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Chairman: Mr. Erik NETTEL (Austria).

AGENDA ITEM 49

World social situation: report of the Secretary-General (concluded) (A/7203, chap. X, sect. A; A/7203/Add.1, chap. VI, sect. A; A/7248 and Corr.1, E/4590 and Corr.1, A/C.3/609, E/CN.5/417 and Corr.1, E/CN.5/417/Add.1 and Corr.1, E/CN.5/417/Add.2, E/CN.5/417/Summary, A/C.3/L.1634)

1. Mrs. THORSSON (Secretariat) said she had been gratified by the Committee's interest in and constructive attitude towards the world social situation. She had listened carefully to the helpful criticism advanced on some of the technical and substantive aspects of the 1967 Report on the World Social Situation (E/CN.5/417 and Corr.1, E/CN.5/417/Add.1 and Corr.1, E/CN.5/417/Add.2, E/CN.5/417/Summary). Needless to say, the Secretariat would take into account, even without a formal request, any observations which had been made during the debate when preparing the 1970 report, work on which had already started.
2. One representative had noted that the 1967 report did not deal with the subject of financing of social development. She pointed out that the work programme of the Commission for Social Development did include a project in that field; work had been initiated on a study in 1967, and it was expected that a report on the subject would be published in 1970.
3. Another representative had suggested that due attention should be given in future reports to the role of the State in development planning. Emphasis was in fact being placed on that aspect in the various studies currently being carried out in the field of planning, with regard to, for example, social policy and income distribution in the nation, and the financing of social development.
4. Many members had expressed their appreciation of the valuable work of the United Nations Research

Institute for Social Development and the hope that the Institute would be fully involved in the preparations for the Second United Nations Development Decade. In addition, one member had stressed the need to develop further the methodology and practice of social planning. In that connexion, she pointed out that the research and operational activities of the Social Development Division with regard to social planning had recently been strengthened, and the work had gathered momentum during the current year. That trend would be reflected in the five-year work programme to be submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its next session.^{1/}

5. Many representatives had stressed the need for a fully integrated approach to development, and one had mentioned in particular the need for social and institutional reform and structural change. That was accepted fully and incorporated in all work of the Division. She had also been pleased to note an increasing determination to see that deliberations resulted in concrete action, and that to that end several representatives to the Second Committee, in the debate on the Second United Nations Development Decade, had drawn attention to those provisions of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions which had stressed the close interdependence and interrelation of social and economic factors.

6. Turning to some of the major problems in the field of social development which had been dealt with in the report, she noted that several members of the Committee had stated that population growth was not the main cause of development problems—the problem in some countries was rather one of under-population and a lack of human resources—and that the answer to those problems lay in economic growth, in the more effective use of human resources and the elimination of any kind of exploitation of man by man. Other speakers, while agreeing that better and fuller use must be made of human resources, had felt that the population explosion was so vast that only determined efforts to slow it down could pave the way for a better life for all and ensure that increases in national income were reflected in a significantly higher per capita income. There was still no consistent approach to the subject; some thought that the rapidly increasing rates of population growth would result in intolerable overcrowding, others that advances in science and technology, together with the wider dissemination of public services, could result in the higher standards of living that the increased populations would demand. It was for individuals and Governments to decide their own policies, but the international community should strengthen its

^{1/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-sixth Session, document E/4620 and Corr.1, annex II.

resources to help those Governments which requested assistance.

7. It had been repeatedly pointed out that inequalities between the rich and poor countries as well as between sectors of the population within a given country, and the fact that economic and social inequalities were supported by prejudice and by the determination of the rich to hold on to their privileges, were powerful causes of unrest. It had also been stated that too large a proportion of the investments in developing countries went back to foreign investors, and that a more equal sharing was necessary.

8. Arising out of the debate was a general agreement that government plans and international assistance in all fields must be made more relevant to country conditions and more purposeful. It had been suggested that a country's valuable cultural heritage could be a positive factor of development, rather than meaning the acceptance of lower standards.

9. With regard to technical co-operation activities in social development, she pointed out that the report of the Special Rapporteurs who had been appointed to undertake a review of the subject had just been completed.^{2/} She was confident that the report, which would be before the Commission for Social Development at its next session, would result in positive action in that field, not in isolation at the expense of other government programmes, but fully integrated in over-all development.

10. During the debate, the necessity of making development a truly integrated socio-economic process had been stressed so often that it had almost become a truism. Proposals had been made for bringing that message more forcefully across to all United Nations bodies and to more countries, permeating all departments of governments and the population. The proposal voiced most frequently had been that the Report on the World Social Situation should be taken up also in the Second Committee, in order to ensure that the social questions debated and resolutions put forward in the Commission for Social Development, the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council and the Third Committee would have their proper impact on United Nations programmes and on the plans and requests of Governments.

11. Although all Governments practised some form of planning, hundreds of millions of people still felt resigned and apathetic about the results of such planning. It was vital, therefore, to encourage people to participate in shaping their own future. In particular, the unrest and desire for change shown by young people throughout the world should be channelled into constructive purposes. In that connexion, she was glad to report that measures were now being taken to intensify direct assistance to Governments in the advancement of programmes to meet the needs of young people and facilitate their participation in development. The United Nations, in co-operation with the specialized agencies, was also organizing a series of seminars on different aspects of work with youth.

12. One of the primary tasks of the United Nations should be to assist Governments in their planning tasks, particularly integrated planning. To that end, the Social Development Division and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development had recently held an interregional course in social planning for government planning officers, to be followed in 1969 by a second course to which the Government of a Member State would be host. It was also hoped to secure funds from another Member State to start a correspondence course in social planning for government planners to train them in over-all economic and social development planning. In addition to the interregional advisers who had now visited thirty-nine countries, two experimental team programming missions had assisted Governments specifically in the planning of external aid requirements over an extended period after completing a survey of needs resulting from government plans across the whole field of development.

13. Those activities, though small in relation to the magnitude of the problems of social development, were at least an indication of the international community's willingness to help shape a better future for all mankind.

14. Mr. ABOUL-NASR (United Arab Republic) said he had pointed out at the nineteenth session of the Commission for Social Development and during the general debate on the world social situation in the Third Committee that, in the chapter of the 1967 Report on the World Social Situation, relating to the Middle East, no reference was made to refugees. He asked whether any steps had been taken to rectify that omission, and whether the final version of the report would contain such a reference.

15. Mrs. THORSSON (Secretariat) replied that, in accordance with the assurance given in the Commission for Social Development, an addition had been made to the relevant chapter of the report, and an extra paragraph would appear in the final edition.^{3/}

16. The CHAIRMAN invited members of the Committee to explain their votes on the draft resolution on the world social situation (A/C.3/L.1621/Rev.2) and the amendments thereto.

17. Mrs. DE CATTAROSSÍ (Uruguay) explained that her delegation had voted in favour of operative paragraph 1 (b) of the draft resolution on the understanding that its provisions would not be interpreted as authorizing the Secretary-General or the executive heads of the specialized agencies to give assistance or advice in the field of population, or, as permitting direct or indirect interference by the State in violation of the fundamental right of parents to determine the number and spacing of their children.

18. Mr. SQUIRE (United States of America) said that his delegation had abstained from voting on the Somali amendment (A/C.3/L.1624) because, while it believed that certain aspects of colonialism, and all forms of racial discrimination, including apartheid, did hinder development, it did not feel that the concept introduced in the amendment was either necessary or appropriate to a resolution on the world social situa-

^{2/} Document E/CN.5/432 (mimeographed).

^{3/} To be issued as United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.IV.9.

tion. It had voted against the Guinean amendment (A/C.3/L.1625, para. 1) to the second preambular paragraph because, in its view, the world social situation as a whole had not continued to grow worse. It had also voted against the three-Power amendment (A/C.3/L.1627) because, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, the United States had preferred the original text of operative paragraph 2; that amendment having been adopted, he wished to state that his delegation did not interpret it as imposing a rigid commitment on Member States. His delegation had abstained from voting on the two Chilean amendments (A/C.3/L.1628) because it considered that the issues involved were neither within the Committee's competence nor relevant to the draft resolution. It also felt that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association should have been consulted before the second amendment was submitted. His delegation had abstained from voting on the Bulgarian amendment (A/C.3/L.1630, para. 2) because it considered the substance of that amendment inconsistent with the purpose of the draft resolution; his delegation had frequently supported similar proposals in other resolutions and declarations where they were more appropriate. As the amendment had been adopted, he wished to emphasize that his delegation interpreted it as a statement of fact, and not as an attempt to redefine existing international agreements. His delegation had been unable to support the Italian amendment (A/C.3/L.1632, para. 2) to operative paragraph 1, as it had participated in the drafting of that paragraph and had felt it should be retained.

19. Mr. NASINOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution as a whole, because it considered that the text had been considerably improved by the adoption of certain amendments, notably those submitted by Somalia, Bulgaria and Chile. He had also been gratified that one of the amendments submitted by his own delegation (A/C.3/L.1631, para. 1) had been accepted in principle. However, some weaknesses still remained; his delegation had already expressed its misgivings during the general debate, but he wished to emphasize that it had voted in favour of operative paragraph 1 (i) because it interpreted the word "income" in that sub-paragraph as relating to earned income only. His delegation had voted against the three-Power amendment to operative paragraph 2 and, although it had preferred the original wording of that paragraph, it had abstained from voting on it for the reasons stated at the 1615th meeting.

20. Mrs. AGBOTON (Dahomey) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution as a whole and had been gratified to note that it had been adopted almost unanimously. Her delegation appreciated the stylistic value of the Italian amendment to operative paragraph 1 but as it had felt that it was extremely important to prepare the ground for the draft Declaration on Social Progress and Development, it had supported the approach adopted by the sponsors of the draft resolution. Her delegation had abstained from voting on the USSR amendment (A/C.3/L.1631, para. 2) to paragraph 1 (a) because, while naturally favouring the elimination of hunger, poverty

and illiteracy, it had felt that a realistic attitude should be adopted in the draft resolution. She commended the representative of Somalia for having submitted an excellent amendment; colonialism and, even more so, apartheid had caused and continued to cause many economic and social ills both in colonial countries and in those recently decolonized.

21. Mr. TORRES-CARRILHO (Brazil) said that unfortunately his delegation had been obliged to abstain on the draft resolution as a whole, because it was unable to endorse a recommendation from an international organization which would result in governmental intervention in the field of birth control.

22. Mr. GUIRANDOU N'DIAYE (Ivory Coast) said that his delegation had abstained from voting on the Guinean amendment to the second preambular paragraph because it felt that, despite numerous problems of social development facing the world, and despite the disappointments suffered by the developing countries, appreciable economic and social progress had been made by the developing countries and the United Nations had increased its efforts in the social field.

23. The progress made had certainly been slow in most countries, owing to the inadequacy of the efforts, and the world social situation continued to give cause for serious concern, but it could not truthfully be said that in general it was growing worse.

24. Miss GUEVARA ACHAVAL (Argentina) said that her delegation had abstained from voting on operative paragraph 1 as a whole and on all its sub-paragraphs because of its belief that it was not advisable, in view of the impending adoption of the draft Declaration on Social Progress and Development, to formulate a set of principles in the present draft resolution. Her delegation, having been among the first to support Spain's suggestion that paragraph 1 (b) should refer to the exclusive right of parents to determine the number of their children, had also supported the USSR amendment proposing the deletion of the sub-paragraph. It had voted against the inclusion of the additional operative paragraph proposed by Chile because it believed that land reform, if it was understood to include the expropriation of existing landowners, should be financed, not internationally, but by the Governments concerned. Her delegation had abstained from voting on any operative paragraph which mentioned operative paragraph 1, and on the resolution as a whole, since some of the objectives stated in it were not acceptable to certain delegations, including her own.

25. Lady GAITSKELL (United Kingdom) said that her delegation had been happy to vote for the first two Italian amendments; in particular, it had thought it unnecessary for operative paragraph 1 to list tasks for Governments before the draft Declaration on Social Progress and Development had been adopted and the goals for the Second United Nations Development Decade had been established. Those amendments having been rejected, however, her delegation had acquiesced in the majority view that the approach followed in the draft resolution should be adopted.

26. Her delegation had abstained on the Somali amendment, since the United Kingdom could not accept that its colonial relationship with its few

remaining dependent Territories was a bar to social development; in any case, it had seemed quite unnecessary to insert the proposed paragraph in the text, and that view had apparently been shared by several of the co-sponsors. Her delegation had voted against the Guinean amendment to the second preambular paragraph because, although the 1967 report made it clear that the world social situation gave cause for concern, there had been improvements in some sectors such as education and health, and it was therefore not in accord with the facts to state without qualification that the world social situation continued to grow worse. It had abstained on the three-Power amendment because it had thought it unnecessary to alter the text of operative paragraph 2. It had also abstained on the Chilean amendments because it had disliked the authoritarian language used in the first—the phrase "Applying structural reforms designed to eliminate ... forms of political ... organization" had rather sinister connotations, at least as translated into English—and because, with regard to the second, it had felt that the members of the Third Committee were not in a position to cast an intelligent vote on the recommendation to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association and might even be requesting them to consider something they were already doing; in any case, the views of the agencies concerned should have been obtained before the proposal was voted on.

27. The Bulgarian amendment proposing the insertion of a new operative paragraph was similar to a provision in article 3 of part I of the draft Declaration,^{4/} which her delegation had supported. However, it did not believe it necessary to repeat that provision, especially in different language, in the draft resolution, and had therefore abstained from voting on the amendment. It had voted against the USSR amendments because it failed to understand the USSR representative's objections to the formula "freedom from hunger"—a well-established human right—in the revised text of paragraph 1 (a) and because, in its view, the USSR amendment to paragraph 1 (d) could be construed as a recommendation to Governments to adopt a policy of compulsory movement of labour, which was not an acceptable proposition so far as the United Kingdom was concerned.

28. Mr. LE DIRAISON (France) said that his delegation had abstained from voting on operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution and all the amendments to it, not because any of them had been unacceptable in themselves, but as an expression of its disappointment at the general approach which had been adopted. The 1967 Report on the World Social Situation, analysing the available data, was divided into two parts, one sectoral and the other geographic, with a third document (A/7248 and Corr.1) summarizing the material, drawing conclusions and making suggestions. His delegation would have liked the draft resolution dealing with those texts to derive directly from them, and noted with regret that they contained essential points of general applicability which were not mentioned in the draft resolution, such as the importance of basic data to the formulation of valid plans,

the urgent need for vocational training, especially of medical and paramedical staff, the need for adapting agricultural structure to food needs and the attention which must be given to the productivity of education and to increasing the number of educators.

29. Instead of drawing the attention of States to those specific aspects of the report and to others equally important, the draft resolution set out a series of general considerations the value of which was questionable, in the view of his delegation, because they had already been stated in the past, sometimes in the same terms, and because, regrettably, they overlapped with the text of the draft Declaration on Social Progress and Development which was under preparation. The draft resolution also failed to mention the opportunities afforded to States by international co-operation, except for a general appeal to UNDP and the specialized agencies. Finally, it provided no guidance for the preparation of future reports, as would have been desirable in view of the fact that the 1967 report was the first of a new series.

30. In spite of those omissions, his delegation had wished to acknowledge the considerable work performed by the sponsors of the draft resolution and, as they included a large number of developing countries which believed that the text would be useful, it had voted for the draft resolution as a whole in order to demonstrate its solidarity with them.

31. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) said that her delegation's position with regard to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution was well known. Nevertheless, it had voted for the draft resolution as a whole in a spirit of co-operation.

32. Mrs. CONDE (Guinea) thanked the sponsors of the draft resolution for their co-operative attitude, and said that Guinea, as a country which had experienced colonization, welcomed the adoption of the Somali amendment. Her delegation had voted for the draft resolution because it provided guidance for future work in social development.

33. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, thanked those delegations which had supported the text in their statements and by their votes and those which had sought to improve the text by submitting amendments, even though the sponsors had regrettably been unable to accept some of them. The draft resolution approved by the Committee (A/C.3/L.1634), if implemented by the United Nations and by Governments, would be a step towards eliminating the coexistence within countries of backwardness and advanced technology and towards reducing the gap between developed and developing countries. The sponsors recognized that social progress depended on the efforts of each individual country.

AGENDA ITEM 62

International Year for Human Rights (A/7194, A/7195, A/7195/Add.1 and Add.3-6, A/CONF.32/41, A/C.3/L.1623 and Add.1, A/C.3/L.1626, A/C.3/L.1633):
(a) Measures and activities undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights: report of the Secretary-General;

^{4/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 50, document A/7374, para. 133.

(b) International Conference on Human Rights

34. The CHAIRMAN recalled that General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII) had designated 1968 as the International Year for Human Rights. In its resolutions 2081 (XX) and 2217 A (XXI), the General Assembly had commended to States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, to regional intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies and other interested international and national organizations a programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with that year, and in the latter resolution had recommended that 1968 should be devoted to intensified efforts in the field of human rights. The Secretary-General had been requested to co-ordinate activities undertaken in connexion with the International Year and to collect and disseminate at regular intervals information on the matter.

35. At its twenty-second session, the General Assembly had considered an interim report^{5/} submitted in pursuance of that resolution. In its resolution 2339 (XXII), the Assembly had invited Member States, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations and the national and international organizations concerned to continue to intensify throughout 1968 their efforts in the field of human rights and to keep the Secretary-General informed of them. The Secretary-General had been requested to submit a further progress report to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session. That report was circulated in documents A/7195, A/7195/Add.1 and Add.3 to 6.

36. With regard to sub-item (b) of the item under consideration, the General Assembly, in its resolution 2081 (XX), had decided that to promote further the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to develop and guarantee political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights and to end all discrimination and denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms on grounds of race, colour, sex, language or religion, and in particular to permit the elimination of apartheid, an International Conference on Human Rights should be convened during 1968. Its specific purposes had been defined as follows: to review the progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration, to evaluate the effectiveness of the methods used by the United Nations in the field of human rights, especially with respect to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and the practice of the policy of apartheid, and to formulate and prepare a programme of further measures to be taken subsequent to the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights. The Conference had met at Teheran, Iran, from 22 April to 13 May 1968. It had adopted the Proclamation of Teheran and several resolutions dealing with a number of matters on its agenda, the texts of which were incorporated in the Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.32/41).^{6/} Further information on both parts of the agenda item could be found in the note by the Secretary-General (A/7194).

37. Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights) said that the importance of the agenda item

currently under discussion could not be over-estimated. The International Year for Human Rights, commemoration of which had been decided upon by the General Assembly five years before, had required careful preparation. To ensure the success of that commemoration, major efforts on the part of a large number of Governments, international organizations, civil servants, members of public and private organizations and of the United Nations Secretariat had been required. The International Year was approaching its end but its zenith had not yet been attained. In fact, 10 December 1968 would be the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and one of the purposes of the General Assembly in proclaiming 1968 as the International Year for Human Rights had been worthily to commemorate the anniversary of a document which, it was universally agreed, had found its rightful place among the proclamations which had enriched the spiritual heritage of mankind.

38. In his introduction to the same agenda item at the previous session he had recalled the fact that, among the other purposes of the International Year, the General Assembly had fixed the target of examining the achievements of the United Nations and of other international organizations in the field of human rights during the twenty years which had elapsed, evaluating the techniques used and formulating fruitful action programmes for the future.

39. As the Chairman had recalled, the pertinent General Assembly resolutions for the various programmes of activities during the International Year for Human Rights, which related to sub-item (a), were resolutions 1961 (XVIII), 2081 (XX) and 2217 (XXI). Pursuant to the last of those resolutions, the Secretary-General had, at the twenty-second session, submitted an interim report on the plans, preparations, measures, and so forth, envisaged by Member States, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and the national and international organizations concerned to intensify efforts and initiatives in the field of human rights in 1968, with particular reference to the measures indicated in the programmes approved by the General Assembly. The General Assembly, by its resolution 2339 (XXII), had expressed its satisfaction at the progress made and, while requesting the Secretary-General to continue, as far as possible, to co-ordinate the steps which should be taken and, in particular, to collect and circulate at regular intervals the information he received, had requested him to submit a further progress report on the International Year for Human Rights at the twenty-third session and a final report at the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly.

40. The Secretary-General's report (A/7195, A/7195/Add.1 and Add.3-6), which was formulated along the same lines as in the previous year, reproduced in extenso the reports submitted by Member States and summarized certain other reports. That report contained a great deal of information and revealed that the majority of countries had made a serious effort to answer the General Assembly's call. The measures taken were so varied in kind that it seemed advisable to group them and make use of statistics. Nevertheless, figures were not adequate in themselves and it was highly satisfactory to note that all

^{5/} Documents A/6866 and Add.1 and 2 (mimeographed).

^{6/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2.

regions, and all parts of the world, had contributed to the common effort. Every country and every international or national organization which had contributed time, resources and energy had selected those of the measures suggested by the General Assembly which suited it best. The total was very impressive and covered almost all, if not all, the activities which the General Assembly had proposed. The Year was not yet over and reports were still being received but it was already clear that the Secretary-General's 1969 report would be a highly impressive document and that a gratifying degree of goodwill had been shown by all concerned.

41. In preparing the document currently before the Committee (A/7195, A/7195/Add.1 and Add.3-6), the Secretariat had used reports from sixty-one Member States, four non-member States and reports concerning seventeen other countries from United Nations Information Centres or other reliable sources. The Newsletter on the International Year for Human Rights, which had been widely distributed by the Secretary-General, had gone through seven issues, the last of which was currently being distributed, while an eighth was being prepared. There had been a great demand for more copies from all directions and the Newsletter had certainly succeeded in disseminating the idea of the International Year and in stimulating initiatives. Its distribution had been limited only by the translation and printing resources available to the Organization.

42. As for Governments, there had been a very good response to the recommendations contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2217 A (XXI). Official information currently available revealed that the year 1968 had been officially proclaimed International Year for Human Rights in twenty-six States. Several Heads of State or Government had signed the Proclamation of Teheran and had made special statements reaffirming their faith in the dignity and worth of the human person. It appeared that at least eight Parliaments or National Assemblies were to hold formal meetings on 10 December—or had already held such meetings—to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Special committees had been established in at least forty-eight countries, some of them made up of members of the Government or of representatives of ministries and others representing private organizations, but most of them including both officials and representatives of private groups. They had been particularly effective in co-ordinating isolated activities and in encouraging wider knowledge of the objectives of the International Year. In a number of cases, government subsidies had eased the work of such committees. It was significant that a number of those national committees intended to continue at least some of their activities after the end of the International Year for Human Rights.

43. In some States public amenities and social facilities—schools, social centres, parks, and so forth—had been established in commemoration of the International Year for Human Rights.

44. In several countries, national prizes had been instituted to honour nationals or foreigners who had given conspicuous service to the cause of human rights.

45. It had been reported that special stamps and cancellations in honour of human rights had been issued in forty-one States and it seemed likely that that figure was a very conservative one.

46. A particular effort, perhaps the most impressive of all, had been made to distribute as widely as possible the text of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. It had appeared in a very large number of languages and dialects, and in some countries all secondary school pupils, all human rights committees, all interested non-governmental organizations and a large number of school libraries had received copies.

47. The General Assembly had placed particular stress on the importance of signatures, ratifications and other acceptances of existing conventions or international treaties intended to safeguard human rights and basic freedoms in given fields; General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX) contained a list of some of those Conventions which Member States were invited to ratify. Since the adoption of that resolution on 20 December 1965, there had been an increase in the number of ratifications of each of those Conventions. In that connexion, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination deserved special mention, since the number of ratifications required in order for that important Convention, which had been prepared by the Third Committee, to enter into force was twenty-seven and a figure of twenty-five had already been reached. In the introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization,^{7/} the Secretary-General had expressed the hope that the Convention, which would be an important milestone in the work on human rights, would enter into force before the end of the International Year for Human Rights. As well as the statistics, however, there was evidence that governmental or private committees had been formed in a number of countries to study the conventions that had not yet been ratified and to work towards such ratification.

48. Other extremely gratifying efforts had been made in various countries: conferences had been held by universities, academies and specialized institutes; important national institutions had been established to hear citizens' complaints; exhibitions had been held of documents showing the progress that mankind had made in its respect for human rights; instruction on human rights had been introduced into teacher-training colleges and into military and police academies; International Year posters had been put up in schools, post-offices and railway stations. Other, more spectacular manifestations had also taken place or were planned; in one country, for instance, there were plans for a complete stoppage of work for five minutes on 10 December 1968 as a sign of respect for human rights, and in another, young trees were being planted in honour of the International Year.

49. With respect to the General Assembly's resolutions concerning the United Nations family itself, the President of the Assembly at its twenty-second session had delivered a special message on the International Year which had been very widely distributed and was contained in issue No. 4 of the News-

^{7/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 1A.

letter. The important statement made by the Secretary-General at the opening of the International Conference on Human Rights, which had constituted his message for the International Year, had been reproduced in the United Nations Chronicle, in separate leaflets and in the Final Act of the Conference (see A/CONF.32/41, annex II). Several executive heads of specialized agencies, including the Directors-General of the International Labour Office, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Universal Postal Union, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had also issued special messages.

50. The United Nations Postal Administration had cancelled its stamps during 1968 with inscriptions relating to human rights and a special stamp devoted to the International Year for Human Rights had been issued on 22 November.

51. More than 1 million copies of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights had been distributed by the United Nations Office of Public Information alone, in over seventy different languages, while more than 100,000 copies had been sold by the Sales Section, plus 30,000 copies in the form of wall posters in Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish and Arabic. The United Nations Information Centres and the Resident Representatives of UNDP had been particularly active in that work. In addition, many hundreds of thousands of other texts had been reproduced by Governments and private associations, and it was particularly pleasing to note that the Universal Declaration had been translated into a large number of languages and dialects for the first time.

52. Among United Nations publications, those entitled The United Nations and Human Rights,^{8/} in four languages, Questions and Answers on Human Rights, in three languages, and the pamphlet Human Rights and the United Nations Family, in three languages, were well known, but many other publications on human rights were constantly reaching the Secretariat from the highest ranking educational and cultural institutions, from the specialized agencies, from national committees for Human Rights Year, from United Nations associations, and so forth. Many such publications were of high quality, and they all carried the emblem of the International Year for Human Rights.

53. During 1968, three seminars had been arranged in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights: the Seminar on Freedom of Information was held in London, the Seminar on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was held at New Delhi, and the Seminar on the Civil and Political Education of Women was still in progress in Accra, Ghana.

54. The recommendations of the General Assembly concerning the 1968 Human Rights Day would be followed. A concert partly consisting of original works composed especially for the occasion would take place at United Nations Headquarters on 10 December. The special meeting of the General

Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration would probably be held on the afternoon of 9 December and the Governments of Member States had been invited to include in their delegations, wherever possible, persons who had helped to prepare the Declaration. Prizes would be presented at that meeting to persons who had made an exceptional contribution to the advancement and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms since 10 December 1968. The Special Committee to Select the Winners of the United Nations Human Rights Prize, composed of the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was selecting the prize-winners and was expected to announce their names shortly.

55. The specialized agencies of the United Nations, regional human rights organizations and non-governmental organizations had shown an active interest in the International Year. The ILO had given careful attention, to part one of the report of its Director-General to the fifty-second (1968) session of the International Labour Conference devoted to a review of the activities of the ILO in the field of human rights; UNESCO had taken numerous steps to deepen and publicize the concepts of human rights developed by the United Nations family over recent years, and UPU had encouraged national postal administration to issue special stamps on the occasion of the International Year for Human Rights. The part played by regional intergovernmental organizations had been well brought out in the report submitted to the Committee, while in the case of non-governmental organizations the Secretariat had had to restrict itself to listing about 150 which had made a particular effort. The conferences of non-governmental organizations which, in the current year, had devoted themselves to the subject of human rights in relation to their own objectives and activities were too numerous to mention, but the work of co-ordination carried out by the organizations themselves and by the International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations on Human Rights which had met in September 1968 in Paris deserved to be mentioned.

56. The effort had been a collective one, at the international, regional, national and local levels, but it had been inspired by a single principle. As the Secretary-General had stated in the introduction to his annual report and in his message to the Teheran Conference, the ultimate objective of United Nations efforts must obviously be implementation of the standards at the levels where they could be enjoyed and exercised by the people concerned. To be implemented, those standards had to be understood, discussed and accepted.

57. It was to be hoped that, in the majority of countries, the work begun in 1968 would not stop on 31 December but would continue well after the end of the International Year for Human Rights.

58. With regard to agenda item 62 (b), it was clearly the desire of the General Assembly that the results of the work of the International Conference on Human

^{8/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.67.1.29.

Rights, which the Assembly itself had convened, should be submitted to it. The Final Act of the Conference had therefore been placed before the Committee. In accordance with the decisions of the Conference itself, the Final Act was a very comprehensive document giving information on the organization of the Conference, a list of participants, the texts of the addresses delivered at the opening of the Conference by His Imperial Majesty the Shahinshah of Iran and by the Secretary-General, the texts of special messages addressed to the Conference, statements by the Rapporteurs when introducing the reports of the two main Committees which the Conference had established and the text of the Proclamation of Teheran adopted by the Conference on 13 May 1968, together with twenty-nine resolutions.

59. Copies of the Final Act had been sent to all participants and observers, while a certified copy would be sent to each Government which had been invited to send representatives to the Conference. Thus, Governments and all persons concerned would be informed of the texts adopted by the Conference, which had, incidentally, received a certain amount of publicity. Some of the United Nations bodies represented at the Conference, such as the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, had already considered the resolutions which concerned them.

60. Some of the requests of the Conference, which had been addressed directly to the Secretary-General, were also already in course of implementation. That was the case, for example, with respect to the consultations with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the communication which the Secretary-General was requested to send to Member States under Conference resolution XXIII on human rights in armed conflicts. As requested in resolution XXIV, the Secretary-General had also begun consultations with Member States on an outline programme for an International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. As was customary, the Secretary-General considered that he could, where appropriate, give effect to the resolutions of the Conference which concerned him in so far as the resources at his disposal permitted. The Secretary-General also considered that, with due regard for the discussion which was about to take place in the Third Committee, he was empowered to bring directly to the attention of United Nations bodies other than the General Assembly the recommendations and texts which the Conference had addressed to them. There remained, however, a number of proposals which the Conference had addressed to the

General Assembly itself and some subjects of particular importance which the Third Committee would, no doubt, wish to consider in order to ensure that decisions adopted by the Conference of which it approved would be appropriately implemented.

61. For the Secretariat, the Teheran Conference had meant an intensive work of preparation, an extremely heavy agenda which had had to be dealt with in a limited time and a dynamism and spirit of hard work and co-operation on the part of all representatives. In that connexion, it was worth remembering that the Conference had ended on the appointed day and that the outlay had not exceeded the estimates approved by the General Assembly.

62. Important subjects had been considered relating to the essential problems of the age which, whether directly or indirectly, would affect the respect for human rights and the preservation of human dignity. Components of future United Nations action programmes had been outlined and could be implemented if the General Assembly so decided. A supreme effort had been made by all participants in the Conference to reach a consensus on essential matters—an effort that had been crowned with success, for, once again, thanks to the goodwill and conciliatory spirit shown by all, unanimity had been reached on principles, as was characteristic of the United Nations where human rights were involved.

63. The participants in the Conference would have an unforgettable memory of the warm, efficient and generous welcome extended by the Iranian authorities and people and of the interest shown by the Imperial Family in the work of the Conference.

64. However, it was for the Third Committee, in the name of the United Nations, to evaluate the substance of the decisions taken by the Conference. The Secretariat was ready to give any information and assistance which might be required.

65. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) thanked the Director of the Division of Human Rights for his highly comprehensive report and suggested that it should be reflected as fully as possible in the summary record.

It was so agreed.

66. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should hold a general debate on the item together with a discussion of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1623, following which it would consider the remaining draft resolutions.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.