there were any points on which general agreement existed.

Miss TYABJI (India) said that a paper must be sent to Governments with a clear statement from the Commission. A great deal of time had been wasted and the Commission must decide on the course of action it would take.

Mrs. KASTALSKAJA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed that it would be difficult to reach any conclusion on the draft convention; although delegations that had been represented on the Working Group were ready to take a decision, other delegations were not. She suggested that the draft convention should be sent to Governments with the text in square brackets retained and accompanied by the records of the Commission's discussions. She was more optimistic than the representative of Norway on the subject of Government replies. Even if there were only a few replies, delegations would nevertheless have time to work on the text and prepare a final draft. The United Nations practice of sending documents to Governments between sessions was extremely useful; her delegation would support a draft resolution to that effect.

In reply to the point raised by the representative of the United Kingdom, she said that it would not be necessary to provide an explanatory preface because paragraphs 21 to 28 of the report of the Working Group already contained a satisfactory explanation of the Working Group's decisions.

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) recalled that it had been agreed that the alternative texts were equal in status to the basic text. She therefore proposed that, in the document to be sent to Governments, the square brackets should be deleted.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) suggested that one way of improving the document might be to delete the square brackets but to add the names of the delegations that had proposed alternative texts. She fully agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the Commission should not send out a document of the Working Group on which no vote had been taken. She felt that to add a report on the discussions would merely add to the confusion.

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) reminded the representative of Norway that there had been a consensus decision in the Working Group not to give the names of States proposing amendments to the original text. The Commission should adopt the same approach.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that the Secretariat would require guidance, particularly on what it was to do with the square brackets. She believed that there might be precedents for sending a document of a working group to Governments for comments. It might be helpful to Governments if the Commission indicated the attitude displayed towards various sections of the draft convention, perhaps by transmitting the summary records of the discussion.

Alternative article 1, paragraph 6, of the final provisions erroneously reproduced on pages 18 and 19 of the report of the Working Group had been interpreted by the financial authorities of the United Nations as referring to travel and related expenses. The only financial implication of the provision would be related to the cost of meetings of the Committee; the Secretary-General would try to absorb those costs if the convention were adopted, at which time he would be in a position to submit a more precise statement of the financial implications.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that the Commission would not have time to reconcile differences of opinion or clarify differences in the text. She would prefer to see the square brackets removed and all the alternative texts marked as alternative texts. That would allow Governments to distinguish clearly between the various texts and assess them more readily.

Miss NOOR (Indonesia) said that, if the document was to be sent to Governments, it should be accompanied by an explanatory annex written by the delegations which had submitted alternative texts. That would give Governments an idea of how those texts had come into being.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) supported the Indonesian representative's suggestion, which was a good compromise. She pointed out that not all of the text appearing in square brackets was alternative text; some of it was additional text.

Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) did not see the need for any additional explanation. The report of the Working Group already contained an explanation agreed on by the members of the Working Group. Her delegation would have no objection, however, to using the word "suggestions" instead of the word "amendments" in paragraph 22 of the report.

Mrs. ANDREI (Romania) said that the Commission could begin consideration of the draft convention article by article, although such a task would be very difficult and there might not be enough time to complete it. She asked if it would be possible to request the Economic and Social Council to authorize an additional special session in 1975 to study the question of the draft convention.

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) noted that the document under consideration was only a first attempt at setting down various ideas which might be incorporated in a draft convention. When the draft had been submitted to Governments, a number of new ideas might emerge. The idea of a special session would not be favoured by her Government for a number of reasons. First, the financial implications of a special session might be very considerable. Second, the programming of the functional commissions was very tight, and, third, a year might not be sufficient time for Governments to consider the document. It seemed that the Commission was prejudging the decision that the report would be transmitted to Governments and she wished to suggest that the Commission should turn its attention to clarifying the section entitled "Preparation of a new instrument or instruments". That could be done in a number of ways, for instance, by adding the following sentence at the end of paragraph 22: "It is emphasized that all suggestions are considered by the Commission to be of equal standing." Such an insertion would help those who studied the document to understand that there was no emphasis on any one particular section in the draft convention. In conclusion, she felt that the Commission should begin consideration of the individual articles of the draft convention.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that, from a procedural point of view, the Commission could recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it consider scheduling a special session in 1975. However, there would be financial implications.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) felt that the Commission was becoming rather confused about how best to proceed. She wished to stress that the Working Group had decided not to vote on particular articles and that its report had been intended solely for the Commission. Since the Commission might not have enough time to consider the report in detail, and if it intended to transmit the document to Governments, some clarifications would be needed.

The CHAIRMAN requested the Rapporteur of the Working Group to draft an explanatory note, in co-operation with the interested parties.

The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 5.05 p.m.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) said that the following explanatory note had been approved by the parties concerned: "The Working Group decided not to vote on particular articles. Where the Working Group did not reach a consensus and alternative texts were proposed or recommendations made or reservations expressed, these have been reflected in connexion with the relevant articles. Some of these amendments were incorporated in the articles of the Working Paper and several alternative proposals are shown in the report in square brackets." It had also been agreed that it would be more logical to have a heading "Alternative text" whenever there was an alternative proposal, while retaining the square brackets.

Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed the gratification of her delegation at the compromise text prepared by the Rapporteur and other parties.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that, when sending a communication to Governments for comment, it was customary for the Secretariat to draft a note verbale which explained what was being transmitted. If it was the wish of the Commission, the Secretariat could transmit to Governments such a note verbale, the text of the draft convention, with alternative proposals headed "Alternative text" and included in square brackets, and an annex containing the explanatory note just read out.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Commission wished the Secretariat to proceed in the manner described by the Deputy Director.

It was so decided.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said, with reference to paragraph 4 of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.667, that the Economic and Social Council, by a decision of 18 May 1973, had laid down that its subsidiary bodies, with the exception of the regional economic commissions, might not create either standing or ad hoc intersessional subsidiary bodies without prior approval by the Council. In view of that decision, the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.667 might wish to consider dividing paragraph 4 into two paragraphs. The first could end with the word "work" in the third line of the paragraph. The word "decides" in the same line would be deleted, and the other paragraph would start with the words: "Requests the Economic and Social Council to establish ...".

Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation had only just received the text of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.667 and could not possibly take a decision on it at the current meeting. In any case, the text appeared to be in direct contradiction with the consensus reached in the informal discussions just held.

The CHAIRMAN explained that there was no question of discussing the draft resolution at the current meeting. The Secretariat had merely wished to draw attention to the fact that paragraph 4 would have to be revised.

PROGRAMME OF CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THEIR INTEGRATION IN DEVELOPMENT (agenda item 7) (continued):

- (a) Implementation of a programme of concerted international action (continued) (E/CN.6/L.663, E/CN.6/L.665)

Miss TYABJI (India) introduced draft resolution E/CN.6/L.663. She said, with reference to paragraph 2, that her delegation would like to see United Nations gift shops, similar to the one at Headquarters, established in large cities in various countries to sell handicrafts from different countries. It felt, too, that

(Miss Tyabji, India)

voluntary organizations could help government agencies in developing ideas about and designs for handicrafts.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) said that her country had long experience in assisting women, particularly rural women, through the establishment of non-profit handicrafts co-operatives. Receipts from the sales of those co-operatives added considerably to the income of rural women. She therefore supported the draft resolution and hoped that the Commission would adopt it unanimously.

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) said that in Colombia there was an institute whose purpose was to promote the development of handicrafts. Many of the handicrafts produced in Colombia were exported and boosted the earnings of rural women. Her delegation therefore endorsed the draft resolution.

Miss NOOR (Indonesia) fully supported the idea behind the draft resolution. She suggested, however, that the text should refer to the need to provide women with training in handicrafts design and to enable them to obtain raw materials as cheaply as possible.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) observed that implementation of the provisions of the draft resolution would help to provide employment for women. Her delegation therefore supported it fully. For the past eight years, there had been a national agency for the promotion of cottage industries in the Philippines. The provisions of paragraph 1 would, however, help to improve conditions in some countries.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said that her delegation would be happy to support the draft resolution. It could also support the Indonesian suggestion.

Miss TYABJI (India) said that her Government, too, was very active in promoting handicrafts. There was an All-India Handicrafts Board and good incomes were derived from the sale of handicrafts. The purpose of the draft resolution, however, was to help persons not sufficiently skilled to benefit by the work of national institutes such as the Board. The words "ways and means" in paragraph 1 were intended to cover the ideas about training and raw materials put forward by the representative of Indonesia. She hoped, therefore, that the Indonesian delegation would be able to accept the text as drafted.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) expressed support for the draft resolution, the provisions of which were consistent with measures already being taken in Egypt to help untrained women to develop skills and market their products.

Miss NOOR (Indonesia) said that if, as the Indian representative had said, the words "ways and means" covered the ideas she had put forward, Indonesia would be happy to co-sponsor the draft resolution.

Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation supported the draft resolution and would vote for it.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) said that her delegation would be glad to support the draft resolution. She suggested, however, that the word "new" should be inserted before the words "ways and means" in paragraph 1.

Miss TYABJI (India) accepted the Japanese suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN said that, unless she heard any objection, she would take it that the draft resolution, as amended, was unanimously adopted.

It was so decided.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) introduced draft resolution E/CN.6/L.665. The sponsors had attempted to reflect the views expressed by members of the Commission on implementation of the long-term programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development and the hope, expressed by many members, that the Commission would play a part in the mid-term review and appraisal of the Second Development Decade in 1975, which would also be International Women's Year. The resolution would authorize the Secretary-General to establish machinery to enable the Commission to co-operate with the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal.

Mrs. ANDREI (Romania), Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) and Miss NOOR (Indonesia) said that their delegations wished to become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) said that her delegation was able to support the draft resolution.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) congratulated the sponsors on a very timely resolution. It should be given great emphasis in International Women's Year.

Miss TYABJI (India) also commended the sponsors of the draft resolution, which she supported whole-heartedly.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) complimented the sponsors of the draft resolution on their initiative. With a view to strengthening the text and providing women with opportunities to obtain equal rights and responsibilities with men in the organizations of the United Nations system, her delegation wished to propose several amendments to the text.*

The CHAIRMAN suggested that further discussion of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.665 be postponed until the United States amendments were available in writing.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

* Subsequently circulated as document E/CN.6/L.669.

617th meeting

Friday, 25 January 1974,
at 11.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

PROGRAMME OF CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THEIR INTEGRATION IN DEVELOPMENT (agenda item 7) (continued):

- (e) Co-operation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system (E/CN.6/572, E/CN.6/578)

Miss de TEJEIRA (Inter-American Commission of Women), introducing the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), said that it was enthusiastically preparing for the observance of International Women's Year and that the Executive Committee would approve the plans made in that connexion for the American continent in September 1974. She stressed that CIM had every intention of co-operating with the Commission on the Status of Women within the framework of the activities which it carried out in the region.

She was surprised to note that the report of CIM was not included in the agenda of the session as a separate item, even though for 27 years, under Economic and Social Council resolution 48 B (IV), CIM had been regularly submitting a report to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Finally, she hoped that intergovernmental organizations similar to the one which she represented would be established on other continents.

The CHAIRMAN, after thanking the representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women, said that the Committee on the Status of Arab Women was represented for the first time in the Commission and emphasized the importance of that event.

Mrs. ELWAN (Committee on the Status of Arab Women) said that the report of the League of Arab States (E/CN.6/578) briefly traced the steps leading to the establishment of the Committee on the Status of Arab Women and gave the salient points of its statutes and the major recommendations which it had made.

The Committee on the Status of Arab Women was the first regional commission of women established since the creation of the United Nations and it was therefore interesting to explain the motives which had led to its establishment and to describe its terms of reference and objectives. In recent years, the need had been felt in the Arab world for an organization which would focus attention on women's special problems and assist them to integrate themselves in all sectors of the

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(Mrs. Elwan)

economic and social life of the region. There had also been a need for a regional organization which could place a co-ordinating role between the Governments and the non-governmental women's associations in order to avoid duplication. Such a body would provide a link between United Nations organs and specialized agencies concerned with women's affairs and the various countries of the area. It had been felt that it could help them in identifying the specific problems of women in the area and that its existence would spur Governments to undertake programmes aimed at the advancement of women and their integration in all areas of national and regional development. Indeed, while there was an awareness that the question of the status of women was not only of concern to women but was also of utmost importance to social progress, little importance was attached to the implementation of existing measures if pressure was not exerted by women themselves and their organizations.

On 28 September 1971, the Council of the League of Arab States had adopted a resolution establishing the Committee on the Status of Arab Women. That Committee was composed of representatives of all Member States, appointed by their Governments at the request of the Secretary-General, who also had the right to invite representatives of national, regional and international organizations to attend meetings of the Committee as observers when the subjects under discussion were directly related to their activities. The Committee, which was required to meet each year, had held its first session at Cairo in January 1972. During that session, it had drafted its statutes, whereby it undertook to respect the principles of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the General Assembly's Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The Committee must ensure that women enjoyed the same rights as men in all spheres and fight to prevent the passage of any discriminatory legislation. It could also hold extraordinary sessions and organize conferences and seminars on particular questions. At its first session, it had recommended that the League of Arab States convene a conference to study the role of women in the struggle for national liberation. It had also recommended the establishment of liaison offices in every Arab State to follow up the implementation of its recommendations once those had been approved by the League Council. Furthermore, it had recommended that the League Council organize a study group to examine the position of women with respect to personal status. A conference on that question had been held at Cairo in October 1972 and it had dealt with the issues of polygamy, divorce, child custody, the right of married women to work and the age for marriage.

In September 1972 a conference on the status of Arab women and national

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(Mrs. Elwan)

development, organized at Cairo with the participation of the Committee, had decided to call upon the Arab Governments to set up working committees on the status of women.

The Committee on the Status of Arab Women had held its second regular session in February 1973; it had been attended by representatives from 16 Arab countries, including Palestine, and by observers. The Committee had considered the position of the Arab States regarding Arab and international agreements related to the status of women, and labour laws, also to the extent that they affected women. It had taken note of the recommendations of the Conference on Arab Women and National Development and of the fact that the implementation of existing legislative measures still left much to be desired. It had decided to hold a special seminar to study the best means to ensure that the working woman had attained her rights in the field of work and production.

She hoped that fruitful co-operation would be established between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee of the League of Arab States in the years to come, in order to contribute to the full achievement of human rights throughout the world.

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) welcomed the report prepared by the Inter-American Commission of Women, which had been co-operating with the Commission on the Status of Women for 27 years and was doing commendable work. The Inter-American Commission of Women was co-operating actively with the Dominican Government: the Seminar on Latin American Integration, held in 1973 in the Dominican Republic and attended by representatives from the Central American and Caribbean countries, was an illustration of that co-operation.

Her delegation attached special importance to the question of the integration of women in economic activities; in that connexion, a first seminar had been organized with CIM assistance to study the status of women in rural areas, which had to be improved. She emphasized women in rural areas because they were particularly numerous in Latin America.

CIM should, moreover, take measures to strengthen its co-operation with the Commission on the Status of Women. In order to avoid duplication, the Commission, at its previous session, had adopted a resolution inviting the Inter-American Commission of Women to study any relevant aspect of the programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women connected with regional and national realities.

Finally, she wished to thank the representative of the Committee on the Status of Arab Women for her statement and noted with satisfaction that women on other

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(Mrs. Marte de Barrios,
Dominican Republic)

continents were joining together to form organizations similar to the Inter-American Commission. She reserved the right to speak again about the questions which should be included in the agenda of future sessions of the Commission and which would be of particular interest to the Inter-American Commission.

Mrs. STABILE (Argentina) shared the opinion expressed by the representative of the Dominican Republic regarding the Inter-American Commission of Women and the relationship which should exist between that body and the United Nations.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) paid a tribute to the representatives of the Inter-American Commission of Women and the Committee on the Status of Arab Women for the reports which they had introduced. Those two interregional bodies had an important role to play in solving problems of mutual interest which arose in those regions. She took that opportunity to mention the efforts made at the interregional level by the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, which was currently establishing a commission on the status of women for the countries of the region.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) thanked the representatives of the Inter-American Commission of Women and the Committee on the Status of Arab Women for the excellent reports which they had introduced. She paid a special tribute to the Inter-American Commission of Women, which had been the first of its kind and whose example had led to the establishment of the Committee on the Status of Arab Women.

It was the first time that a regional committee on the status of women had been established outside the framework of the United Nations. That Committee, though new in the Arab world, had immediately undertaken a study of various fields of activity of common interest such as family law, the participation of women in development, labour legislation, etc. It provided liaison between non-governmental organizations, national women's organizations and Governments, on the one hand, and intergovernmental bodies, on the other. Her delegation hoped that very close co-operation would be established between that Committee and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and that such co-operation would relate particularly to African women, since a number of Arab States were African States.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) added her delegation's congratulations to those

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(Mrs. Alday, Philippines)

already expressed and hoped, like the representative of Indonesia, that a similar group would be established for Asia.

Miss TYABJI (India), on her own behalf and on behalf of her delegation, congratulated the two regional commissions on the role which they had played in the promotion of the status of women, and particularly emphasized the importance of the role of the Committee on the Status of Arab Women in its region.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) also commended the representatives of the two organizations on the reports introduced by them, and expressed the hope that they would pursue their efforts, especially during International Women's Year.

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia), after having paid a tribute to the representatives of the Inter-American Commission of Women and the Committee on the Status of Arab Women, drew special attention to the work carried out on the American continent by the Inter-American Commission, with which her country collaborated closely. She recalled that at the Commission's previous session, she had had the honour, together with other delegations, to submit the draft resolution relating to the activities of the Inter-American Commission which the Commission on the Status of Women had adopted.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) commended the two organizations on their efforts to promote the economic, social and cultural development of women in their regions, and expressed the hope that other regional commissions would follow their example, especially in Africa.

Mrs. HUVANANDANA (Thailand) shared the views expressed by the Indonesian and Philippine delegations concerning the establishment of an Asian group. The delegation of Thailand wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution relating to assistance to cottage and handicraft industries (E/CN.6/L.663), which were very important in Thailand.

The CHAIRMAN said that she regretted to inform the delegation of Thailand that the draft resolution in question had already been adopted by the Commission.

Mrs. MAKA (Guinea) also commended the Inter-American Commission of Women and the Committee on the Status of Arab Women on their efforts to promote the cause of women in their areas.

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Miss ROMO ROMAN (Chile) associated herself with the delegations which had congratulated the Inter-American Commission of Women and the Committee on the Status of Arab Women on the work they had accomplished to ensure the advancement of women, and in particular the Inter-American Commission of Women, with which the Chilean delegation had collaborated for a number of years.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) congratulated the Committee on the Status of Arab Women on its excellent report, on the programme which it had implemented during the past two years and on its statutes. She hoped that the regional organizations would exchange reports among themselves, thus taking advantage of the experience acquired in other regions. She had also read with great interest the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women, whose programme of action contributed to the enhancement of the status of women. Her delegation had noted with interest the efforts undertaken by the two regional commissions to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as well as other aspects of the programme of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. She hoped that the Commission would continue to collaborate closely with the various intergovernmental regional bodies, in particular with regard to the celebration of International Women's Year and the activities designed to enhance the status of women.

The CHAIRMAN said that the general debate had been concluded.

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAMME OF CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION (continued) (E/CN.6/L.665, E/CN.6/L.669);
- (b) STATUS OF RURAL WOMEN, ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (continued) (E/CN.6/L.664);
- (d) ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (E/CN.6/L.666)

The CHAIRMAN proposed that consideration be given to draft resolutions E/CN.6/L.665 and L.669 relating to the implementation of a programme of concerted international action.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), noting that the text of the amendments submitted by the delegation of the United States (E/CN.6/L.669) to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.665 had only just been distributed, requested that consideration of that item be postponed until the following meeting.

The CHAIRMAN granted the request made by the delegation of the Soviet Union, and invited the delegation of the Philippines to introduce draft resolution E/CN.6/L.664 relating to the status of rural women, especially agricultural workers.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) said that in her country agricultural workers represented 34.5 per cent of the labour force, and that 64.2 per cent of them were unpaid family workers; moreover, 53 per cent of the total number of unemployed women were in rural areas. A similar situation probably existed in other developing countries, and it was therefore important to develop to the utmost the resources of rural areas in order to enable rural women to participate in national development programmes and to prevent their migration to the cities. As had been stated by the International Labour Organisation in its report (E/CN.6/583), International Women's Year provided an excellent opportunity for taking stock of the situation and evaluating the impact of measures taken to promote the advancement of women through education and training programmes.

Mrs. CURLING (Costa Rica) supported draft resolution E/CN.6/L.664. Costa Rica attached considerable importance to the improvement of the status of rural women, who made up the bulk of the female population in developing countries.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) suggested that in the second line of the operative paragraph of the draft resolution recommended to the Economic and Social Council, the word "Continuing" should be replaced by the word "Life-long", in accordance with the wording adopted for that type of programme in 1968 by UNESCO. That wording also appeared in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development.

Her delegation supported the draft resolution, and she hoped that her suggestion would be taken into account.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said that the sponsors of the draft resolution accepted that suggestion.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) said that her delegation would be able to support the draft resolution if the sponsors could accept the following amendments. In the sixth line of the first preambular paragraph, the words "and vocational training" should be added after the words "literacy programmes". In subparagraph (b) of the second preambular paragraph, the words "service occupations" should be preceded by "undesirable".

In the operative paragraph, the words "economic activities training, including" should be added after the words "citizenship education", and the words "and public services" should be added after the word "farming". The rest of the paragraph would remain unchanged.

Mrs. ANDREI (Romania), while commending the sponsors of the draft resolution, suggested a slight modification consisting of the addition of the words "of most countries" after the words "rural areas" in the second line of subparagraph (b) of the second preambular paragraph. That addition was necessary because in the socialist countries women were no longer exploited.

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) endorsed the text of the draft resolution, but suggested that the words "where the majority of them are exploited" in the last line of subparagraph (b) of the second preambular paragraph should be replaced by "where some of them are exploited". It seemed to her delegation that such a wording would be closer to the truth.

Miss TYABJI (India) said that her delegation supported the draft resolution taking into consideration the proposed amendments, with the exception of that of the United Kingdom delegation. The Indian delegation preferred the following wording: "where many are exploited".

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) thought that it would be preferable to use the following wording in the last line of subparagraph (b): "where the majority of them may be exploited".

With reference to the proposed Japanese amendment, calling for the addition of the words "and vocational training" after the words "literacy programmes", she said that it would suffice to mention vocational training at the beginning of the preamble.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) endorsed the suggestion of the Egyptian delegation.

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom), agreeing to the suggestion of the Egyptian delegation, withdrew her amendment.

Mrs. STABILE (Argentina) felt that it would be appropriate to modify subparagraph (b) of the draft resolution in order to make it clear that the majority of women were exploited only in certain countries. In Argentina, gainfully employed women enjoyed various social benefits and services, and were guaranteed a retirement pension.

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic), observing that subparagraphs (b) and (c) were complementary, wondered if it would not be preferable to end subparagraph (b) with the words "urban areas", deleting what followed.

Miss ROMO ROMAN (Chile) said that she would like to have the text of the amendments in order to take a position on the draft resolution under consideration.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said that her delegation supported all the proposed amendments, with the exception of that of the Dominican Republic, which concerned an essential aspect of the draft resolution.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that her delegation wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution, which represented a fresh attempt to improve the status of rural women.

Mrs. HUVANANDANA (Thailand), whose delegation was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution, requested the Japanese delegation to withdraw its amendment relating to subparagraph (b). It seemed to overlap with the notion of exploitation.

The CHAIRMAN invited the sponsors to prepare a new text of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.664, taking into account the proposed amendments. She requested the representative of Hungary to introduce draft resolution E/CN.6/L.666 relating to activities of the specialized agencies to promote the advancement of women.

Mrs. BOKOR (Hungary) said that draft resolution E/CN.6/L.666 was based on the contribution which the International Labour Organisation was in a position to make to the attainment of the objectives of International Women's Year and on the importance of its activities designed to promote the progress of women, as was indicated in the preamble.

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(Mrs. Bokor, Hungary)

She read out the operative paragraphs.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway), supported by Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic); Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia), requested that the vote on the draft resolution be postponed to the following meeting to give delegations more time to study it.

The CHAIRMAN granted that request.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

618th meeting

Friday, 25 January 1974,
at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

PROGRAMME OF CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THEIR INTEGRATION IN DEVELOPMENT (agenda item 7) (continued):

(b) STATUS OF RURAL WOMEN, ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (concluded)
(E/CN.6/L.664)

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Costa Rica, Indonesia and Thailand and her own delegation, introduced draft resolution E/CN.6/L.664 and said that Colombia, the Dominican Republic and the United States had joined the sponsors of the draft.

In view of suggestions made by various delegations, some amendments had been made to the text.

In the sixth line of the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption, the word "continuing" had been replaced by the word "lifelong" and, at the suggestion of Japan, the words "and vocational training" had been inserted after the word "programmes" in the same line.

In subparagraph (b) of the second preambular paragraph, the words "of many countries" had been added after the words "in the rural areas", and the words "the majority of them are exploited" had been replaced by the words "many of them may be exploited".

In the second line of the operative paragraph, at the suggestion of Greece, the word "Continuing" had been replaced by the word "Lifelong", and in the fourth line the words "education and vocational training" had been added after the word "information". In addition, the word "and" had been replaced by a comma between the words "family life" and "citizenship education" and between the words "rural development" and "co-operatives".

Miss TYABJI (India) said that she fully supported the new draft resolution.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) thanked the sponsors of the draft for having accepted her delegation's suggestions. She endorsed the draft resolution and recommended that it should be adopted unanimously.

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Mrs. OBA (Japan) thanked the sponsors for having accepted her amendment and said that she supported the draft resolution.

The CHAIRMAN said that if she heard no objection, she would take it that the draft resolution had been adopted by consensus.

It was so decided.

(d) ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
(continued) (E/CN.6/L.666)

Miss TYABJI (India) endorsed draft resolution E/CN.6/L.666 and thanked its sponsors. She observed, however, that although paragraph 3 was acceptable to her delegation, account should be taken of the fact that countries with a high rate of unemployment had special problems in the matter.

Mrs. CURLING (Costa Rica) joined the sponsors of the draft resolution which, she felt, would give emphasis to International Women's Year.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) said that she would support the draft resolution were it not for the last two paragraphs. The Scandinavian countries had always, for various reasons, had difficulties in accepting the ILO documents referred to.

The wording of paragraph 3 was very vague, as was that of paragraph 4 in the reference to part-time work. Accordingly, her delegation proposed that the first phrase of paragraph 3, up to the word "need", should be retained and that the rest of the paragraph should be replaced by the following: "to revise its standards on the employment of women, in the light of scientific and technological knowledge and in the light of the changing roles of men and women in economic life and in the family".

She proposed, further, that paragraph 4 as a whole should be deleted.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) said that her country was a sponsor of the draft resolution and that the wording of paragraph 3 was deliberately vague. Reference was made to an "eventual revision" because the intention was not to recommend the revision of any agreements but that ILO should examine the possibility of revising them.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) said that she fully understood the wording of the paragraph but still believed that it was too vague. She therefore requested that consideration should be given to her proposal.

Mrs. BOKOR (Hungary) felt that the Norwegian amendment would weaken the text. She would like to learn the Commission's opinion on the subject before consulting the sponsors of the draft.

Miss TYABJI (India) said that she agreed in general with the Norwegian amendment but proposed a different wording. After the word "need", the following would be added to the end of the paragraph proposed by the Norwegian delegation: "taking fully into account different conditions in the different countries".

Similarly, the following would be added at the end of paragraph 4: "in the light of the changing roles of men and women in economic life and in the family".

Mrs. BOKOR (Hungary) said that she would be prepared to accept the Indian wording but would have to consult the other sponsors of the draft.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) said that the words "and in order to prevent discrimination against women" might be added after the Indian amendment. Indeed, long periods of maternity leave constituted one of the causes of discrimination against women.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) said that she endorsed draft resolution L.666 with the exception of paragraphs 3 and 4. She agreed almost fully with the Norwegian wording but would prefer to have the words "and study" inserted after the word "revise".

She proposed further that the words ", agricultural work" should be added after the words "at home" in paragraph 4.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said that she supported the draft resolution with the Indian delegation's amendments, which made it more realistic for their countries.

Mrs. BOKOR (Hungary) said that Costa Rica had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mrs. MAKA (Guinea) said that her delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution L.666, which reflected members' concern for guaranteeing better living conditions for women.

The operative part of the draft was based on opinions expressed during the Commission's debates. In the opinion of the sponsors, the ILO was the

(Mrs. Maka, Guinea)

organization directly connected with women's problems. However, since there were gaps in its provisions, it was necessary to strengthen the measures adopted and strive to ensure that International Women's Year was a resounding success.

On the other hand, the sponsors had not neglected to mention those technological advances which might constitute a danger for women. The draft therefore covered various aspects of the specialized agencies' activities to foster the advancement of women. She agreed with the Indian amendments and proposed that the draft resolution should be adopted.

Mrs. STABILE (Argentina) joined the sponsors of the draft resolution as amended by Norway. Her delegation attached particular importance to maternity protection and requested that the meaning of paragraph 3, which it regarded as fundamental, should not be weakened.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

Mrs. BOKOR (Hungary) said that the sponsors of the draft resolution were prepared to accept the great majority of the amendments.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) said that her delegation wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution with the amendments which had been read out.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) said that the sponsors obviously had not accepted her amendment, but she wished to press the point. She requested that a separate vote should be taken on her amendment; otherwise she would have to abstain from voting.

The CHAIRMAN explained that the representative of Norway was referring to her amendment modifying paragraph 3 and deleting paragraph 4.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) endorsed the proposal that a separate vote should be taken on the Norwegian amendments.

Mrs. BOKOR (Hungary) said that although the sense of the Norwegian amendments was constructive, the sponsors could not accept them. She believed that the sponsors of the draft were contributing to observance of the Year by informing the ILO of their ideas and aspirations.

The CHAIRMAN said that she would put the two Norwegian amendments to the vote separately.

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Paragraph 3

The amendment to paragraph 3 was rejected by 14 votes to 6, with 3 abstentions.

Paragraph 4

The amendment to paragraph 4 was rejected by 16 votes to 3, with 6 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN read out paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.666 with the amendments that had been accepted by the sponsors.

"2. Requests the International Labour Organisation to expand its efforts in this field and to accord particular attention to girls and women in the revision of instruments on vocational guidance and training and in its work under the World Employment Programme;

3. Draws the attention of the International Labour Organisation to the need to study the possibility of revising certain Conventions, for example the Maternity Protection Convention, with full regard to the differing conditions in different countries and to the need to transform certain Recommendations into Conventions, for example the Recommendation on the employment of women with family obligations, in order to prevent discrimination against women;

4. Recommends that in its future work, the ILO should devote attention to new problems of concern to women workers, including the impact of technological and scientific developments on the employment of women and problems relating to part-time work, in the light of the changing roles of men and women in economic life and in the family."

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway), speaking on a point of order, asked that a separate vote be taken on paragraphs 3 and 4, as amended.

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 3, as amended, was adopted by 21 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Paragraph 4

Paragraph 4, as amended, was adopted by 21 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution E/CN.6/L.666, as amended

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 23 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS CONCERNING A NEW INSTRUMENT OR INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (agenda item 4) (concluded) (E/CN.6/L.667)

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the sponsors and her delegation, introduced draft resolution E/CN.6/L.667 and announced that Liberia had joined the list of sponsors.

The sponsors had felt that certain amendments should be made to the original text. The last two preambular paragraphs had been deleted and the text of paragraph 1 had been altered to read: "Takes note of the work carried out by the Working Group;". A slight amendment had been made to paragraph 2 (a), the word "alternative" having been omitted from the last line. In paragraph 3, the words "the report of the Working Group" should be replaced by the words "the draft articles". A full stop should be inserted after the words "Against Women" in the third line of paragraph 4 and the rest of the paragraph should be deleted. The following text should be added as the new paragraph 5: "Requests the Secretary-General to send in good time the report which he was to prepare on the matter for consideration by the members of the Commission".

Mrs. BOKOR (Hungary) recalled that her delegation had submitted an amendment to document E/CN.6/574. The Working Group had not considered the matter and had deferred it to the plenary. She hoped that the amendment would be included in the text to be sent to Governments.

The CHAIRMAN said that if she heard no objection, she would take it that the amendment proposed by Hungary would be included in the document.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that the English version of the amendment introduced orally by the representative of Colombia was not quite clear. She referred to the working paper requested in paragraph 2 (b) which must be submitted under the "six weeks rule".

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) said that that had been the intention of the delegations sponsoring draft resolution E/CN.6/L.667 with regard to the request contained in paragraph 2 (a), since that subject would be included in the agenda of the Commission's twenty-sixth session.

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) warmly supported draft resolution E/CN.6/L.667, as amended. She emphasized that paragraph 4 was extremely important, since members must receive the documentation early enough to study it. It was discouraging for the members of the Working Group to know that delegations had not received the documentation until they were leaving their countries and that some delegations had not received it at all. The document referred to in paragraph 4 would be very long. It was, therefore, important that delegations should receive it in good time, so that they could study it in advance. Given the complexity of the agenda, she wondered whether the 1976 session should not be prolonged by one week in order to enable the Commission to complete its work, since at that session the Commission would have to formulate the draft convention in final form.

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) warmly supported the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom concerning the submission of documentation in good time. She endorsed draft resolution E/CN.6/L.667, which reflected the discussions held in the Commission. She agreed that the draft convention should be considered as a priority item at the twenty-sixth session.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) suggested that the following wording would avoid misunderstandings in paragraph 5 of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.667, as amended: "Requests the Secretary-General to send in good time to the members of the Commission on the Status of Women for their consideration the working paper referred to in paragraph 2 (b)".

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) thanked the Deputy Director for her suggestion, which clarified the intentions of the sponsors of the draft resolution.

The CHAIRMAN asked the representative of the United Kingdom to submit in the form of a draft resolution her proposal that the twenty-sixth session of the Commission should be extended by a further week.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the preparation of the draft convention was an important and complex task which would take time, but achievements at the current session of the Working Group and the Commission augured well for the final result. It was clear that much remained to be done, and she therefore felt that the agenda for the twenty-sixth session should be as short as possible, so as to facilitate a detailed study of the draft. She did

(Mrs. Nikolaeva, USSR)

not think it appropriate to request an extension of the session by a further week, since that would involve financial implications and the Organization was at present following a policy of avoiding further expenditures.

The CHAIRMAN put draft resolution E/CN.6/L.667, as amended by the sponsors, to the vote.

Draft resolution E/CN.6/L.667, as amended, was adopted by 27 votes to none.

STUDY ON THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND FAMILY PLANNING
(agenda item 6) (continued) (E/CN.6/L.668)

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic), introducing draft resolution E/CN.6/L.668, said that it contained the views expressed by the various delegations during discussion of the item on the interrelationship of the status of women and family planning, as well as the points raised by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in her capacity as Special Rapporteur, in the documentation submitted by the Secretary-General. Referring to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.668 in detail, she said that the sponsors had decided to change the word "parents", in the second line of paragraph 2 (a) and the first line of paragraph 2 (b), to the word "individuals". Furthermore, they had decided to add the following phrase to the end of paragraph 2 (b): "and for their total integration in social and economic development at all levels". At the end of paragraph 3, the phrase "in order to obtain equal representation of men and women" had been added; paragraph 3 (a) should be amended to read "... the access of women to education, appropriate maternity and infant health services, vocational training ...". The sponsors had agreed to replace the word "equal" in the first line of paragraph 5 with the word "appropriate". She was certain that the sponsors had taken the concern of the members of the Commission into account in draft resolution E/CN.6/L.668.

Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) informed the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.668 that, in the second preambular paragraph, the date of General Assembly resolution 2683 (XXV) had erroneously been given as 8 January 1971. The date given should be 11 December 1970.

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Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America), referring to the amendment to paragraph 5 introduced by the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.668, said that the word "equal" was more emphatic than the word "appropriate" and would better serve the Commission's purposes.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked that the fourth preambular paragraph should be deleted from draft resolution E/CN.6/L.668, since it bore no relation to reality, at least in her own country. It was the population that created material values, and it was impossible not to welcome new members of the population. She did not understand why the word "parents" should be replaced by the word "individuals" in paragraph 2 and said that she would prefer the original version of that paragraph. She proposed that paragraph 2 (b) should be amended to read "... exercise this right promote the status of women, irrespective of any demographic considerations". She proposed that paragraph 2 (c) should be deleted. The planning of development should take into account the needs of the population and not vice versa. The words "as a basic document" should be deleted from paragraph 4 for reasons of courtesy. The Commission on the Status of Women could not give instructions to the Population Division, which was not subordinate to it. Lastly, the word "equal" in the first line of paragraph 5 should be replaced by the word "adequate".

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) congratulated the sponsors of the draft resolution. She said that paragraph 2 (c) was open to many interpretations. She suggested that the text following the word "programmes", should be replaced with the words "can succeed only in conjunction with other measures which will also improve the status of women".

In paragraph 3 (b), the words "infant and child" should be replaced with the words "maternal, infant and child".

In paragraph 4, the word "basic" might be replaced with the word "background"; it would be presumptuous to suggest that the report should be distributed as a basic document of the Conference.

Lastly, she supported the United States suggestion that the word "equal" should be retained in paragraph 5.

Mrs. HUVUNANDANA (Thailand) recommended the Commission to adopt draft resolution E/CN.6/L.668, and announced that her delegation wished to become a sponsor.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said that she would support the draft resolution, as amended, but asked whether it would not be better to begin paragraph 2, as amended by the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, with the word "Affirming" instead of "Affirms" and to include it as the final preambular paragraph.

She suggested that in paragraph 3, the words "to use the report of the Special Rapporteur as a guideline" should be inserted after the words "Member States" in the first line, the rest of the paragraph remaining unchanged.

She agreed with the United Kingdom that paragraph 4 should refer to a "background document" rather than a "basic document".

She suggested that paragraph 5 should contain instead of the words "provide appropriate representation for women", the words "include a broad representation of qualified women". The words "promote and sponsor" in paragraph 6 should be replaced with the word "support".

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) felt that one of the most important contributions the Commission could make would be to achieve equal representation for women throughout the United Nations system, at international conferences, and elsewhere and that point should be made vigorously and firmly.

Mrs. HOOGSTOEL-FABRI (Belgium) supported the Indonesian proposal to replace the words "promote and sponsor" with the word "support" in paragraph 6. She proposed that the word used in paragraph 5 should be not "appropriate" but "equitable".

Miss TYABJI (India) said that her country had always supported family planning, which was a matter of particular interest to it; she could not fully agree with the comments of the representative of the Soviet Union. She proposed a new text for the fourth preambular paragraph, reading as follows: "Recognizing also that for many countries the current and continuous rapid population growth has created serious problems both for the advancement of women and for development,". She supported the United Kingdom proposal on paragraph 2 (c); at the same time, she said that many countries would find it difficult to solve their problems in the

(Miss Tyabji, India)

way suggested in paragraph 3 (b). They should be left free to solve those problems according to their abilities and in whatever way they found most suitable. She agreed that paragraph 4 should refer to a "background document". She supported the Indonesian proposal on paragraph 5 and said that the insistence of the United States on retaining the word "equal" might cause problems for some of the developing countries. Moreover, that kind of equality could prove disastrous, since experience indicated that in countries which tried to apply it, it tended to divide the population into separate compartments.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) supported the amendment proposed by the representative of the Soviet Union to retain the word "parents" in paragraph 2 (b). She also supported the United Kingdom amendments to paragraphs 2 (c), 3 (b) and 4. With regard to paragraph 5, her delegation had no difficulty with the word "equal", which could have both quantitative and qualitative connotations. She announced that her delegation wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) said that she recognized the difficulties inherent in drafting such a comprehensive resolution on such a broad and complex subject. The draft resolution caused her delegation some difficulties, but since it was an important document, her delegation would support it if the words "irrespective of any demographic considerations" were deleted from paragraph 2 (b). The change would not give rise to controversy and would not alter the substance of the resolution, but the Commission should not make suggestions to countries in matters of demographic policy.

She supported the amendment proposed by India, the United Kingdom proposal on paragraph 3 (b) and the proposal by the United States to retain the word "equal" in paragraph 5.

Mr. VALTASAARIN (Finland) said that, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, he was grateful for the amendments proposed. He would, however, have to consult the other sponsors before a decision on those amendments could be taken, and he believed that Monday morning would be the best time to do so.

He pointed out a technical consideration in connexion with paragraph 4. The paragraph requested the Secretary-General to distribute to Member States the

(Mr. Valtasaarin, Finland)

report of the Special Rapporteur on the third preparatory meeting to be held in early March. The Economic and Social Council was due to meet in April. The Commission could take a decision and include it in its report.

In connexion with paragraph 2 (b), he pointed out that everyone was an "individual" before being a parent and that individuals must begin family planning before they became parents.

Mrs. SIPIILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that the topic of family planning had appeared in United Nations documents since 1966. The documents sometimes spoke of "parents", sometimes of "couples" and sometimes of "individuals". Some people felt that the expression "future parents" might be used instead of "parents".

She had pointed out to the Commission in connexion with demographic policies that every country had the right to decide its own policy; what was meant in paragraph 2 (b) was that demographic policies should be adopted irrespective of whether a country was overpopulated or underpopulated.

The expression "a basic document" in paragraph 4 had been intended to indicate a background document. She agreed with the representative of Finland that the document for the World Population Conference would have to be submitted first to the Population Commission, but it was sufficient for the report to mention the wish that it should be submitted.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed with the fourth preambular paragraph proposed by India but categorically opposed the inclusion of the word "guideline" in paragraph 3 as proposed by Indonesia. She had the greatest respect for the work of the Rapporteur, but the adoption of a demographic policy for a country was a matter for that country alone to decide.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) proposed that the words "in out-of-school" should be deleted from paragraph 3 (c) and that the words "for both in-school and out-of-school youth" should be inserted after the word "levels".

Mrs. DAES (Greece) said that she was grateful for the explanation given but insisted on the deletion of the words "irrespective of any demographic policy" from paragraph 2 (b). She asked the sponsors to reconsider their position and

(Mrs. Daes, Greece)

accept her proposal; otherwise she would request a separate vote on those words.

Mrs. SIPILÄ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) repeated that the concept was not a new one and that it had already been approved by the General Assembly in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development.

Mr. VALTASAARIN (Finland) said that his delegation was open to any suggestions. He asked that a vote should not be taken until necessary.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the sponsors of the draft resolution should meet and submit a revised text at the following meeting.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) said that no one need fear the word "equal", which gave more force to the idea contained in paragraph 5.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.

619th meeting

Monday, 28 January 1974,
at 11.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

PROGRAMME OF CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THEIR INTEGRATION IN DEVELOPMENT (agenda item 7) (continued):

- (d) Activities of the specialized agencies to promote the advancement of women: consideration of a draft resolution (concluded) (E/CN.6/L.671)

Miss CHATON (France) introduced draft resolution E/CN.6/L.671 on behalf of the sponsors. In preparing the text, the sponsors had taken account of the recommendations contained in the reports submitted to the Commission by UNESCO in the study on the equality of access of girls and women to education in the context of rural development (E/CN.6/566/Rev.1) and on the activities of UNESCO of special interest to women (E/CN.6/580). In view of the importance of education in efforts to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development, they had considered it necessary to submit to the Economic and Social Council the recommendations in paragraphs 1 and 2. She read out those paragraphs and drew attention to the fact that in paragraph 2 the words "International Education Year" should be replaced by the words "International Women's Year".

Miss TYABJI (India) congratulated the sponsors on having prepared a very important resolution. Her delegation, which would like to co-sponsor the draft, suggested that the word "pre-school" should be inserted before the word "primary" in paragraph 1 (a).

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) requested that her delegation be added to the list of sponsors. Implementation of the provisions of the draft resolution would greatly benefit the peoples of the developing countries.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said that her delegation wished to congratulate the sponsors of the draft resolution. The developing countries, in particular, attached great importance to education, which was the key to the attainment of equality between men and women in all sectors of life. Liberia would be proud to co-sponsor the draft resolution.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) welcomed the draft resolution and requested that her delegation be added to the list of sponsors.

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Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that her delegation would be very pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution, the provisions of which went to the heart of the problem of increasing women's participation in the important areas specified in the text.

Mrs. MAKA (Guinea) congratulated the sponsors on their work and requested that Guinea be added to the list of sponsors.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) proposed that the words "and ILO" be added after "UNESCO" in the introductory phrase of paragraph 1.

Miss CHATON (France) said that she was not sure whether UNESCO and ILO conducted joint projects in all the areas specified in paragraph 1. ILO was mentioned in subparagraph (c) because there had been a joint ILO/UNESCO conference on equal educational opportunities for girls and women. She suggested, therefore, that it might be more prudent to leave the phrase as drafted.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) withdrew her proposal and requested that Japan be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested an explanation of the meaning of paragraph 2 of the draft.

Miss CHATON (France) explained that what was involved was the allocation of budgetary resources within the UNESCO budget; there would be no modification of the general plan of the budget. A study made on the situation of women in the United Nations and specialized agencies had shown that in UNESCO, and the other agencies, the number of women, particularly in senior posts, was still very small. The sponsors were therefore requesting that as large a share as possible of UNESCO's budget resources be used to further the co-ordinated efforts of the Organization's various departments for the benefit of the women staff.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation could support the draft resolution. She suggested, however, that the words "in the allocation of its budgetary resources" be inserted between the words "devote" and "as" in paragraph 2.

Mrs. HUVANANDANA (Thailand) proposed that the words "and teacher training" be added after the word "education" at the end of paragraph 1 (a).

Miss CHATON (France) said that the sponsors could accept the amendments proposed by the delegations of India, the Soviet Union and Thailand.

The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any objection, she assumed that the Commission wished to adopt draft resolution E/CN.6/L.671, as amended, by consensus.

It was so decided.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAMME OF CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION (continued)
(E/CN.6/L.670)

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) introduced draft resolution E/CN.6/L.670, the various paragraphs of which were self-explanatory. It was unthinkable that in organizations such as the United Nations and the specialized agencies the situation with respect to the appointment of women to suitable positions, particularly senior and policy-making positions, should remain unsatisfactory.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) asked why the sponsors of the draft resolution had confined themselves to the question of the advancement of women within the organizations of the United Nations system. Surely the Commission should also urge Governments to ensure that as many women as possible participated in the preparation of national plans.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), supported by Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt), proposed that consideration of the draft resolution be deferred until the following day. The text had only just been distributed and delegations had not had time to study it properly.

It was so decided.

STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said she was glad to see that the integration of women in the development effort had started in the United Nations Secretariat with the transfer of the Section on the Status of Women from the Division of Human Rights to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

In response to a request from the representative of Indonesia, she had prepared copies of the document setting out the terms of reference of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and of a letter from the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs circulated at the time when the Centre had been set up.

(Mrs. Sipila)

Since the Commission was one of the intergovernmental organs served by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, she felt that it was appropriate that the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs should be acquainted with the work of the Commission and that the Commission should know something of the Under-Secretary-General's view.

Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the Commission on the Status of Women had originally been included within the terms of reference of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. At that time, its activities had been integrated with other development activities. Although there had subsequently been a separation, experience had shown that reintegration would be useful. Concepts of economic and social development had changed rapidly in recent years and there was a growing realization of the need to give greater prominence to human resources as the foundation of any economic and social development effort. In such a context, the factors affecting women in the developing countries could not be ignored. The same could be said for the so-called developed countries, where there was still considerable room for development. Participation in initiating and carrying through social policies was closely linked to the family structure, where women played the predominant role. Other bodies of the United Nations family were also showing a growing interest in the role of women in development.

The key to economic progress was social organization. Consequently, the role of women and the need to develop that role must be taken into account when viewing women both as the agents of production and development and as the beneficiaries. It was important to consider, as the time for the World Population Conference approached, whether sufficient attention was being given to the role of women. Failure to take that factor into account was the source of many obstacles. Moreover, the approach had often been too limited, and the importance of the population explosion had been realized too late. The adjustment to certain aspects of the problem - the role of women in the social transformations that would have to take place and the need to control demographic pressure in the future - was not yet complete. It was partly in order to make that adjustment that the unified approach to development had been adopted. The field was one in which no recipes for instant success could be offered but, with the help of bodies like the Commission, progress could be more rapid than in the past.

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(Mr. de Seynes)

The forthcoming International Women's Year was of vital importance to the United Nations because it would coincide with the mid-term review and appraisal of the Second Development Decade. In connexion with the possible revision of the Strategy, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had pointed out that there had been only a passing reference in the Strategy to the role of women. He hoped that the Commission would help to pave the way for a revision of the Strategy. 1975 was also the year in which a special session of the General Assembly would be held to deal with development questions. An attempt would be made at that time to make an over-all assessment of the existing institutional system, which admittedly did not do justice to the role of women. The current session of the Commission was an important preparatory step for the events of 1975.

He wished the Commission every success in its work.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY AND ARMED CONFLICT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SELF-DETERMINATION, NATIONAL LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE (agenda item 8) (E/CN.6/586, E/CN.6/NGO/255)

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) introduced the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/586), which had been prepared in pursuance of the requests contained in paragraphs 6 and 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1687 (LII).

Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report enumerated the sources of information used in its preparation. A brief outline of the nature of the report was given in paragraphs 6 and 7.

Chapter I.A was very important and should be read in conjunction with the annex to the document, which reproduced the provisions with respect to the protection of women and children contained in the draft additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and commentaries on those Protocols by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The draft additional Protocols were to be revised and adopted at the forthcoming Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law. The first additional draft Protocol covered the protection of victims of international armed conflicts; the second additional draft Protocol covered the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts. She drew the attention of the Commission to

(Mrs. Bruce)

paragraphs 15 and 16 of the report, which indicated the changes that had been made in the draft Protocols since the Commission's previous session.

Chapter II dealt with measures taken to develop ways and means of rendering all possible humanitarian support to the women and children referred to in Economic and Social Council resolution 1687 (LII) and was essentially an analysis of information received. Chapter III was devoted to information received on the condition of women and children in particular situations of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence. Information had been received from three Governments only, and the report had also used information received from United Nations bodies or available in official United Nations reports and other documents as well as from a number of international non-governmental organizations. In compiling the report, the Secretariat had concluded that some action was needed to give women and children better protection in situations of emergency and armed conflict, and that public opinion and all concerned needed to be fully aware of the special hardships suffered by women and children in such situations. Chapter IV contained a number of specific suggestions for the consideration of the Commission.

Mrs. ANDREI (Romania) said that her country's position on the item under consideration should be viewed in the light of its work for the maintenance and strengthening of peace, the elimination of force in international relations and the encouragement of independence and self-determination for peoples under colonial or other foreign domination. In order to end the widespread colonialism and racism in southern Africa, it gave every support and assistance to the national liberation movements and had recognized the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

Her delegation supported the Commission's efforts to ensure effective protection for women and children in situations of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, and felt that it was essential to guarantee special protection of their rights and human dignity. The excellent report in document E/CN.6/586 revealed the concern of many Governments and international organizations that existing rules of international humanitarian law should be developed and strengthened. It was also clear from the report, and in particular from paragraphs 108 to 119, that those rules were being

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(Mrs. Andrei, Romania)

flouted in southern Africa. Thus, the need to develop and implement the relevant rules had been amply documented and, in that context, a tribute should be paid to the work of ICRC in connexion with the draft Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. Her delegation noted with satisfaction that, in reviewing those drafts, ICRC had taken account of the many proposals concerning the protection of women and children in armed conflicts submitted to the second session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts. It hoped that the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law, to be held in Geneva from 20 February to 29 March 1974, would adopt rules ensuring the maximum protection for women and children. The Commission should also contribute to the efforts to ensure protection for women and children in emergency and armed conflict, in the struggle for self-determination and independence, and to secure the strict implementation of obligations assumed by States under the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other rules of humanitarian law embodied in international instruments. Her delegation was ready to support any action by the Commission to that end.

The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the All African Women's Conference had asked to address the Commission on the item under discussion. If she heard no objection, she would take it that the Commission wished to invite the representative of the All African Women's Conference to make a statement.

It was so agreed.

Mrs. DIALLO (All African Women's Conference) said that her organization, which grouped the women's organizations of African liberation movements, was deeply concerned about the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence. In its view, that protection could be fully guaranteed only through the advent of national independence and the elimination of racial discrimination, colonialism and apartheid. It wished to stress the need for effective action to implement the rules ensuring the protection of women and children, who were always the first victims in situations of emergency and armed conflict.

(Mrs. Diallo, AAWC)

Accordingly, her organization approved of the suggestions made by a number of delegations, and by the specialized agencies. It considered that new measures were needed as a matter of urgency until a convention could be prepared, and that it would be desirable for the Commission to make a start on preparing a declaration. It strongly supported the draft submitted by the Women's International Democratic Federation and hoped that it would be given due consideration. .

Her organization also supported paragraph 124 of document E/CN.6/586 concerning a draft declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict for adoption and proclamation by the General Assembly. At a more practical level, the secretariat of the All African Women's Conference planned an extensive campaign of assistance for the liberation movements of Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Angola, and had organized food and medical supplies for the women and children in those regions. It was launching an information campaign to denounce Portugal for its use of napalm against the civilian population and the massacre of women and children. Her delegation was convinced that the Commission could speed up the elaboration of suitable instruments to ensure the protection of innocent women and children.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

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620th meeting

Monday, 28 January 1974,
at 3.40 p.m.Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY AND ARMED CONFLICT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SELF-DETERMINATION, NATIONAL LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE (agenda item 8) (continued) (E/CN.6/586; E/CN.6/NGO/255)

Mrs. LI Su-wen (China) said that the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence was a question of great importance because it concerned the lives and security of millions of women and children.

Although no new world war had broken out since 1945, local armed conflicts caused by the imperialist, colonialist and racist policy of aggression had never ceased. During those wars of aggression and armed conflicts, imperialists, colonialists, racists and Zionists had persecuted and slaughtered defenceless women and children. In Indo-China, in Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos, imperialists had carried out countless massacres and bombings. In the Middle East, the Israeli Zionists, with the support of imperialism, had unleashed four wars of aggression within 25 years, occupying large tracts of Arab territory and driving Palestinians and other Arab peoples from their homeland where they had lived for generations. As a result, innumerable women and children had been forced to leave their native lands homeless and destitute. In Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Azania, Namibia and Zimbabwe, where the people were fighting for self-determination and national liberation, large numbers of African women and children were persecuted and sometimes even massacred by the colonialist troops and were subjected to the abuses of apartheid and discrimination and to persecution and ill-treatment. The imperialists, colonialists and racists did not comply with the provisions of international conventions relating to the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict. Accordingly, it was necessary actively to mobilize world public opinion and urge women of various countries to unite and unanimously condemn the crimes committed by the imperialists, colonialists and racists in violation of international conventions. Women must stand together with the people of their own countries and with all progressive peoples to prevent those acts of aggression and punish the criminals so as to compel them to abide by international conventions. Only in that way could the interests of women and children be safeguarded.

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(Mrs. Li Su-wen, China)

The Chinese women deeply sympathized with women and children living under the terror of imperialism, colonialism and racism and strongly condemned all those who perpetrated those crimes of aggression. The People's Republic of China had ratified the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Geneva Protocol of 1925. It had consistently advocated the protection of civilian persons, including women and children, in armed conflict and had always denounced slaughter and persecution.

While discussing the measures to be adopted to protect women and children in armed conflict, the Commission should seek out the causes of contemporary armed conflicts in order to eliminate the threat to the lives and security of women and children and to protect their basic rights and interests. The contradictions in the world were becoming accentuated, particularly the contradiction between imperialism and colonialism, on the one hand, and the oppressed nations and peoples on the other hand, and the contradictions between the imperialist countries themselves, especially the two super-Powers. Imperialism, colonialism, racism, Zionism and particularly hegemonism had been responsible for incessant aggression against the peoples of various countries, particularly those of the third world, and for other forms of domination, including interference in internal affairs. Imperialism was the root cause of contemporary armed conflicts. The rivalry between the two super-Powers and the resulting arms race constituted a grave menace to the peace and security of the people of the whole world. Only by opposing imperialist wars of aggression and the super-Powers' arms build-up would it be possible to ensure the protection of women and children.

In order to hide the expansion of their arsenals, their war preparations and their rivalry for nuclear superiority, the two nuclear super-Powers were trying their best to create a false impression of détente. While hawking disarmament, they were expanding their arsenals daily. One could not help asking why, if they really wanted disarmament and the relaxation of tension, they did not show their good faith, for instance, by withdrawing their large numbers of troops from abroad, dismantling their military bases on the soil of other countries and undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, particularly against countries without nuclear weapons and nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Confronted with such a situation, her delegation believed that women should sharpen their vigilance and, together with all people, relentlessly expose the super-Powers' sham disarmament and real arms build-up, sham détente and real war

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(Mrs. Li Su-wen, China)

preparations and sham assistance and real control; they should resolutely oppose the super-Powers' acts of aggression, expansion, occupation and control of other countries. Only thus would it be possible to protect the fundamental interests of women and children and create the conditions essential for their security.

In conclusion, her delegation held that it was necessary to draw a strict distinction between just wars and unjust wars when speaking of the protection of women and children in armed conflict. It was entirely just for the peoples and nations of Indo-China, the Middle East and Africa and other oppressed nations and peoples to take up arms in self-defence against the aggression unleashed by imperialism, colonialism, hegemonism, racism and Zionism. The Chinese people had consistently and resolutely supported the just struggles waged by oppressed nations and peoples and were deeply convinced that a just cause enjoyed abundant support while an unjust cause found little support. With the support of the people of the whole world, the just struggles of the people and women of various countries against aggression and for national independence and liberation were bound to be victorious, no matter what difficulties they might encounter. Only their complete victory could guarantee the lives and security of the women and children in the regions concerned.

Mrs. MARINKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) pointed out that her delegation had been among those which had asked that the question of the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence should be placed on the agenda of the Commission's twenty-fifth session.

Under resolution 1687 (LII) of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General was requested to consider, in the light of the results of the work done in that respect within the framework of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the desirability of drafting a declaration on the subject. Her delegation for its part was resolutely in favour of drafting such a declaration. The question of the protection of women and children continued to be a matter of keen concern in many regions. In Indo-China the civilian population, particularly women and children, had suffered considerably from bombings, massacres and destruction that had left them homeless and without means of existence as a result

(Mrs. Marinkevich, Byelorussian SSR)

inter alia of the defoliation campaigns or damage to the irrigation systems. In Cambodia the same distressing situation continued to exist and all who were in camps and prisons were ill-treated. In Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and in the territories where the people were fighting for national liberation and independence, the victims of heinous crimes were too numerous to count. Recently, barbaric acts had been committed by the Portuguese in violation of the most elementary humanitarian provisions of the Geneva Conventions. In the villages of those territories women and children were frequently the victims of bloody reprisals. Chapter III of document E/CN.6/586 contained numerous examples of torture, ill-treatment, etc. inflicted on women and children in particular.

Moreover, Israel's aggressive policy and the conflicts it had triggered had brought great suffering to the civilian Arab population, mainly to the women and children, and had left many victims. The occupation of territories had forced a large number of women and children to seek refuge elsewhere in conditions of hardship.

In Chile the military junta had wiped out democracy and had introduced a reign of terror. Thousands of people were locked up in the prisons of Santiago and as a result of the unemployment and the rise in prices many were in a very difficult situation.

The adoption of supplementary measures for the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict, bearing in mind the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two draft texts of an additional protocol, was imperative and her delegation urged that a declaration should be drafted. The Commission could take as its starting point the draft Declaration submitted by the Women's International Democratic Federation in document E/CN.6/NGO/255.

Mrs. ROMO ROMAN (Chile) asked to exercise her right of reply at the next meeting.

EXPLOITATION OF LABOUR THROUGH ILLICIT AND CLANDESTINE TRAFFICKING (agenda item 9)
(E/CN.6/582)

The CHAIRMAN asked the Deputy Director to introduce the note by the Secretary-General relating to the exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking.

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Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) stated that the note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/582) was a background paper for the Commission and that the latter was considering the question in accordance with resolution 1789 (LIV) of the Economic and Social Council. The Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Commission on Human Rights had been asked to consider the question. The discussion that had taken place in the Commission on Human Rights had focused on two aspects, namely illicit and clandestine trafficking in foreign labour and the discriminatory treatment of foreign and migrant workers in receiving countries, questions which had also been considered by the International Labour Organisation.

She drew the Commission's attention particularly to the plight of young girls and women who were lured into lives of prostitution by false promises of overseas jobs. The Commission should also give its attention to the work of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities described in paragraphs 17 to 24 of the note by the Secretary-General, particularly in paragraph 21. The Sub-Commission had entrusted one of its members with the task of preparing, in co-operation with the Secretariat, a study on the question of the exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking and submitting it to the Sub-Commission at its twenty-seventh session.

The note by the Secretary-General suggested that the United Nations agencies and bodies working in that field should be requested to pay particular attention to the question and to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objection, she would give the floor to the representative of the International Alliance of Women under rule 76 of the Commission's rules of procedure.

Mrs. LIPKOWSKI (International Alliance of Women) said that the organization which she represented was fighting for the dignity and respect of women and the elimination of all forms of slavery. Prostitution was a form of slavery and a social scourge which had its origin in unfortunate personal, social or economic situations. Some female occupations were particularly apt to draw

(Mrs. Lipkowski)

women into the vicious cycle of the white slave trade, and exemplary punishment should be meted out against those who engaged in that trade. Traffic in women was not deterred by national or continental frontiers; on the pretext of recruiting labour or organizing artistic tours, transfers were made by all means of transport. That explained the pressing need for highly organized national action in all countries and for strong international co-ordination among effective associations. At its congress in New Delhi, the International Alliance of Women had proposed that international action in the spirit of the Convention adopted on 2 December 1949 should be initiated and an international jurisdiction established to supervise the implementation of the Convention.

In the short term a list must be made of the countries that had not acceded to the Convention of 2 December 1949 in order to make it possible to take various steps to check the routes used in the white slave and drug traffic, and keep a closer watch on frontiers, ports, airports and pleasure craft. The last INTERPOL Congress had strongly emphasized the importance of drugs and their close relationship with the white slave trade and world criminality in connexion with the international traffic in women.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (agenda item 3) (continued) (E/CN.6/576)

Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that she would be unable to attend the Commission's next meetings but wished to point out the particular importance of International Women's Year. The recommendations which the Commission would adopt in that connexion were eagerly awaited and would have a considerable influence on the future of the entire world.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

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621st meeting

Tuesday, 29 January 1974,
at 11.25 a.m.Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN announced that two meetings would be held the following day, Wednesday, and one morning meeting on Thursday, at the end of which the Commission would have completed its work on all items on the agenda. No meetings would be held on Thursday afternoon or on Friday morning, so that the Secretariat would be able to complete the preparation of the Commission's report. On Friday afternoon, at the last meeting of the session, the Commission would consider the report. The meeting might last until 8.30 p.m.

PROGRAMME OF CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THEIR INTEGRATION IN DEVELOPMENT (agenda item 7) (continued):(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAMME OF CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION (concluded)
(E/CN.6/L.665/Rev.1, E/CN.6/L.670)

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) noted that she had introduced draft resolution E/CN.6/L.670 at the previous morning's meeting, but that consideration of the draft resolution had been deferred until the present meeting at the request of the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway), outlining the reasons for which the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.670) had been drawn up, recalled that, pursuant to previous resolutions, Mrs. Sipila had been appointed to her present responsible post. However, that was not enough, and the purpose of the draft resolution was to ensure that the various bodies involved did not lose sight of those previous resolutions, but bore in mind the need to appoint women, especially to the most senior posts. While that idea had already appeared in other resolutions of a general nature, she felt that it was essential to adopt a resolution laying particular stress on the importance of the matter.

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) expressed appreciation to the delegations which had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution. She proposed that the first preambular paragraph should be amended so that it would begin "Recalling Article 8 of the United Nations Charter and" - so that the Organization

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(Mrs. Marte de Barrios,
Dominican Republic)

would not place any restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs.

Mrs. CURLING (Costa Rica) said that she wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution. In paragraph 1, the words "an adequate balance" should be replaced by "an equitable balance".

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) said that she also wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution. She suggested that a new paragraph 6 should be added, which would read as follows: "Requests further that the Secretary-General report on the status of women employed in the Secretariat at the General Service level."

Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation supported the proposal for an increase in the number of women employed in the United Nations and in the specialized agencies in which women were not adequately represented. At the same time, she wished to point out that draft resolution E/CN.6/L.670 made no reference to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, a principle which should be strictly respected. Nor was any mention made of the qualifications required, or the criterion of suitability for a post. It was not enough to state that men and women should be equally represented: it should be specified that equal representation must be ensured at all levels. The draft resolution did not take account of all the provisions of the Charter, or of the difficulties which Asian and African countries might encounter. Moreover, it was not easy for the socialist countries to place their nationals in posts within the United Nations - their quotas were not filled - and matters were even more difficult when those countries' candidates for such posts were women. The draft resolution primarily benefited the Western countries, and particularly those in which the headquarters of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies were located. She reserved the right to return to the matter at a later stage.

Mrs. CADIEUX (Canada) congratulated the delegations of Norway and the Dominican Republic on the excellent draft they had submitted, and said that she wished to become a sponsor. She felt that the proposal made by the Soviet Union was a valid one, but it would be difficult to include that idea in a draft resolution on item 7.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) announced that her delegation wished to become a sponsor of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.670. At the same time, she wished to make a

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(Mrs. Noor, Indonesia)

few suggestions which she felt would strengthen the basic concepts of the draft. She proposed that, after the first preambular paragraph, a new preambular paragraph should be added, which would read:

"Noting with appreciation that where already women have been appointed to responsible positions in the United Nations system it has definitely proved to have had a positive effect on a more effective implementation of the aims and programmes of the United Nations especially those relevant to the status of women,".

She also proposed that, at the end of paragraph 1, a comma should be added, followed by the words: "at all levels in the United Nations system, international, regional as well as national;". Although that idea was implicit in the paragraph, she felt that it should be given special stress. In paragraph 2, the words "and positive" should be added after the word "flexible".

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that she hoped that the Commission would decide to approve the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.670), which was a reflection of the Commission's guiding role in supporting women and their aspirations.

Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed a number of oral amendments to the draft resolution. In the fourth line of paragraph 1, following the words "be achieved", the words "with strict adherence to the principle of equitable geographical distribution," should be added. In paragraph 3, the words "establish an advisory committee within their respective secretariats to assist in the formulation of", which would have financial implications, should be deleted and replaced by "hold consultations with a view to formulating". Finally, the following phrase should be added at the end of paragraph 5: "bearing in mind the principle of equitable geographical distribution within the United Nations system".

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) observed that the resolution dealt with a matter of great concern to the Commission. Twenty-eight years after its establishment, the time had come for the United Nations to review its recruitment and promotion policies and adopt measures to ensure an equitable balance between the number of men and women in senior and policy-making positions. The appointment of a female Assistant Secretary-General had represented a significant first step which other United Nations bodies might wish to emulate. In order to ensure the employment of more qualified women in senior and other professional positions in the secretariats

(Mrs. Stevenson, Liberia)

of the United Nations system, it was essential for Governments to submit the candidatures of qualified women for all positions, particularly at the policy-making level. Her delegation fully endorsed the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.670) and would vote in favour of it.

Miss TYABJI (India) warmly supported draft resolution E/CN.6/L.670 and congratulated the sponsors.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) said that most of the amendments constituted improvements to the text and could be accepted without difficulty. Referring to the amendments submitted by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, she said that it had not been the intention of the sponsors of the document to change the equitable geographical distribution or the standards by which the Secretariat was guided in hiring staff, but simply to express dissatisfaction at the role of women within the United Nations system. If the representative of the Soviet Union felt it necessary to insist on that amendment, there would be no difficulty in adopting it, since it did not affect the thrust of the resolution. However, with regard to the amendment to paragraph 3, she said that she was not certain that the paragraph in question had financial implications. Consultations between heads of agencies would probably not produce results as meaningful as those which might be achieved through the establishment of an advisory committee. The request made in that paragraph was that the advisory committee should be set up within the Secretariat; if that was done, the distribution would be more democratic. She was not certain that paragraph 3 had financial implications.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that she understood that the sponsors of the draft resolution had intended that the advisory committee should be composed of officials already working within the United Nations system, so that there would be no financial implications.

Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, although she felt that the explanation given by Mrs. Bruce was satisfactory as far as financial implications were concerned, the situation should be made clear to future readers of the draft resolution, so as to leave no room for doubt. The words "within existing organs or committees" might be used and, if that suggestion was accepted, she would withdraw her amendment.

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Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) said that she shared the view of the representative of Norway with regard to the proposed amendments to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.670, and pointed out to the representative of the Soviet Union that, although organs and committees concerned with the matters in question existed within the Secretariat, their performance had not been outstanding, as shown by the reports concerning the imbalance within the Secretariat in the hiring of men and women. Furthermore, she felt that the amendment relating to equitable geographical distribution presented no major problems.

The CHAIRMAN said that she took it that the amendments of the Philippines and Indonesia were accepted, and suggested that the sponsors should meet with the representative of the Soviet Union after the meeting, in order to reach an agreement on paragraph 3.

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) felt that the adoption of the USSR amendment presented no difficulty, and asked that draft resolution E/CN.6/L.670 be put to the vote.

Mrs. STABILE (Argentina) agreed with the representative of the Dominican Republic that the suggestions made had enriched the draft and that there was no question of contradictions. Although the amendment concerning strict adherence to equitable geographical distribution was reiterative, it strengthened the draft. She agreed that the draft should be put to a vote.

Mrs. HOOGSTOEL-FABRI (Belgium) congratulated the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.670 and said that her delegation wished to be added to the list of sponsors.

Miss TYABJI (India) proposed that, in order to overcome the difficulties of the representative of the Soviet Union with regard to paragraph 3, the words "without any financial implications" might be inserted between the words "to establish" and "an advisory committee".

Following an exchange of views, in which Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), Miss TYABJI (India) and Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) took part, the amendment submitted by the representative of India was adopted.

Mrs. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) said that her delegation wished to be added to the list of sponsors, and suggested that the words "such as Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General" be added to the end of the fourth preambular paragraph.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) explained that the word "national" in her amendment referred to the offices of the UNDP resident representatives in the different countries.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objections, she would take it that draft resolution E/CN.6/L.670 was adopted by consensus.

It was so decided.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) pointed out that, when the original text, of which France, Liberia and her own country had been sponsors, had been proposed, a number of representatives had asked to be added to the list of sponsors and had proposed additions to the text. Those amendments were reflected in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10 of the draft, and their purpose had been to provide more specific guidelines for the integration of women in the over-all development effort.

She thanked the delegations of the United States and the Dominican Republic for their proposals, which had made the original text broader and more satisfactory.

Mrs. KASTALSAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked for clarification of paragraph 8 of document E/CN.6/L.665/Rev.1, which referred to development programmes within the United Nations system. She felt that a specific reference should be made to the United Nations Development Programme.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that the sponsors had felt that it would be preferable to refer to the "United Nations system" so as to cover UNDP and the specialized agencies which also implemented development programmes.

Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that she would be willing to accept the words "the allocation of funds and personnel within assistance programmes for women existing within the United Nations".

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) wondered whether it might not be clearer to say "development programmes for women" rather than "assistance programmes for women".

After consultations, Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) and Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed on the following wording: "allocation of funds and personnel within existing development programmes for women in the United Nations system".

The CHAIRMAN said that the sponsors accepted the amendment and that if there were no objections she would take it that the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/L.665/Rev.1 by consensus.

It was so decided.

STUDY ON THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND FAMILY PLANNING
(agenda item 6) (concluded) (E/CN.6/L.668/Rev.1)

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) said that the sponsors of the draft resolution had accepted all the amendments submitted.

Mrs. SAARINEN (Finland) said that the English text of paragraph 3 (a) should read "maternity and child health, and child care".

Miss TYABJI (India) said that the draft resolution did not contain an amendment to paragraph 3 (b) suggested by India to insert the words "and fully utilize" after the word "include".

The CHAIRMAN said that the sponsors accepted the amendment.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) said that her delegation had suggested an amendment to paragraph 3 (c), namely to replace the words "and in out-of-school educational activities including literacy programmes" by the words "for both in-school and out-of-school youth".

Mrs. STABILE (Argentina) recalled that during the Commission's discussion of document E/CN.6/575, which constituted the basis of the draft resolution under

(Mrs. Stabile, Argentina)

consideration, she had had the opportunity to indicate her delegation's belief that family planning could not be viewed as a right that was independent of national objectives relating to population policy and national development. Indeed, the introduction of family planning would have to be preceded by a social policy aimed at ensuring, inter alia, the protection of the nuclear family, a decrease in infant mortality, care for pre-school children, the elimination of illiteracy and improved health and housing. Such a programme, applied to men as well as women, could not be envisaged without a far-reaching change in the economic structures of production and distribution.

Argentina endorsed the second and third preambular paragraphs, as well as paragraph 3, its subparagraphs and paragraph 4, although it did not consider the report of the Special Rapporteur to be a background document. It also supported paragraph 5 since it called for equal representation for women, inasmuch as all those paragraphs referred to basic questions relating to the preservation of family cohesion.

Argentina did not, however, endorse those paragraphs which emphasized the claim that it was the paramount right of women, on an equal footing with men, to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children. That was reflected particularly in the fourth preambular paragraph and in paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c). With respect to paragraph 6, her delegation wondered whether Governments could be requested to support and promote activities which were not in accordance with their development plans.

Having expressed those reservations and desiring not to complicate the Commission's work, Argentina would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

Mrs. HOGSTOEL-FABRI (Belgium) said that although she supported the draft resolution in general she wished to introduce an amendment to paragraph 6, namely to insert the words "to the extent possible" after the words "to support and promote". Democratic Governments could not assume responsibility for social and political agreements the tenor of which might not coincide with the views of majority groups. If its amendment was not accepted, her delegation would be compelled to request a separate vote on paragraph 6.

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) accepted the Belgian representative's proposal and said that if the representative of the Philippines wished to alter the text she was prepared to accept her amendment.

Miss TYABJI (India), referring to paragraph 5, said that she had difficulty in accepting the phrase "provide equal representation for women", as that would create an obligation for Governments; the phrase should be replaced by the words "try to provide equal representation for men and women".

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) said that the authors and sponsors of the draft resolution had agreed to retain the word "equal". She requested that the rules of procedure should be applied and that draft resolution E/CN.6/L.668/Rev.1 should be put to the vote.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) said that the purpose of her amendment was to make it clear which bodies would assume the responsibility for population education throughout the world, and she maintained her amendment.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said she felt that there was no great difference between the version of paragraph 3 (c) proposed by the representative of the Philippines and the text as it stood.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) said that she wished the resolution to state specifically which bodies were to be responsible for implementing the recommendations in the draft resolution. Her amendment permitted a realistic approach to the question.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) wondered whether, by including the word "youth", the Philippine representative was not limiting the scope of the question, since there were individuals of all ages who needed population education. The Indian representative should not be afraid of the word "equal". The word implied equality between two elements, i.e., equal representation for men and women.

Miss TYABJI (India) said that she was not afraid of the word "equal"; she considered it was inappropriate to compel Governments to ensure "equal" representation, since they might want a larger or smaller number of women to participate. She wished that remark to be reflected in the records.

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) recalled that she had requested that draft resolution E/CN.6/L.668/Rev.1 should be put to the vote.

The CHAIRMAN said that since the sponsors had accepted the oral amendments, if there were no objections she would put draft resolution E/CN.6/L.668/Rev.1 to the vote.

The draft resolution, as orally revised by the sponsors, was adopted by 24 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

622nd meeting

Tuesday, 29 January 1974,
at 3.15 p.m.Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY AND ARMED CONFLICT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SELF-DETERMINATION, NATIONAL LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE (agenda item 8) (continued) (E/CN.6/586, E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1, E/CN.6/NGO/255)

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was no coincidence that the topic covered by item 8 of the agenda had been discussed on more than one occasion in the Commission. The problem was acute because there was still much injustice and cruelty in the world; in emergency situations women and children suffered most and most often.

The Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/586) touched on burning questions that the Commission could not ignore. No one could fail to agree, for example, with WHO's comments in paragraph 40 of the report. Other anxious replies to the Secretary-General's questionnaire had been received from Governments, United Nations specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Commission must arrive at appropriate practical conclusions.

The war in Viet-Nam had caused innumerable civilian casualties, most of them women and children. Women and children had also become victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict - one of the most dangerous sources of international tension. The Secretary-General's report mentioned several instances of violations of human rights by Israel in the occupied territories, particularly intolerable treatment of Arab women and the inhuman torture of children in prison. She reminded the Commission of the sufferings of thousands of women and children in Bangladesh, who had suddenly found themselves in a foreign country without any of the necessities of life. She paid a tribute to the role played by the Government of India in assisting the victims, and to the Government of Bangladesh, which was doing everything to restore normal conditions.

The forces of reaction and militarism were unleashing conflict after conflict in various parts of the world. Not only did they not spare women and children, they made them the principal victims. The Commission had already concluded that women and children, on whom the continuation of the human race depended, required special protection at the international level.

The media and individual witnesses were bringing news of the tragic consequences

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(Mrs. Nikolaeva, USSR)

of the illegal military coup in Chile. In the space of a few months, the junta had killed or tortured tens of thousands of patriots, including an enormous number of women; tens of thousands of children had become orphans. World opinion would never forgive the Chilean junta for its ignominious and fascist crimes. The aim of the social policy of the legal Government headed by the late President Allende had been to give the whole Chilean people, including all women, full rights in society. The Chilean junta had destroyed all the social achievements of the working people and continued to trample on their rights. She described other acts of cruelty committed by the junta.

The facts cited confirmed the need to adopt a declaration on the protection of women and children. Such a declaration would serve as a warning to all reactionary, colonial and fascist régimes, which were violating human rights and freedoms.

Her delegation expressed its gratitude to the Women's International Democratic Federation for raising the idea of a declaration and for submitting a text for consideration. The usefulness and timeliness of such a declaration had already been established by Economic and Social Council resolutions 1515 (XLVIII) and 1687 (LII). Her delegation agreed that the declaration should contain an appeal to Governments to do their utmost to protect women and children from the destructive effects of war and not to use persecution, torture, punitive measures or degrading treatment. All forms of oppression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women and children, including imprisonment, torture, shooting, mass arrests, collective punishment, destruction of dwellings and forcible eviction, committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories, should be considered criminal. She noted with satisfaction the inclusion in the draft additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions of provisions concerning the protection of women and children. Those Conventions would strengthen the declaration and lend it greater weight. Her delegation would be very happy to support the draft declaration.

During the debate, one representative had tried to blame others for the tense international situation. That representative had not mentioned, however, that her country was opposed to international détente and had adopted a position identical to that of the racists and fascists, who were oppressing the African people, including women and children, by the use of terror, racial discrimination and

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(Mrs. Nikolaeva, USSR)

hatred. That representative's country had voted against the Soviet proposals on the non-use of force in international relations, the banning of the use of nuclear weapons for all time, and the reduction of the military budgets of the five permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to the developing countries, which would undoubtedly have alleviated the position of women and children in those countries. That country had opposed the Soviet proposal to convene a world disarmament conference and continued to block the work of the Special Committee set up by the General Assembly to prepare for the conference. All that was a clear example of failure to match words with deeds.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) reminded the Commission that the item on the protection of women and children had been on the agenda since 1968. It had been decided at the previous session to keep the item on the agenda and it had been agreed that a declaration should be prepared.

It had been suggested that the subject had political implications and was not relevant to the work of the Commission. However, all subjects had political implications; she hoped that it would be possible to avoid conflict and to find common ground. Issues affecting women and children were inseparable from issues affecting human rights in general. In the past, the United Nations had been concerned with human rights in conditions of peace; it was only recently that humanitarian principles had been taken into account in connexion with peace-making and peace-keeping, but the first step had been taken to ensure a minimum humanitarian standard in situations of emergency and armed conflict. From the point of view of the United Nations, efforts to ensure such standards were steps towards making peace. The Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and International Women's Year had identified peace-making as a concern of the Commission. The item under discussion was even closer to the Commission's terms of reference. The Commission could not leave the problem to the non-governmental organizations, which needed the stature and authority of the United Nations to back their efforts. The United Nations could help the effort to alleviate suffering, increase public awareness, co-ordinate the work of the various institutions concerned and collect facts, although it should not compete with other international agencies.

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(Mrs. Hussein, Egypt)

The Commission on the Status of Women could contribute by an expression of concern for the most vulnerable and largest sector of the civilian population. There were certainly some inadequacies in the protection of women and children. She was pleased to see that the Economic and Social Council had taken the Commission's suggestions into account, and she hoped that a declaration from the Commission would help to back the efforts being made outside the United Nations. If women, by virtue of their role in society, were to receive special consideration and protection in times of peace, they must certainly have additional protection in times of emergency and armed conflict.

She expressed her gratitude to the Secretary-General for the very comprehensive report he had submitted, with its examples of real suffering and of non-compliance with international conventions in Egyptian occupied territories. She had been very shocked by the suffering experienced by women in the colonial territories of southern Africa. A declaration by the Commission would help to support the position of the International Committee of the Red Cross at the forthcoming Diplomatic Conference.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that her Government deplored the suffering caused by war, including the particularly tragic suffering of women and children. It believed that the international community must act responsibly to deal with that pressing problem and not waste time on irrelevancies. Questions involving the rules of war would be dealt with by the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law to be held at Geneva from 20 February to 29 March 1974. Her Government had supported the detailed preparations made for that Conference and hoped that it would lead to significant results, such as the adoption of measures to protect non-combatants including, of course, women and children.

The draft in document E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1 covered issues already being dealt with elsewhere, distracted the Commission's attention from its own particular and urgent tasks, and concentrated on only certain types of armed conflict. It had not been the subject of careful analysis and study and contained various

(Mrs. Hutar, United States)

inaccurate statements concerning existing conventions. The subject-matter purported to be covered by the text was too serious and too delicate for hasty and summary treatment. It was not possible to develop international criminal law by merely listing a series of acts and blithely stating that they "shall be considered criminal". By purporting to develop legal norms in that fashion, the Commission not only wasted time but ran the risk of weakening the fabric of international law and rendering a disservice to the very interests it desired to protect. Her delegation could not, therefore, support the text.

Mrs. ROMO ROMAN (Chile) said that she had been astounded to hear the formal accusation levelled against her country by the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic at the 620th meeting. Claiming to be dealing with questions relating to the protection of women and children in emergency, that representative had painted a completely false picture in order to have a pretext for attacking Chile. She had no alternative but to reply to that attack by the representative of a country which, as everyone knew, was not qualified to speak of human rights. It was precisely those who had accused Chile of murder, tortures and illegal imprisonment who systematically committed such acts. Everyone was aware of the existence of camps for political prisoners; everyone had heard the voice of Solzhenitsyn and witnessed the sufferings of the Jews.

Chile had suffered an institutional upheaval and had had to abandon its usual path in order to salvage what remained of its democracy. Three years of Popular Unity government had been sufficient to destroy the country's laws, institutions, economy and liberty. When democracy had been threatened, there had been no other course for the armed forces than to intervene in order to restore law and end anarchy. Chilean democracy had been based on the division of powers, on the balance of those powers and on the respect of those powers for each other. The government of Popular Unity had destroyed that essential balance and thus obliged the judiciary and the National Congress to declare its action illegal. The men and women of the legal profession had been the first to sound the alarm. It had been pride in their 150-year-old tradition of democracy that had driven the people to oppose the Popular Unity government. Popular Unity had been a cancer which had

(Mrs. Romo Roman, Chile)

destroyed the country's economy. By trying to control the lives of the people, it had awakened in them the desire to fight. The people had fought, won a glorious victory and regained their liberty. The Chilean people would never be forgiven for having won that victory. They were therefore being attacked, sometimes directly and at other times by means of organizations acting as fronts, and even by well-meaning but ingenuous people who, despite all they had seen, did not realize they were being tricked.

Her Government was accused of imaginary violations of human rights because the interests of international Marxism so required. The delegations of those bodies - such as the International Red Cross, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Amnesty International - which had visited Chile in complete freedom could speak on that subject. None of them had witnessed deaths or tortures. On the contrary, they had seen that those guilty of common crimes were tried by courts of law constituted prior to the events, that they were defended by the best lawyers and were treated humanely. The same situation could not be said to prevail in those countries which were accusing Chile. She wished to take that opportunity to request countries such as the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to fix a date on which organizations like those which had visited Chile would be able to visit them and see for themselves the conditions in which political prisoners were detained.

According to the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, there were many women detainees in Chile. That was not true. The few women who were in prison were guilty of common crimes and were responsible before the country's laws; like all citizens, they were afforded the guarantees laid down by law and were able to obtain adequate defence. Neither was it true that prisoners were tortured in Chile. Neither torture nor corporal punishment was permitted under Chilean law. Such accusations were based on information supplied by third persons who had never witnessed acts of torture in Chile. What was plainly true, however, was that the heroes of Marxism had paraded through Chile supplied with arms illegally imported for use against those Chileans who did not share their

(Mrs. Romo Roman, Chile)

Marxist opinions. It had been the women of Chile who had been the first victims of the actions of the great "idealists" of Marxism in Chile.

According to the Byelorussian representative, there was a scarcity of meat and all food-stuffs in Chile and people were unable to buy food. That was not true. Meat and all food-stuffs necessary to nourish the population were available. Obviously food was expensive. The country was experiencing a higher rate of inflation than ever before in its history, a situation engineered by those who had mishandled and destroyed the country's economy. It had been the Marxists who had offered food at exorbitant prices and set up and operated a black market in food. Currently, food was available and could be bought at realistic prices. The Byelorussian representative had said that there was a high rate of unemployment in Chile. In what country were there not any unemployed? The unemployment was not attributable to any measure taken by the current Government. It was attributable to the country's under-development combined with the decline resulting from the three years of Popular Unity rule.

It would be interesting to know exactly what her country was being accused of. Did it not have the right, as a sovereign nation, to take the steps necessary to save its institutions? Chileans had a long tradition which they respected and of which they were proud. They did not need to be shown which path to follow. They had almost perished, but their faith had saved them. It was perhaps that faith and integrity which Marxism could not forgive and which had provoked the base accusations representing an attempt to interfere in matters entirely within Chile's competence. No one could ask the Commission or any other body to take steps which could represent an attempt to interfere in Chile's internal affairs. She rejected the accusations levelled by the Byelorussian representative and wished to take the opportunity to reaffirm Chile's sovereignty, its spirit of democracy and its inalienable right to handle its internal affairs without interference by anyone.

As to the statement just made by the representative of the Soviet Union, Chile's Permanent Representative to the United Nations had given a full explanation of the question to the General Assembly and, in particular, to the Third Committee.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that there were no concentration camps on Soviet territory. As to Solzhenitsyn, there was no need for him to speak about events which were well known to the whole world. He lived in the Soviet Union, worked there and had his family there, and not a hair of his head had been touched. Nothing the representative of the Chilean junta might say could remove the shame with which the junta was covered.

Mr. KHMELNITSKY (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, found it astonishing that the Chilean representative should try to convince the Commission that everything happening in Chile was legal, that human rights were respected and that there was no inhuman treatment of the peaceful population. Such assertions must be rejected, for they were completely unfounded. The Chilean representative had dragged into the debate matters totally irrelevant to the subject under discussion. It would be interesting to know to which legal rights the Chilean representative had been referring. In Chile, the President of the country had been eliminated. What legal right had been invoked in liquidating the organs of government in Chile? In accordance with which international conventions had the trade unions been dissolved? It seemed that the Chilean representative was unwilling to accept facts. Indeed, she had asserted that human rights were not violated. Members had only to refer to the provisions of article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to see that that was untrue.

There was, of course, little point in referring to articles which had appeared in the press of socialist countries, because the Chilean military junta's opinion of communist and other progressive parties was well known. There might be some advantage, however, in drawing attention to the article by Jonathan Kandell which had appeared in The New York Times of 28 January 1974. In that article, Kandell had confirmed many of the Byelorussian delegation's statements. In so far as the status of women was concerned, for example, he had reported that 11 Mademsa workers had been in detention since 15 October 1973. Their wives had said that they did not receive the men's wages and lived on collections made by sympathetic workers at the plant. According to Kandell, estimates of political prisoners ranged from 3,000 to 10,000 and workers had said that they had been subjected to electric-shock torture administered by hooded officers and beaten.

(Mr. Khmelnitsky, Byelorussian SSR)

The Chilean representative had made slanderous allegations against socialist countries, particularly the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. Obviously, the rights and guarantees enjoyed by the citizens of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries were beyond the comprehension of the Chilean representative. As to the Chilean representative's references to Solzhenitsyn, it was a matter for regret that she had not mentioned other Soviet writers, some of whom had also won the Nobel Prize. It was difficult to say that Solzhenitsyn's works were of high artistic value; his opinions represented a highly subjective approach to Soviet realities.

Mrs. BOKOR (Hungary) said that the question under consideration was of great concern to her Government, as was proved by the fact that Hungary had sent a very detailed reply to the Secretary-General's questionnaire. In its reply, her Government had emphasized certain recent trends which had shown the need to reaffirm and develop the rules of international law. It had also supplied details about recent events, the consequences of which had been very serious for women and children. Her delegation therefore supported the suggestion in paragraph 12⁴ of the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/586) that the Commission might decide to prepare a draft declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict for adoption and proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly. Accordingly, Hungary was a sponsor of the draft in document E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1 and hoped that it would be adopted by the Commission.

Mrs. MAKÀ (Guinea) said that the question of the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict was closely linked to that of respect for the fundamental right of all peoples to independence, self-determination and liberty. The struggle for independence, liberty and sovereignty was a just struggle and those engaged in it should enjoy the complete support of all peace-loving and justice-loving nations. Her country had always unreservedly supported those in situations of emergency and armed conflict, particularly the people of Egypt, the Middle East and Viet-Nam. Guinea spared no effort to afford those still suffering under the yoke of colonialism and apartheid - the members of liberation movements in Portuguese territories, the men and, above all, women and children of South Africa and Zimbabwe - all the moral and material support necessary for the success of their struggle. It realized that the liberation

(Mrs. Maka, Guinea)

movements were fighting for a noble cause and a legitimate right. To deprive certain people of the means to achieve freedom was the most abominable crime. It was for that reason that her delegation condemned colonialism, foreign domination, imperialism, apartheid, aggression and zionism, all of which were degrading phenomena of modern society. Entire populations were still subjected to repression and bombardment and the territories of populations in South Africa, the Middle East and other parts of the world were being violated. It was revolting that women and children were the innocent victims of such barbarous acts. The atrocities perpetrated against women and children in countries still suffering from colonialism and apartheid were abominable. An account of such atrocities was to be found in paragraphs 98 to 112 of document E/CN.6/586.

On 22 November 1970, Guinea had been the victim of the aggression of Portuguese imperialism. Although the Guinean people had inflicted a crushing defeat on the aggressors, there had been many victims of the aggression, including women and children.

It was time to put an end to such situations. Women, children and civilian populations in general should be spared useless suffering. Her delegation was therefore of the opinion that the Commission should envisage the preparation of a text to strengthen existing instruments. In that connexion, she wished to thank the International Committee of the Red Cross, which had taken note of the comments made by government experts on the additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions. It hoped that the forthcoming Diplomatic Conference to be held at Geneva would examine the Protocols carefully and adopt them.

Respect for human rights depended largely on strict application of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. It was essential, therefore, to appeal to States, particularly those waging wars, to provide proof of their political and moral will to respect the provisions of the Charter.

Mrs. JAUREGUIBERRY (Argentina) felt that it was appropriate for the Commission to consider questions relating to the protection of women and children since, apart from the normal risks incurred by the civilian population in an armed conflict, women and children were more vulnerable in emergency situations. However, although all agreed on the need to provide special protection, the question was a highly complex one and fraught with difficulties.

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(Mrs. Jaureguiberry, Argentina)

The appearance of new forms of warfare had increased the number of victims. The legal norms regulating war in the air were limited, and the provisions of the St. Petersburg Declaration of 1868 and The Hague Regulations of 1907 had had relatively little effect. The Assembly of the League of Nations had adopted a resolution stating that the intentional bombing of civilian populations was illegal, but the horrors of recent wars had shown that the policy of total destruction of entire cities had not been abandoned. It seemed that the only protection which could be offered to women and children in such circumstances would be use of shelters, when they existed, on a priority basis.

The situation of women and children in armed conflicts must be resolved realistically. In the view of her delegation, a first step would be to establish legal limits for modern methods of warfare; unless effective legal resolutions were established for aerial bombardments and the use of certain types of modern weapons, any special measures of protection would be pointless. It would also be necessary to strengthen the efforts of the United Nations towards peace, disarmament negotiations and social, economic and humanitarian programmes to create the conditions necessary for peace.

Her delegation welcomed the forthcoming Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts, which would revise the additional draft Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, and hoped that effective agreements could be concluded. Meanwhile, her delegation supported document E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1.

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) said that her delegation believed strongly in the importance of providing protection for women and children in armed conflict and therefore whole-heartedly supported the objective sought by the draft in document E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1. At the same time, it considered that the subject should be dealt with in an orderly and cautious manner, and did not feel that the draft contained those requisite elements of orderliness and caution.

The Commission was not the appropriate forum within the United Nations to discuss in detail the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The International Committee of the Red Cross was, as all recognized, the organization responsible for considering the question of protection in armed conflict. That was even more important in view of the forthcoming Conference of Government Experts on the

(Mrs. Cockcroft, United Kingdom)

Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law, which would discuss those very questions in detail. Furthermore, any effort to single out groups of civilians tended to detract from the general protection enjoyed by the civilian population as a whole. Finally, it was not helpful to categorize armed conflicts according to the motives of the combatants. Her delegation saw little value, for instance, in specifying those women and children engaged in the struggle for peace, and indeed felt that such a stipulation could be positively harmful.

Many of the paragraphs of the draft resolution contained provisions which her delegation found inaccurate or unacceptable. Her delegation was, therefore, not in sympathy with the draft resolution and wished to reiterate its contention that the Commission should do nothing to prejudice the work of the Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts.

Mrs. LI Su-wen (China) said that her delegation was indignant at the attacks on her Government's foreign policy and reserved its right to reply at a later time.

Mrs. ROMO ROMAN (Chile), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that her delegation would not answer the allegations made by the representatives of the USSR and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic because it had no intention of being drawn into their game. Her delegation had already said what it wished to say. With regard to the article in The New York Times referred to by the Byelorussian representative, her delegation had already drawn attention to the organizations acting as fronts and the well-meaning but ingenuous people who spoke on behalf of them.

The discussion covered in the summary record was suspended at 4.45 p.m. and resumed at 5.10 p.m.

Mrs. MAKÀ (Guinea) introduced the revised text in document E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1 and noted that the word "resolution" should be replaced by the word "declaration" throughout the text. The draft declaration expressed the concern felt by its sponsors at the non-implementation of existing instruments and at the consequent suffering endured by innocent women and children. Her delegation hoped that the Commission would view the draft declaration with favour and adopt it.

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Mrs. MARINKEVITCH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the sponsors of the draft had endeavoured to take account of the observations and suggestions made by other delegations in order to improve the text.

Mr. SRINIVASAN (India) felt that there was no need to use the words "the following Declaration" at the beginning of the operative part of the declaration.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) regretted that the delegations of the United Kingdom and the United States had adopted such a negative attitude to the draft and had not even given it due consideration. The sponsors would have expected them to be more receptive to the idea that the Commission had been mandated to consider the question. They would have been very happy if those delegations had been more co-operative and had made constructive suggestions which would have improved the text and rendered it more acceptable to them. They hoped that the document would be given due consideration by all members of the Commission. Her delegation wished to propose the insertion before paragraph 6 of the following new paragraph: "Women shall be protected in particular against rape, enforced prostitution and any other form of indecent assault." Such a paragraph would improve the text and she hoped that it would be acceptable to the other co-sponsors.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the proposal made by the Egyptian representative had been dealt with under agenda item 9 and that there was no need to insert an additional paragraph in the draft declaration.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

623rd meeting

Wednesday, 30 January 1974,
at 10.35 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY AND ARMED CONFLICT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SELF-DETERMINATION, NATIONAL LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE (agenda item 8) (concluded) (E/CN.6/586, E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1, E/CN.6/NGO/255)

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, she would invite the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category II), to make a statement.

It was so decided.

Mrs. BUJARD (International Committee of the Red Cross) commended the Secretary-General on the report that he had prepared on the question (E/CN.6/586) and said that the Commission's debates on the present item were of great interest to ICRC, on the eve of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, to be held at Geneva from 20 February to 29 March 1974.

ICRC endorsed the principles underlying the draft Declaration on the subject (E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1). ICRC had long been concerned with the development of international law for more effective protection of the civilian population against the effects of hostilities and, in each of the two draft Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions which it had drafted for the Diplomatic Conference, it had devoted a whole part to protection of the civilian population - or 26 draft articles in the draft Protocol relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and 9 draft articles in the Protocol relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts. A number of those articles were intended to afford women and children the special protection to which they were entitled by reason of the particularly precarious situation in which they found themselves in times of armed conflict.

ICRC hoped strongly that the efforts it had made in that field would shortly come to fruition and that additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions would be adopted. Its task would not have been fully completed, however, unless the principle of the universality of international humanitarian law was preserved, that principle being that in all armed conflicts - whatever the motives which had led

(Mrs. Bujard, ICRC)

the parties to the conflict to take up arms - all victims of the hostilities, without distinction, must be accorded the protection of international humanitarian law.

Lastly, she proposed that, in the revised version of the draft resolution, the Commission should delete the sixth preambular paragraph, which was no longer necessary, since the question to which it referred was already dealt with in the seventh preambular paragraph.

The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category I) with the Economic and Social Council, had asked to speak. If she heard no objection, she would take it that the Commission agreed to that request.

It was so decided.

Mrs. BROWN (Women's International Democratic Federation) said that since its formation 28 years earlier, the Federation and its national organizations had been concerned to defend women and children in countries subjected to aggression or colonial domination. Document E/CN.6/NGO/255 had been drafted on the basis of contributions made by the various national organizations of the Federation and was, moreover, the fruit of many years of discussion on that subject.

Many women and children were suffering because of armed conflicts; they should enjoy special protection; that was not a privilege but mere compliance with the Declaration of Human Rights.

She proceeded to draw attention to the sufferings to which women and children were subjected in countries struggling for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence. She referred, in particular, to the atrocities of the war in Indo-China; the situation in the Middle East, where thousands of women, children, the aged and the infirm had been forced to leave their homes and take refuge in refugee camps, where starvation, disease and death were rife; the despair of those who, in Africa, were the victims of the Portuguese colonialists who, to cite but one example, were dropping napalm on non-combatants; and the situation in Latin America - in Chile, in particular - where, since the coup d'état, many women had been thrown into prison.

The Women's International Democratic Federation welcomed the preparation by the International Committee of the Red Cross of additional protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the convening in that connexion of a Diplomatic Conference at Geneva and the decision taken by the Commission on the Status of Women to draft a

declaration on that question. In particular, it congratulated the sponsors of that draft, which would be an historic contribution to the preparations for International Women's Year. It aimed at protecting those who most needed it, namely women and children who were the victims of war and aggression.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objection, she would invite the representative of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category II), to make a statement.

It was so decided.

Mrs. GAGE-CALBY (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) drew attention to the fact that, in the title of her organization, the word "freedom" meant the absence of the fear and suffering resulting from war, of which the first victims were women and children.

Observing that the atomic age would soon be entering on its thirtieth year, she noted that a new element, namely, radio-activity, was being added to the other elements making up the human environment. Life energy and atomic energy - whether the atom was used in peace or in war - were incompatible, for the second ruled out the first. She mentioned a study undertaken by the University of Pittsburgh (United States) on infant mortality in the United States, which showed that since 1950, while elsewhere in the United States the infant mortality rate had continued downward, it had steadily increased in those states which had been affected by nuclear fall-out, such as Texas and Arkansas. In general, despite medical advances, the infant mortality rate and the number of still births had continued to increase. The cause could be traced to radio-activity or, more precisely, to nuclear substances which directly affected the genetic pool of mankind. Radio-active weapons must now be added to biological and chemical weapons.

She suggested that the Commission should recommend that the Secretary-General submit to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, in 1975, a report drawing attention to the fact that health and life were threatened by atomic energy and radio-activity and to the dangers of nuclear weapons, which were the most powerful biological weapons man had ever invented.

Mrs. HUVANANDANA (Thailand) expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict and in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence (E/CN.6/586) and also the sponsors of the draft Declaration on that question (E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1).

(Mrs. Huvanandana, Thailand)

It was more essential in Thailand, which was surrounded by countries at war, than in any other country, that women should be able to participate in defence effort and to defend themselves - by such means as karate - handle arms and drive vehicles to evacuate women and children to safer areas. In the past, the women of Thailand had participated in wars side by side with men. It was thus not surprising, in the circumstances, that, in 1972, an association of women volunteers had been established.

Her delegation therefore proposed that instruction in karate and other means of self-defence, as well as the handling of weapons, should be added to out-of-school programmes for adolescent girls.

Mrs. MAKA (Guinea) announced that some of the sponsors of the draft resolution had made a slight change, moving the fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs to the beginning of the text of the draft Declaration.

On behalf of all the sponsors, she expressed appreciation to those representatives who had given an account of the situation of women in the world or in their countries.

With regard to the amendment to the draft Declaration requested by the representative of ICRC, she would like to consult the other sponsors of the draft Declaration.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that, in making their statements on agenda item 8, the delegations of the United States of America and the United Kingdom had said that the question of the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence fell within the terms of reference not of the Commission on the Status of Women, but rather of ICRC. Those delegations had also said that there were various protocols on that question and had emphasized that the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflict was to be held at Geneva shortly and would be dealing with that question. Although that was true, the draft Declaration which the Commission on the Status of Women was recommending to the Economic and Social Council for adoption would have the merit of being a United Nations document, which would help, rather than hinder, the work of the ICRC.

(Mrs. Nikolaeva, USSR)

In addition, those two delegations had referred to combatants. The Soviet delegation was well aware that, in certain countries, women were called on to serve in the armed forces; however, the draft Declaration in question concerned women belonging to the civilian population and not to those fighting in the front line. Its scope was much wider in that it was intended to protect women and children in times of armed conflict and in other situations such as armed revolutions, the struggle against colonialism and the struggle for social progress.

In conclusion, her delegation called on the delegations of the United States of America and the United Kingdom to show a greater spirit of co-operation during the consideration of the draft Declaration.

Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) said that his delegation had a number of reservations with regard to the form and the substance of the text of the draft Declaration.

With regard to the form, his delegation would have preferred a draft resolution rather than a draft declaration; the choice of a declaration was, in effect, tantamount to presuming that the efforts of ICRC in that field would produce no satisfactory results.

As far as the text itself was concerned, his delegation would have preferred it to have been drafted in more general terms and to have related, for example, to the protection of the civilian population, including women and children, instead of referring merely to women and children. The operative part should be drafted so as to conform more closely to the Geneva Conventions. However, that was a point to which his delegation would revert when the matter was considered later by the General Assembly or by the Economic and Social Council.

In view of the fact that his delegation was in no way opposed to the consideration of any document which might improve the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict, and since the vote to be taken was not of a definitive nature, it would vote in favour of the draft Declaration, bearing in mind the reservations which it had formulated.

Mrs. ANDREI (Romania) said that the name of Romania had been omitted from the list of sponsors of the draft Declaration by error.

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(Mrs. Andrei, Romania)

She expressed regret that the draft Declaration had not received the whole-hearted support of all delegations. In her opinion, the Commission must make its own contribution to the efforts to ensure the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence. The draft Declaration reaffirmed the rules of international law now in force relating to the protection of women and children in times of armed conflict. It was of paramount importance that those rules should be implemented in all instances without exception and that States and public opinion should work towards that end.

In conclusion, she expressed the hope that the draft Declaration would receive the support of all members of the Commission.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) said that, as she represented the only country which had undergone the terrible experience of a nuclear attack, the draft Declaration was of considerable concern to her. She regretted that, for the moment, she was obliged to reserve her Government's position until the holding of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflict. The Japanese Government wished, in effect, to consider that question in conjunction with other countries.

In principle, however, her delegation was not opposed to the draft Declaration and would have liked to be in a position to support it.

Miss CHATON (France) said that she wished to explain why her delegation would abstain in the vote on draft Declaration E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1.

While it considered that the general aims set out in the draft Declaration were the same as those which France itself was pursuing, her delegation felt that, with the Diplomatic Conference to be held at Geneva only two or three weeks later, ICRC, as a specialized organ, was in a better position than the Commission on the Status of Women to determine and implement the measures needed to protect the civilian population in times of armed conflict.

From the legal point of view, the proposed text could give rise to a number of inaccuracies or to certain interpretations inconsistent with French positive law, which had its own definition of war crimes.

Mrs. MARINKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) announced that the sponsors of the draft Declaration had decided to add the words: "on the

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(Mrs. Marinkevich, Byelorussian SSR)

protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence", at the beginning of the preamble, after the words: "Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following declaration".

Mrs. MAKA (Guinea) proposed that, in order to reflect the observations made by the representative of Finland, the last preambular paragraph should be replaced by the following paragraph: "Bearing in mind the need to provide special protection to women and children belonging to the civilian population, solemnly proclaims the following Declaration".

Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) said that he wished to make it clear that his delegation had not expressly asked for the wording of the draft Declaration in question to be changed.

The CHAIRMAN asked the representative of Guinea if she wished to maintain her amendment.

Mrs. MAKA (Guinea) said that she would like an opportunity to consult the other sponsors of the draft resolution in that connexion.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the meeting be suspended briefly to enable the sponsors of the draft Declaration to consult each other.

The meeting was suspended at 11.35 a.m. and resumed at 11.40 a.m.

Mrs. MAKA (Guinea) said that the last preambular paragraph should read: "Bearing in mind the need to provide special protection to women and children belonging to the civilian population, solemnly proclaims the following Declaration and calls upon Member States to observe it strictly:".

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) said that she wished to clarify her delegation's position with regard to the draft Declaration. Colombia was not a colonialist country and was in favour of democracy. However, her delegation objected to the use of the words "struggle for national liberation" which it believed could lead to confusion. Frequently, anarchist movements, which had no connexion with movements for national liberation, claimed that cause as their own.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to vote on draft declaration E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1.

By 20 votes to none, with 7 abstentions, draft declaration E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1, as revised, was adopted.

Mrs. ASIYO (Kenya) said that she would have voted in favour of the draft declaration if she had been present during the voting. She asked that that fact be duly reflected.

The CHAIRMAN said that, unfortunately, it was not possible to reflect the vote of Kenya since the result of the voting had already been announced.

Mrs. CADIEUX (Canada), speaking in explanation of her delegation's vote on draft declaration E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1, said that she approved of the aim, which was to provide the maximum protection to women and children in times of armed conflict. The additional draft protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross, contained specific provisions to that effect.

Her delegation was of the view that the Commission on the Status of Women was not competent to draw up rules of conduct to be binding on States; the Commission's action in that respect tended to weaken the relevant provisions of international law, which had been drawn up with complete impartiality and without reference to political considerations which were often introduced into discussions within United Nations organs. In view of the fact that the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflict was to be held from 20 February to 29 March 1974 at Geneva, her delegation felt that the adoption of the draft declaration could prejudice consideration of that question.

Furthermore, the draft declaration had not been prepared with all due care and implied that the existing rules applied only to certain categories of conflicts and belligerents. For its part, her delegation was firmly convinced that those rules must be applied to the protection of all civilian populations which were victims of armed conflict, regardless of the cause for which the belligerents were fighting.

Mrs. LI Su-wen (China) said that her delegation supported the provisions contained in the draft declaration (E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1) and had therefore voted

(Mrs. Li Su-wen, China)

for it. However, the text had some short-comings since it failed to condemn imperialism, oppose aggression in explicit terms and pinpoint the crux of the matter; her delegation therefore had certain reservations.

With reference to the statement made during the 622nd meeting by the representative of the Soviet Union, who had seized on some pretext or other to slander China, she observed that the Chinese delegation had pointed out in previous statements that imperialism, colonialism, racism, zionism and big-Power hegemonism, especially the contention between the two super-Powers, gravely threatened world peace and security. In order to protect the fundamental rights and interests of women and children, it was essential resolutely to oppose colonialist wars as well as the arms race between the super-Powers and their struggle for supremacy. It was out of sincerity and its sense of responsibility for the security and well-being of peoples, including women and children, that the Chinese delegation had thrown light on the reality of the present situation and had urged vigilance. The representative of the Soviet Union had taken offence and had accused China of trying to shift the blame to another country and in fact of being against international détente. The facts made it easy to say which of the countries was really against international détente. As was known to all, the two super-Powers were engaged in a frenzied arms race, and that struggle for hegemony involved aggression, domination, interference and subversion in various parts of the world, from Europe to the Middle East, from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean, creating a situation which endangered world peace and security.

In order to ensure its nuclear superiority, the Soviet Union had launched into an arms race on an unprecedented scale and at an unparalleled tempo; it was not only developing new types of conventional weapons and expanding its nuclear arsenal, but also frenziedly strengthening its naval forces so as to become the master of the oceans. In seeking to extend its spheres of influence, it invoked the theory of limited sovereignty and openly sent troops to occupy the territory of one of its allies, or rather, under the pretext of supporting national self-determination it dismembered a sovereign State. During the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, when the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union,

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(Mrs. Li Su-wen, China)

Mr. Gromyko, had spoken of détente, a fourth war had broken out in the Middle East. Under the pretext of supervising the cease-fire, one super-Power had sent troops to the Middle East and had brought about a disguised form of military occupation. The other super-Power had retaliated by immediately putting its armed forces on a global alert. In order to expand their own spheres of influence and to ensure their oil supplies, the two super-Powers confronted each other in the Middle East and built up tensions.

By invoking in her statement the proposals of the Soviet Government relating to the non-use of force in international relations, the reduction of the military budgets of the permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and the utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries, and the world disarmament conference, the Soviet representative had tried to justify herself and had distorted the position of the Chinese delegation, an utterly futile attempt since the Chinese Government had always been in favour of genuine disarmament. The Soviet proposal was a complete fraud, since that country was steadily expanding its armaments. It was well known that the Chinese Government had been in favour of a disarmament conference, but in calling for the immediate convening of such a conference without setting clear aims and making the necessary arrangements, the Soviet Union attempted to drag the Governments of various countries into a club which would mainly indulge in speech-making without solving any practical problems, thus enabling the Soviet Union to cover up its actual activities.

As for the proposal of the Soviet Government concerning the non-use of force and the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, it had been repudiated by a number of delegations at the last two sessions of the General Assembly. Moreover, at the twenty-seventh session the Chinese delegation had pointed out that the proposal in question made no distinction between the aggressor and the victim of aggression, and that it in effect asked the victims of aggression to give up defending themselves. In addition, the Soviet proposal had said nothing about the obligation to destroy all nuclear weapons and had not asked the nuclear countries to undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons in any

(Mrs. Li Su-wen, China)

circumstances; the true purpose of that proposal had been to enable the super-Powers to maintain a nuclear monopoly and to disarm other peoples so as to carry out nuclear blackmail. That was why the Chinese delegation had firmly objected to the Soviet proposal.

Throughout the past decade and more, the Soviet Union while hawking disarmament had been continually expanding its armaments; it had considerably increased the number of its ballistic missiles of all types and the size of its strategic forces, and the tonnage of its warships had doubled, so that its fleets currently sailed to almost every ocean of the world. Since the contention between the two super-Powers had extended to practically every corner of the globe and their arms race had become increasingly fierce, it was hard to understand why the Soviet Union continued, year in and year out, to make fraudulent disarmament proposals of one kind or another, knowing full well that its armaments and military expenditures could not possibly be reduced.

The representative of the Soviet Union had stated that China's words and deeds were at complete variance. However, the above facts proved that it was the Soviet Union which acted in that way. Since people were judged by their deeds, not by their words, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had revealed its intentions with extreme clarity.

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom), explaining the reasons for her abstention, pointed out that she had already made certain observations during a previous meeting and that her delegation could not support a resolution containing legal provisions which, in its opinion, were unfounded and did not accurately reflect the law. Moreover, certain provisions were vague and ambiguous and others seemed to be one-sided, as could be seen from several examples. In operative paragraph 2, the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the 1949 Conventions were inaccurately interpreted. The Conventions in question dealt solely with humanitarian protection in time of war and did not cover either the methods of warfare or the use of specific weapons. Moreover, if that paragraph was intended to apply to wars of national liberation, which were not international conflicts, the 1925 Protocol was not applicable at all. Secondly, operative paragraph 3 wrongly suggested that the Geneva Protocol and other instruments of international

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(Mrs. Cockcroft, United Kingdom)

law contained provisions relating to women and children; such provisions appeared only in the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Her delegation regretted that the text in question, which was on a subject of utmost importance, had been presented in the form of a declaration for adoption by the General Assembly. A declaration of such importance required more thorough consideration than the Commission had been able to give during the current session.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) said that her delegation had voted for the draft declaration in order to show its solidarity with women and children who were victims of armed conflicts in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence. Her delegation had the honour to be one of those which had sponsored resolutions adopted on the question during the twenty-third, twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the General Assembly.

However, her delegation had certain reservations, for it felt that the Commission was not competent to draw up international legal instruments concerning a problem as complex as that of the protection of women and children in periods of emergency and of armed conflict.

She expressed the hope that the draft additional Protocols to the 1949 Conventions, which had been drawn up by experts, would be adopted by the Diplomatic Conference which was soon to meet in Geneva, since those instruments would make it possible to protect women and children more effectively.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation had previously referred to reliable information concerning the position of a Member of the United Nations on some very important questions, in particular the strengthening of international peace and security which concerned women and children throughout the world. Those facts were well known. As to the anti-Soviet comments which had just been made, her delegation did not intend either to pay attention to them or to become involved in a polemic, since they had become typical of the delegation which had made them and the information cited by the Soviet delegation was irrefutable. By making such attacks, the delegation in question attempted to divert the Commission's attention from the consideration of its agenda items.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) said that her Government had always taken a keen interest in the progressive development of international humanitarian law in armed conflicts, within the United Nations and within the International Committee of the Red Cross. Her country's policy was to try to secure protection under international law for civilians, combatants and prisoners of war on both sides in armed conflicts.

Her Government attached great importance to the elaboration of rules for the better protection of the civilian population and felt that such rules, regardless of whether they were already in effect or still being prepared, should be applicable to the whole civilian population and not only to women and children. She did, however, appreciate the Commission's wish to stress the need for special protection for women and children, and that was why she had voted in favour of the draft declaration (E/CN.6/L.672/Rev.1).

The CHAIRMAN said that the Commission had now completed its consideration of agenda item 8. With regard to item 9, she proposed that, as one delegation had suggested at an earlier meeting, paragraphs 35, 36 and 37 of the note by the Secretary-General concerning exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking (E/CN.6/582) should be included in the report of the Commission.

INFLUENCE OF MASS COMMUNICATION MEDIA ON THE FORMATION OF A NEW ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY (agenda item 10) (E/CN.6/581, E/CN.6/L.673)

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the item (E/CN.6/581), said that the question had been studied pursuant to resolution 1 (XXIV) of the Commission. In writing his report, the Secretary-General had relied on information provided by Governments and on other relevant information. The Secretary-General had received replies from 28 Governments and 23 non-governmental organizations. The replies from Kenya and the United States of America had been received too late to be dealt with in the report.

Most of the replies indicated that Governments considered the subject to be of the utmost importance, but one that needed additional time and research. Accordingly, the study should be regarded as a preliminary report.

(Mrs. Bruce)

As the report indicated, it was necessary to separate the influence of the mass communication media from all the other influences at work in forming people's attitudes. The mass media reflected what was going on in a community, reinforcing those concepts which were the most prevalent, but they also sparked off new trends and were exponents of new movements and changing values. Chapter II of the report examined the qualitative and quantitative approaches in the attention given by the media to women. Chapter III considered the extent to which the image of women portrayed by the mass media promoted equality of men and women. Chapter IV contained the suggestions made by Governments and non-governmental organizations on how the mass media might influence public opinion to promote equality of men and women. Chapter V contained the conclusions on the media as an instrument of social change.

At its last session the Commission had invited UNESCO to consider the possibility of carrying out interdisciplinary studies on the subject, and UNESCO had shown a keen interest in co-operating with the Commission in that area.

The CHAIRMAN said that there was a draft resolution on the question (E/CN.6/L.673) before the Commission.

Mrs. HOOGSTOEL-FABRI (Belgium) observed that, since the Commission had had the item before it for the first time at its twenty-fourth session, it had not received all the attention it merited. The sponsors of the draft resolution had thus felt that the study of the question should be pursued in greater depth.

She proposed that a new paragraph 3 should be added to the operative part of the draft resolution and the last paragraph renumbered accordingly. The new paragraph would invite Governments to urge the mass media, without prejudice to freedom of expression, to adapt their programmes so as to give men and women a continuing education in economic and professional attitudes, use of leisure time, family life and world affairs.

Miss TYABJI (India) congratulated the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673, and proposed that the following sentence should be added after operative paragraph 2: "It also invites UNESCO to co-operate with a few representative countries in producing short educational films for the use

(Miss Tyabji, India)

of schools which might serve as guidelines to all countries to develop their own techniques". That was of particular importance for the developing countries.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) said that her country took a keen interest in the question under consideration and she was pleased that a draft resolution had been introduced. The mass media had a great influence on the attitudes of men and women, and the Commission should seek some way of influencing the media. In her country the radio broadcasting system, although it belonged to the State, was an independent institution; the Parliament considered its report every year but could not restrict its freedom of expression. The Norwegian broadcasting system did not broadcast any advertisements and was thus free to act as it saw fit. However, the films it bought abroad were not always satisfactory.

While radio and television were developing in a positive direction, magazines and newspapers offered a stereotyped view of the role of men and women. There were sometimes conflicts between the policy those magazines and newspapers wished to follow and the advertisements they had to print, but it was not easy to influence newspapers or magazines belonging to private firms. She regretted in particular that pictures of naked women were used to sell products. Comic strips, intended for either children or adults, simply reaffirmed discriminatory practices and formed children's attitudes for the rest of their lives.

She hoped that the situation would improve in the near future and said she believed that it was possible to influence the mass media through non-governmental organizations and pressure groups which could, when necessary, convince firms that their advertising was immoral and should be stopped.

Teachers should also be encouraged not to inculcate wrong ideas in children.

She expressed regret that in-depth research had not yet been carried out on the question. One experiment had been carried out in the field of the effect of horror films on children. The experiment had shown that children who had seen such films had been much affected by them and were more likely to commit acts of cruelty or aggression than children who had not seen such films.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said that her country's national commission on the status of women had considered the question and believed that views should not

(Mrs. Noor, Indonesia)

be based on pure assumptions. The influence of the media was not always negative. It was often women's own attitude which determined public opinion about women, while men defended the status quo. Newspapers and magazines had an influence only in the cities, while most of the population lived in rural areas. Radio, on the other hand, could influence the illiterate population in rural areas, but since the greater part of radio programmes were entertainment, radio did not play a large part in forming public opinion. As for television, it had a much greater influence but was more limited because it only reached people in big cities.

She stressed the positive image of women given in Indonesian comic strips. Comics which described historic incidents from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata made woman a symbol of purity and wisdom, and the main characters in those comics were often women.

In traditional society the local leaders, men and women, were the most important means of forming public opinion, and they played a key role.

Her delegation was in favour of an interdisciplinary study on the influence of mass media on attitudes towards the role of women in the community.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that the UNESCO representative had not been able to be present at the meeting but had indicated that she considered the amendment introduced by the representative of India concerning the production of films very interesting. However, UNESCO, which did not have the necessary funds available, would not be in a position to take any action in that connexion.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

624th meeting

Wednesday, 30 January 1974,
at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

INFLUENCE OF MASS COMMUNICATION MEDIA ON THE FORMATION OF A NEW ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY (agenda item 10) (concluded)
(E/CN.6/581, E/CN.6/L.673)

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) pointed out that the title of the item should refer to "new attitudes" in the plural, not in the singular as appeared in the documentation.

The CHAIRMAN asked the members of the Commission to take note of the Colombian representative's statement.

Miss PIETALA (Finland) commended the Secretary-General and the authors of the report (E/CN.6/581), which she found interesting, revealing and straightforward and which was presented in concise form. It was regrettable, however, that only one of the socialist countries, Poland, had contributed to the report. It would have been very interesting to have more information about the influence of mass communication media in socialist countries, because there were good reasons to assume that the role of the media there was very different from that in the market-economy countries. The report as such was actually quite discouraging, because it showed how strongly mass communication was working against the aim of equality of men and women. Everyone knew how strong the media were in industrialized market-economy countries. It had been calculated that about 2 per cent of GNP in the rich countries was used for advertising alone, whereas the United Nations had recommended that only 1 per cent of GNP should be used for international development aid, a target which, humble as it was, was not even close to fulfilment. The chapter of the report devoted to recommendations was very short and light in content. In the view of her delegation, that showed how small were the possibilities of changing the negative influence of mass communication. The problem was a very complex one. A basic question was the ownership of mass media. As long as a majority of newspapers, magazines, books, films, and so on, were produced on a commercial, profit-making basis, it could not be expected that those media would work for social change and greater social equality. In Finland, more than 80 per cent of the press was commercial and only 20 per cent was published by political organs or non-profit making /...

(Miss Pietala, Finland)

organizations. Radio and television, however, were State enterprises controlled by the parliament, which meant that a greater variety of views was expressed in those media than in the commercial press. Nevertheless, commercial advertising was permitted on Finnish television. The report made the far-reaching influence of advertising completely clear (paragraphs 68-72). The manipulating effect was connected to the approach to women as consumers. That approach was simply a violation of human dignity. There seemed to be very little to be done about that state of affairs in the market-economy system. Education and special consumer information seemed to be one avenue, however, for making people, and especially women, more self-confident, aware and knowledgeable and thus less receptive or more resistant to commercial manipulation. There especially, school education was of the utmost importance. The quality and scope of school education should be such as to give young people a functional over-all picture of their surrounding world, covering both national and international aspects. In the era of technologically highly advanced mass media, pupils should be especially trained to use the media and to become critical and resistant to manipulation through them. Education was extremely important in the promotion of all the aims of International Women's Year, namely, equality, development and peace. It was not enough just to talk about those concepts to pupils and to distribute the texts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other declarations. Curricula themselves and the whole content of teaching and learning should be geared to those aims, and she drew attention to the Instrument on Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ED/MD/27) circulated to Governments by UNESCO in provisional form for comment and scheduled for issue in its revised form in March or April. That instrument, and the general guidelines for teaching in all member countries, was the most important thing that UNESCO had so far produced in the field of education.

There was one aspect of the influence of mass communication media which had not been discussed in the report at all; it was the influence of mass communication across borders. At present, films and television programmes constituted the bulk of the information transmitted from one country to another. It was natural that the commercially efficient market-economy system should pour out that type of material from the more developed to the less developed part of the world, or, in other words, from the United States to Europe and Latin America and from Europe to developing countries. On the other hand, it could be seen from the report that the extent of

(Miss Pietala, Finland)

distortion of the image of women was worst where commercialism was strongest. That raised the question whether the principle of the free flow of information was apt to promote the status of women and equality in general. The question was very delicate and sensitive, but one must have the courage to discuss it. Against that background, it was easy to understand the desire of developing countries to prevent the flood of alien cultures over their peoples and the need of socialist countries to protect their peoples from the aggressive Western mass media. At its seventeenth General Conference, UNESCO had re-evaluated its view on the concept of freedom of speech by declaring that the transmission of television programmes by satellite to the population of another country, which would soon be technically feasible, should be condemned unless there was an explicit agreement with the recipient country. Those new views should be taken into consideration by the Commission, since they were important to each country in the formulation of communication policy and also from the standpoint of the protection of new generations from being manipulated by distorted images of man and woman and the relation between the two. That also showed how important it was for women to participate in planning and decision-making in all areas of society. Through their active contribution to policy-making, women could best influence the improvement of their status in society and the promotion of equality, development and peace.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) stated that the Philippines recognized the influence of mass communication media on the positive participation of all citizens in the achievement of full national development, and with that purpose in view it had established the Department of Public Information, consisting of three sections: the National Media Centre, the Media Advisory Council, and the Office of International Information. The Department facilitated the flow of information to the widest segments of the population by means of television and radio broadcasting. She was sure that its work would contribute greatly to activities connected to the International Women's Year. With regard to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673, she proposed the insertion after operative paragraph 2 of a new paragraph, reading as follows:

"Invites FAO and the other specialized agencies, in co-operation with the United Nations, to include among their activities mass communication programmes that will promote equal rights of men and women and the integration of women in the development effort."

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Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) said that the Secretary-General's report was an excellent beginning in a new field of interest, and she hoped that it would be the first of a series of reports. As to the draft resolution, she hoped that India's suggestion would be included. The Finnish representative's statement gave food for thought regarding new issues. In speaking of freedom of information, one should also bear in mind the right of individuals to avoid intrusion and manipulation by the communication media. The Finnish representative had suggested an educational approach so that young people and adults would have a critical attitude to the messages transmitted by the communication media. Often, the media seemed to be free but were in fact obliged to promote the interests of a few commercial, political and other pressure groups. Such control was the more serious when it was not identifiable. It was obviously part of the technique for successfully manipulating the masses. The media's message should be scrutinized to see whether it conformed to the objectives of safeguarding or promoting human rights. The League of Arab States had directed its attention to that new area of study and had organized a seminar on the subject, which had been well received.

Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) felt that unless the mass communication media's negative image of women and their integration into the process of development and change was modified, very little progress could be achieved in promoting equality between men and women. The idea was a sensitive one, since it was, in a sense, opposed to freedom of expression.

Her country had sponsored draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673 and hoped that during International Women's Year there would be conferences and seminars on the influence of mass communications media on the formation of a new attitude towards the role of women in present-day society and that a regional seminar on the subject would also be organized.

With regard to the Philippine amendment, she asked the representative of FAO to explain whether the request would be within the scope of her organization's mandate.

Mrs. JURADO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that FAO was a technical agency which provided women in rural areas with educational materials on the basic needs of life, such as nutrition, food and

(Mrs. Jurado, FAO)

child care. She felt that the Philippine request was within the scope of FAO's mandate.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said that the decision taken by the Commission at its twenty-fourth session to include the item in the agenda of the twenty-fifth session had been based on the great influence of mass communications media in determining cultural patterns and moulding public opinion. Studies had shown that the greatest obstacle to the promotion of equality between men and women was the attitude of society as a whole. It was therefore necessary to erase the stereotyped ideas that women were inferior and that they should play a limited role in society. Accordingly, mass communications media should work to improve the image of women and emphasize their positive and invaluable contribution to society.

Her delegation welcomed the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General but hoped that there would be further studies on the influence of mass communications media on the formation of a new attitude towards the role of women in present-day society.

Her delegation warmly congratulated the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673 and would vote in favour of it.

Miss CHATON (France) said that magazines for women, and in recent years those for men, tried to promote the sale of consumer goods and, at the same time, gave a stereotyped image of the roles of men and women in society. However, it had recently become clear that although associations of women journalists were dealing with the main trends in the social, civic and economic activities of women, they were still fundamentally dependent on consumer-goods advertising.

The education of the public, both men and women, must begin with a critical approach which should be instilled into each person in the school or the home.

With regard to the activities of UNESCO, she referred to the first symposium of women journalists held at UNESCO headquarters in June 1973.

She shared the misgivings voiced by other representatives with regard to satellite communications but felt that the subject should be considered within the context of the information submitted to the Commission on Human Rights.

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Mrs. ASIYO (Kenya) said that Kenya had two radio stations and one television network, all of which transmitted quite a few programmes designed for women. The programmes were mainly educational in nature and a number of them were aimed at promoting the status of women and their role in society. Some of them were relayed in vernacular languages.

The film censorship boards, which were largely made up of women, sought to ensure that no undesirable or violent films were shown on television. Women's organizations appreciated the great influence of the mass media and the positive or negative impact they could exert on a country.

Her delegation supported the suggestions made for pilot country studies on the influence of mass communication media on the formation of a new attitude towards the role of women in present-day society. Accordingly, it supported draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673 and the amendments suggested by India and the Philippines.

Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in her country there was full awareness of the influence exercised by the communication media in the spiritual and moral formation of the Soviet personality.

Questions relating to women and their participation in the economic and political life of the country received widespread publicity in the Soviet press, which had a large circulation. Books too were inexpensive and were published by the million. Since there was no illiteracy in the Soviet Union, the press exerted an enormous influence on society.

The Soviet press constantly exhorted women to participate in social and public life and in production.

It also promoted the development of a harmonious feminine personality, and she was happy to state that in the Soviet Union the press did not exercise a harmful influence.

Mrs. CADIEUX (Canada) regretted that the report of the Secretary-General described the activities of only 28 Governments and 22 non-governmental organizations with regard to the influence of mass communications media on the formation of a new attitude towards the role of women in present-day society. She also noted that most of those countries, including Canada, had stressed that the mass communications media were closely related to the structures, institutions, values and norms of society and, for that reason, frequently presented a distorted image of the role of women in that society.

(Mrs. Cadieux, Canada)

Canadian women were aware that they still had very far to go to ensure that mass communications media did justice to women and exerted a positive influence on the role of women in society. To that end, representatives of State radio and television services and of the National Film Board were included in the interministerial committee planning the programme for International Women's Year.

Her delegation enthusiastically supported draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673.

Paragraph 17 of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/581) stated that the Canadian magazine Chatelaine had a circulation of 3 million copies in French. That figure should be 300,000.

Miss TYABJI (India) felt that the report was extremely interesting but that its scope might have been broadened. It should be borne in mind that a change of attitude for men too was necessary in various fields, such as work, particularly physical work. In many countries, including India, manual work of every kind was looked down upon, perhaps because there was a surplus of manpower, with an abundant supply of domestic servants. Efforts must now be made to change attitudes towards the whole of mankind in general. It was necessary to learn to live differently and to instil into people the concept of the dignity of work, whether manual or intellectual. All those problems might also be included in the report of the Secretary-General the following year.

Mrs. STABILE (Argentina) said that she wished, in her capacity as a sponsor of the draft resolution, to make a comment. The problem of integrating women into the processes of development and change was not beyond the control of each country. The self-determination of each nation to use its communications media in order to create a new image of women was a basic factor. Once Governments had taken the decision to bring about change, they in fact determined how mass communications media were to be used to achieve the desired change of image. It was the responsibility of women, by taking advantage of their political rights and options, to improve the opportunities available in each case to achieve their aims.

Mrs. ANDREI (Romania) said, with reference to paragraph 6 of the report, that the influence of the mass information media clearly could not be viewed in isolation from other communications media, since they were not the only factor affecting a particular situation. However, one could not deny the considerable

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(Mrs. Andrei, Romania)

influence of the information media in creating new attitudes towards the role of women in modern society and in advancing the status of women by helping to eliminate prejudices and obstacles. That was a fact in Romania, and the press, as well as radio and television, exercised great influence on the progress of women, as could be seen from the letters sent by women to the newspapers and other communications media. In her view, there was a very close relationship between the actual situation of women and radio and television programmes, articles printed in newspapers and magazines in all countries and literature in general.

In Romania the growing interest shown by women in social and civic questions reflected positive changes in their mentality and, at the same time, expressed the continuing evolution of socialist democracy. The information media which were oriented towards both men and women did not take the view that women formed a separate public, and therefore they exercised a very considerable influence. The women of Romania unreservedly approved of the guidance given by the press on economic and social matters, designed to ensure a good life for present and future generations.

Improvements in the structure of industry and the remarkable expansion of a number of specialized industries closely linked with contemporary technological and scientific progress, such as electronics and chemistry, were frequently reported in newspapers and magazines, on the radio and in other information media, and that coverage was instrumental in attracting women to industry. Women's magazines no longer confined themselves to articles on sewing, cooking or fashion. In Romania the three magazines intended for women contained articles of general interest on education and technical questions and also on the continuing evolution of the function of women in society. They did, of course, include articles which dealt primarily with aspects of the life of women, such as marriage, divorce and child care, but the most important thing was that the women's press was also of interest to men and, consequently, exercised the same positive influence on men as on women. Since she considered it the main function of the press, television and radio to educate the public, she was in full agreement with the ideas expressed in the draft resolution.

Ms. BOERSMA (United States of America) emphasized the merits of document E/CN.6/581 but expressed regret that the report of the United States had not been included in the Secretary-General's report; she did, however, fully agree

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(Ms. Boersma, United States)

with the conclusions of the latter report. The United States believed that governmental, non-governmental and other types of organizations and educational and research institutions should be encouraged to undertake research to determine: (1) the images of men and women portrayed in mass media; (2) the influence of mass media in changing attitudes to the traditional roles of men and women; and (3) the power of mass media to effect cultural and legislative changes which would result in the full equality of men and women. Women's groups in the United States were increasingly concerned about the effect of mass media in perpetuating images which hindered the development and integration of women in society. Although advertising had apparently still not recognized the changing role of women and continued to depict them in stereotyped activities, programmes were being produced showing women in a variety of roles. Referring to education she said that textbooks, particularly for primary schools, were being rewritten to represent both sexes in a variety of roles, and at universities women studies programmes had recently become part of the curriculum.

United States film makers were clearly the worst offenders with regard to perpetuating female and male stereotypes but studies were currently being undertaken by many women's groups and educational institutions to reassess those ideas. The process would undoubtedly be slow in advertising and films, but increased citizen awareness of the narrow concept defining women in the mass media had begun to exert pressure on radio and television stations to air more programmes aimed at changing and improving the image of women hitherto projected.

Whether mass media reflected the state of society or influenced it was still a subject of debate. However, it was becoming increasingly clear that neither men nor women would any longer tolerate a limited image of women. As a result of new laws and affirmative action programmes, the number of women in predominantly male professions was increasing; the way in which language could influence the perception of jobs had also been recognized. Governments had modified occupational titles denoting or connoting sex stereotypes. Her delegation was hopeful that the mass communication media would employ more women in high policy-making posts. If the current trend in the United States continued and grew, mass media would serve as an important means of integrating women fully into all aspects of society.

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Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) said that the responsibility of mass media, especially television, for the wave of crime and violence throughout the world was currently recognized. Young people especially tended to copy the pattern of the behaviour portrayed. The more horrific a production the greater seemed its success with the public and whereas the majority could take such entertainment in their stride, the same was not true of certain groups who copied what they read or saw to the detriment of their own life and the life of others.

Draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673 placed her delegation in a dilemma. While being in agreement with its objectives and with action to overcome the prejudices referred to in document E/CN.6/L.581, it questioned whether there were not, at the current stage, clear limits to what could be achieved at the international level and whether the answer lay in requesting United Nations studies, reports and seminars when in fact action was needed first and foremost at the national level. In the first instance it was up to Governments to influence attitudes towards women in the mass media by indirect means; that implied a gradual re-orientation of government attitudes towards specific problems; such as women and employment, as part of the long-term process of ensuring that women were fully integrated in development and in the life of the community.

In her opinion, the various reports requested in draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673 would contribute little to that process and she felt she should point out that the report requested at the Commission's last session had only become available in the current week, so that it was difficult to determine what its impact had been and in what way it had contributed constructively towards solving the problems. Accordingly, it was justifiable to ask what would be the fate of the reports, seminars and so forth requested at the current session. Her delegation was also concerned about the possible financial implications of the recommendations.

Mrs. HUVANANDANA (Thailand) said that in Thailand the influence of mass media was very great but it did not harm women since many journalists, novelists and writers were women. In every newspaper there was one page for women, and both there and in the two or three magazines for women information was provided on women's advancement and activities. The three television stations in Thailand transmitted quite a few programmes for women every week, but because they were shown very early in the morning men could not, as a rule, watch them. On the whole, the mass media

(Mrs. Huvanandana, Thailand)

in Thailand were under the influence of women and would contribute very constructively to the programme for International Women's Year - 1975. Her delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) felt that not only Governments but private and other institutions should undertake studies on the influence of mass media in changing attitudes. The mass media could contribute to the creation in women of a capacity to criticize information put out by the mass media. To teach the public to adopt a critical attitude to information put out by the press and other media was extremely important for developing and developed countries alike.

She congratulated the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673 on their constructive work but said that she was not fully satisfied with the content of the draft. She felt that it would be necessary to make a careful study before the Commission could adopt a decision on the subject.

Mrs. LIPKOWSKI (International Alliance of Women) said that, noting that the Commission was considering the question of the image of women projected by the mass media, a group of non-governmental international women's organizations had discussed observance of International Women's Year. They had considered the proposal made in document E/CN.6/576 that United Nations seminars should be held in 1974 and 1975. They had suggested that one of those seminars should be devoted to the question of changing the image of women projected by the mass media, which strengthened and perpetuated traditional and restrictive attitudes towards women's role in society. Experts in psychology, sociology and anthropology as well as experts in communications media, press, communications, publicity, public relations and similar subjects would take part in the proposed seminar. The conclusions of the seminar would be useful to non-governmental organizations in planning their local, national and regional seminars and in stimulating action to encourage women to fulfil their potential and play their full role in human development.

After the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673 had consulted each other, and following an exchange of views in which Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic), Mrs. HOOGSTOEL-FABRI (Belgium) and Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) took part, Mrs. HOOGSTOEL-FABRI (Belgium) read out draft

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(Mrs. Hoogstoel-Fabri, Belgium)

resolution E/CN.6/L.673 with the amendments accepted by the sponsors. In the third line of the first preambular paragraph the words "in many countries" would be inserted between the words "that" and "the mass". In operative paragraph 2, the words "to carry out" should be replaced by the words "to consider the possibility of carrying out" and between operative paragraphs 2 and 3 a new paragraph 3 should be inserted, reading as follows:

"Invites all organizations of the United Nations system, particularly UNESCO, to make a special effort to increase their audiovisual material and develop their programmes in such a way as to promote the integration of women in development."

Operative paragraph 3 would then become paragraph 4.

Miss PIETALA (Finland) proposed that, in the fifth line of the first preambular paragraph, the words "and men" should be inserted between the words "women" and "in present-day society".

After an exchange of views in which Mrs. HOOGSTOEL-FABRI (Belgium and Mrs. MARTE de BARRIOS (Dominican Republic) took part, the sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the amendment proposed by the representative of Finland.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objections, she would take it that draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution E/CN.6/L.673, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITIES (agenda item 11) (E/CN.6/585 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/CN.6/NGO/247)

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) pointed out that document E/CN.6/585 differed from the report presented by the Secretary-General at the previous session of the Commission, since it covered the work programme for 1974-1975, the medium-term plan for 1974-1977 and the proposed programme objectives for 1976-1979, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3043 (XXVII) adopted in 1972. Pursuant to that resolution, the Economic and Social Council had decided to instruct its functional commissions and standing committees to state their programme objectives so that the Secretary-General could

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(Mrs. Bruce)

examine and elaborate the most effective and economical means of achieving the objectives in question and make appropriate recommendations in the biennial programme and budget and the medium-term plan. In the absence of the views of the Commission, which met every two years, the Secretariat had had to base the work programme and budget recommendations in the field of the promotion of equality of men and women primarily on the programme set forth by the Commission at its twenty-fourth session.

One special feature of the new programme-budget exercise was that it defined a limited number of specific activities. Eight of those were mentioned in paragraph 5, which she read out, and which dealt with the work of the Secretariat in the application of decisions taken by the Commission and other bodies.

Each of those activities was described in chapter 1 of the report and some details were given for the two-year programme 1974-1975 and the medium-term plan 1974-1977.

Some general objectives were described in E/CN.6/585/Add.1 for each of those specific activities for the period 1976-1979. Many of them were based on speculation, since projects had to be formulated on the basis of what it was believed the Commission would authorize in the future. In fact, the document should be amended with additional reports and activities authorized by resolutions adopted at the current session of the Commission.

She asked the Commission to give special consideration to whether it wished to change the priorities, and drew the Commission's attention to some specific activities, such as that described on page 11 of the English text, namely the condition of women and children in special situations. The preparation of reports on the legal and social condition of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories presupposed a great deal of work and time, and she wondered if that objective could not equally be achieved through the reports on the protection of women and children in emergency or war-time, fighting for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence.

Another problem was that of the unmarried mother. She briefly outlined the problem and said that since the Commission had already made an exhaustive study of it, and since its programme of work was very heavy, the Secretary-General had considered that it would be better not to include that item in the work programme for the current session and to seek the Commission's opinion.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) congratulated the Secretariat and Mrs. Bruce on their excellent work in drawing up document E/CN.6/585 on the work programme for 1974-1975, the medium-term plan for 1974-1977 and proposed programme objectives for 1976-1979. She fully understood the difficulties inherent in elaborating that new type of document, working within the framework established by General Assembly resolution 3043 (XXVII).

Her delegation fully supported the fundamental objectives of document E/CN.6/585. With reference to the specific activities listed in paragraph 5, she agreed that assistance should be provided in the elaboration and implementation of international instruments, but felt that it was even more important to try to ensure that existing instruments were implemented. She also supported the second of the specific activities and that concerning the elaboration and implementation of a programme for International Women's Year, 1975, which she was sure would be adopted. With regard to the fourth of the specific activities listed, she reiterated that her delegation would like the role of women in society as citizens to be mentioned. She also agreed with specific activities 7 and 8.

With reference to paragraph 30, her delegation would like the report to take into consideration the debates of the Commission and the resolution adopted that day. She was pleased that in paragraph 18 reference was made to a contribution to the report on the World Social Situation with relation to women, and that mention was made of a forthcoming project on the integration of women in development with special reference to population factors.

She asked Mrs. Bruce what was meant in paragraph 24 of document E/CN.6/585/Add.1 by the reference to "substantive support", and she also inquired to which budget the necessary funds would be chargeable.

She congratulated the ILO and UNESCO on their work and expressed the hope that they would maintain their valuable co-operation.

Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the work programme for 1974-1975, the medium-term plan for 1974-1977 and the proposed programme objectives for 1976-1979 formed a wide range of activities and she would like to know what the financial implications were for each. It was her understanding that the Economic and Social Council wished the financial implications to be indicated when the various programmes were drawn up. She thought

(Mrs. Kastalskaya, USSR)

it appropriate that the Commission should be told what those implications were, even in the form of a preliminary assessment. She would also like to know why a chapter on technical co-operation activities had not been included.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), replying to the representative of Greece, said that everything in document E/CN.6/585/Add.1 was a projection for the future which could be accepted or rejected. Paragraph 24 referred to assistance in the form of expert advice, for example, for the elaboration of programmes. That was a type of work which the Secretariat carried out frequently.

She informed the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that in document E/CN.6/585/Corr.1 it was envisaged that expenditure relating to the work programme for 1974-1975 would be covered by existing resources; in any case, the necessary adjustments could be made so that the programme did not exceed those resources. For example, from paragraphs 29 to 34 of document E/CN.6/585 it was clear that the study programme schedule was not being met, due to a need for more manpower, since the staff was very small. As for including a chapter on advisory services, she pointed out that the Division of Human Rights had been separated from the Secretariat and consequently the budget for the human rights programme was likewise separate. That was why no mention was made of it in document E/CN.6/585.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) asked Mrs. Bruce if that separation meant that advisory services would no longer be provided, and inquired what that would imply for the work programme of the Commission.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that the programme of work included advisory activities, as was clear from paragraphs 51 to 57 of document E/CN.6/585 dealing with substantive support for technical co-operation activities. There would not be the same degree of flexibility, nor so many activities as previously. But within the programme there was a measure of flexibility, which meant that practically the same services as before would be available.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America), at the invitation of the Chairman, read out a document by which the President of the United States of America proclaimed 1975 International Women's Year.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

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625th meeting

Thursday, 31 January 1974,
at 10.20 a.m.Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITIES (agenda item 11) (concluded)
(E/CN.6/585 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/CN.6/NGO/247)

Mrs. SAARINEN (Finland) said that the Commission had often discussed such fundamental objectives as the integration of women in the total development effort and the promotion of equality between men and women. However, it had given less attention to the question of ensuring recognition of the importance of women's increasing contribution to friendly relations, co-operation and world peace. The delegation of the United States of America had submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.658) requesting the Secretary-General to organize an international conference during International Women's Year to discuss such issues. Her delegation believed that such a conference would be very useful, but felt that it was necessary to ascertain what financial resources would be available for that purpose. Perhaps the regional conferences which had already been planned would be equally effective methods of disseminating such ideas; for example, in 1973 a large conference for European women had been organized in Finland to discuss equality, co-operation and peace. The valuable work done by non-governmental organizations should also be borne in mind.

Her delegation welcomed the amendment submitted by the USSR delegation (E/CN.6/L.659) recommending that the General Assembly at its thirtieth session should consider the situation and role of women in society as a separate agenda item. It would also be useful to consider that item at the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1975, and again in the light of the results of the report on the world social situation to be published in 1975.

At its current session, the Commission had had a very long agenda and the discussion of individual items had therefore at times been a little superficial. Her delegation wondered if it would not be more useful to have fewer items on the agenda at the next session so that they could be discussed in depth. Her delegation also felt that the work of the Commission would be facilitated if some kind of resolutions committee could be established at the beginning of a session to study all draft resolutions and combine them whenever possible, so that the Commission itself need not spend so much time on them during the plenary meetings. Finally, since it

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(Mrs. Saarinen, Finland)

was well known that one of the main goals of the Commission was the promotion of equality between men and women at all levels, her delegation wondered whether the Commission should consider changing its name to the Commission on Equality.

Her delegation wished to request that its proposals should be included in the Commission's report on the item under consideration.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) supported the suggestion that the Commission should consider changing its name, since she felt that the title "Commission on Equality" would have a very positive psychological effect. She also felt that the title of the draft Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women should be changed to the draft Convention on the Promotion of Equality between Men and Women. Her delegation suggested that the Commission should consider modifying its agenda for the next session: for instance, the item relating to the protection of women and children in armed conflict might be referred to either the Third Committee or the Commission on Human Rights and the item on the position of women and children in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories might also be referred to the appropriate United Nations body. She noted that the report contained in document E/CN.6/585 did not mention the financing of the activities of International Women's Year and said she would like further information on that subject. She agreed, moreover, that it would be preferable to have fewer items on the agenda so that the discussions would be more serious. In paragraph 5 of document E/CN.6/585, where eight specific activities were mentioned, she suggested that the words "and in public life" should be inserted at the end of item 4, that item 6 might be referred to the appropriate United Nations body, and that items 7 and 8 could perhaps be combined with item 2. In conclusion, she pointed out that her delegation had received the documentation for the current session very late and she hoped that in future every effort would be made to ensure that representatives received documents much earlier.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that she would reply to the question raised by the Indonesian representative on the financing of International Women's Year at a later time. In connexion with the possibility of combining some of the activities mentioned by the Indonesian representative, she wished to emphasize that the items listed did not constitute an agenda, but merely a list of activities.

She regretted that the members of the Commission had not received the documentation in good time for the session. However, many of the documents they

(Mrs. Bruce)

used were based on information which Governments were requested to provide, and it often happened that Governments were unable to meet the deadlines laid down for their replies. Consequently, the information was transmitted late and the documents appeared late. She was aware that the Council had ruled that information received after the deadline should be ignored, but she wished to remind the Commission that, if the ruling was observed, there would frequently be insufficient information available to enable reports to be compiled. It should also be borne in mind that the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch had a very small staff. In 1973, one unexpected activity - the preparation of the programme budget - had occupied two professionals for one month and had taken up a full month of her own time; that had naturally had repercussions on the preparation of other documents. There might also be a problem as far as the actual distribution of documents was concerned. The Branch itself did not distribute documents, but often made efforts to send them, on a personal basis, to members of the Commission. It was the normal procedure for the Permanent Missions in New York to ensure the dispatch of documentation to the members of the Commission.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) fully supported the suggestion by the Finnish representative that there should be fewer items on the agenda of the Commission's next session. However, it felt that a change in the name of the Commission might lead to confusion and that it would be better to retain the present title of the draft Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Her delegation also had some serious misgivings about the wisdom of referring some of its agenda items, particularly the ones suggested by the Indonesian representative, to other organs. In conclusion, her delegation wished to commend the Secretariat for having included training courses as part of the activities to be undertaken under the programme for International Women's Year.

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) said that her Government took the question of the preparation of documents most seriously. On the instructions of her Government, she wished to place on record its disappointment and dismay that, despite Economic and Social Council resolution 1770 (LIV), under which all documents were to be distributed at least six weeks before the opening of any session, only one document had been received by that time. Since the members of the Commission met as the representatives of their Governments, it was imperative that the authorities at home should have ample time to consider the often complex, delicate and demanding questions before the Commission. Unfortunately, they had

(Mrs. Cockcroft, United Kingdom)

in most cases been able to achieve that only with difficulty. No fault could be ascribed to the United Kingdom Mission, which forwarded documents with all dispatch. Now that the Commission met only once every two years, her Government expected and had a right to expect the documents to be ready in good time. The situation at the current session was therefore all the more unsatisfactory. If the appearance of the majority of the documents had depended on bodies other than United Nations Headquarters, her delegation could have understood the cause of the delay. All the members of the Commission appreciated the tremendously hard work put into the session by the staff of the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch, but that was cold comfort to Governments compelled to work out views on various subjects at such short notice. She hoped that many more documents would be available before the next session of the Commission.

Miss CHATON (France) complimented the Secretariat on the work it had done in preparing the report (E/CN.6/585). The activities set out in paragraph 5 of the report were continuing activities and should therefore clearly be continued. They were, after all, the reason for the Commission's existence. She did not think it would serve any useful purpose to combine any of the items, since that would simply result in one bulky document instead of a number of smaller ones, and lead to confusion.

As to the idea of changing the Commission's name, she said that there was still a great deal of work to be done on the status of women as such. For instance, less than two thirds of the series of comparative legal studies on the status of women in private law had been completed. That aspect of the Commission's work must be continued.

There were certain difficulties in the Finnish proposal that a resolutions committee should be set up; draft resolutions were often prepared as each item came under consideration and it would be difficult to combine them.

Her Government had expressed its regret at the late distribution of documents, but she understood the difficulties facing the Secretariat and the Missions. She had often received documents personally before they had reached the appropriate government department. She had hoped that the biennial programme would help to improve matters, but much depended on the Secretariat, whose personnel was limited and on Governments, which tended to submit replies late.

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Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation had received hardly any documents before the beginning of the session. That had made its work more difficult. The report on the status of women and family planning had been made available in Russian only during the session; her delegation had thus been unable to study it, and had been forced to abstain in the vote on the relevant draft resolution. The blame should not be placed on the Missions, which often received documents late.

There was insufficient information in the report (E/CN.6/585) about the financial implications of the work the Commission was supposed to do. There appeared to be no budget provision for the medium-term and long-term programme.

It was clear that the work programme submitted was the programme for the Secretariat; her delegation wanted to see a programme of work for the Commission itself. She agreed with other delegations that certain changes should be made in the programme. On a purely technical point, she hoped that the references in the report to "instrument or instruments" would be corrected to show clearly that only one document was involved. She had some doubts about the usefulness of completing two separate studies on the status of women and family planning, mentioned in paragraph 36 of the report; the Commission must consider its expenditure of time, work and resources. She wished to know why there was further reference to the report of the Special Rapporteur in paragraphs 37 and 40. She suggested that the last sentence of paragraph 33 should be deleted; the Commission was working on a single convention that would cover family law. Lastly, she wished to know the cost of the international part of the activities mentioned in paragraph 25 of the report. The Secretariat should provide the necessary information in time for delegations to examine it at the fifty-sixth session of the Economic and Social Council.

Mrs. STABILE (Argentina) said that her delegation had read document E/CN.6/585 with the greatest interest. She commended the Secretariat on its clear, concise and timely report, which examined the major problems affecting the status of women and attempted to find real and effective solutions to those problems. Her delegation attached particular importance to the preparation of a study for submission to the Economic Commission for Latin America on the participation of women in the development of the region, and the measures to be taken to eliminate discrimination and the lack of educational, employment and economic opportunities for women. Such a regional study would be very useful in view of the great similarity of the obstacles to the integration of women in the development of the various countries of Latin America.

(Mrs. Stabile, Argentina)

She was pleased to note that plans had been made to hold two annual seminars under the regular programme of technical co-operation, despite the fact that no further seminars could be organized under the advisory services programme in the field of human rights because of the restructuring of the Secretariat for budgetary reasons. Those plans would facilitate the implementation of the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1680 (LII) which had been adopted on the recommendation of the Commission. On the subject of the shortening of the agenda, she agreed that there was a need to reduce the number of items considered in order to focus maximum attention on the basic issues. With regard to the question of changing the name of the Commission, she did not feel that such a step would be wise because, as a result of the work done by the Commission over a number of years, its name had become well known and carried some weight even in countries not represented on it. She regretted that members of the Commission had not received the necessary documents six weeks in advance, as required by the Economic and Social Council. It was important that the Commission's final report and draft resolutions should be sent to members of the Economic and Social Council six weeks in advance so that they would be given careful consideration; the Secretariat and the General Assembly would then be able to take more effective follow-up action.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) said that her delegation supported the various proposals put forward by the delegation of Finland with a view to shortening the Commission's agenda, establishing a resolutions committee and changing the name of the Commission. With regard to the latter proposal, she endorsed the views expressed by the representative of Indonesia, and said that the fact that the secretariat of the Commission had changed its name convinced her that the Commission itself should have a similar name, to make it clear that the aim was to ensure equal status for men and women, and not privileges for women. Referring to the Indonesian suggestions that certain items of the programme set out in paragraph 5 of the report should be combined and others deleted, she said that she could agree to the deletion of a particular item if the Commission felt that it was already being adequately dealt with by other United Nations bodies. Her delegation also shared the view of the

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(Mrs. Kolstad, Norway)

delegations of Indonesia and Greece that item 4 as it stood was too restrictive, and that words such as "in society" or "in public life" should be added to give the Commission a better chance to study the legal and practical status of women.

Commenting on the Deputy Director's request for the Commission's opinion on the inclusion in the agenda of an item on unmarried mothers, she agreed that the subject was most relevant but pointed out that it was covered by the question of the role, rights and responsibilities of women in the family, since an unmarried mother and her child also formed a family. On the other hand, she could not support the inclusion of an item on the subject of children born out of wedlock, since consideration of such a subject would require the Commission to extend its efforts over too many fields, instead of concentrating its attention on questions relating solely to the promotion of equality between men and women.

Many complaints had been made about the late distribution of documents, which left insufficient time for study of background papers. While the problem was a real one, she felt that part of the blame lay with the various Governments, which never provided replies in time. It had been stressed earlier that very few Governments replied to questions put to them about the situation of women, and that those which did reply failed to meet the prescribed deadlines. Moreover, many Member States faced the added difficulty of having to have their documents translated into one of the working languages before forwarding them to the United Nations. She suggested that the members of the Commission might urge their Governments to give higher priority to providing replies to requests for information from the United Nations.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) expressed her delegation's appreciation to the Deputy Director for her excellent introduction of the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/585). She noted with interest the new system of preparing work programmes for functional commissions and endorsed the programme of specific activities envisaged in the medium-term plan for 1974-1977, as well as the proposed programme objectives for 1976-1979. It was gratifying to note that seminars on the promotion of equality between men and women would be continued as part of the technical co-operation activities provided for in the medium-term plan.

(Mrs. Stevenson, Liberia)

In view of the periodicity of the Commission's sessions, it was necessary to keep matters relating to the promotion of equality between men and women and the integration of women in development under constant review. It was to be hoped that the activities and studies undertaken during 1974-1975 and 1974-1977 would have a continuing impact.

Her delegation wished to appeal to the Secretariat to make adequate provision for the dissemination of newsletters and other information material to members of the Commission who did not reside in New York.

In conclusion, she emphasized the importance of the Commission's role in achieving United Nations goals with respect to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction. In that connexion, her delegation had the honour to propose the following new item for inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission: "Integration of aged women in the total development effort with a view to enhancing the quality of life". Studies had shown that women were often abandoned, neglected or ostracized after reaching the age of retirement. The establishment of programmes to enable them to participate in community and national development would not only enhance their quality of life, but would also give them an incentive to contribute to the achievement of equality, development and peace.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) welcomed the report prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/585). She pointed out, however, that the agenda of the current session of the Commission included an item on the exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking, but that that particular problem had not been mentioned in the work programme submitted by the Secretary-General. Her delegation therefore requested that it be added to the activities dealt with under item 6 in paragraph 5 of the report, which called for an evaluation of the condition of women and children in special situations.

Miss TYABJI (India) agreed with the Finnish delegation's proposal that the name of the Commission be changed, not only because of changing attitudes, but in order to prepare for a reorientation of the Committee's work. She also supported the proposed shortening of the Commission's agenda, a step which would enable it to concentrate entirely on the basic issues. Referring to paragraph 18 (d)

(Miss Tyabji, India)

of the report (E/CN.6/585), she wondered whether reports on the pilot country studies in question could be given by individual countries at the next session of the Commission.

In striving to enhance the status of women, attention should be focused on areas for which women had a natural talent, such as domestic work and house work. Studies of that type of work should be carried out in countries such as the Netherlands, Norway and Denmark, where it took on special forms. Studies should also be made of other activities for which women might be specially suited. In that connexion, the mass communications media could serve as a powerful instrument to enhance the status of women and promote the concept of the inherent dignity of labour.

Miss BENITEZ (United Nations Environment Programme) drew attention to the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on its first session, held in June 1973 (A/9025). That document mentioned many subjects of vital interest to women which UNEP planned to study in depth as matters of priority. One such subject was that of human settlements, and it was significant that World Population Year in 1974 and International Women's Year in 1975 would be followed by the United Nations Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements in 1976, which would provide both governmental and non-governmental organizations with yet another opportunity to co-operate in a field which women should recognize as one of natural concern to themselves.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) commended the Secretariat on its efforts to present the work programme in such a way as to achieve increased co-ordination between the recommendations of the Commission, the activities designed to implement those recommendations, and the resources available. Although, in view of the new budgeting procedure adopted, it was difficult to evaluate the programme, the eight specific activities listed in paragraph 5 of the report (E/CN.6/585) seemed to cover the principal areas of concern adequately. Her delegation considered the most important items to be those relating to the integration of women in development, International Women's Year, the status of women and family planning, and the influence of the mass media on the role of women.

(Mrs. Hutar, United States)

Her delegation hoped that a greater number of reports would be submitted by member countries as a result of the work done by the Commission at its current session, and expected additional work for the Commission arising from its recommendations on such matters as the integration of women in development and the role of the mass media.

Finally, she said she thought that the general trends established in the 1974-1975 period would extend into the 1977-1979 period, and expressed the hope that International Women's Year would generate increased efforts to create greater opportunities for women and to promote equality between men and women.

Mrs. HUVANANDANA (Thailand) asked whether, since there were very few English speakers in her country, it would be possible to have the report (E/CN.6/585) translated into Thai in order to make the information available to the population and to ensure support from governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) said that her delegation was in favour of reducing the number of items on the agenda and supported the idea of setting up a resolutions committee.

She regretted the delay in the distribution of documents for the session, which had caused difficulties for her delegation and had reduced the quality of the Commission's work. She endorsed the suggestion that documents should be sent directly to members of delegations in order to avoid the delays involved in transmitting them through missions.

Her delegation was very much in favour of special training courses and she was looking forward with great interest to seeing the ILO report on part-time employment. Part-time employment was a very suitable way for women to combine work and family responsibilities. She endorsed the proposal by Liberia that an item on the integration of aged women in development should be included in the agenda. Women who were mature and had completed their family responsibilities could make an additional effective contribution to development. Her delegation would be very interested to see the report of the Governing Council of UNEP.

She proposed that in order to maintain close and direct contacts between representatives, the Secretariat should supply a list of their addresses.

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Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said that, in view of the importance of studies, the United Nations should improve the relevant financial procedures. In her experience, when a country was asked to carry out a study, the United Nations finance required was often delayed by red tape, and the country concerned had to provide the money for the study in the meantime. Since most countries could not do that without previous budgetary allocations, there was inevitably a delay in preparing studies. She suggested that once the studies had been approved, the money might be allocated and transmitted through the resident representative.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that the comments and proposals made would be summarized in the Commission's report. She was aware of the difficulties mentioned by the representative of Indonesia and would take the matter up with the appropriate authorities with a view to improving what was a rather cumbersome procedure.

She was also very much aware of the difficulties caused to members and to Governments by delays in the distribution of documents. She pointed out, however, that the Economic and Social Council had decided that its functional commissions must meet early in the year. That had meant that most of the preparatory and translation work for the sessions had had to be done during the latter part of the General Assembly when the whole Secretariat was under great pressure. The secretariat of the Commission had in fact worked overtime and at week-ends to prepare the documents.

It was very important that members should ensure that Governments recognized the priorities of the equality programme in their work in the Economic and Social Council and in the Fifth Committee. The Commission's budget estimates had to pass a number of hurdles and were cut at each step. The allocation of resources would be clearer with the programme budget, but she stressed that it was up to members to see that adequate financial provisions were made for the Commission's needs and programmes by the appropriate bodies.

Mrs. MAKA (Guinea) said that her delegation supported the idea that there should be fewer items on the Commission's agenda. That would make the Commission's work more effective and would permit more thorough study of the issues involved. She also supported the proposal to set up a resolutions committee. The delay in the distribution of documents, which seemed to be a general occurrence, had prevented her delegation from joining in the discussion on certain items.

(Mrs. Maka, Guinea)

She supported the proposal by Liberia that an item on the integration of aged women in development should be included in the agenda.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) said that section G of the report (E/CN.6/585) did not show what practical steps would be taken to reach illiterate women at the grass-roots level or women who did not know the standard language of a country. The question was not merely one of translation; attention must also be given to technical methods. She felt that a study should be made of better methods of communication, with particular emphasis on the visual approach.

She was very much in favour of reducing the number of items on the agenda and of setting up a resolutions committee.

The CHAIRMAN urged members to follow up the Deputy Director's suggestions in the Economic and Social Council and the Fifth Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.

627th meeting

Thursday, 31 January 1974,
at 3.20 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (agenda item 3) (continued) (E/CN.6/588)

• Mrs. DAES (Greece) introduced the report of the Working Group concerning International Women's Year (E/CN.6/588). The draft programme of activities for International Women's Year, included in the report, was based on document E/CN.6/576 and was the result of intensive joint discussions since all the amendments submitted and views expressed by members of the Commission, by the representatives of the specialized agencies, in particular the ILO and UNESCO, and by the representatives of a number of non-governmental organizations, had been taken into account. The draft programme would be annexed to the resolution which the Commission was recommending for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and which appeared on page 17 of the report.

In the preparation of the draft programme, due consideration had been given to the needs of women in general, and to those of the third world in particular, on the basis of the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenants on human rights, the Declaration and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States.

Two questions remained to be settled, one concerning the organization of a world conference and the other the establishment of a Fund, consisting of voluntary contributions, to assist in financing the activities of the Year. The decision to establish such a Fund was indispensable to the success of the Year.

Finally, she drew the Commission's attention to various corrections which had to be made to the report.

In paragraph 8, second line, the words "draft resolution and" should be inserted after the word "following".

On page 3, under the title "Draft Programme for International Women's Year, 1975", the quotation from the fifth preambular paragraph of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should be completed.

On page 4, paragraph 3, second line, the word "in", which had been inadvertently repeated, should be deleted.

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(Mrs. Daes, Greece)

On page 5, paragraph 8 (c), second line, the words "equal pay for" should be inserted after the words "right to".

On page 5, paragraph 8 (e), the last clause after the word "States" should be deleted.

On page 13, paragraph 34, the words "or instruments" in the second line should be deleted.

On page 14, paragraph 39 should be preceded by the title "United Nations System".

Mrs. JAUREGUIBERRY (Argentina), Rapporteur of the Working Group, said that in the preparation of the draft programme, the items included in the agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Commission had been taken into account. For example, special attention was paid to the status of women in rural areas. In order to implement programmes which would be organized for international Women's Year, a special appeal was made for the participation of non-governmental organizations and those representing different sectors of public opinion. Under paragraph 1 of the draft resolution in the report, the Economic and Social Council was requested to approve the programme of measures and activities recommended by the Commission.

Her delegation was prepared to provide all necessary clarifications to delegations which might so desire.

Mrs. MOHAMMED (Nigeria), Rapporteur, suggested that the following new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 29:

"The regional economic commissions should establish regional commissions on the status of women such as the existing Inter-American Commission of Women and the Committee on the Status of Arab Women which would: (a) advise and assist the regional economic commissions in creating and strengthening their programmes and services related to the advancement of women; (b) place special emphasis on relieving the burdens and increasing the economic output of rural women engaged in agriculture and on providing facilities for food preservation and processing, child care and co-operative education; (c) co-operate with interested United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental agencies and, in particular, with the Commission on the Status of Women".

The other paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

Mrs. MARINKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) pointed out that in paragraph 35, the words "to elaborate a United Nations instrument" should be replaced by the words "to adopt a United Nations declaration".

Miss TYABJI (India) said that in the last sentence of paragraph 10, the words "this section" should be replaced by "section II".

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), replying to a question by Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia), pointed out that the Inter-American Commission of Women, which was in communication with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, was not part of the United Nations system. There were no commissions on the status of women within the regional economic commissions; the Economic Commission for Africa had, however, arranged a programme dealing specifically with women.

The establishment of such commissions within the framework of the regional economic commissions would naturally have financial implications.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation wished to propose some amendments to the report.

On page 7, part C, subparagraph (u) should precede subparagraph (r).

In subparagraph (u) (i), the words "apartheid and racial discrimination" should be added after the word "subjugation".

The wording of subparagraph (s) should be replaced by a text on the following lines:

"The participation of women in safeguarding peace which would create economic, social, cultural and political conditions that contribute to the advancement of the status of women and men."

In the first line of subparagraph (v) the words "having due regard for their sovereignty and non-intervention in their domestic affairs" should be inserted after the word "ideas".

In paragraph 34, the words "an international instrument or instruments" should be replaced by the words "a new convention".

With regard to paragraph 39, her delegation wondered whether points (a), (b) and (c) were not superfluous: it also felt that paragraph (v) in annex I, concerning the organization of student workshops, which might have financial implications, could be deleted, since seminars had already been organized on some of the topics concerned.

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) congratulated the Working Group on its report, and said she wished to make it clear that her delegation, although agreeing

(Mrs. Cockcroft, United Kingdom)

with the items of the report, had not changed the views it had expressed during the discussions, particularly with regard to the substance of paragraph 35.

Miss PIETALA (Finland) said she considered that subparagraph (r) in section C should be included under the heading "Development" and not under "Peace".

Mrs. ANDREI (Romania) stated that her country planned to organize a number of activities to celebrate International Women's Year, 1975, on the basis of the draft programme submitted to the Commission. Her Government invited the Commission on the Status of Women to hold one of its forthcoming sessions in Romania.

Mrs. ASIYO (Kenya) said that her delegation agreed with the draft programme, particularly the proposal concerning the establishment of commissions on the status of women within the regional economic commissions. On the occasion of International Women's Year, Kenya itself intended to establish a national commission on the status of women.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said that the establishment of a national commission on the status of women in Kenya would be of great interest to the countries of the region, which might later benefit from the experience acquired.

Her delegation would like to propose a change in the first part of the Nigerian amendment to paragraph 30. The new paragraph 30, as further amended, would read as follows:

"Recognizing that progress with regard to improving the status of women will be accelerated if common needs and resources in the various regions are considered to promote the advancement of women and their integration in development, an appeal should be made to Governments of the various regions to establish regional commissions on the status of women and to organize within existing intergovernmental organizations and other similar organizations programmes for women aimed at their full integration in the national and regional development."

The rest of the Nigerian amendment would remain unchanged.

Mrs. HUVANANDANA (Thailand) said that she would like the words "and responsibilities" to be inserted after the word "rights" in the second line of paragraph 17.

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The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, she would give the floor to the representative of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

It was so decided.

Mrs. MENDOZA (International Planned Parenthood Federation) said that the Federation intended to carry out a number of programmes during International Women's Year. In view of the high rates of maternal and infant mortality, it felt that that must be the subject of further projects. In addition, the World Population Plan of Action failed to put emphasis on the contribution of family planning to the health and mental well-being of women. Another area in which the Federation considered it essential to make progress was education. It therefore attached particular importance to educational programmes for women who had not had the opportunity to attend school. Pilot projects dealing with family life and population education for the young had been drafted as a result of the workshop held in Singapore in May 1973. That approach to education was particularly important, since young girls were likely to leave school before they were equipped with a vocation, or able to cope with family responsibilities. The Federation also planned to support functional pilot literacy programmes for women in Africa.

The Federation's projects for 1974 also included participation in law and population studies in about 40 countries to identify particular laws that were prejudicial to women's rights; the Federation hoped in that way to assist national associations which were trying to obtain the removal of such discriminatory legislation and the enactment of appropriate legislation.

Being aware of the significant role that non-governmental organizations played in the advancement of women's rights, the Federation would organize a non-governmental workshop to be held in April 1974 in Teheran with the aim of promoting exchange of information and collaboration in the field of full rights for women in relation to family planning.

Finally, the Federation would continue, in support of International Women's Year in 1975, the information and education programmes activated for World Population Year at the national, regional and international levels. It hoped that, through its continuing collaboration with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the Commission on the Status of Women and through the recommendation made at the World Population Conference in Bucharest in 1974, it would be possible

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(Mrs. Mendoza, IPPF)

to draw up new national and international plans and programmes and to use World Population Year and International Women's Year to the fullest advantage. The Federation reiterated its full support of International Women's Year and its intention to work in increasingly close co-operation with Governments and with the United Nations and its specialized agencies to advance the concerns of the Commission.

Miss CHATON (France) proposed an amendment to paragraph 34 of the report (E/CN.6/588), bearing in mind what it was possible to accomplish in one year. The paragraph would read as follows:

"34. Every effort should be made to pursue during the Year the elaboration of an international instrument or instruments dealing with the elimination of discrimination against women."

She also reiterated her delegation's reservations regarding the subject-matter of paragraph 35.

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) proposed that in the second line of paragraph 18 of the Spanish text the word "femeninos", which had a restrictive meaning in Spanish, should be replaced by the words "sobre la mujer".

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) supported the Liberian amendment to paragraph 30.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) congratulated the Working Group, and its Chairman and Rapporteur, on their contribution to the work of the Commission and on the excellent report they had submitted concerning International Women's Year. She also thanked the Secretary-General, whose working paper on the subject had been of great help to the Commission in its work.

The CHAIRMAN noted that the Commission had before it a draft resolution, the text of which appeared in paragraph 9 of annex III to the report (E/CN.6/588), and that paragraphs 29 and 31 were the subject of separate draft resolutions submitted by the United States of America and amended by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CN.6/L.665 and E/CN.6/L.670).

She requested the Secretary of the Commission to read out the proposed amendments to the report so that the Commission could agree to them one by one, before voting on the first draft resolution she had mentioned.

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Miss ST. CLAIRE (Secretary of the Commission) read out the amendments.

Mrs. LI Su-wen (China) congratulated the members of the Working Group, particularly the representatives of Argentina and Greece, for the efforts they had made and the conscientious manner in which they had fulfilled their responsibilities. Her delegation, after carefully examining the Working Group's report on International Women's Year (E/CN.6/588), supported the action programme to promote equality between men and women. It had some reservations, however, and felt that the activities undertaken during International Women's Year should have a social basis, namely, the struggle of women in the world of today. The theme of the Year should therefore be the solidarity of women in the struggle against colonialism, imperialism, hegemony and so on, for the safeguarding of democracy and national independence, and for respect for women's rights. Her delegation regretted that that point was not adequately reflected in the action programme as it now stood.

If the action programme was put to the vote, her delegation would not participate in the voting.

Miss CHATON (France) said she would like to see the women from industrialized areas mentioned in the Nigerian amendment amended by Liberia. She therefore proposed the addition at the end of the paragraph of the words: "to provide advice and services in the industrialized regions to improve working conditions, family life and participation in all aspects of regional development".

Mrs. DAES (Greece) said she supported the amendment submitted by Nigeria and amended by Liberia as a whole.

With regard to the comments made by the delegation of China, she said that she was in favour of promoting friendly relations between nations, an idea which implicitly embodied that of solidarity, and felt that the idea of solidarity should be reflected in the theme of International Women's Year.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the meeting should be suspended.

The meeting was suspended at 5.05 p.m. and resumed at 5.25 p.m.

Miss ST. CLAIRE (Secretary of the Commission) read out the redrafted version of the new paragraph 30 proposed by Nigeria, as amended by Liberia and France.*

Mrs. DAES (Greece) proposed the addition of the words "the regional intergovernmental organizations" at the beginning of the first line of paragraph 33, and the words "by commissions and" in the second line after the word "programmes".

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had proposed the deletion of paragraph 39 (a), (b) and (c) but had no objection to the retention of subparagraph (d). His delegation had submitted the amendment because it would be regrettable for the Commission to adopt a programme that discriminated against women. There were in fact no provisions in the various rules and regulations of the United Nations that could be considered to discriminate against women. The training and refresher courses for staff members fell within the province of the administrative bodies of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies, and should not be mentioned in paragraph 39. It would be useful if a document could be prepared to show the steps taken by the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies to improve the status of women since the formation of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1946.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) pointed out, in connexion with the proposal by the Soviet Union to delete paragraph 39 (a), that the Fifth Committee had adopted a resolution calling for the elimination by the United Nations of all practices that discriminated against women; that proved that in certain cases men and women employed by the United Nations were subject to different rules. The retention of paragraph 39 (a), (b) and (c) was therefore completely justified from that point of view.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said she strongly supported the proposal by Norway to retain paragraph 39 (a), (b) and (c). She recalled in that connexion what the delegation of Canada had said at the Commission's twenty-fourth session on the subject of the gross imbalance in United Nations recruiting of women to fill responsible posts.

* Subsequently issued as document E/CN.6/L.660/Add.15 (para. 14).

(Mrs. Noor, Indonesia)

Nevertheless, she shared the opinion of the Soviet delegation with regard to paragraph 39 (c) and proposed that the words "especially women" should be deleted.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said she supported the Norwegian and Indonesian delegations and agreed that the words "particularly women" should be deleted from paragraph 39 (c).

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) drew the attention of the members of the Commission to a study made by the Secretary-General at the request of the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 3007 (XKVII) on the composition of the Secretariat. That study of the provisions of the Staff Rules and Staff Regulations of the United Nations showed that there were many inequalities on grounds of sex: all of them, except maternity leave, were based on the idea that the man was the breadwinner. Those inequalities mainly concerned travel expenses for spouses and separation indemnity. In the light of contemporary thought, however, it seemed absolutely essential to eliminate those distinctions, either by revising the idea of dependants, or by applying other means. The General Assembly was due to discuss the issue at its twenty-ninth session. She informed the members of the Commission that it had been UNESCO that had proposed the insertion of the paragraph in the programme for International Women's Year; thus it could be seen that the problem also existed in that specialized agency at least.

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) proposed the retention of paragraph 39 (a), (b) and (c) and suggested the possible insertion, after the word "procedures" in paragraph 39 (a), of the words "or de facto situations" which might be discriminatory or inequitable factors in recruiting.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his interpretation of paragraph 39 was not the same as that given by some members of the Commission. The idea contained in the paragraph would be clearer if it stated, for example, that the secretariats of organizations of the United Nations system should set an example by eliminating from their own staff rules any provisions that discriminated against women. There was, however, no need to mention the procedures.

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

If the Indonesian proposal was accepted, it would not be necessary to delete paragraph 39 (c).

As far as paragraph 39 (b) was concerned, however, he still thought that there was hardly a need to include in the programme for International Women's Year an item on staff training, since that was an internal matter and nothing in the subparagraph concerned women as such.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that the question of equal representation for women should be considered by the Commission in connexion with draft resolutions E/CN/6/L.670 and E/CN.6/L.665.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it would not be necessary to delete paragraph 39 (a) if the word "staff" was inserted between the words "own" and "regulations". There was no need to retain the words "and procedures". The matter covered by paragraph 39 (b) was the province of the administrative services of the secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) said that there was often talk of discrepancies between de facto situations and de jure situations. She thought that the term "procedures" applied in the case under discussion to de facto situations.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) suggested that paragraph 39 could be entitled "Secretariats of the United Nations system". She also suggested that paragraph 39 (a) should read: "eliminating from their own staff regulations and administrative procedures any provisions or practices which may be discriminatory against women".

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) shared the opinion of the Soviet delegation that paragraph 39 (b) should not be retained. It might give the impression that the organizations of the United Nations system had never organized training and refresher courses for their staff members. She therefore suggested that it should be deleted.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) pointed out that UNDES0 had originated the idea expressed in paragraph 39 (b) and reminded the Commission that experience had shown that

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(Mrs. Bruce)

it was sometimes difficult for staff members, and for women in particular, to maintain their qualifications at the required level, which was rising year by year. The training and refresher courses for staff members therefore seemed essential.

Miss TYABJI (India) suggested the addition of the words "which have special importance to the advancement of women" at the end of paragraph 39 (b).

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) suggested the addition of the words "with a special emphasis on the goals and objectives of the International Women's Year" at the end of paragraph 39 (b).

Mrs. OBA (Japan) suggested the addition of the words "so as women staff could participate as equally as men" at the end of paragraph 39 (b).

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed the deletion of annex I (v), because the General Assembly had already adopted several relevant resolutions that had been implemented. Such workshops could be arranged by the United Nations as part of the consultative services it provided. In the circumstances, however, that paragraph was superfluous. As to paragraphs (a), (c), (d) and (e) of annex I, he did not see their usefulness. In addition it was impossible in his view to undertake in a single year the study of such complex questions.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the USSR delegation had been represented in the Working Group and that the Group's report had been prepared with that delegation's participation.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) appealed to the USSR delegation not to press its proposal for the deletion of paragraph (v) of annex I. In fact, the student workshops in question would be organized at the national, not the international, level and would be of very great importance, since many students were acquainted neither with the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, nor with the Covenants on Human Rights. She felt that Greek girls should become acquainted with that question.

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Mrs. JAUREGUIBERRY (Argentina) said she hoped that the Commission would begin a more constructive discussion.

The CHAIRMAN felt that the Commission had reached a consensus on the amendments submitted, with the exception of those submitted to paragraph 34 by the French and the USSR delegations.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he had listened carefully to the explanation given by the representative of Greece: he understood her interpretation of paragraph (v) of annex I and would accordingly accept the retention of that paragraph, since the proposed student workshops would be organized at the national level.

Mrs. MOHAMMED (Nigeria), supported by Mrs. OBA (Japan), moved the closure of the debate on the question.

Mr. KHMELNITSKY (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said he had no objection to the Nigerian motion, but pointed out that the Working Group's report was a very important document which would be read by many people, both men and women. Consequently, it would be regrettable not to consider paragraph (a) of annex I in greater detail, since the way in which it was currently worded was unsatisfactory. His delegation also proposed that the amendments to the Working Group's report should be submitted in writing before the Commission voted on the draft resolution in annex III.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the amendments had been read out clearly and that it was therefore unnecessary to have them submitted in writing. Only paragraph 34 of the report raised certain problems.

Miss ST. CLAIRE (Secretary of the Commission) said that the French delegation had submitted an amendment to paragraph 34 for the replacement of the words "adoption of an international instrument or instruments" by the words "elaboration of a new international convention", and that the USSR delegation had proposed the deletion of the words "international" and "or instruments".

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, with regard to the French proposal to replace the word "adoption" by the word "elaboration", his

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

delegation felt it was better to indicate the final objective of the Year, which was the adoption of a convention. The text of a convention had been elaborated and perhaps only the final articles were not quite complete.

He shared the view expressed by the representative of the Byelorussian SSR to the effect that the amendments to the report should be circulated in writing. In fact, it was important to have the written text of the amendment submitted by the Nigerian, Liberian and French delegations, which dealt with matters of substance and deserved special attention. It was necessary for each delegation to have a clear idea of the various activities proposed for 1975.

Miss CHATON (France) said that her amendment to paragraph 34 did not concern the substance of the question and that the Commission should show a practical spirit by envisaging only what could be accomplished in 1975. Furthermore, her delegation could accept the USSR amendment that would replace the words "an international instrument or instruments" by the words "a convention".

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) accepted, in a spirit of compromise, the wording proposed by the French delegation for paragraph 34. On the other hand, he said that it was not possible to proceed immediately to the vote on the draft resolution in annex III of the Working Group's report, since some details of the programme for International Women's Year were still in brackets and agreement had not been reached on them. He again proposed that substantive amendments should be submitted in writing at the following meeting, in accordance with rule 51 of the Commission's rules of procedure.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) pointed out that the draft resolution in annex III of the Working Group's report had been drawn up with the constructive co-operation of the USSR delegation.

The CHAIRMAN read out rule 51 of the rules of procedure of the Commission concerning the submission of draft resolutions and substantive amendments or motions. She suggested that the Commission take a vote on the USSR proposal.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested that rule 51 of the rules of procedure should be applied in the case of the proposal relating to the new paragraph 30 submitted by the Nigerian, Liberian and French delegations,

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since it concerned questions of substance. He did not consider that a vote on the matter would be useful. His delegation had no comment to make on the draft resolution itself, but felt that members of the Commission should have a clear idea of the programme before adopting the draft resolution.

Mrs. ROMO ROMAN (Chile), observing that the Commission had reached a deadlock, requested the Nigerian, Liberian and French delegations to withdraw their proposal.

Mrs. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) proposed that a vote should be taken on the USSR proposal.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the USSR proposal to the effect that the proposal made by the Nigerian, Liberian and French delegations should be submitted in writing.

The USSR proposal was rejected by 17 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution in annex III of the Working Group's report (E/CN.6/588).

The draft resolution relating to International Women's Year was adopted by 20 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the reason why he had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution was not that he had reservations concerning the latter, but that his delegation did not have a clear idea of the proposed programme of activities. In fact, in paragraphs 29 and 31 of the Working Group's report, some measures on which agreement had not been reached were placed in brackets. His delegation had not been able to examine in detail the proposal made by the Nigerian, Liberian and French delegations since it did not have the text in writing.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) said she had abstained because of the many oral amendments which certain members of the Working Group had submitted to the text of the report.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said that the resolution just adopted had financial implications for Governments and for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. She therefore wished to submit the following short draft resolution:

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(Mrs. Stevenson, Liberia)

"The Commission on the Status of Women,
Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following
draft resolution:

'The Economic and Social Council,
Welcomes voluntary contributions from Member States,
intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private foundations
and interested individuals to supplement the resources available to
implement the programme for International Women's Year,
Calls upon the Secretary-General to accept such voluntary
contributions'."

PROGRAMME OF CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND
THEIR INTEGRATION IN DEVELOPMENT (agenda item 7) (concluded) (E/CN.6/L.665/Rev.1)

Miss ST. CLAIRE (Secretary of the Commission) informed the Commission
in connexion with draft resolution E/CN.6/L.665/Rev.1 recommended for adoption by
the Economic and Social Council that the decision in paragraph 2 had financial
implications. On the assumption that the Chairman would attend the forthcoming
sessions of both bodies, the cost of travel and subsistence was estimated at
\$2,000 in respect of the Committee for Development Planning in Vienna and \$2,500
in respect of the Committee on Review and Appraisal in New York. Should the
Chairman designate another member of the Commission who was based closer to the
venues of the sessions in question, the estimated cost of travel would be reduced
accordingly.

The meeting rose at 7 p.m.

628th meeting

Friday, 1 February 1974,
at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that he was happy to convey personally to the Commission his keen interest in the objectives and goals it was seeking to achieve. He had followed the work of the session closely and assured the Commission of his whole-hearted support for its work and especially for International Women's Year in 1975.

The Year coincided with the time of increasing awareness of the extreme importance of the achievement of equality of men and women, not only as a fundamental principle of human rights, but also as a prerequisite for social and economic development, and stimulus for world peace. The implementation of the programme of activities that the Commission had elaborated for the Year would receive the highest priority.

He had seen with interest that among the measures suggested in the programme of activities was an appeal to organizations in the United Nations system to set an example to the rest of the world. He wished to assure the Commission that the question of differential treatment based on sex, and other possible inequalities, would be discussed by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly at its session in 1974. He was very conscious of the need to appoint more women to policy-making positions in the Secretariat and urged Governments to nominate more women candidates, so that they could hold senior and professional positions in the secretariats of all the organizations in the United Nations system.

The work of the United Nations and its agencies, important though it was, was one element only. It was the responsibility of members of the Commission, who represented Member States and non-governmental organizations, to work for the realization of the three main objectives of the Year: equality, development and peace.

The significance of the Year would depend on what was achieved. With the help of everyone, it could make an imprint on history - not only the history of women's advancement, but also that of people all over the world.

Finally, he extended his very best wishes for the success of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

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The CHAIRMAN thanked the Secretary-General for his statement to the Commission and pointed out that it was the second time he had delivered such a statement. The first time had been on the occasion of the appointment of a woman to a senior position on his staff. She particularly welcomed the presence of Mrs. Sipila, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, and former Chairman of the Commission.

She expressed the hope that the three objectives of International Women's Year - equality, peace and development - would be translated into reality at the local, national, regional and international levels.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (agenda item 3) (concluded) (E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.1 and 2, E/CN.6/L.659, E/CN.6/L.674 and E/CN.6/L.675)

Mrs. STABILE (Argentina) reiterated that her Government, which attached the greatest importance to the full development of women and men on a basis of equal rights and responsibilities, had decided to host at Buenos Aires a regional seminar to be held in 1975, on the occasion of International Women's Year. The seminar would not coincide with any meeting of the Commission. The theme of the seminar was to be: "The participation of women in economic, political and social development. Obstacles to their integration".

The CHAIRMAN congratulated the Argentine Government on that decision.

Miss St. CLAIRE (Secretary of the Commission) said that, in the Journal for that day, the reference to the draft resolution in document E/CN.6/588, annex I, paragraph 9, had, due to a typing error, incorrectly reflected the vote of the Soviet Union. The entry should read: "17 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions".

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Commission that, on the previous day, the representative of Liberia had submitted draft resolution E/CN.6/L.675. She invited members to comment on it.

Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) asked, with reference to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.675, whether there were any precedents for voluntary contributions.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that precedents did exist in the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

Miss TYABJI (India) supported the draft resolution.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) also supported the draft resolution and recommended that the Commission adopt it. She said that some people had already made contributions with a view to ensuring the greatest possible success of International Women's Year.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines) and Mrs. MAKA (Guinea) congratulated the sponsors of the draft resolution and said that their delegations were joining as sponsors.

Mrs. STABILE (Argentina) supported the draft resolution and hoped that its provisions could become a reality.

Mrs. ANDREI (Romania) requested that, at the end of the second paragraph of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.675, a comma should be added, together with the words "through Member States", since she felt that the Secretary-General could not accept contributions from individuals.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that there were no fixed rules in that respect, but she knew that the Secretary-General had already accepted a contribution from an individual. That was not contrary to the general policy of the United Nations.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked for clarification regarding contributions from individuals, since she did not feel it would be proper to accept them. Although she was not opposed to adoption of the draft resolution, it might perhaps be advisable to specify that the funds would be used for the Year.

Mrs. SIIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that, as it stood, the text was not restrictive and was open to various legal interpretations. If the text were to be limited, it would become self-defeating. She was sure in any case that the Secretary-General would not accept anything in contravention of United Nations regulations, which did not stipulate that all contributions must be made through Member States. The text of the draft resolution had already been considered by a high-ranking official from the Finance Office, who had found nothing that conflicted with United Nations regulations.

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Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) considered that, in view of the explanations given by the Assistant Secretary-General and the Deputy Director, the paragraph should remain unchanged, since in that form the draft resolution would have the greatest impact.

Mrs. ANDREI (Romania) said that, in view of the explanations of the Secretariat, she would not press her suggestion, which in any case had not been a formal proposal.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objections, she would take it that the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/L.675 by consensus.

It was so agreed.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) introduced draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2, and explained that her delegation could not accept the Soviet Union amendments to the operative paragraphs as they were currently structured in document E/CN.6/L.659, because their adoption would eliminate the possibility of holding a world conference.

Regarding the questions raised about the source of funds for the conference, it was her understanding that the Commission on the Status of Women had no authority to make any decision on the financing of any programme proposed by the Commission. The Commission could only recommend. Therefore, the Commission must first recommend a world conference to the Economic and Social Council: then the Council would act on the Commission's recommendation, and finally the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly would study the resolution. Only the General Assembly could appropriate funds. However, in order for the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to consider the holding of the world conference, the Commission must recommend the adoption of a resolution in that connexion.

The importance of the international conference was that it would be a meeting of representatives of Governments who would be committed to carrying out its recommendations to improve the status of women. Representatives to other types of meetings did not carry that authority. An international conference would influence Governments to implement recommendations designed to achieve the full integration of women in all sectors of national life.

(Mrs. Hutar, United States)

The United Nations had always held international conferences in response to specific pressing problems. The time had come to direct international attention to the social, economic, political and cultural discrimination against women. The conference would be a call for action so that all women could achieve equal status with men and take part in the work of improving the quality of life for all.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) introduced the amendments in document E/CN.6/L.659. Such an important international conference required careful preparation, including the elaboration of a programme which would justify its being held; yet the Commission would clearly not have time for such an undertaking.

In draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2, it was requested that the international conference should examine to what extent the United Nations system had implemented the recommendations for the elimination of discrimination against women. She pointed out that such a recommendation had already been adopted, not only by the Commission on the Status of Women, but by other United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly. Moreover, the proposal to hold the conference had come late, when the calendar of conferences for 1974 and 1975 had already been adopted. Also, additional funds would have to be appropriated, since it was estimated that the conference would require an investment of \$300,000, not including the costs to be met by the host country, and thus far no country had offered to host the conference. The additional staff which would be required would increase administrative costs at a time when the Secretary-General was appealing for economies to be made. Her delegation could not, therefore, agree to such expenditure.

Her delegation was equally unable to agree with the suggestion that the conference should be given highest priority. Although it would be an event of international significance, it should not be forgotten that there were other even more important events, such as the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, which would directly involve not only women but also men and children. The best forum

(Mrs. Nikolaeva, USSR)

to stress the importance of the item would be the General Assembly, where 135 countries were represented by both men and women. Consequently, in the second paragraph of document E/CN.6/L.659, the Soviet Union proposed that the operative paragraph of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 should be replaced by a paragraph recommending to the General Assembly that, at its thirtieth session, it consider as one of the items an item entitled "The situation and role of women in society, with special emphasis on the need to ensure the equality of women and on the contribution of women to the achievement of the goals of the Second Development Decade, the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, the strengthening of international peace and the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States". Moreover, if the matter was considered in the General Assembly, there would be no financial implications.

With reference to the new preambular paragraph proposed in document E/CN.6/L.659, she said that, at the request of the developing countries, the topic had already been included for consideration by the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session. She hoped that all delegations were ready to support her amendment.

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) said that her delegation wished to make an oral subamendment to the amendments proposed in document E/CN.6/L.659. The subamendment was extremely straightforward and simple, and would strengthen the text. Her delegation therefore hoped that it would meet with the approval of the sponsor. The subamendment referred to paragraph 2 of the Soviet Union proposal, where the final clause should be deleted, starting with the words "the struggle against racism".

Her delegation's reasons for proposing that subamendment were as follows: first, the twin themes of ensuring the equality of women and looking at their contribution to the goals of the Second Development Decade were sufficiently wide and precise to form an adequate basis for discussion. Second, by extending and etiologating the subject-matter there would be a real risk of opening the flood gates to aimless and polemical debate on the broadest front. Third, the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, the strengthening of international peace and the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States were subjects which were dealt with by other bodies and under many

(Mrs. Cockcroft, United Kingdom)

other items in the General Assembly's agenda and did not easily lend themselves to discussion from the particular angle of women's contribution. The wider the agenda, the weaker would be the impact of those subjects recognized to be important for all women. She therefore appealed to the Soviet Union to look favourably on the subamendment.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) said that there was no denying that the Conference was important and would lead to international discussions, the adoption of measures, world-wide publicity and, finally, perhaps the implementation of the principle of the equality of men and women.

The Commission on the Status of Women naturally had no authority in financial matters and could only make suggestions or recommendations to the Economic and Social Council, but it must place on record its unshakable opinion that special efforts must be made for the celebration of International Women's Year, in order to focus general attention on world-wide problems which were of direct concern to half the world's population - women - but which were also important for the other half - men - whose attitudes and daily lives would also be affected by a change in the status of women.

Her delegation supported draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 but felt that, while it was important to adopt the draft resolution, it was equally important to ensure that representatives, on returning to their countries, managed to obtain support to solve the problem of the financial implications, which would be considered first by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly in September 1974. Although it was true that the calendar of conferences had already been approved, as stated in document E/CN.6/L.674, the problem could be resolved by the Economic and Social Council in May, or by the General Assembly in September 1974.

As for the amendments proposed by the Soviet Union (E/CN.6/L.659), she agreed with the United States delegation that the proposed amendment to the preamble was acceptable, but that the amendment proposed for the operative part would weaken the resolution.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) recalled that there were precedents for convening an international conference in connexion with an international year, as had happened in the case of International Year for Human Rights and, more recently,

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(Mrs. Stevenson, Liberia)

World Population Year, and she saw no reason why a different procedure should be followed in the case of International Women's Year. Obviously, a conference of that nature would have the greatest impact on the general public. Her delegation supported the Kenyan suggestion that the conference should be held in one of the developing countries and commended draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 to the Commission's attention.

Mrs. MARINKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that she would like International Women's Year to be given the importance it deserved, but that she could not support draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 because the preamble did not faithfully reflect General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII). Nor could she support the operative part of the draft resolution submitted by the United States calling for the convening of an international conference during International Women's Year, because of the expense that such a conference would involve, particularly in view of the fact that the biennial budget had already been approved and that the United Nations calendar of conferences for the years 1974-1975 already included such important events as the Conference on the Law of the Sea and the World Population Conference, not to mention a multitude of regional conferences and seminars. Measures that directly or indirectly related to the question of the status of women would be adopted at most of those meetings.

She was convinced that the Secretary-General would be able to prepare a report on the various matters referred to in draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 and that the report could be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session for examination and approval, thus obviating the need to convene a conference and avoiding the consequent expense.

Her delegation fully endorsed the amendments in document E/CN.6/L.659 and hoped that the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 would do so too.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said, in answer to the United Kingdom representative, that she did not understand why part of her amendment should be deleted: International Women's Year would have three goals and she did not see why only one should be referred to. As for the reference to racial discrimination, which Norway had called into question, the Soviet amendment had

(Mrs. Nikolaeva, USSR)

emphasized that because it was the most brutal form of discrimination. Her delegation felt that the Commission on the Status of Women should not skirt around political aspects. The Commission had already approved a programme and she therefore requested that the subamendment be withdrawn.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) supported draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 and the first amendment, in paragraph 1 of document E/CN.6/L.659. As for the second amendment, in paragraph 2 of that same document, she fully supported the United Kingdom subamendment. In order to make it clearer and broader, she suggested that the words "Consideration of" should be inserted before the words "The situation and role" in the second line of paragraph 2 of document E/CN.6/L.659. The paragraph would thus read as follows:

"Recommends to the General Assembly that at its thirteenth session it consider as a separate agenda item an item entitled 'Consideration of the situation and role of women in society, with special emphasis on the need to ensure the equality of women and on the contribution of women to the achievement of the goals of the Second Development Decade'."

Mrs. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) supported draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 and said that she particularly welcomed the request in paragraph 1 that special attention be given to women in rural areas. She hoped that the conference referred to in the draft resolution would be held in a developing country and that sufficient resources would be made available to the Secretary-General to organize the conference. She asked the delegations present to adopt the draft resolution by acclamation.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) expressed satisfaction at the emphasis placed by the representative of Byelorussia on the fact that efforts should be made to improve the status of women: however, there was no better way of working towards that end than by organizing the international conference as the Secretary-General was recommended to do in paragraph 1 of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2. The reference to "additional funds" was erroneous, for the draft resolution did not mention "additional funds". Paragraph 2 referred to a reordering of priorities from within available resources; in other words, since the budget for the biennium had

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(Mrs. Hutar, United States)

already been approved, it was hoped that the funds to finance the conference would come from the budget through the elimination of activities of lesser priority. Those recommendations would be subject to decisions of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly. As for the amendments submitted by the Soviet Union (E/CN.6/L.659), she accepted the suggestion in the first paragraph that a new paragraph should be inserted in the preamble. But the suggestion in the second paragraph that the two paragraphs in document E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 should be replaced by paragraph 2 in document E/CN.6/L.659 would do away with the suggested international conference. She would be prepared to support the second Soviet amendment, if it was added to and did not replace the two paragraphs in draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2.

Mrs. BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) summed up the work of the Commission on the Status of Women by saying that nothing could be more appropriate and effective than an international conference during International Women's Year. Draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 expressed the desire of all delegations to help women. She urged all delegations to approve that draft resolution without delay at the twenty-fifth session, since the Secretary-General had already implied approval of it in his statement.

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) stressed the importance of the international conference which the Secretary-General was being asked to organize in paragraph 1 of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2. The activities of International Women's Year should focus on and culminate in some act. She endorsed the statement of the representative of Nigeria that the conference should be held in a developing country and hoped that the draft resolution would be given the broad support it deserved.

Mrs. HOOGSTOEL-FABRI (Belgium), speaking in support of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2, said that International Women's Year should be properly organized and that therefore the conference would not be out of order. There was no reason why the Commission should be the least favoured body. Not only did she support the views of the United States representative but she also asked why

(Mrs. Hoogstoel-Fabri, Belgium)

additional funds should not be requested. The programme "Social development and humanitarian affairs" under section 7 of the budget provided for a budget of \$2,037,000 for 1974 and \$2,106,000 for 1975. That programme contained a "Promotion of equality of men and women" component with the budget of \$378,000 for 1974 and \$388,000 for 1975, but the budget (document A/9006) contained no more details about International Women's Year, which was to be celebrated in 1975. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had considered the Secretary-General's proposals for the subsection "Social development and humanitarian affairs" and had recommended that, instead of creating three posts, as requested, only one P-3 post should be established.

It was not known whether that reduction in staff would affect International Women's Year in any way. In conclusion, it could be said that the Advisory Committee had not reduced the appropriations requested by the Secretary-General for International Women's Year, even though no exact figure had been submitted to the Fifth Committee. The only figure submitted - the staff reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee which the Fifth Committee had approved under the section "Social development and humanitarian affairs" - had been submitted indirectly.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the Assistant Secretary-General whether the Secretary-General was empowered to change measures already approved by the Fifth Committee and the Economic and Social Council regarding the budget, and recalled that paragraph 2 of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 called for a reordering of priorities.

Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that that was a very important problem, for it was the first time that a budget had been approved for a two-year period. The question had recently been raised whether the system of biennial budgeting ruled out the possibility of an intergovernmental body adopting its own measures in cases where a programme originally intended to cover one year was subsequently extended into the second year of the budget period although no funds had been allocated in the budget for the second year. The answer to that hypothetical case had been that

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(Mrs. Sipila)

there should be a flexible response when new needs arose. One example of those new needs would be an energy conference. As the representative of the Soviet Union had said, the Secretary-General was not empowered to allocate funds if no provision was made in the budget. However, if a body recommended a measure with financial implications, the organs which had the power to do so could take such a step. In the case in question, the Committee would simply recommend the holding of the conference and, if the Member States wished it to be held, the respective organs could take the necessary steps to alter the budget.

Mrs. ASIYO (Kenya), speaking as a sponsor of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2, said that the proposed conference would offer a unique opportunity to share experience and to consider to what extent the United Nations had implemented the resolutions for the elimination of discrimination against women.

Kenya hoped that the draft would receive the support of all members of the Commission and that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly would adopt the resolution.

In conclusion, she reiterated her appeal that the conference should be held in a developing country.

Mrs. ALDAY (Philippines), speaking as a sponsor of the draft resolution, said that what her delegation hoped for was the achievement of total development with the full participation of women, particularly women in rural areas.

She felt that the holding of the conference would be one of the main events of International Women's Year and that consideration should be given to making the conference a success rather than to the expenditures which it would involve.

Mrs. HUVANANDANA (Thailand) said that, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, she could agree with the United States delegation that amendments 1 and 2 of the Soviet Union were acceptable, provided that amendment 2 began with the words: "Add the following paragraph to the operative part of the

(Mrs. Huvanandana, Thailand)

draft resolution" instead of "Replace the operative paragraph of the draft resolution by the following paragraph:".

She proposed that the Commission should proceed to a vote.

Mrs. ANDREI (Romania) said that she would like to support both drafts, but although she considered the idea of a world conference to be excellent, it was necessary to be realistic. Both the representative of Belgium and Mrs. Sipila had reminded the Commission of the obstacles involved. Perhaps in the future those obstacles would not exist. Furthermore, if the draft resolution was adopted, it would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council to which only a certain number of the Member States belonged. The best solution would be to forward the draft resolution to the General Assembly for consideration at its 1975 session. In addition, the Secretary-General could be asked to submit a report on the actual implications of the holding of the conference. If it was decided to convene the conference, it could be left until 1976, when it could also be used for an evaluation of the results of International Women's Year.

She wished to make it clear that she was not proposing an amendment, but simply appealing to the spirit of co-operation of all delegations.

Mrs. OBA (Japan) appealed to the Soviet delegation, to agree to the United States subamendment which called for the addition of a new operative paragraph instead of the replacement of the existing paragraph.

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) announced that consultations were currently being held on the possibility of offering Colombia as the venue for the proposed international conference.

Mrs. STABILE (Argentina) asked the representative of the Secretary-General if the reordering of priorities from within available resources called for in paragraph 2 of document E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 would affect the holding, in 1975, of two seminars which had been approved the previous day, in accordance with the proposals contained in the programme of work (E/CN.6/585, para. 52).

Mrs. SIIPIILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that it might still be possible to hold the two seminars since the relevant funds were already provided for in the budget. There was no reason why paragraph 2 of the draft resolution should affect that decision.

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Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) pointed out that, while it was not for the Commission to concern itself directly with the sources of financing, it could address itself to the Economic and Social Council which, in turn, could make a recommendation to the General Assembly, whose budgetary experts would consider the matter.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) proposed that the words "by a reordering of priorities" should be deleted from paragraph 2 as they might detract from the aim of the draft resolution. She felt that it might be preferable to leave it to the Secretary-General and the relevant organs to decide whether or not to reorder priorities, and to obtain the necessary resources.

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) confirmed the offer of Colombia to host the International Women's Year conference.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Colombia for its generous offer.

Mrs. BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) said that she felt the Commission should accept the offer of a sister country, Colombia, to host the conference. She had served as Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council and her experience was that the Council almost never rejected an offer of that kind.

She felt that the question of organizing a conference during International Women's Year had been sufficiently discussed and asked the representative of the Soviet Union if she would be prepared to withdraw her amendment to the operative part of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2, since that amendment would rule out the holding of the conference, which one country had already offered to host.

Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) thanked the representative of Colombia for the invitation to hold the conference in her country. The offer was particularly generous in view of the financial burden which would have to be borne by the host country. She suggested that the Commission should decide whether the conference was to be held or not.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that she would like the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to clarify once again whether the conference would have financial implications or not.

Mrs. SIPIILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) referred to the text of paragraph 2 of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 which said "from within available resources". The representative of the United States had already declared her willingness to leave the question of the reordering of priorities to the Economic and Social Council. She pointed out that Indonesia had proposed that the words in question should be deleted, so that paragraph 2 of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 would read: "Calls on the Secretary-General to provide substantive preparation for the Conference from within available resources." The "available resources" would consist of what was available either within the special budget which had already been approved, or through the provision of additional resources.

Miss TYABJI (India) said that the significance which the holding of the conference would have was recognized by all. Nevertheless, she asked the Assistant Secretary-General whether the Secretariat would be in a position to undertake the immense task of preparing the conference within such a short space of time and whether the conference would justify the effort involved.

Mrs. SIPIILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that she was unable to give a definite answer, since she did not know whether the Economic and Social Council would take action on the question in May, or whether the matter would have to be dealt with by the General Assembly. If the General Assembly considered the question in September there would obviously be very little time left until February, assuming that the Economic and Social Council were to decide that the conference should be held at that time. She pointed out the difficulties which the Secretariat would face with regard to staff, since it would be very difficult for the Secretariat to carry out the duties assigned to it with the staff available.

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Commission that there had been a proposal by Indonesia with regard to the reordering of priorities referred to in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2),

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said that it was possible that the reordering of priorities mentioned in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution would affect programmes that benefited the developing countries. If that were the case, her delegation could not accept that provision in the form in which it had been submitted.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that, without going into detail, there must be consistency with the biennial budget that had been approved. She was not trying to attack the budget but merely wished to state that the conference could take place without violating the financial decisions that had been universally supported. She urged the representative of Indonesia to withdraw her amendment, and expressed her thanks for the offer made by Colombia.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said that she maintained her amendment.

Mrs. KOLSTAD (Norway) said that she understood the misgivings felt by the representative of Indonesia, since it was impossible to tell which programmes would be affected by the reordering. If the words "by a reordering of priorities" were deleted, the words "from within available resources" would remain; that did not necessarily mean that programmes that benefited developing countries would be eliminated. The withdrawal of the amendment submitted by Indonesia would facilitate the adoption of the draft resolution.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said that she understood the misgivings felt by the representative of Indonesia; consequently, without having consulted the other sponsors, she proposed an amendment which consisted of the addition of the words "without prejudice to present development programmes" at the end of paragraph 2.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that if that amendment were adopted, the Commission would be making a distinction beyond its terms of reference. It was better to leave budgetary considerations to the appropriate bodies.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said that she accepted the wording proposed by the representative of Liberia.

Mrs. SIPIILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said, with reference to the comments made by the representative of Norway, that in the new programme budget system in operation in the United Nations it was not possible to have resources which were not allocated for a particular programme.

The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections the meeting would be suspended to allow the sponsors of the draft resolution to hold consultations.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 5.35 p.m. and resumed at 5.55 p.m.

Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that rule 34 (3) and (4) of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council answered questions of who should decide and when, what criteria should be applied and what decisions could be taken on priorities.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) asked the Deputy Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs whether the resources for the conference would affect the technical assistance funds in any way.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that they would not be affected at all, because the resources for holding the conference were covered by a different section of the budget.

Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said that in the light of that explanation she withdrew her amendment. She said that the sponsors could not accept the amendment submitted by Indonesia.

Mrs. NOOR (Indonesia) said that the explanation given by the Deputy Director had allayed her fears, but she asked for her statement to be reported in the summary record of the meeting. Provided that were done, she could accept the wording of the draft resolution as it stood, and withdrew her amendment.

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Commission that the sponsors had accepted the first amendment submitted by the Soviet Union - the addition of a new preambular paragraph.

The representative of the Dominican Republic had requested the Soviet Union to withdraw its second amendment.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation could not comply with the request of the Dominican Republic, because it felt that the General Assembly should not be placed on the same level as other United Nations bodies. She therefore requested that her amendment should be put to the vote.

Mrs. BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) said she regretted that she must inform the Soviet delegation that, although she shared some of that delegation's misgivings, she would vote against the amendment, because it would do away with the conference which was to be the climactic event of International Women's Year.

The CHAIRMAN asked the United States representative whether she wished to maintain her subamendment to the second amendment in document E/CN.6/L.659.

Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that her delegation could accept the new paragraph proposed by the Soviet Union only if her amendment were retained.

Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that she could not accept the subamendment by the United States because it was not yet clear what the programme of the conference would be, how it would be arranged and where the resources for it would come from. There was already a budget for 1974-1975; there was no reason to change it.

Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) withdrew her amendment.

Mrs. DAES (Greece) withdrew her subamendment. She said that it had only been a suggestion to facilitate the work of the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the amendment to the operative part of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2 appearing in the second paragraph of document E/CN.6/L.659.

The amendment was rejected by 14 votes to 3, with 12 abstentions.

At the request of the representative of the Dominican Republic, a vote was taken by roll-call on draft resolution E/CN.6/L.658/Rev.2.

The Philippines, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Greece, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway.

Against: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Hungary.

Abstaining: Romania, Zaire, Belgium, Finland, France, Guinea.

The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted by 21 votes to 3, with 6 abstentions.

Mrs. SHELLEY (Office of Public Information) said that in response to resolution 3010 (XXVII) of the General Assembly, which proclaimed International Women's Year, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Office of Public Information had established an International Women's Year task force to co-ordinate information activities of the Office of Public Information to maximize and stimulate media coverage during the period. The Office of Public Information would do its utmost to prepare materials in advance of the Year.

Mrs. SANCHEZ-TORRES (Colombia) said that her country's offer was an eloquent testimony to her delegation's interest in the international conference to be held during International Women's Year. It would be a great distinction and honour for Colombia to receive its distinguished guests, and would be a favourable opportunity for Colombia to contribute to the most important event of International Women's Year. It would also be a good opportunity for the development countries to study on the spot the problems and great expectations of the developing countries. All that would help to attain the three main objectives of International Women's Year: equality, development and peace.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) informed the Commission that neither the Rapporteur nor the Secretary would be able to have the part of the report covering the item under discussion ready for approval at the evening meeting. The Commission might wish the Rapporteur and the Secretary to undertake to include that part of the report after the end of the session.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.