

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FOURTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



# 841st PLENARY MEETING

 Friday, 20 November 1959,  
at 3 p.m.

NEW YORK

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**President:** Mr. Víctor A. BELAUNDE (Peru).

## AGENDA ITEM 67

## Prevention of the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons

## REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/4286)

Mr. Fekini (Libya), Rapporteur of the First Committee, presented the report of that Committee and then spoke as follows.

1. Mr. FEKINI (Libya) (translated from French): The First Committee in its report, [A/4286] submits a draft resolution which it recommends for adoption. Agreement was rapidly reached in the First Committee after a brief discussion. The draft resolution was adopted by a large majority. No member voted against it. Some delegations abstained, chiefly on the ground that it did not deal with the substantive problem, but merely with a matter of procedure.

2. Consequently, I have the honour to submit for the General Assembly's consideration the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the First Committee.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the First Committee.

3. Mr. AIKEN (Ireland): On behalf of the Irish delegation, which introduced the draft resolution later adopted by the First Committee, I wish to say how much we appreciate the support we received from many representatives. We are deeply grateful for their able and valuable contributions to the debates last year and during the present session on the dangers involved in the spread of nuclear weapons.

4. It is true, of course, to say that an Assembly resolution of this nature can do little more than help to create a climate favourable to agreement among the major Powers. The passage of this draft resolution by a very large majority would, at the present juncture, however, be a significant contribution to nuclear Power accord, for it would assure these Powers that, if they agreed not to transfer nuclear weapons, non-nuclear Powers could be relied on to sign the complementary agreement not to manufacture these weapons. The onus of stopping the disastrous spread of nuclear weapons would, therefore, be clearly on the shoulders of the major Powers themselves and their difficulties would in the main be

limited to negotiating an appropriate agreement among themselves on a problem which it is clearly in their interests to solve without delay.

5. On the assumption that our draft resolution will be agreed upon by this plenary meeting of the Assembly, I would urge the nuclear Powers to commence negotiations on the matter inside and outside the United Nations through normal diplomatic channels and at appropriate conferences. Progress in the ten-nation disarmament committee and in the United Nations Disarmament Commission would, we suggest, be greatly facilitated if the Foreign Ministers conferring in Geneva could have preliminary discussions between themselves and with representatives of Governments outside this Organization.

6. My delegation recognizes the very great difficulties which face the major Powers in the matter of reduction of national armaments. In the face of these difficulties they must tend, as do all responsible Governments, to act with extreme caution and to change policies slowly. But we submit that it would be a grave error of over-caution not to take, if necessary, certain limited risks, and to take them quickly in order to avoid the overwhelming danger involved in the free and unlimited dissemination of nuclear weapons. If these weapons continue to spread, the ever-increasing precautions which Governments must provide against a lightning attack from outside or a revolutionary threat from within, will not only be a monstrously heavy burden on taxpayers but will, I fear, tend to restrict democratic freedom until life in a civilized community becomes hardly worth living.

7. For some periods in the past, it was possible to secure a reasonable stability in important parts of the world through a Pax Romana or a Pax Britannica. Today in the nuclear age the only peace that can be made stable is a Pax Mundi and it cannot be imposed by a major Power or any conceivable combination of major Powers. We must seek it, we submit, through common action in the United Nations. We must talk and negotiate our way towards that peace. There is no possibility of fighting our way to it.

8. The more one tries to think of ways to deal with the nuclear threat and to give life to our Charter principles, the more one is compelled to admit that at the moment there is no tidy solution which would be generally applicable and generally acceptable. We must, therefore, proceed step by step and area by area by an empirical method which one day, we hope, will give us a stable global peace.

9. The draft resolution before us has a very limited aim: to prevent the danger of nuclear war becoming disastrously worse in the years immediately ahead and to avoid presenting our children with problems even harder to solve than those which face us today. Implementation of this draft resolution would, we feel, give time and opportunity for the gradual evolution of a stable world order. Although our draft resolution is limited to one problem and ignores the many others that must be solved, we feel that it is a critical problem and we urge the General Assembly to recommend, by an overwhelming majority, that it be studied urgently by the ten-Nation disarmament committee.

10. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): If no Member of the Assembly wishes to speak, I will put to the vote the draft resolution recommended by the

First Committee and contained in the document before us [A/4286]. A roll-call vote has been requested.

*A vote was taken by roll-call.*

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

In favour: Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile.

Against: None.

Abstaining: China, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Peru, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 68 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.\**

11. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): Before going on to discuss the rest of the agenda of this meeting, I should like to inform the Assembly that the representatives of El Salvador and of Morocco have told me that if they had been in the room when the vote was taken on agenda item 67, they would have voted in favour of it. This should be noted in the record.

## AGENDA ITEM 22

### Report of the Committee on arrangements for a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter

12. Mr. MATSCH (Austria), Rapporteur of the committee on arrangements for a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter: I have the honour to introduce the report of the Committee on arrangements for a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter [A/4199].

13. In the debate in the Committee, some representatives spoke in favour of deciding at this stage a definite date for convening a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter. Other speakers, however, objected to the convening of such a conference and argued in favour of discontinuing the Committee altogether. According to their view, the Charter of the United Nations as it stood was fully adequate to the task of strengthening peace and developing international co-operation. However, the majority of the speakers in this Committee expressed the view that a review of the Charter would be useful, but thought that the present time was not propitious for the convening of a conference and, therefore, favoured a postponement. In their view, the Committee should be

\*The delegations of El Salvador and of Morocco, which were absent at the time of the voting, subsequently informed the President that they would have cast their votes in favour of the draft resolution. See para. 11 below.

kept in being and should submit recommendations either to the fifteenth or sixteenth sessions of the General Assembly.

14. Accordingly, the Committee on arrangements for a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter recommends to the General Assembly that it adopts the draft resolution contained in the report now before it.

15. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We shall now proceed to vote on the draft resolution contained in the report of the Committee on arrangements for a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter [A/4199].

*The draft resolution was adopted by 72 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*

#### AGENDA ITEMS 19, 20 AND 21

Question of amending the United Nations Charter, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter, to increase the number of non-permanent members of the Security Council and the number of votes required for decisions of the Council

Question of amending the United Nations Charter, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter, to increase the membership of the Economic and Social Council

Question of amending the Statute of the International Court of Justice, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter of the United Nations and Article 69 of the Statute of the Court, with respect to an increase in the number of judges of the International Court of Justice

#### REPORT OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE (A/4256)

16. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I have been asked to defer until next week consideration of agenda items 19, 20 and 21, dealing with the question of amending the United Nations Charter with a view to increasing the membership of certain of the principal organs of the United Nations. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to this suggestion.

*It was so decided.*

#### Decision concerning the procedure of the meeting

*Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Second Committee and of the Third Committee.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 29

##### Progress and operations of the Special Fund

#### REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/4245)

*Mrs. Wright (Denmark), Rapporteur of the Second Committee, presented the report of that Committee and then spoke as follows.*

17. Mrs. WRIGHT (Denmark), Rapporteur of the Second Committee: It is a special privilege for me to submit for the consideration of the General Assembly

the first report [A/4245] on the progress and operations of the Special Fund, which was unanimously established last year [resolution 1240 (XIII)] by the General Assembly. The report contains the draft resolution adopted by the Second Committee.

18. The Committee had a stimulating general debate on the Special Fund from which so much is expected. We were glad to learn from the Fund's Managing Director, Mr. Paul Hoffman, that the Fund's potentialities are being transformed into realities.

19. I take pleasure in reporting to the President, that this draft resolution, on which the General Assembly is asked to act this afternoon, was adopted unanimously by the Second Committee.

20. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The Assembly has before it the draft resolution contained in the report [A/4245] of the Second Committee. Since the Second Committee recommended its draft resolution to us unanimously, and if there are no objections, I shall assume that the General Assembly also approves it unanimously.

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 31

Programmes of technical assistance:

- (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council;
- (b) United Nations assistance in public administration: report of the Secretary-General

#### REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/4287)

21. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to a letter [A/4288] from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee on the financial implications of draft resolution III recommended by the Second Committee.

*Mrs. Wright (Denmark), Rapporteur of the Second Committee, presented the report of that Committee and then spoke as follows.*

22. Mrs. WRIGHT (Denmark), Rapporteur of the Second Committee: It is also a great privilege for me to present the report on the programmes of Technical Assistance at a time when we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

23. The report [A/4287] on item 31 of our agenda, entitled Programmes of Technical Assistance, covers only sub-items (a) and (b) of this item, and I shall prepare a separate report on sub-item (c) which will be before you at a later meeting. As you know, the Committee cannot take up this sub-item (c) until later in the session.

24. As usual, the Committee had a fruitful discussion on the many aspects of the various technical assistance programmes, and many speakers reiterated their appreciation of the important work carried out in this field.

25. The report contains the three draft resolutions submitted by the Second Committee. I have pleasure in informing the Assembly that draft resolutions I and II were adopted unanimously by the Second Committee. Although draft resolution III was not unanimously adopted, there were no dissenting votes, as it was adopted by 61 votes to none against, with 18 abstentions.

26. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I now invite the General Assembly to vote on the three draft resolutions which the Second Committee has recommended for adoption in its report [A/4287].

*Draft resolution I was adopted by 78 votes to none.*

*Draft resolution II was adopted by 81 votes to none.*

*Draft resolution III was adopted by 64 votes to none, with 16 abstentions.*

## AGENDA ITEM 64

### Draft Declaration of the Rights of the Child

#### REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/4249 AND CORR.2)

27. Mr. CUEVAS CANCINO (Mexico), Rapporteur of the Third Committee, (translated from Spanish): I have the honour to present the report of the Third Committee [A/4249 and Corr.2] on agenda item 64, to this plenary meeting of the General Assembly. In it representatives will find a review of the history of the draft Declaration of the Rights of the Child and of the debates on it, as also its text. These are accompanied by a draft resolution designed to ensure that the draft Declaration is given publicity. The task was originally undertaken by the Social Commission; it was then taken up by the Commission on Human Rights and it has fallen to the Third Committee to bring it to a happy conclusion.

28. The United Nations has been in existence for nearly fifteen years, during which period not a few items have passed through its hands. It has brought its best efforts to bear upon them and has devoted to them all the political wisdom of the representatives of its Member States. To many of them the United Nations has found happy solutions, while others are on the way to a conclusion. For the most part, however, they are matters connected with the constantly changing international scene. They are like the pebbles brought by the breakers to the shore, to remain there only for an instant and to return again to the ever-moving element.

29. From time to time, however, we have items of a different kind. These are not related to the solution of specific problems; they do not seek to reconcile opposing interests or to make some small contribution towards eliminating those vast economic problems which confront a constantly expanding world population. These exceptions are items which are identified with ourselves, with that mankind which we, however imperfectly and incompletely, represent.

30. For a moment at least, the Assembly transforms itself into the spokesman of mankind; conscious of its innumerable limitations, it looks ahead, so to speak, to its own future. From among the multitude of details which constitute the little world or politics, it seizes upon something permanent; and it does so with full faith in its destiny. Such was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights approved by the General Assembly in 1948 [resolution 217 (III)]; such is the Declaration which it is my honour to introduce now.

31. The draft Declaration of the Rights of the Child is a brief document. Some representatives would have liked it to be more laconic, while others tried to expand it to include details of implementation, ma-

chinery putting each and every one of its principles into effect. Although it has not been unduly reduced and even includes a few indications of how some of its principles should be put into effect, I have no hesitation in describing the document which the Assembly now has before it as brief. Its brevity conceals a fundamental purpose: that of bringing home to the hearts of men an awareness of the rights of the child.

32. The subject of this draft Declaration is children; fundamentally, however, it is directed towards society, towards adults. Its point of departure is the undisputed principle that the child is weak and therefore requires special care and safeguards (third and fourth paragraphs of the preamble and principle 2). Hence the child is incapable of protecting himself, and this draft Declaration therefore embodies an appeal on his behalf: it calls upon the child's elders as individuals organized into family and national groups—to respect and maintain the rights of every child (sixth preambular paragraph).

33. These rights are regarded as inherent in the human being (first and second paragraphs of the preamble); a human being, that is to say, in a state of physical and moral growth. We suppose that the state of moral growth never ends. But, as in the case of a plant, it consists in a development which continues the process that begins with the germination of the seed. Hence the importance of the germinative period of childhood. They are rights which—like any other—imply obligations; however, it was thought better to stress this accompanying aspect only indirectly (sixth preambular paragraph). First of all it must be recognized that the child is entitled to these rights (principle 2) and his enjoyment of them must be guaranteed, in order that he may become, as the draft Declaration itself states, a useful member of society (principles 7 and 10).

34. The draft Declaration dwells upon the ultimate contribution which the child will make to the human group to which he belongs. In the child we can foresee the male or female citizen, full of civic virtue and materially productive. The child is given rights so that he may become a complete and perfect human being. Obviously, so sovereign an achievement must depend upon the enjoyment of a happy childhood.

35. It is not surprising that the draft Declaration should attach such importance to the spiritual factors which determine the development of the child. Stress is laid upon the love and understanding with which the child should be surrounded; mention is made of the atmosphere of affection and of moral and material security upon which he should be able to depend (principle 6). It is only upon this firm foundation that we then build the structure of protection to which the child should be entitled.

36. First comes the right to subsistence; it is the child who guards our future—the future of us all—and this future must be protected. Hence his privileged position among those who in the event of danger should receive protection and relief (principle 8). The strong roots by which he is attached to the land of his birth and to the family group are set forth next: he is given the right to possess from his birth a name and nationality (principle 3), thus covering him with the mantle of a personality which distinguishes him as an individual among the other members of his species. And as we are dealing here with fundamental rights, it was the desire of those who drafted the draft

Declaration that these should be granted to every child, without distinction of any kind, in an instrument which applied to all equally (second preambular paragraph and principle 1).

37. As a being in the process of development, the child requires special protection in that process; his development must be neither impeded nor forced into anti-social directions. Mention is made therefore of the rights to health, with particular reference to physically or mentally handicapped children (principles 4 and 5) and to social security, which extends from the person of the child to the family and even as far as State subsidies to large families (principles 4 and 6).

38. Much consideration was devoted to the educational problem, touching on the many and varied criteria that exist on this subject. Emphasis is laid on the need for educators always to bear in mind that the interests of the child are paramount and on the need for this wide field of education to include also the play and recreation proper to childhood, which are equally important to the formation of the grown man (principle 7). The desire that education should promote his general culture is also set forth in the draft Declaration (principle 7); it was the feeling among the representatives participating that this represents the best potential means of bringing about a better world, for through an understanding of alien cultures, and through the extension of national horizons to the universal, the idea of a world federation may one day come to fruition.

39. We have stressed the fact that the child is an immature being. The draft Declaration sets forth those rights which it regards as essential to the child's full development. It would not, however, be fulfilling its purpose if it did not cite, in the same category, the regulations which should be promulgated by States in order to protect him from a society which is not always understanding and may on occasion be cruel. He is to be protected against neglect, cruelty and exploitation; traffic in his person is prohibited; work unsuitable to his tender years is proscribed (principle 9); and to guard him from a harm more subtle and less perceptible, and hence more dangerous, he is to be protected from practices which may foster discrimination either within a given social group or at the international level (principle 10).

40. This draft Declaration adds something—I should be inclined to say it adds a great deal—to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The purpose of both is to improve the environment in which the human being develops; both seek to raise his intellectual and moral standing. The latter relates to the individual as a whole; the former concentrates on that state which is at once the most transitory and the most influential for good or ill. Thus we may say that this present draft Declaration strengthens the Declaration adopted in 1948. It concentrates upon childhood as part of the development of the individual; in so doing it does not detract from the Universal Declaration in any way. Childhood is the only privileged class which transcends societies and epochs; it extends beyond frontiers and prevails over civilizations. Representatives of the most diametrically opposed social systems find common ideals and aspirations in discussing the privileges of childhood. In focusing attention upon this very human aspiration the United Nations is contributing to the realization of the elusive but irreplaceable ideal of universal brotherhood.

41. Childhood embraces our future; the future is the repository of our hopes. We of this generation are prepared to make sacrifices in order to improve the lot of future generations and in order to do so we, unlike the unreasoning beasts, introduce the idea of rights. We are endowing children with the rights we think they should have, in our striving for a better future for mankind, based on a greater spirit of justice. In setting forth these rights that we are now proclaiming, we start by making of childhood's privileges a new claim on behalf of equality: equality of children as children, and as the future guardians of the privileges which future generations will enjoy.

42. Our draft Declaration has its own intrinsic value. In examining it we should not draw too fine a line between the obligations which are based on treaties and those based on less formal international instruments. Can anything be more binding than principles and rights based on mutual understanding amongst peoples? Nor is there any point in enlarging upon the dividing line between domestic and international affairs. There are Articles in the Charter on which our draft Declaration is based but its roots are planted even more deeply in the conviction that all our Governments would find in it ideas which would be a source of inspiration to them and would enable them to consolidate, reinforce, extend or improve, as the case may be, their national laws. Such a process represents an ideal fusion of the ideals of nations and those of the international community.

43. It would be unrealistic and dangerous to disregard the problems which our draft Declaration creates for many nations whose inadequate development affects both their present and their future generations. The fact that its principles are recognized and that it provides an incentive to their realization would be sufficient justification for the draft Declaration. But it would not be enough. In bringing the rights of the child into prominence through this draft Declaration, the General Assembly is taking upon itself the implicit obligation of helping to make these rights a reality. Hence this is only the beginning of what the United Nations will do on behalf of the child; it has broken new ground, for what has been done by UNICEF cannot be underestimated or forgotten.

44. Another problem is clearly perceptible: that of the manifold stresses and strains to which the child is exposed in the complex and uncertain world of today. The sense of insecurity experienced by recent generations produces grievous fears among children. Our draft Declaration is a clarion call to mankind to face those fears and to redouble its efforts to fulfil its obligations to the future, for in conditions which are constantly changing it must not forget to provide a sound foundation for coming generations.

45. That sound foundation can only be provided by a happy childhood; not happy in the empty sense of mere pampering, or of building a wall to protect the child from the realities of life, but happy in the sense that the child is given every opportunity to develop the powers with which he has been endowed and to grow into a complete human being so that he will be able to contribute to the progress of mankind. One way in which he can do that—and undoubtedly the most important and effective way—will be by making the world a united and peaceful whole.

46. The draft declaration contains the essence of all we have endeavoured to do for the child; it is a clear and forthright affirmation that mankind owes to the child the best it has to give (fifth preambular paragraph). Taking its stand upon these words, which reflect the idealism, hopes and aspirations of our era, the Third Committee now places before the General Assembly the draft Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

47. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I request the Assembly to take a decision on the recommendations of the Third Committee, contained in that Committee's report [A/4249 and Corr.2].

48. The General Assembly will now vote on the draft Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which appears in annex I of the report.

*The draft Declaration was adopted by 78 votes to none.*

49. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The draft resolution concerning the publicity to be given to the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which appears in annex II of the report, was unanimously adopted by the Third Committee. In the absence of any objections, I shall assume that the General Assembly also adopts it unanimously.

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 33

##### Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

###### REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/4278)

50. Mr. CUEVAS CANCINO (Mexico), Rapporteur of the Third Committee, (translated from Spanish): I have the honour to submit the report of the Third Committee [A/4278] to the General Assembly. It contains a summary of the debates which took place when the Committee examined agenda item 33.

51. After having heard the statements made by the High Commissioner, the important points of which are covered in paragraph 4 and the following paragraphs of the report, the Committee devoted six meetings to a discussion of various aspects of the refugee problem. As a result the three draft resolutions appearing in the report were drawn up. The first of these refers to the report of the High Commissioner for Refugees [A/4104/Rev.1 and Add.1]. I should like to draw attention to operative paragraph 1, which lays down the main principles which should govern the High Commissioner's policy.

52. The second draft resolution is concerned with the problem of the refugees from Algeria in Tunisia and Morocco. Paragraphs 31 to 34 contain a summary of the views which led to its submission and of those to which the draft resolution itself gave rise.

53. The subject of the third draft resolution is World Refugee Year. In this connexion, I should like to draw the attention of the Assembly to the Secretary-General's statement made before the Third Committee [946th meeting], which is outlined in paragraph 16 of the report. In that statement he described the steps which had been taken to promote World Refugee Year and he repeated the hopes voiced here by the President [824th meeting], when he said that, in launching the joint efforts which were to be con-

centrated in a single year, the Assembly had given new hope to the millions of refugees who still existed in the world. As an expression of its desire to bring the efforts made under the auspices of World Refugee Year to a successful conclusion, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution III of the report.

54. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The Assembly will now proceed to vote on the draft resolutions I to III recommended by the Third Committee and contained in its report [A/4278].

*Draft resolution I was adopted by 66 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution II was adopted by 74 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution III was adopted by 63 votes to 9, with 5 abstentions.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 12

##### Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VI, sections I to III, V; chapter VII, sections I to IV, VI to IX)

###### REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/4250 AND CORR.1 AND 2)

55. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to a latter [A/4282] from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee on the financial implications of draft resolution V submitted by the Third Committee in its report.

56. Mr. CUEVAS CANCINO (Mexico), Rapporteur of the Third Committee (translated from Spanish): The document [A/4250 and Corrs.1 and 2] which I have the honour to present, contains the report of the Third Committee on its discussions regarding the social aspects of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

57. The Third Committee devoted twelve meetings to this item; the result of its work is reflected in the seven draft resolutions which appear at the end of its report.

58. To summarize the situation very briefly, it may be said that the debate can be divided into two main parts, closely related. In the one, the activities of UNICEF were dealt with; in the other, the various problems coming before the Assembly as a result of the Council's work in the social field.

59. With regard to UNICEF, the report sets forth in detail the salient points of the programme which that body is carrying out. In this respect it is based on the statement made to the Committee by the Chairman of UNICEF's Executive Board. After a careful study of the impact of the various programmes on the world's children, the Third Committee submits, for the plenary meeting's consideration, draft resolution I. I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to the various amendments moved to that draft resolution; their object was not to question the ends sought or the means employed by UNICEF in carrying out its worthy task, but to define the States contributing to its efforts.

60. On the more general features of the world social situation, the Third Committee held a very thorough discussion. The main ideas put forward are summarized in paragraphs 24 and those following it, of the report. They led to the approval of various texts

referring to the interrelationship of economic and social factors within nations, including (as indicated in draft resolution II) a recommendation that the Economic and Social Council should consider the advisability of the Social Commission meeting annually.

61. The report also includes draft resolution III, on the construction of low-cost housing, which was originally submitted by the delegation of Peru and was abundantly amended as a result of the intensive debate it evoked.

62. The Third Committee also considered and approved draft resolution VII, originally submitted by the Czechoslovak delegation and referring to the promotion of international relations and exchanges in the fields of education, science and culture.

63. It also approved draft resolution IV on juvenile delinquency, a matter which the Third Committee regarded as important enough to warrant a recommendation for its study at the international level; and draft resolution VI, regarding a study of the effects of capital punishment and its abolition on the rate of criminality.

64. After a brief discussion, the Third Committee likewise approved draft resolution V, establishing a continuing programme of technical assistance in narcotics control, the object of which is to supplement the normal procedures and funds applied in this field.

65. I should also like to call attention to two aspects of world social development considered by the Third Committee. The first was reflected in the Committee's analysis of the programme of human rights, which is described in paragraphs 63 and those following, of the report. These discussions indicated how the members of the Third Committee analysed the programmes now in effect, evaluated their results and stated the considerations which, in their Government's view, would justify their continuation.

66. Paragraphs 74 and those following, of the report, summarize the debate on the organization and operation of the Economic and Social Council. They set forth the various views expressed, which were to a large extent based on the observations made by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization [A/4132/Add.1]. The Third Committee decided not to adopt a draft resolution on this subject, but agreed that the records of the debate and the draft resolution around which it had revolved should be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council, as stated in paragraph 81 of the report.

67. Mrs. ROSSEL (Sweden): I have asked for the floor in order to comment very briefly on draft resolution VI. The draft resolution concerns the question of capital punishment. Under the terms of this draft resolution, the General Assembly would invite the Economic and Social Council to initiate a study of the question of capital punishment, of the laws and practices relating thereto, and of the effects of capital punishment, and the abolition thereof, on the rate of criminality. The purpose of this draft resolution, which was sponsored jointly by Austria, Ceylon, Ecuador, Italy, Sweden, Uruguay and Venezuela is to bring about a study of capital punishment on a universal basis within the framework of the United Nations.

68. I am not going to dwell upon the merits of this proposal. By recommending the draft resolution for

adoption by the General Assembly, the Third Committee has concurred with the opinion of the sponsors that such a study would be of the greatest interest and value. What I want to say today is to stress once again that the joint draft resolution aims at an objective, unprejudiced study. It should not be undertaken to prove a certain point. It should be as complete as possible covering *inter alia* the historical, sociological, religious, philosophical, legal and anthropological aspects of the question.

69. I trust that this statement on behalf of my delegation will make our intentions quite clear; and I dare express the hope that draft resolution VI will be carried by a very large majority.

70. Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan): Sweden and six other Members of the United Nations have submitted a draft resolution calling for the initiation of a study of the question of capital punishment.

71. When the question was first considered in the Third Committee we did not take part in the deliberations. We did, however, abstain when the vote was taken because it was our opinion that a study of this nature might not be suitable at the present time. Subsequently, however, my delegation reconsidered this matter and reached a conclusion that a study made objectively and at the international level might lead to good results. We never shared the view expressed by some speakers that the proposed study would interfere in the domestic affairs of Member States. Studies were, and continue to be, within the jurisdiction of the United Nations.

72. We are glad to state that we shall vote in favour of draft resolution VI now before the Assembly.

73. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I will now put to the vote the draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee for adoption, which are contained in its report [A/4250 and Corrs.1 and 2]. The Assembly will first vote on draft resolutions I to V.

*Draft resolution I was adopted by 78 votes to none.*

*Draft resolution II was adopted by 78 votes to none.*

*Draft resolution III was adopted by 78 votes to none.*

*Draft resolution IV was adopted by 70 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution V was adopted by 76 votes to none.*

74. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I will now put to the vote draft resolution VI for which a roll-call vote has been requested.

*A vote was taken by roll-call.*

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

In favour: Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary.

*Draft resolution VI was adopted by 57 votes to none, with 22 abstentions.*

75. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The Assembly will now vote on draft resolution VII.

*Draft resolution VII was adopted by 75 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

### AGENDA ITEM 71

**International encouragement of scientific research into the control of cancerous diseases**

REPORTS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/4279)  
AND OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/4289)

76. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I would remind the Assembly that it has before it a report [A/4289] by the Fifth Committee of the financial implications of a draft resolution submitted by the Third Committee.

77. Mr. CUEVAS CANCINO (Mexico), Rapporteur of the Third Committee, (translated from Spanish): I have the honour to present the Third Committee's report [A/4279] on agenda item 71. The initiative in this matter consisted in the explanatory memoranda and the statement of the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, in which it was pointed out that humanity was still ignorant of the causes of cancerous diseases and uncertain as to methods of treatment, and that there had been a con-

siderable increase in such diseases, apparently connected, to a large extent, with the development of industrialization.

78. In seven of its meetings, the Third Committee debated the various aspects of the question, duly recognizing the importance of efforts made by WHO and the International Union against Cancer. It also discussed thoroughly the competence of the specialized agencies in such matters, and the need to supplement by international action, the individual efforts of States in the control of cancerous diseases.

79. I must record that repeated reference was made to the humanitarian nature of the Byelorussian proposal, which for that very reason won the support of all.

80. The Third Committee discussed the possible consequences of establishing a system of prizes as a method of encouraging cancer research. A large number of representatives spoke on that point and proposed various amendments, details of which are given in the report. Their suggestions and amendments were reflected in the final draft which the Third Committee submits to the General Assembly as the draft resolution which appears in its report.

81. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The Assembly will now proceed to vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee and contained in its report [A/4279].

*The draft resolution was adopted by 68 votes to none, with 13 abstentions.*

82. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): It has been suggested that at the plenary meeting tomorrow, 21 November, agenda items 55, 28 (c), 69 and 66 could be discussed. If there is no objection, it will be so decided.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.*