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PLENARY MEETING

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President: Mr. José MAZA (Chile).

AGENDA ITEM 25

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

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/2995)

Mr. Stanovnik (Yugoslavia) Rapporteur of the
Second Committee, presented the report of that Com-
mittee.

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

1. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): As no representative wishes to explain his vote, the General Assembly will proceed to vote on the draft resolution contained in the report [A/2995].

2. The representative of the Soviet Union has asked for separate votes on the first paragraph of the preamble and paragraph 1 of the operative part of the draft resolution.

The first paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 52 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

The second and third paragraphs were adopted.

Paragraph 1 of the operative part was adopted by 43 votes to 5, with 8 abstentions.

Paragraphs 2 and 3 were adopted.

The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 47 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

AGENDA ITEM 24

Economic development of under-developed coun-
tries:

(c) Programmes of technical assistance

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/3000)

3. Mr. STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia), Rapporteur of the Second Committee: It gives me great pleasure to submit, on behalf of the Second Committee, to the General Assembly for its approval the draft resolution on programmes of technical assistance, which was adopted unanimously by the Committee and appears in its report [A/3000].

4. As stated in the report, this draft resolution is being submitted to the General Assembly separately from the other sub-items of the item dealing with the economic development of under-developed countries, in order that the Assembly may adopt it before the opening of the sixth United Nations Technical Assistance Conference.

5. The draft resolution was adopted in the Committee after a general debate in which thirty-three delegations took part. All the speakers, without exception, paid tribute to the Economic and Social Council and the executive directors of the programme, particularly Mr. Owen and Mr. Keenleyside, for the efforts exerted and the success achieved.

6. The debate brought to light the conviction of all delegations that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance constituted one of the most successful under- takings of our Organization. The results achieved exceed by far the financial expenditure involved. There is no doubt that the secret of this extraordinary success resides in the fact that the activities undertaken within the framework of this programme have mobilized the far greater resources of the recipient countries. This is particularly due to the fact that the operations of this programme are based firmly on the principles of the United Nations Charter.

7. In particular, our discussions brought into relief two problems, the problem of country planning and that of the financial stability of the programme.

8. The implementation of the new system of planning of assistance has shown extremely encouraging results from the very outset. The initial success achieved by the system of country planning shows to what extent the operations of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance have already become an integral part of the efforts of economic development in the under- developed countries. This fact emphasizes even more the existing contradiction between the voluntary and short-term character of contributions and the long-term character of the majority of projects carried out by the programme. The Committee, however, noted with satisfaction that the majority of the main contributors had shown their readiness to contribute financially to the programme in the future also, in the hope that it would

be possible to collect the sum of \$31 million at the sixth annual Technical Assistance Conference to be held on 26 October 1955, and hoped that the programme would be established not only as an expanded programme, but as a permanently expanding one.

9. I recommend to the General Assembly the unanimous adoption of the Second Committee's draft resolution.

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

10. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): I shall put to the vote the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee [A/3000].

The draft resolution was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 27

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/2999 and Add.1)

Mr. LANNUNG (Denmark), Rapporteur of the Third Committee, presented the report of the Third Committee, and then spoke as follows:

11. Mr. LANNUNG (Denmark), Rapporteur of the Third Committee: The Committee considered the item at eight meetings. A major contribution to the high level of the debate was made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. All members taking part in the debate were in agreement that the problem of refugees has to be solved as soon as possible.

12. May I call your attention to paragraph 14 of the report, concerning the authorization to be given to the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds to continue to undertake any negotiations that it may consider necessary in order to collect voluntary contributions for the United Nations Refugee Fund. In this way, the financial basis for the great humanitarian task of the High Commissioner may be secured.

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

13. Mr. BLAUSTEIN (United States of America): I should like to explain the reasons why the United States delegation will support the draft resolution proposed by the Third Committee.

14. The report of the High Commissioner was before the Third Committee for eight meetings, during which all the issues were thoroughly debated. At the end of that time, the Committee rejected the Soviet draft resolution, as amended by Saudi Arabia [A/C.3/L.463/Rev.1], by a vote of 29 to 14, with 10 abstentions, and then approved the draft resolution which is now before the General Assembly, which the United States had co-sponsored with Australia, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom, by a vote of 42 to none, with 14 abstentions.

15. The High Commissioner for Refugees informed the Third Committee that he always followed the principle that the refugee should be left entirely free to choose a solution of his problem, whether it be repatriation to his country of origin, resettlement in another country or integration in the receiving country. This is the principle laid down in the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

adopted by the General Assembly in 1950 [*resolution 428 (V)*], and it is this principle that the Third Committee has preserved in the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly.

16. The draft resolution submitted by the Soviet Union, even as amended by Saudi Arabia, was significantly different in approach. We noted the statement of the representative of the Soviet Union that his Government had accepted the principle that any repatriation should be "voluntary", a principle which the Western Powers have consistently held, but the draft resolution would have required the High Commissioner to "urge" the refugees to return. Indeed, in its original form it contained no mention whatever of resettlement or integration, and, in effect, in its revised form included this only as subsequent steps if "encouraged" repatriation failed. This bore strongly in the direction of forcible repatriation, even though labelled voluntary.

17. It must be remembered that most of these European refugees have endured hardships in refugee camps for many years in preference to repatriation to their countries of origin. The overriding responsibility of the High Commissioner is to provide international protection for them, and this the Third Committee has stressed in the draft resolution now before the General Assembly. Ten years after the end of the Second World War, there are still 70,000 persons in camps and 220,000 other refugees within the mandate of the High Commissioner who need his assistance for permanent settlement. There may still be some limited voluntary repatriation possible, and, we hope, a good deal of resettlement, but we must realistically recognize that for most of these unfortunate persons the most satisfactory solution and, in many cases, the only possible solution is some form of integration in the countries of their present residence.

18. The programme of permanent solution approved by the General Assembly last year [*resolution 832 (IX)*], which the United States Government firmly supported and which the draft resolution now before the General Assembly reaffirms and would implement, is designed to solve this particular refugee problem within the next several years, primarily by integration, with the help of rehabilitation. The United States Congress has appropriated for the share of the United States in this humanitarian undertaking \$1,200,000 for 1955 on a basis of one-third of all governmental contributions. Of this, we have already paid \$500,000 to the High Commissioner, and, assuming that other Governments give evidence of their continued interest in and support of the United Nations Refugee Fund, the Executive Branch of the United States Government intends to ask funds of the Congress for a further substantial contribution to the programme for 1956. The United States believes that through this programme there exists the most constructive approach to solving the problem of these refugees, and we hope that the General Assembly will approve the draft resolution of the Third Committee and that Governments will, as the draft resolution urges, give early and serious consideration to making contributions both for 1955 and 1956.

19. The problems of these refugees are human problems. They are people who had to leave their own countries of origin through no fault of their own, but because of war, revolution and oppression — conditions beyond their control. They are people with sorrows, pains, aspirations, hopes and needs. They are eager for a place they can really call home, for the opportunity to acquire

some permanent position in life in which they may again enjoy their human dignity. They are entitled to some peace of mind, and the United States delegation hopes that at least in some measure this draft resolution and the implementation of it will help.

20. Mr. LUBIENSKI (Poland) (*translated from French*): The Polish delegation will abstain in the vote on the draft resolution relating to refugees adopted by the Third Committee, on the ground that this text does not meet the needs of the present situation. It takes no account of the prospects opened up by the progress made towards the relaxation of international tension, nor does it do anything to repair the mistakes and supply the deficiencies in the method of settling the refugee problem.

21. The Polish delegation has always considered the best means of solving this problem to be repatriation in accordance with the principle of complete freedom of decision. That being so, it is essential for refugees to have an accurate picture of the situation in their countries of origin and to be informed of the rights granted by the Governments concerned to those returning home.

22. At present, this is far from being the case. Not only are the Governments concerned, competent organizations and even the families of the refugees forbidden to enlighten them, but, what is more, pressure is exerted on the refugees and intensive propaganda conducted against their return. That propaganda, furthermore, is based on false premises. During the discussion in the Committee, it appeared that many of the speakers were completely unaware of the present position in that respect; they thought that the reason why most refugees were not repatriated was that, so long as they were free to make up their own minds, they refused to return to their homeland. This is a serious misunderstanding.

23. Incidentally, it should be pointed out, to begin with, that a large number of refugees do return home, despite the pressure exerted by those to whose interest it is to maintain international tension. Among those who return there are even some refugees who, but a short while ago, were in opposition to their countries and allowed themselves to be used to bring pressure to bear on the mass of refugees. We have quite a lot of cases like this. The important thing, however, is that the refugees are exposed to the influence of certain authorities and factors unfavourable to repatriation and that, if they do not wish to return home, it is not because they have freedom of choice but precisely because people violate this principle by denying them knowledge of all those things which might persuade them to go home.

24. The Polish delegation is unable to condone such a state of affairs, not only on general grounds but, more particularly, because such a state of affairs is contrary to the interests of its fellow countrymen and its country. Thousands of people are involved, people who are living under inhuman conditions in refugee camps or wandering through the world like vagabonds, looked upon as undesirables by the local population. It is of them that we are thinking, for the fact that they cannot come to a decision regarding their return to their countries is due to one thing only: the pressure exerted on them and the false propaganda directed against their countries, which reduces them to a state of utter mental confusion.

25. The Polish Government, the entire Polish people, will never abandon the struggle for the return of these unfortunates to their country. Their families and their

friends are waiting for them. They will find in their homeland, not a crust of bread flung to them out of charity, but work in accordance with their capacity, work which will enable them to lead a normal, human and dignified existence and will give them the satisfaction of knowing that they are devoting their energy to the service of their country.

26. The method proposed in the Third Committee by the Soviet draft resolution, as amended by Saudi Arabia, was the only correct one for solving the refugee problem, that disturbing outcome of the cold war. Unfortunately, the draft was not adopted.

27. The draft resolution now before the Assembly does not adequately meet the needs I have described.

28. The Polish delegation, on the other hand, does not question the need, in certain cases, to adopt other measures to improve the living conditions of the refugees. Moreover, it appreciates the importance of the role of the High Commissioner for Refugees in solving the refugee problem. It hopes that, in pursuance of a number of General Assembly resolutions and in accordance with the views expressed by the great majority of delegations during the debate in the Third Committee, the High Commissioner will do everything in his power to make repatriation the principal means of solving the refugee problem.

29. It is on these grounds that the Polish delegation will abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

30. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): If no other representative wishes to explain his vote, the General Assembly will proceed to vote on the draft resolution contained in the report of the Third Committee [A/2999 and Add.1].

The draft resolution was adopted by 43 votes to none, with 15 abstentions.

31. Mr. MATULIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): The Soviet delegation wishes to make a brief statement in explanation of its vote on the draft resolution on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees that has just been adopted.

32. The Soviet delegation notes that, although over ten years have elapsed since the end of the Second World War, the problem of displaced persons and refugees that was a consequence of the war has still not been fully solved, and that to this day a large number of displaced persons and refugees are living outside their native land, are deprived of many rights and lack work, so that they find themselves in extremely difficult circumstances. This abnormal situation as regards the solution of the refugee problem, a problem affecting the fate of hundreds of thousands of unfortunate persons, is largely due to the fact that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his Office have concentrated their activities on the resettlement of displaced persons and refugees in foreign countries overseas, and have patently disregarded the guiding directives of the United Nations — to encourage and assist in every way possible the early return of these persons to their countries of origin.

33. The Soviet Union gives its full support to the principle of voluntary repatriation of displaced persons and refugees. In order to encourage the repatriation to the Soviet Union of refugees and displaced persons who are Soviet citizens, the Soviet Union has recently taken a number of administrative and legislative measures providing for the amnesty, protection and employment

of repatriated refugees with a view to affording them the normal conditions of a life of freedom. On 17 September 1955, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, motivated by humanitarian principles, enacted a decree on the amnesty of Soviet citizens who collaborated with the occupying forces during the great patriotic war of 1941-1945. With a view to enabling the persons concerned to return to a life of honest toil and to become useful members of Soviet society, the Council of Ministers of the USSR is instructed by this decree to take steps to facilitate the entry into the Soviet Union of Soviet citizens who are refugees in foreign countries, as well as of their families, regardless of citizenship, and also to find them employment.

34. On the basis of the general principles of the United Nations and the resolution on refugees which the General Assembly unanimously adopted in 1946 [*resolution 8 (I)*], the Soviet delegation considers that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should encourage and assist in every way possible the early return of displaced persons and refugees to their countries of origin, being guided by the principle of voluntary choice.

35. Inasmuch as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his Office have failed to take the necessary measures to fulfil this basic task of promoting the speedy voluntary repatriation of the refugees, the Soviet delegation abstained, as it did in the Third Committee, in the vote on the draft resolution approving the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of his Office.

AGENDA ITEM 57

Application of the Federal Republic of Germany for membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization

36. Mr. BROKENBURR (United States of America): The present item on our agenda arises under article 93 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation and article II of the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO]. The Federal Republic of Germany has applied for admission to membership in ICAO [*A/2912 and Corr.1*]. The Assembly of ICAO approved the Federal Republic's application earlier this year by a vote of 51 to none. Now the matter comes before the United Nations General Assembly for consideration, in accordance with the provisions I have just mentioned in the International Civil Aviation Convention and the Agreement.

37. The United States had the honour to propose approval of the Federal Republic's application in the Assembly of ICAO. The proposal was seconded by the United Kingdom delegation. My delegation has now joined with the United Kingdom here in sponsoring the draft resolution presently before the General Assembly [*A/L.196*], to speed the entrance of the Federal Republic of Germany into ICAO.

38. The Federal Republic of Germany is already a member of eight of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, and is participating actively in their programmes for public health, improved agricultural methods, and higher labour standards — to mention a few examples. The Federal Republic's application for membership in ICAO signifies a willingness and desire on the part of Germany to co-operate also in a worldwide undertaking to promote the sound growth of inter-

national civil aviation, accepting the common obligations which devolve on all members of ICAO.

39. The United States welcomes this step by the Federal Republic of Germany, and urges the General Assembly of the United Nations to give its hearty approval to the joint draft resolution [*A/L.196*].

40. Mr. SOBOLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): The USSR delegation wishes to state that it has no objection to the approval of the application of the Federal Republic of Germany for membership in ICAO.

41. The USSR delegation will vote in favour of granting this request by the Federal Republic of Germany in the expectation that, if a similar application is made by the German Democratic Republic, it will also be approved.

42. Mr. ULLRICH (Czechoslovakia): Under the preamble of the Convention on International Civil Aviation signed in Chicago on 7 December 1944, ICAO has the task of helping to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations of the world, to prevent friction and to promote that co-operation between nations and peoples upon which the peace of the world depends. The Government of the Czechoslovak Republic fully concurs in these principles and is at all times guided, both in its general policies as well as in the sphere of relations in international aviation, by the endeavour to further the development of peaceful co-operation with all nations of the world. In the spirit of this policy, Czechoslovakia is not opposed to the admission of the Federal Republic of Germany to membership in ICAO.

43. At the same time, in taking a decision on the application of the Federal Republic, we cannot, of course, overlook the fact that two States exist in Germany today and that, in the event that the German Democratic Republic should also submit an application for admission to ICAO, this application must be judged by the same criteria as that of the Federal Republic of Germany.

44. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): I shall put to the vote the draft resolution presented by the United Kingdom and the United States of America on the application of the Federal Republic of Germany for membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization [*A/L.196*].

The draft resolution was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 39

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

(a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

45. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): Before adjourning the meeting, may I draw the General Assembly's attention to the note by the Secretary-General [*A/2998*], relating to the resignation of Mr. Kamat of India from the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. As the Secretary-General points out, at its eighth session the General Assembly appointed Mr. Kamat (India) member of that Committee for a three-year term, beginning on 1 January 1954.

46. The Fifth Committee has item 39 on its agenda, and under this item it will deal with the three vacancies

that normally occur in the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. If there is no objection, I would suggest that the matter dealt with in the Secretary-General's note should be

referred to the Fifth Committee, to be considered in conjunction with the item I have mentioned.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.