

cities tends to confer. It was noted that in most developing countries this influx of rural and small-town inhabitants into the cities has severely over-taxed the urban infra-structure, precipitated acute housing shortages and given rise to shanty-towns and slums around the periphery of the major cities. Urban development, including the provision of housing of at least minimum standards, was considered to be one of the more pressing problems confronting countries still in relatively early stages of development. It was considered that the cities might obtain a measure of relief if rural life were made more attractive and rewarding, and if certain facilities concentrated in cities could be dispersed among less urbanized regions within the countries. To cope with these problems, some participants advocated national migration policies as an integral part of overall economic and social planning.

13. Shortage of food was cited as a serious consequence of the increase in the rate of population growth in less developed regions. Experts in this field showed that during the 1960's food production had increased less rapidly than population in the developing regions and that, as a result, food output per person was declining. Because rural population densities are already high in most of the regions of food deficits, increases must come mainly from improved yields rather than from extensions in the amount of land under cultivation. This requires savings for agricultural investment and applications of new technology which is more difficult in less developed regions where capital requirements are less readily met, and where traditional cultivation methods are less easy to modify. On the other hand, experience in different states of India, reported at the Conference, showed that it was possible to derive higher yields from limited land resources and testified to the absence of any inevitable relationship between population and agricultural growth. There was agreement that while resources exist to feed the world's population within the foreseeable future, adequate utilization of these resources would require drastic changes in techniques, major capital investments and a far-reaching intensification and reorganization of agriculture.

14. There was an absence of consensus as to whether the world's natural resources could sustain unlimited numbers of inhabitants. One view was that the possibilities for increasing the earth's resource potential through application of science and technology were so great that it was meaningless to set arbitrary limits for the size of world population at some future date. However, many participants thought that the balance between world food production and resources was not stable and that population needs might eventually

exceed what could be supplied by the earth's finite resources.

15. In the discussions of the interrelationships between population and economic factors in the development process, emphasis was placed on the important gaps in knowledge which still exist. There was apparent agreement, however, that population growth is not the sole, or even the most important factor, in determining economic growth. There was a tendency for high rates of population increase to be associated with low rates of *per capita* product and vice versa, but this was not universally true. This did not mean that population increase had no effect on *per capita* product, but merely that other variables have at times played a more important role than population growth.

16. There was some discussion of policy measures which could be taken to reduce unemployment and under-employment, which are pressing problems in many developing countries. Some participants advocated an intensification of technical training to increase the supply of skilled manpower needed for industrial development, while others favoured giving a higher priority to labour-intensive projects, and one paper proposed the formation of national development armies for public works and vocational training.

17. Frequent references were made to the substantial gains over the past decade in the quantity and quality of available demographic data both in developed and developing countries. There were still large and important gaps to be filled, particularly as regards the developing countries, but research tools had been sharpened considerably and many of the gaps could be filled with reasonably reliable estimates. The task was to apply these increasingly precise techniques to the growing body of data in order to ensure ever more firm bases for the design, implementation and evaluation of developmental programmes. One of the more encouraging possibilities for future demographic research was said to be the steady increase in the number of persons competent to carry out this work.

18. In closing the Conference. President Dolfe Vogel'nik enumerated a few preliminary conclusions of the discussions. It was clear that significant progress had been made in demographic knowledge since the first World Population Conference in 1954 and that, as a result of the development of demography as a science, views on the major demographic problems no longer appeared to be so sharply differentiated. While undoubtedly some diversity of opinion would still exist as scientists continue their search for further knowledge, the atmosphere of the Conference had been one of common pursuit of truth and appreciation of differing points of view.

## DOCUMENT A/6104\*\*

### Note by the Secretary-General

[Original text: English]  
[15 November 1965]

1. In resolution 1838 (XVII) of 18 December 1962, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to conduct an inquiry among Governments concerning the particular problems confronting them as a result of the reciprocal action of economic development and

population changes. It also recommended that the Economic and Social Council should intensify its studies and research on the interrelationship of population growth and economic and social development, with particular reference to the needs of the developing countries for investment in health and educational facilities within the framework of their general development

\*\* Incorporating document A/6104/Corr.1

programmes. It suggested that this work should be carried out in co-operation with the specialized agencies, the regional economic commissions and the Population Commission and should take into account the results of the inquiry to be made by the Secretary-General among Governments. It requested the Council to report its findings to the Assembly not later than at its nineteenth session.

2. The Secretary-General submitted a report on the results of his inquiry to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-seventh session (E/3895 and Add.1).<sup>2</sup>

3. In resolution 1048 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964 the Council, *inter alia*, invited the General Assembly, the regional economic commissions and the Population Commission to examine the replies of Governments to the inquiry and to make recommendations with a view to intensifying the work of the United Nations in assisting the Governments of the interested developing countries in dealing with the population problems confronting them, and drew the Assembly's attention to resolution 54 (XX) of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East adopted by the Commission at its twentieth session (E/3876/Rev.1, part three). The Secretary-General has arranged to make the full replies of Governments to the above-mentioned inquiry available to delegations upon specific request.

4. A summary of the Council's deliberations on this matter will be found in chapter VIII, section III, of its report to the nineteenth session of the General Assembly (A/5803), as well as in chapter XII, section II, of its report to the twentieth session (A/6003).

5. At its thirty-ninth session, the Council adopted resolution 1084 (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965 which, *inter alia*, endorsed the recommendations of the Population Commission in the report of its thirteenth session (E/4019) on the long-range programme of work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-seventh Session, Annexes*, agenda item 21.

fields of population, including its recommendations with regard to the increase and improvement of demographic statistics, the strengthening of regional demographic training and research centres, and other activities to increase the supply of technically trained personnel in the developing countries, expansion and intensification of research and technical work, widening of the scope and increase of the amount of technical assistance in population fields available to Governments of developing countries upon their request, and conferences and related activities in the population fields. To confirm the existing authority for providing advisory services to Governments for action programmes, the Council added to the resolution operative paragraph 5 (b) which requested the Secretary-General "to provide, in accordance with Council resolution 222 (IX) of 14 and 15 August 1949 and General Assembly resolution 418 (V) of 1 December 1950, advisory services and training on action programmes in the field of population at the request of Governments desiring assistance in this field". The resolution also called to the attention of the General Assembly the need to provide the necessary resources for the United Nations to carry out the intensified and expanded programme of activities in the fields of population recommended by the Population Commission.

6. A revised report of the Secretary-General on the results of the inquiry among Governments, for consideration by the General Assembly, was issued in November 1964 (E/3895/Rev.1), with three addenda in 1965 (E/3895/Rev.1 and Add.1-3). Responses to the inquiry were received from fifty-six Governments.

7. The Council, in its report to the General Assembly, endorsed the suggestion made by the Population Commission that, as a general rule, such inquiries should be conducted at intervals of five years and that the Secretary-General should draw up a proposal for a second inquiry for consideration at the fourteenth session of the Commission, scheduled for the latter part of 1967, with the scope narrower than that of the first inquiry, to permit a more intensive analysis of aspects of population questions of particular urgency (A/6003, para. 440).

## DOCUMENT A/6197

### Report of the Second Committee

[Original text: English/French]  
[18 December 1965]

1. At its 1336th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1965, the General Assembly allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 46 entitled "Population growth and economic development: reports of the Economic and Social Council".

2. The Committee discussed this item at its 1010th, 1014th, 1016th and 1017th meetings on 9, 14 and 15 December 1965.

3. In considering this item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/6104); a report of the Secretary-General on the World Population Conference (A/6101); a report of the Secretary-General on an inquiry among Governments on problems resulting from the interaction of economic development and population changes (E/3895/Rev.1 and Add.1-3); the report of the Population Commission on its thirteenth session (E/4019); resolution 54 (XX) of

the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (E/3876/Rev.1, part three); and the relevant chapters of the reports of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its nineteenth (A/5803, chap. VIII, sect. III) and twentieth sessions (A/6003, chap. XII, sect. II).

4. The Committee also had before it a draft resolution submitted by Denmark, Ghana, India, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Nepal, Norway, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sweden, Syria, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia (A/C.2/L.835 and Corr.1 and Add.1), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 1838 (XVII) of 18 December 1962 on population growth and economic development and Economic and Social Council resolutions 933 C (XXXV) of 5 April 1963