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Chairman: Mr. Omar LOUTFI (Egypt).

AGENDA ITEM 28

**Draft International Covenants on Human Rights
(E/2573, annex I)**

**STATEMENT BY THE RAPPORTEUR CONCERNING
THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 28**

1. Mr. LANNUNG (Denmark), Rapporteur, drew the Committee's attention to a technical point in connexion with the conclusion of the report he was to prepare on agenda item 28.¹ He proposed to cover the Committee's work as fully as possible in the report. He suggested that the report should end with a statement to the effect that it was understood by the Committee that, since it had been unable to complete its examination of the draft International Covenants on Human Rights at the current session, the General Assembly would decide to continue its consideration of the draft covenants at the eleventh session. If there was no objection in the Committee, the President of the General Assembly could be asked to draw the Assembly's attention to that statement and thus obtain its confirmation that it would continue the consideration of the draft covenants at its eleventh session.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters V and VI) (A/2943, A/C.3/577, A/C.3/L.500) (*continued*)

2. Mr. MATULIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had already fully stated its views on a great many of the topics dealt with in chapters V and VI of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/2943), including the draft covenants on human rights, the right of self-determination, and refugees. He accordingly proposed to confine his remarks to the topics dealt with in chapter V, which the Committee had not yet discussed. He would refer first to section I of chapter V.

3. The *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* (E/CN.5/301/Rev.1)² had been examined by the Social Commission at its tenth session, and by the Economic and Social Council at its twentieth session. The Soviet Union representatives in those bodies had underlined the positive aspects of the *Survey* and pointed out that the *Survey* had been the first tangible sign, in the ten years of the United Nations existence, of a real effort by the United Nations to take stock of the social situation in the various countries; however, as the USSR representative on the Social Commission and the Council had already said, the *Survey* was defective on a number of points. In particular, it made no reference to one of the main obstacles to social development in a number of countries, the fact that, although the Second World War had long been ended, many countries were still devoting a substantial proportion of their resources to military expenditures, to the detriment of the social advancement of their peoples. Another and equally serious defect of the *Survey* was that its authors had ignored the remarkable progress made in countries like the Soviet Union, the peoples' democracies and the People's Republic of China, whose total population was almost 1,000 million. Thus, although the chapters on health programmes, education, social services and other programmes were relatively long, only a few lines had been devoted to the Soviet Union. Not only had the achievements of the USSR been ignored but some of the information given had been distorted. In the circumstances, it was his duty to make the necessary corrections and to give a short account of the real situation in the Soviet Union.

4. So far as education was concerned, the Soviet Union had a vast network of schools covering its whole territory and accessible to all sections of the population. Education in the Soviet Union was compulsory and free. Two million pupils were enrolled in higher educational establishments. Specialized higher educational establishments enabled the workers to improve their knowledge and professional qualifications while continuing their employment. So far as public health was concerned, medical care was free to all. It was provided at State expense, by a network of health institutions which extended to towns and villages in every part of the country. At the end of 1942 there had been 300,000 qualified doctors and about 900,000 intermediate medical staff, and the number of clinics, dispensaries and other services available to the workers was increasing every year. A distinguishing feature of the public health programmes in the USSR was the tremendous development of preventive medicine. Great attention was paid to the promotion of physical culture among the masses, as a means of improving their health.

¹ The report was subsequently issued as document A/3077.

² United Nations Publication, Sales No.: 1955.IV.8.

5. In 1954, over 141,000 million roubles, or over 25 per cent of the total USSR State budget, had been allocated and expended for social and cultural measures—a sum exceeding the country's defence expenditures by over 40,000 million roubles.

6. The People's Republic of China was typical of the other countries neglected by the authors of the *Survey*. Although a quarter of the world's population lived in China, the *Survey* said nothing about the remarkable progress that had been achieved there. In that case again, his delegation considered it necessary to give some information to fill in the gaps in the *Survey*.

7. Since the revolution, the Chinese people had for the first time fully enjoyed democratic freedoms. Those freedoms were guaranteed to the people by the Constitution, which established, *inter alia*, the right to employment—a right which was assured through the plans for the development of the national economy, with higher wages, holidays and retirement benefits—the right to education, the equality of rights of men and women, and family and, particularly, child welfare. Before the Government of the People's Republic of China had come into power, ignorance had been wide-spread. Since the revolution, the Government had put knowledge and education within the reach of all. The number of school children and students had increased by more than 60 per cent, and more than 60 per cent of the total were the children of workers and peasants. Some 15 per cent of the 1954 State budget of the People's Republic of China had been allocated for social and cultural needs and for the promotion of education, science and public health.

8. As a result of the Government's unremitting care and the unwavering application of the provisions of the Constitution, the well-being of the workers of the People's Republic of China had been increasing from year to year. It sufficed to point out that during the past two years the average earnings of the workers had increased by 14 per cent and the income of peasants from agriculture and similar pursuits by 7 per cent.

9. Those facts demonstrated that the authors of the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* had made a mistake in failing to include a description of the remarkable social achievements of the great People's Republic of China.

10. The data he had cited proved that the Kuomintang representative's statements concerning the great People's Republic of China had been slanderous fabrications.

11. In connexion with Economic and Social Council resolution 585 H (XX), he said that at the twentieth session of the Council his delegation had presented a draft resolution³ proposing measures designed to promote the well-being of the peoples. Under that draft, the Council would have recognized as abnormal a situation in which countries still devoted vast sums to armaments while so many women and children throughout the world lacked the necessities of life, and would have appealed to the major Powers to reduce their armaments, so that the resources thus released could be devoted to social progress in the countries where the need for it was felt. The resolution finally adopted

by the Council was somewhat similar, in its important provisions, to the Soviet proposal, although it was weaker, and it was to be hoped that Governments would take into account the recommendations it contained.

12. In connexion with section II of chapter V of the report (A/2943), which dealt with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), he recalled that the Soviet Union had decided to make a contribution of 2 million roubles to UNICEF, which should enable it to benefit from the experience of the Soviet Union in that field and promote aid to children, particularly in the under-developed countries.

13. He hoped that the Economic and Social Council and the departments of the Secretariat concerned would bear in mind the observations he had just made with a view to correcting the shortcomings he had noted, as that would assist the Council in discharging its duties under the Charter of the United Nations.

14. Mr. TSAO (China), speaking on a point of order, protested against the offensive language used by the representative of the Soviet Union in referring to the Chinese delegation. As a member of the Third Committee, he (Mr. Tsao) was entitled to as much respect as any other member, and his delegation was therefore unable to accept such mis-statements.

15. With reference to the question of substance—that of the living conditions of workers in mainland China and of the budget of the Communist régime—the Soviet Union representative had omitted to mention the forced labour situation on the mainland or the expenditure for waging the aggressive war in Korea.

16. He added that only he (Mr. Tsao) was authorized to speak on behalf of China in the Third Committee. The USSR representative had acted as if China had become a part of the Soviet empire. His remarks were political propaganda and irrelevant to the question under discussion.

17. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) said that chapters V and VI of the Council's report (A/2943) showed that the activities of the United Nations had proved most fruitful in the social field. The Council and its functional commissions should therefore be encouraged to continue their efforts with a view to the solution of the world's social problems. It was the more important to do so because the lives of the peoples depended on the solution of the social problem, which affected the advanced countries and the less developed countries alike.

18. She was particularly gratified at the progress that had been made in child welfare, mainly through the efforts of UNICEF, the activities of which deserved special mention, especially in view of the number of countries or territories in which it carried on its good work. The Dominican Republic was particularly appreciative of the results achieved, since as a member of UNICEF, it was well aware of the magnitude of the task to be accomplished and of the zeal shown in carrying out the vast number of programmes in connexion with the Fund's campaign against disease and physical debilitation. Nevertheless, in view of the humanitarian nature of its activities, UNICEF should give women increasingly active part in the carrying out of its programmes.

19. Her delegation considered that the Social Commission was deserving of the highest praise. The Com-

³ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 3, document E/L.675/Rev.1.

mission gave special attention to the problem of the training of social welfare personnel, and it was to be hoped that its efforts and those of the competent services of the Secretariat would be given the encouragement they needed, so as to ensure that the economically under-developed countries should soon have the necessary staff to carry out their basic social programmes.

20. In connexion with chapter VI, section XI, of the Council's report, she stressed the decisive part played by the Commission on the Status of Women in improving the situation of women throughout the world, thus helping in no small way to enhance the prestige of the United Nations. Among the achievements of the Commission was the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (General Assembly resolution 640 (VII), annex)—the first international instrument signed under the auspices of the United Nations which was designed to remove discrimination based on sex in political matters. The credit must also go primarily to the Commission for making the first move towards bringing about the adoption of the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women (Economic and Social Council resolution 587 E (XX)). The Convention had now only to pass through the Sixth Committee, which was studying the final clauses.

21. Those two conventions were positive aspects of the question of the status of women, and they were a matter for satisfaction. Nevertheless, the task was by no means completed, since there must ultimately be complete equality of rights for men and women, especially in regard to wages, educational opportunities, and participation in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

22. The Commission should devote very careful study to the questions dealt with in chapters V and VI of the Council's report. Such matters justified the very existence of the Council.

23. The Dominican Republic had been elected a member of the Council for the first time, and as a country in the full process of economic and social development it was happy to be able to make its contribution to the Council, whose main concern was the improvement of economic and social conditions throughout the world.

24. Mr. LANNUNG (Denmark) took pleasure in acknowledging the continuing efforts made by the Economic and Social Council in the humanitarian field, and noted with great satisfaction the progress made.

25. He was particularly gratified at the action taken by the Council on behalf of stateless persons. An international conference, the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Stateless Persons, had been convened, under the chairmanship of a high Danish official, Mr. Knud Larsen, to deal with the problems of statelessness and it had succeeded, after about a week of work, in adopting a convention designed to improve the distressing situation of a large number of persons reduced to statelessness by the contradictory operation of the nationality laws of the various States. It was their realization of the practical and human value of that instrument that had led the delegations of Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, the Netherlands and Norway to submit a joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.500). The General Assembly would take note of the work of the conference, and of the adoption and opening for signature of the Convention

relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (E/CONF. 17/5), of 28 September 1954, and would request the Secretary-General to invite States which had not taken part in the work of the conference to accede to the Convention. It would also express the hope that Governments would take prompt action to deposit their instruments of ratification. In view of the humanitarian motives underlying it, the resolution did not seem likely to give rise to controversy.

26. The Danish delegation had studied with the greatest interest chapter V, section I, of the Economic and Social Council's report (A/2943), dealing with the social situation throughout the world. As Danish representative to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, he would like to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to the action taken by the Council of Europe in the social field. The Council of Europe was at the moment drawing up a European Social Charter which would supplement the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. It would be drafted in accordance with the instructions given by the Committee of Ministers in a report of 20 May 1954, to the effect that the Charter would determine the objectives to be aimed at by States in the social field and would help to determine the social policy of the Council. The Social Committee of the Council of Europe would be entrusted with the drawing up of the Charter, in which it could lay down not merely general principles, but also, if it thought fit, legal provisions binding on the signatories.

27. In order to provide background material, it had been decided first of all to carry out a study of the economic and social rights granted by States members of the Council of Europe to their nationals, and to send questionnaires to the various Governments for the purpose. The first such questionnaire, concerning employment and working conditions, had been sent out in May 1955. Governments were asked to indicate, with regard to every single right concerning which they furnished information, whether, in their view, the right should be incorporated in the Charter as a declaration of principle or whether it should be legally binding. The Consultative Assembly had also set up a working party, which had already prepared a draft European Social Charter. The Third Committee would do well to follow further developments very closely.

28. Mr. D'SOUZA (India) said that the Indian Government attached great importance to the work of the Economic and Social Council. It was a pity that the general public was on the whole ignorant or ill-informed concerning the indefatigable efforts of the United Nations to improve living conditions throughout the world.

29. With regard to chapter V, section I, care must be taken to avoid any over-hasty interpretation of the data furnished in the *Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation* (E/CN.5/267/Rev.1)⁴ especially the statistical data. But while everyone was aware that statistics must be interpreted with caution, it was less generally realized that the same words might not mean the same thing in all countries. There was a great danger that the real social situation in certain countries might be misunderstood if terms ap-

⁴United Nations Publication, Sales No.: 1952.IV.11.

plicable to other types of civilization were used as a criterion. If, for example, the status of women in India was judged on purely legal principles—such as the laws on marriage, succession and property—it might be assumed, quite wrongly, that Indian women played a negligible role in society. In actual fact, they occupied an important place. Moreover, the new codification of Indian law made fundamental changes in the old regulations. In the same way, to judge from the illiteracy figures in India, the country would appear to be distinctly backward. But illiteracy was not the same thing in an ancient civilization as in a country without a culture of its own. In India, clearly, an illiterate person was not to be regarded as an uneducated person, since the age-old tradition was an education in itself.

30. It was a dangerous practice to set up more and more bodies and institutions for the purpose of implementing the same type of programmes. Care must be taken to avoid overlapping, which meant a waste of time, money and energy.

31. He stressed the great potential influence of advisory services in the field of human rights, and was pleased to note how enthusiastically the Committee had adopted (662nd meeting) the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.488) relating to those services. Some representatives had doubted the effectiveness of the kind of assistance contemplated, especially seminars; but it was surely desirable that a country should give others the benefit of its experience. For example, nothing but good could come of a discussion of the way in which India had gradually solved the problem of the untouchables.

32. Among the programmes of social development, all of which were of great importance, special attention should be given to community development programmes. The Indian Government, generously helped by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, had launched a number of projects, especially in rural areas. The movement away from the land was one of the gravest dangers threatening the harmonious development of Indian society; if rural life could be organized and made more attractive, the population would probably be able to resist the call of the city and stay on the land; in that way, a profound social upheaval would be avoided. It was the more important to prevent the movement away from the land inasmuch as the uprooting of the rural population would have very serious effects on the level of agricultural production. The food situation had much improved in the past two years, and India had become self-sufficient, but nothing in the future should be allowed to jeopardize that very satisfactory result. The execution of community development programmes and of the second five-year plan would certainly help India to make further considerable progress.

33. The Indian delegation had noted with satisfaction the excellent results obtained in the spheres of activity referred to in chapters V and VI of the report (A/2943). The results bore witness not only to the work of the United Nations itself but also to that of the specialized agencies, particularly the International Labour Organisation, which was playing a most important part.

34. He praised UNICEF for its outstanding humanitarian work, from which India had derived great benefit. Universal Children's Day should serve as an

occasion for drawing the attention of the peoples to the needs of all children and for stressing the responsibilities of adults towards the younger generation. The youth of today would in time be responsible for safeguarding world peace and civilization.

35. Mrs. VARGAS (Costa Rica) said that the Council's proceedings had been characterized by an atmosphere of understanding and agreement in the period under review. All the delegations had been anxious to do useful work; the discussions had produced tangible results and many decisions had been adopted by large majorities. She hoped that States would continue to collaborate in the same way, so that the dignity and worth of the human person would receive universal recognition.

36. The *Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation* (E/CN.5/267/Rev.1) was most interesting. Despite its imperfections, the report provided a basis on which programmes and action could be planned to achieve the Council's objectives. The report should be revised and brought up to date periodically.

37. The Council had also discussed the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* (E/CN.5/301/Rev.1), a document which was important not only because of the volume and quality of the information it contained, but also because of its practical value. By suggesting methods and ideas, by citing specific cases as examples, it could act as a guide to States which had only slender resources at their disposal and which consequently had to choose the forms of social development which were most effective.

38. The Economic and Social Council had said, rightly, that community development was one of the surest means of raising the standard of living, particularly in the under-developed countries. She could not agree that social development should be left entirely to private initiative or that it should be the exclusive preserve of the State. While the authorities should act to relieve certain types of distress, they should act in such a way that the citizens would retain the incentive to personal effort. The merit of community development programmes was precisely that they associated government action with the enterprise of individuals. Individuals were conscious of the needs of the community to which they belonged; it was among them that a sense of civic responsibility and a feeling for democracy developed; it was through them that government by the people and for the people became a reality. The cultural value of community development programmes was therefore undeniable.

39. In particular, such programmes should be put into operation in rural areas, among the people whom the *Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation* (E/CN.5/267/Rev.1) described as "the forgotten men of the twentieth century"—the peasants of the under-developed countries. Such programmes were also needed in suburban areas. In both cases, the population lived in conditions which left much to be desired, both from the health and educational points of view and from the point of view of housing and wages. By means of such programmes it would be possible to improve, at any rate up to a certain point, the living conditions of such populations, which often, owing to lack of resources and the necessary personnel, were unable to benefit from social welfare measures.

40. Community development was regarded as so important that it was a subject of special study at the Advanced School of Public Administration of Central America, organized and directed by the United Nations in collaboration with the Costa Rican Government. A rural development programme, the application of which was being studied by students of the School, had been undertaken. In order that the experience gained should be available to all, the Costa Rican Federation of Local Authorities was studying the methods of carrying out the projects and the results obtained.

41. As the Social Commission had emphasized, many highly qualified persons were required for the execution of social development programmes. One of the objects of the Advanced School was precisely to solve the difficult problem of training the badly needed personnel. The School was attended by students from five Central American countries; it gave high-ranking officials, university teachers and persons who were to be employed in the social services an opportunity to extend and deepen their technical knowledge. It invited persons responsible for applying social development programmes in the area to exchange views. To some extent therefore it performed a co-ordinating function. Furthermore, it endeavoured as far as possible to approach its tasks from the international angle.

42. Central America already had a school of public administration for civil servants below senior rank. The United Nations might usefully assist a school of that type, which might be organized on a regional basis and serve States confronted with similar social problems. Several countries would then benefit from the instruction given by the school; its students, who would be drawn from different countries, would receive the same training, which would facilitate the subsequent co-ordination of social welfare activities and the planning of regional programmes. Each of the Governments concerned would organize, at the national level, the training of auxiliary personnel, who might attend courses at the regional school at a later stage.

43. So far as housing was concerned, it appeared from the *Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation* that at least 150 million families were inadequately housed in the under-developed countries and that over 30 million family housing units were needed in the industrialized countries. Housing was obviously vital to family life, whether from the viewpoint of health and hygiene, from the moral viewpoint or from the viewpoint of the development of children. Quoting from the same report, she drew attention to the connexion between housing conditions and many serious social evils. The problem was particularly acute in suburban and rural areas.

44. Realizing the gravity of the problem, the Costa Rican delegation strongly supported all the measures the Council was taking to promote housing improvement programmes. The Institute of Housing and Town Planning, which had been set up in Costa Rica in 1953 with the help of the Technical Assistance Administration, had carried out a variety of programmes: the building of houses on land belonging to the Institute or provided by local authorities, the construction of low-cost housing to meet housing crises in particular areas, the promotion of saving by granting loans for house-building to private persons prepared

to make the investment. The Institute was studying a plan for the reconstruction of private houses. Its object was that all those it assisted should acquire ownership of their own houses. She added that, despite the establishment of the Institute, private enterprise was still encouraged and supported by legislative measures, for Costa Rica considered that all the available resources and not merely those of the State should be employed for the purpose of solving social problems.

45. Turning to programmes for social security, social welfare and related social services for family and child welfare, she said that such programmes should be co-ordinated under a single programme, of which the work of UNICEF should form part. The work of the latter organization could not be fully effective unless the child was treated in the context of the family. It was most regrettable that some countries had reduced or had failed to pay their contribution to UNICEF. Whereas fifty-five countries had contributed \$14,266,861 in 1953, sixty-one had contributed only \$13,608,240 in 1954.

46. Costa Rica, which was a member of the Population Commission, was actively promoting programmes relating to population questions.

47. In general, the Government of Costa Rica was satisfied with the work that was being done by the Council and its commissions. It was in favour of expanding the programmes that were being carried out in all spheres of social development and hoped that the Assembly would make the necessary funds available.

48. In conclusion, she said it was desirable that the technical assistance experts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should co-ordinate their work by holding periodic meetings attended by officials of the government agencies concerned.

49. Costa Rica was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.500) before the Committee. She felt that the adoption of that text would hasten the solution of the problem of statelessness.

50. Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) stressed the value of the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* (E/CN.5/301/Rev.1) and the *International Definition and Measurement of Standards and Levels of Living* (E/CN.3/179 — E/CN.5/299)⁵ and paid a tribute to the work of the Secretary-General, the Committee of Experts and the Bureau of Social Affairs. She was convinced that those two important documents would serve as a useful guide for the efforts to promote social development.

51. There were one or two points in chapters V and VI of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/2943) to which she would like to refer.

52. On the recommendation of the Social Commission, the Council had adopted a resolution (resolution 585 C (XX)) requesting the Secretary-General to give special attention to the role of Governments and the role of the population in planning and implementing programmes of community development. She was glad to be able to say that, under a recent law, the Greek Government had made it possible for municipalities and communes to play a very active part in that field.

53. The question of financing housing and community improvement programmes was of exceptional

⁵ United Nations Publication, Sales No.: 1954.IV.5.

importance for countries like India, Pakistan and Greece whose peoples had been the victims of floods and earthquakes. In that connexion, some members of the Social Commission had raised the question of creating an international mortgage fund and a system of insurance against destruction of houses through natural disasters. There had been great technical advances in earthquake-resistive housing, a question which the United Nations might properly take up.

54. She was glad that the Economic and Social Council had decided to give a high priority to the training of welfare personnel. She hoped also that it would be possible in the 1956 budget to increase the allocations for advisory social welfare services, a most deserving cause. She regretted that financial considerations had prevented the drafting of a report on the welfare and protection of the family, particularly mothers and children.

55. Since its establishment, UNICEF had made a most valuable contribution to the welfare of Greece. The Greek Government and UNICEF were co-operating in the implementation of four programmes. The first was intended for handicapped children. At the rehabilitation centre near Athens the existing capacity of 150 beds was to be raised to 300, and the centre was to be supplemented by an orthopaedic hospital of 250 beds, the equipment for which had been furnished in part by UNICEF. The second programme dealt with maternal and child welfare in rural areas. It had been begun in 1954, and tried out experimentally in four prefectures in Greece, with mobile units, and consultation centres, hospitals and maternity homes. The third programme was concerned with the pasteurization of milk; and the fourth, which was still in an early stage, with sanitation in villages. Non-governmental organizations were assisting in the scheme.

56. She mentioned the importance attached by Greece to Universal Children's Day, which had been observed for the last four years in Greece in the first week in October.

57. The Greek delegation, having taken part in the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, was pleased to hear of the creation of the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory.

58. With regard to chapter VI, section XI, of the Council's report (A/2943), she said that Greece had ratified the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (General Assembly resolution 640 (VII), annex) in 1953, and by a law enacted on 21 April 1955, had given women completely equal rights in law and access to all public services and offices.

59. She was glad that Greece had been elected a member of the Economic and Social Council and could thus take part in the work of that important organ.

60. Mr. EPINAT (France) said he would like to stress one point, namely co-ordination. It was notoriously difficult to avoid overlapping where several bodies were dealing with the same questions. But the debates at the twentieth session of the Council seemed to indicate that some progress had been made in that direction. At the national level, co-ordination was better, though still inadequate, as could be seen from resolution 590 (XX). In the United Nations organs themselves, duplication was gradually disappearing, and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

was active. There was a growing tendency to establish long-term programmes, which made it possible to avoid all overlapping from the outset.

61. The Indian representative appeared to be afraid that hasty conclusions might be drawn from the statistics given in the reports. He personally was convinced that there was no reason for such fears; the members of the Committee were well aware that figures were frequently dry and at times misleading.

62. He would like to pay a tribute to the keenness and disinterestedness of the members of UNICEF, and to the efficiency of their methods, which gave grounds for the hope that all countries might increase their contributions.

63. Turning to another subject, he trusted that the United Nations Opium Protocol of 1953 (E/NT/8)⁶ would soon have the required number of ratifications and be brought into force.

64. The Economic and Social Council had started out on a practical and concrete programme, and he hoped it would persevere.

65. Mr. FERNANDEZ ESCALANTE (Argentina) said that his delegation had always followed the work of the Economic and Social Council with the utmost interest, as it had done useful and practical work.

66. The *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* (E/CN.5/301/Rev.1) prepared by the Secretariat in conjunction with some of the specialized agencies, constituted a valuable reference document for Governments and experts. Nevertheless, it might be helpful if future publications dealing with that question concentrated on the study of specific regions, so that the conclusions drawn would not be too general.

67. International co-operation must be encouraged with a view to improving living standards. Once the social objectives were defined in the light of the principles of democratic organization, nothing must be left undone to achieve them. In the first place, at the international level, the economic relations between countries should become closer. Too much stress could not be laid on the interdependence of the economic and social spheres, with the proviso that the economic must always be subordinated to the social. The achievement of a balance in external trade and exchanges in regard both to prices and to manufactured goods and primary commodities would make for international social progress and well-being.

68. The Social Commission, which was anxious to complete the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development*, had unanimously adopted at its tenth session a resolution asking that the *Survey* should be distributed to Member States for their observations.⁷ In the same resolution, the Social Commission had asked the Secretary-General to make a special study, in the next report on the world social situation, of changes which had taken place since the publication of the first report, in particular changes in levels of living considered in conjunction with community development and the growing problem of urbanization in economically under-developed regions. The resolution was complemented by economic and Social Council resolution 585 H (XX), and the Ar-

⁶ United Nations Publication, Sales No.: 1953.XI.6.

⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 9, para. 91.*

gentine delegation was glad to see the attention given by the Council to those questions. Nevertheless, the international measures for promoting social progress should include economic measures and measures to promote external trade.

69. The Argentine delegation was gratified at the publication of the report on *International Definition and Measurement of Standards and Levels of Living* (E/CN.3/179 — E/CN.5/299). Technical advances had helped to raise living standards and it was of the utmost importance to have studies concerning ways and means of avoiding the sudden changes that went with unduly rapid industrial development, and of improving the well-being of the inhabitants of large towns.

70. The Argentine delegation was glad to see that studies had been undertaken on the training of welfare personnel and on the maintenance of family levels of living. With regard to the financing of housing and community improvement programmes, it had some reservations to make with regard to the "possibilities of external financial assistance" mentioned in paragraph 467 of the report (A/2943). It would be better for the capital invested to be of national origin. Resort

to foreign capital would be uneconomic since such investments were not productive of foreign currency.

71. His delegation commended the work of UNICEF.

72. He was pleased that the humanitarian endeavours of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been recognized by the award of the Nobel Prize.

73. He would not make any lengthy comments on chapter VI of the Council's report, since human rights had been amply discussed. But he would like to make special mention of the section dealing with the status of women. Argentine law guaranteed equality of civil rights to all, regardless of sex, and Argentina was ready to support any international measure designed to improve the social and legal status of women.

74. Mr. MATULIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he would like to make use of his right of reply to state that the representative of the Kuomintang, who notoriously did not represent the Chinese people, had once again indulged in lying accusations, which incidentally were outside the scope of the debate.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.