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Chairman: Sir A. Ramaswami MUDALIAR

<u>Members:</u>	Mr. van der SCHUEREN	Belgium
	Mr. PARKINSON	Canada
	Mr. LABBE	Chile
	Mr. CHA	China
	Mr. KAISER	Czechoslovakia
	Mr. KAYSER	France
	Mr. ADARKAR	India
	Mr. KHOSROVANI	Iran
	Mr. URRUTIA MILAN	Mexico
	Mr. HUSAIN	Pakistan
	Mr. CABADA	Peru
	Mr. GARCIA	Philippines
	Mr. BORATYNSKI	Poland
	Mr. WESTERLIND	Sweden
	Mr. CHERNYSEV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Members (continued):

Mr. LEDWARD	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. LUBIN	United States of America
Mr. REY VERCESI	Uruguay

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. MENDEZ	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Mr. McDOUGALL	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Mr. ARNALDO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Dr. KAUL	World Health Organization (WHO)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A:

Mrs. SALMON	World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)
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Secretariat:

Mr. WEINTRAUB	Director, Economic Stability and Development Division
Mr. DUMONTET	Secretary of the Committee

ITEM 10. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON WATER CONTROL AND UTILIZATION (E/1894, E/1894/Add.1, E/AC.6/L.30 and E/AC.6/L.31) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN said the Committee would continue the general discussion on the United States draft resolution (E/1894).

Mr. LEDWARD (United Kingdom) said he had been much interested by the United States draft resolution and the statement made by the United States representative on the subject. Although his comments might be somewhat critical, he wished to dissociate himself entirely from the USSR representative's observations on the previous day. He was sure that the United States had not been motivated by economic imperialism in making its proposal.

He was, however, somewhat anxious lest the survey proposed by the United States draft resolution might not delay the work already begun under the auspices of the United Nations and specialized agencies on the problem of arid land.

/Representatives

Representatives of the countries most concerned by the problems of arid land had asked that urgent action should be taken on it. In 1949, they had been told that the technical assistance programme would be initiated the following year. In 1950, on the proposal of the Egyptian delegation, the General Assembly had finally passed a resolution (402 (V)) on the development of arid land.

He drew attention to the action already initiated, in particular by UNESCO and FAO and to the report published in November 1950 by the Interim International Arid Zone Research Council. His Government, among others, had considered that that report might provide a practical and realistic basis for tackling the problems of arid zones. Some of the recommendations it contained had already been implemented and others would be discussed by UNESCO in June.

He feared that the very extensive survey suggested in the United States draft resolution might delay the work already undertaken. The problem of arid zones and the problem of water control and utilization were highly specialized and had to be approached in different ways. If an attempt was made to deal with the two problems simultaneously, the work might be hampered rather than advanced.

Mr. HUSAIN (Pakistan) said his delegation agreed that the effective utilization of water resources was often closely related to the general prosperity of the nation concerned.

Pakistan had had to face most of the aspects of the problem of water control mentioned by the United States representative. In the western part of that country vast tracts of arid land had been brought under cultivation through irrigation. The density of population in Pakistan, however, made it essential that further areas of wasteland should be cultivated. Irrigation projects to that end had been started and others were in the planning stage. It was expected that the proposed irrigation schemes would substantially increase the supply of food and commercial crops.

Hydro-electric power projects were also in preparation. The proposed plants were expected to produce over 200,000 kilowatts of electricity.

/Vast areas

Vast areas of land in Pakistan were also frequently water-logged. To meet that problem the advice of experts, including the assistance of a consultant from the United States Department of Reclamation, had been sought. The best method of eliminating water logging was the construction of tube wells to lower the water table. A special hydro-electric project for that purpose was already under construction. The current budget included a provision of 124 million rupees for the elimination of water logging. Other drainage projects had been initiated in eastern Pakistan where excessive rainfall made flood control an acute problem.

The latter problem was closely connected with the question of the improvement of navigation facilities. Moreover, the problems of drainage and of the reclamation of wasteland were linked to the problem of the control of malaria and other diseases which was being studied by the WHO.

The optimum utilization of water resources clearly required the collaboration of experts, and an interchange of views on the international level would undoubtedly prove most helpful.

He felt that the most valuable feature of the United States representative's statement had been his emphasis of the need for centralizing the responsibility for promoting and co-ordinating international action for the maximum utilization of water resources within the United Nations system. Many different organizations were dealing with various aspects of the problem of water control and the utilization of water resources, and the purpose of the United States draft resolution was to ensure the maximum co-ordination of the activities of the organizations concerned.

The Pakistani delegation felt that such co-ordination was essential, and therefore wished to support the United States draft resolution. It should be clearly understood, however, that any project undertaken in accordance with that resolution would be in addition to the work on arid zones already begun by the Secretary-General.

/Mr. McDOUGALL

Mr. McDOUGALL (Food and Agriculture Organization) welcomed the note circulated by the United States (E/1894), and did not believe that the United States draft resolution, if adopted, would delay the work already undertaken on the problem of arid zones.

It would be useful to consider the role of international action in that field in relation to economically advanced countries and to under-developed countries. The international agencies could be of service to economically advanced countries in a number of ways. The services they should provide fell into two major categories: the provision of information, and the provision of opportunities for inter-governmental consultation which might lead to the formulation of recommendations for governmental action.

Water problems were extremely important in advanced urban civilizations. Modern sanitation had made it possible for densely populated urban areas, such as the city of New York, to reduce their mortality rates. The maintenance of adequate water supplies raised problems in the solution of which international consultation could be of great assistance.

There were considerable possibilities of technical advice and assistance in the field of ~~land reclamation and~~ drainage; an international organization, such as FAO, might assist in the exchange of information and recruitment of advisers to deal with those problems. International action could also assist in spreading information with regard to irrigation and the conservation of water for livestock.

The under-developed countries faced problems similar to but even more acute than those which beset the economically advanced countries. In humid regions, the sharp contrast between the dry and the rainy season gave rise to serious difficulties. Moreover, large parts of the under-developed countries lay in arid or semi-arid zones. Intelligent co-operation and integrated policies with regard to water were an essential element in economic development, and international organizations should be equipped to assist governments in water problems. Although in the past FAO's possibilities in that field had been limited by lack of funds, the Director-General of FAO hoped to have more money allocated for the purpose.

The integrated development of a whole watershed should provide the basis for the development of agriculture, industry and sanitary improvements. In the past, many programmes for flood control, water conservation and irrigation had failed because of lack of satisfactory international co-operation where watersheds crossed national frontiers. FAO had been highly conscious of the necessity for an integrated approach and its Conference in 1949 had recommended that Member Governments should examine their legal powers and administrative machinery, and if necessary create additional facilities to formulate inter-governmental land and water programmes which would promote the correct use and care of resources. It had also recommended that FAO on request should provide assistance to Member Governments to carry out that work and should promote inter-governmental consideration of problems in that field affecting more than one country.

River valley development in under-developed countries while primarily of importance for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, was also significant in providing water-power for new industries and for sanitation in urban areas.

Special problems arose in semi-arid and arid zones, such as the conservation and utilization of inadequate rainfall, the conservation of dew, and the mapping and utilization of underground water. FAO had already received several important requests for assistance in that field and was attempting to provide the needed services.

He agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the report of the Interim International Arid Zone Research Council was an excellent and useful study.

Without discussing the individual roles of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in regard to water control, he recognized that portions of the subject fell within the competence of a number of international agencies and that some semi-governmental and non-governmental organizations had an active interest in the field.

/Mr. ARNALDO

Mr. ARNALDO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that his organization wholeheartedly welcomed the United States viewpoint on the importance of international co-operation in the field of water control and utilization. UNESCO believed, however, that if the United Nations attempted to carry on a study of the problems of arid zones at the same time as it undertook to survey the questions outlined by the United States representative, an adequate report could not be prepared within the limited resources of the United Nations, particularly if it were to be presented at the fourteenth session of the Council.

The United States draft resolution embraced every area of the world and included not only the specialized agencies but all international organizations in the field. The draft resolution could be interpreted to mean that problems of arid zones were merely problems of water control and utilization, yet the hydrology of the arid zones was only one of the subjects proposed in the UNESCO arid zone programme. Other subjects proposed are plant ecology, extraction of moisture from the atmosphere, solar and wind energy, control of wind erosion and dunes, and the ecology of man in the arid zone.

If the United States draft resolution were accepted as an enlargement of the General Assembly resolution on arid zones, UNESCO feared that the preparation of the report urgently needed on the arid zones would be delayed. For that reason UNESCO felt that the work on the arid zones should be continued as originally planned, without further changes.

In view of the importance of international co-operation in the field of water control and utilization, however, UNESCO suggested that the Secretary-General might be instructed to undertake a separate study in collaboration with the specialized agencies concerned on the work being done in the field of water control and utilization as proposed and to report thereon to the next session of the Council.

Mr. KAUL (World Health Organization) said that his organization attached great importance to the proper control and utilization of water as well as the development of arid zones as a means of improving the standards of health of the peoples of the areas concerned. WHO would stress the necessity of incorporating sound practices of public health in any integrated efforts for those purposes.

/Efforts

Efforts to increase the supply of pure water would directly assist the control of water-borne diseases and help to lower the mortality rate of the area.

Unless multi-purpose river valley and irrigation projects were planned with due regard to health problems, potential sources of such diseases as malaria might be created. The introduction and spread of those diseases could be avoided in properly planned and executed projects through the application of the principles of public health and of sanitary engineering.

It was essential to maintain the maximum productivity of manpower by reducing potential sources of diseases. WHO had prepared technical studies on those problems and had assisted Governments in obtaining technical advice in the matter. The FAO and WHO had been collaborating in the question of malaria control in agricultural irrigation projects. Under the expanded programme of technical assistance for economic development, WHO had worked in close co-operation with UNESCO and other specialized agencies on such questions. In that connexion, the third assembly of WHO had adopted a resolution drawing the attention of Governments in certain areas to the dangers of bilharziasis which might be spread through the improper development of irrigation projects.

The Executive Board of WHO had pledged its support to UNESCO in the study of the problems of arid zones and had emphasized the importance of preparing a programme to prevent the outbreak or spread of diseases as a result of economic development projects for arid zones. That observation applied equally in the general question of water control and utilization.

In conclusion, he said that WHO would welcome the planned development of water control and utilization carried out with the full co-operation of all the agencies working in that field.

Mr. ARDARKAR (India) observed that before adequate control for utilization could be achieved extensive surveys such as those proposed in the

/United States

United States draft resolution would be required. His Government therefore supported that proposal in principle although it feared that in view of its scope which extended to all aspects of water control and utilization work already in progress on the more specific problems of arid zones might be delayed.

International co-operation would promote the understanding of the problems involved in water control and utilization. Many legal questions, however, would arise regarding projects on an international scale. He assumed that it was with that in mind that the Peruvian delegation had submitted an amendment to the United States draft resolution (E/1894/Add.1).

His delegation considered that it would be useful to have a special inquiry on water control and utilization as outlined in the United States proposal but it would perhaps be more helpful to begin that survey after the report on the problems of arid zones had been completed. He therefore suggested that the United States draft resolution should be kept separate from the General Assembly resolution on arid zones.

Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) said the United States representative had presented an excellent case for his draft resolution (E/1894) and had left no doubt as to the vital importance of the project. His delegation fully supported the United States view that the divergent efforts should be co-ordinated under the United Nations.

He noted that resolution 324 (XI) D of the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolution 402 (V) on the development of arid lands on which the United States draft resolution was based, dealt specifically with the problems of arid zones, whereas the United States draft resolution sought to enlarge the study proposed by those resolutions so as to include other areas and factors.

He shared the misgivings expressed by other representatives with regard to the widening of the scope of the General Assembly resolution, since by so doing the Council would incur the danger of neglecting the problems of arid zones. Consequently, if the United States proposal were put to the vote, he would support it, but with the reservations stated.

/He deplored

He deplored the USSR representative's reference to "economic imperialism"; his delegation considered the United States proposal evidence of a constructive effort to raise the standards of living of under-developed peoples.

Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stated he had not spoken of "economic imperialism" at the previous meeting of the United States but of "economic expansion".

Moreover, the United States representative had stated that the USSR had made no contribution to the Technical Assistance Programme. That was incorrect since the USSR paid its established share of the general budget of the United Nations, and thus contributed to the United Nations programme for technical assistance. The USSR had also disinterestedly provided various countries with technical help and advice.

He requested that those corrections be noted in the records.

Mr. FABBE (Chile) said that his delegation was vitally interested in the question of international co-operation in water control and utilization. It supported the United States proposal that in preparing the study of the development of arid zones the Secretary-General should also consider the ways in which States controlled and utilized their water resources with a view to determining how international organizations could assist Governments in the solution of that problem.

To that end his delegation wished briefly to outline the existing Chilean legislation on the control and utilization of its water resources. He explained that the water resources were, with a few specific exceptions, owned by the State, which granted individuals permission to exploit those resources. In general, persons owning land containing underground water were nevertheless permitted to utilize that supply. For almost a century the utilization of water had been governed by the Civil Code. Henceforth, however, the recently adopted Water Code (Código de Aguas) would apply. That Code reaffirmed the concept of State ownership and conservation of water resources.

The right to utilize water resources could be granted only by Presidential decree in accordance with the provisions of the Water Code. Persons with property on a river could no longer make use of the water without the permission of the Government. Moreover, the Code established an order of priority for the utilization of the available water supply to which exceptions could be made for the purpose of ensuring better utilization of the water. The Code also laid down explicit provisions for the allocation of water for various purposes taking into consideration traditional rights and the necessary State control for the proper utilization of the available supply, without prejudice to the right of appeal.

Earlier legislation had not considered the problem of run-off in detail. The new Code determined the ownership of run-off water and permitted a person to utilize run-off water without the consent of the owner of the land from which it originated.

The Water Code established the distribution of the water supply taking into account almost a century's experience. It set up Boards of Water Commissioners to distribute the water among the canals in each water basin. Associations of irrigation canal owners had been established to apportion the water among the persons sharing an aquaduct. There were also Water Communes which allocated the water of an irrigation canal not included in an association of irrigation canal owners. Both the Boards of Water Commissioners and the associations of irrigation canal owners were juristic persons capable of exercising rights and contracting obligations, but the right to utilize the water pertained to the individual canal owners. All those bodies had been created for the purpose of effecting the equitable distribution of the available water supply and preserving and improving river beds and aquaducts or canals and settling any problems arising in connexion with the distribution of the water supply.

The Water Code also contained water tax legislation. It provided, for example, that water could be sent through the canal of a third person without the consent of the owner, providing the necessary fees were paid. That provision made it possible to use sources of water supplies which would otherwise not be feasible economically, and arable land was thereby prevented from falling into disuse.

The Office of the Department of Conservation of Natural Resources registered grants of the right of the utilization of water and the privileges relating thereto under a system similar to the one employed for the registration of immovable property.

The State, through the Department of Water Supply, maintained control of water resources and exercised authority over the Boards of Water Commissioners and associations of irrigation canal owners to ensure the optimum utilization of the water supply and to prevent abuses.

Under Chilean legislation, the nation was ensured that its water supply would be exploited in the most efficient manner.

Turning to the economic and social aspects of the problem, he stated that in view of the nature of the topography and climate of Chile, considerable public works were necessary to make possible the best utilization of its water resources.

The artificially irrigated area of the country was 1,250,000 hectares. The cultivable area was 6,250,000 hectares. In other words, 5 million hectares were watered only by natural means. Because of the irregularity of the rainfall and the need to let the land lie fallow, the productivity of one of those 5 million hectares was only 10 per cent of the productivity of an irrigated hectare. It was thus obvious that it was necessary to increase the irrigated area of the country.

The population of Chile had increased by 100 per cent, from 2,900,000 in 1900 to 5,800,000 in 1950, whereas the irrigated area had increased over the same period by only 25 per cent. Over the past ten years the irrigated area of the country had increased by 0.8 per cent per year, whereas the population had increased by 1.1 per cent per year. Since the population was increasing more rapidly than the area of irrigated land, the problem of food production in Chile would become more serious as time went on.

Future irrigation works being beyond the resources of any private individual, the State had drawn up plans to increase the irrigated area, which would make it possible to match the increase in the population by an increase in food production and even leave some surplus of food for export.

He quoted data to show that the country's water resources could also be utilized for the production of large quantities of hydro-electric power which would promote industrial development and thus raise the standard of living of the population.

In the utilization of water, provision of pure drinking water was of great importance for the health of the population. In Chile, many towns were supplied with drinking water, but there were still about one million people in urban areas who were not supplied with drinking water. If the plans for the future were put into effect, it would be possible to supply an urban population of 5,900,000 inhabitants in 1980, which would be 98 per cent of the urban population at that time.

In view of the conditions in his country and influenced by the statements made in the general debate, his delegation supported the fundamental objective of the United States draft resolution. In order to clarify the draft resolution, however, and bearing in mind that there should be no intervention in the domestic utilization of its water by each country, he submitted a draft amendment (E/AC.6/L.30) to the United States proposal.

Mr. KAYSER (France) said the United States representative's first statement had been a masterly exposition of the problem. The United States representative's reply to the question he had asked the previous day, however, when he had requested him to explain how the United States draft resolution was related to the question of arid zones already under study, had not been as satisfactory.

He fully agreed with the first considerandum of the United States draft resolution, particularly since hearing the statement by the Chilean representative which had shown how useful an exchange of information under the auspices of the United Nations could be. His country had already had experience of the problems of arid zones and of water control and utilization in the territories of the French Union, and it was fully prepared to give the benefit of its knowledge to the United Nations.

The problem of the development of water resources had been studied by UNESCO in Florence and the United Nations had borne in mind the results of that study when it had passed its resolution on the development of arid zones. The problem of arid zones was, however, limited and an attempt to combine its study with that of the more general problem of water utilization would merely delay the work and might prove detrimental to the former. He therefore hoped that the Council would clearly differentiate between the two problems.

/While he

While he had nothing against the substance of the second considerandum of the United States draft resolution, he considered it out of place in that resolution and therefore could not support it.

With regard to the operative part of the draft resolution, he considered that the negative formula "rather than the field of arid zones alone" deprived the problem of arid zones of its priority and would be liable to hinder the work of the Secretariat and the specialized agencies.

He therefore moved an amendment (E/AC.6/L.31) to the United States draft resolution, the sole aim of which was to differentiate completely between the two problems by deleting any reference in the United States draft resolution to arid zones.

Mr. CABADA (Peru) remarked that world civilization had developed slowly until adequate methods of water control and utilization had been initiated. In Peru for example, the native culture had advanced rapidly as soon as the indigenous people had learned to control their water supply and had developed the science of agriculture. The irrigation projects and water control systems begun by the early Peruvian people were carried on by the Spaniards in the colonial period and the Peruvian Republic had done its best further to promote those activities. Water control in Peru had made it possible to improve the productivity of land and increase the production of food to support the population. Attempts were currently being made to utilize the available water supply more profitably. Surveys indicated that certain rivers could be diverted and made to irrigate large areas of waste land. Such projects were extremely expensive, however, and beyond the resources of the country. They could be carried out only under a programme of international co-operation. Peru needed technical assistance to enable it to prepare the necessary plans for water control. It would also need assistance from international financial organizations to implement its plans once they had been approved.

The Peruvian Government considered that plans for water control and utilization should be developed mainly for the purpose of increasing the agricultural production of the country. Like Chile, it was faced with the problem of a population which was growing at a rate far out of proportion to the increase in agricultural production.

/He endorsed

He endorsed the views of the French representative concerning a separate treatment of the problem of arid land. The problem of arid zones dealt with in the General Assembly resolution should be treated apart from the more general question of water control and utilization raised by the United States draft resolution.

The Peruvian delegation also suggested that the survey proposed in the United States draft resolution should be extended to take into consideration the juridical aspects of the problem both on the national and international plane.

In countries where rainfall was inadequate, complicated legal systems had been developed some of which were acceptable while others might have to be revised to ensure that the available supply of water was distributed equitably. It was for that reason that the Peruvian delegation had put forward an amendment to the United States draft resolution contained in document E/1894/Add.1.

Mr. CHA (China) said that the question of water control was of vital importance to his country. Earliest recorded Chinese history showed that efforts were already then being made to deal with the problem of flood control. Navigable waterways had been used in early times for trade, and the introduction of the steamboat had greatly facilitated trade and the exchange of ideas.

Extensive irrigation projects had been developed two thousand years ago to bring water to arid lands and to maintain an adequate supply for the rice-fields.

More hydro-electric dams were needed in China. Many existing river dams had made it possible to build rice mills. The lack of hydro-electric plants, however, had prevented China from becoming an industrialized nation. The question of flood control was also vitally important to China for the disastrous floods which afflicted the country, caused extensive damage to life and property. For that reason the Chinese Government had been particularly gratified to co-operate in establishing the Bureau of Flood Control in the ECAFE.

The Chinese delegation favoured the United States proposal that a global survey of the problems of water control should be carried out. That was a matter which required the Council's most careful attention and should be considered forthwith.

/Mr. LUBIN

Mr. LUBIN (United States of America) said the United States recognized the problem of water utilization as of vital importance to its own future welfare. Within several decades it might be faced by a crisis unless it organizes itself to utilize available water resources properly.

He could not agree with the French representative's suggestion that the problem of water control and utilization was not on the same plane as the problem of arid zones. He was convinced that the arid zone problem could be effectively studied only in the context of the entire field of water control and utilization.

In submitting the draft resolution, his delegation had no intention of delaying work on the problem of arid zones. The Secretary-General would report to the Council on the work done in that field, as well as in this wider field of water utilization and control. The two studies might proceed simultaneously.

By asking the Secretary-General to amplify his work and take into consideration factors other than those mentioned by the General Assembly in its resolution 402 (V), the Council was not violating or negating the Assembly resolution. It was the Council's right to request further information so that it might study the problem in a more intelligent way. For those reasons, he could not accept the amendment submitted by the French delegation.

Mr. LEDWARD (United Kingdom) shared the views of the French representative. He was gratified at the United States assurance that his proposal did not imply that the work on the problems of arid zones would in any way be impaired. As the report on the arid zones was to be presented at the fourteenth session of the Economic and Social Council, however, he doubted whether it would be possible to prepare an adequate report before that time if the United States proposal were adopted. For that reason he favoured the French amendment (E/AC.6/L.31). He suggested that the French amendment would be clearer if it were stated that the report would be prepared in co-operation with specialized agencies and that it would be based on information which was already available to the United Nations and specialized agencies. Much information of this sort was contained in the proceedings of UNSCCUR. Instead of further amendments, it would be sufficient if he received assurances to that effect from the Secretariat.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN summed up the general trend of the discussion and asked representatives to consider whether a revised draft resolution could be put out by the Committee in the light of the general discussion which had taken place. He also suggested that the representatives might wish to entertain an idea that the Secretary-General could be asked to give a higher priority to a study of water control and utilization under the draft resolution adopted by the Committee on conservation and utilization of resources at the previous meeting.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

28/2 p.m.