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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTIETH (CLOSING) MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 1 August 1968, at 3.15 p.m.

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Conclusion of the Committee's Work

Chairman:

Mr. BILLNER

Sweden

Note: The list of representatives attending the session is found in Official
Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fifth Session,
prefatory fascicle.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (item 4 of the Council agenda) (E/4488 and Add.1-5, E/4496, E/4525, E/4515; E/AC.6/L.395/Rev.1, E/AC.6/L.397/Rev.1); E/CN.5/417 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2 and Summary) (resumed from 463th meeting and concluded)

Mr. LIDGARD (Sweden) said that while recognizing that some regions of the industrialized world had lagged behind in development and that some regions of the developing world had created advanced economic and social structures, his delegation considered that the differences in the stage of development among the countries in the first category were relatively slight and easy to overcome. The main problem was to obtain a balanced development of the world economy as a whole; and although the industrialized countries could not ignore their own problems, they should assume their full share of responsibility in achieving that goal on the basis of concerted international action.

To that end long-term planning and action alike were required. A final solution would clearly not be attained in the coming decade, but his delegation was confident that efficient planning, the mobilization of sufficient resources and the creation of adequate international machinery at the present stage would establish a sound basis for further progress in successive periods. Otherwise the problems encountered in later decades would become immensely more difficult.

Preparations for the second Development Decade appeared to be proceeding in a careful and methodical way, but his delegation shared the concern of many others that they were not advancing sufficiently rapidly. According to the Secretary-General's note (E/4525), the Committee for Development Planning had worked out a preliminary sketch of international development strategy for the 1970s. The Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies was to prepare a synthesis of the comments presented by the various organizations of the United Nations system for submission in April/May 1969 to the fourth session of the Committee for Development Planning, which would then prepare a more advanced version of the strategy sketch for presentation to the Council at its forty-seventh session. That would be the first opportunity Governments would have to exchange views on the substance of the strategy. The Committee's final proposals were not due to be completed before the end of its fifth session in May 1970, so that the Council and the General Assembly would not be in a position to take final decisions until very shortly before the start of the Decade in January 1971. Since the highly technical nature of the work involved and the need for consultations among the organizations of the United Nations system excluded the possibility of a more rapid completion of the Committee's work, and in view of the

inadvisability of discussions and negotiations by Governments until fuller documentation was available, his delegation welcomed the indication by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of his willingness to prepare an analytical document which would enable Governments to participate in the preparation of the development strategy before the end of 1968.

He agreed with the representative of Belgium on the central role which the Council should play by providing the forum for the participation of Governments at the present stage of the preparations. The Council's Economic Committee, perhaps somewhat enlarged, could perform that function, meeting also between sessions as required. His delegation agreed with the view, expressed in particular by the developing countries, that the Committee should meet as soon as possible in its new capacity; at least one meeting could take place before the end of 1968 to plan future work and examine the material available. The Committee should also be given ample opportunity to consider the various documents in as advanced a form as possible so that the Council could discuss the matter in depth at its forty-seventh session. It might then be possible to initiate discussions in the spring of 1970 on the parallel steps to be taken by the developed and the developing countries. His delegation assumed that, in performing its new function, the Economic Committee would in no way hamper the work being carried out by the Committee for Development Planning, and that the two bodies would engage in a fruitful exchange of views.

The measures he had outlined might not permit an earlier start to the new Decade, but they would make its success more likely. The developing countries would be able to begin their internal planning at an earlier stage on the basis of more concrete information, and the industrialized countries could encourage them by giving substantial proof of their firm intention to improve the trade and aid situation.

The Secretary-General's survey (E/4496) contained a wide selection of principles, directives and guidelines approved by the various organizations of the United Nations system. Some of the texts quoted were rather disillusioned in their tone, but they were nonetheless instructive.

Although global in character, the international development strategy should be country-based and take full account of the realities of the situation in the various regions. It should aid and encourage Governments to draw up long-term development plans to mobilize the appropriate resources and to identify potential obstacles. The regional commissions should assist in drawing up realistic national targets, expressed in concrete or econometric terms as appropriate. Targets for the growth rate of the

gross national product should always be expressed in per capita terms in order to emphasize that the ultimate goal was the well-being of the individual. Aggregate targets could be set for regions, thus being at once closely related to national planning and general enough to facilitate discussion in such international bodies as the Council. There should, however, be few global targets; their value derived principally from the role they could play in stimulating public interest in and support for a generous aid and trade policy.

The strategy should also be continually revised in the light of events. His delegation considered that one of the main items of the Council's summer sessions during the 1970s should be a review of the economic and social progress achieved in the various regions. The regional commissions should be entrusted with the task of supplying information and analyses in that regard. There was, of course, no question of authorizing them to exercise any kind of control over the policies of Governments; but they should work in close co-operation with Governments so as to show that their sole motive was to assist in accelerating the economic and social development of the countries concerned.

The second main objective of international development strategy should be to ensure the co-operation of the developed countries in increasing the flow of knowledge and capital to the developing countries and in creating a favourable environment for the balanced development of the world economy, including world trade. The second Development Decade should stimulate the developed countries to formulate long-term plans for the transfer of resources to the developing countries. The Swedish Government would be prepared to consider seriously the possibility of entering into long-term commitments going further than mere declarations of intent.

The third main objective of the strategy was the strengthening of the United Nations system of organizations to face a common task of unparalleled magnitude. His delegation welcomed the assurances by representatives that they were prepared and willing to undertake concerted action for the Decade, but considered that a call for further strengthening of the co-ordinating role of the Council and the programming machinery of the Secretariat was justified. Co-operation among the organizations was greatly facilitated by their increasing concentration on the problems of the developing countries. His delegation had already expressed its satisfaction with the wider terms of reference of the Capacity Study to be carried out for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and had emphasized the importance of continuous evaluation.

Although only a small proportion of development assistance passed through multilateral channels, it was of particular importance to the developing countries because of its strategic and flexible character. Multilateral assistance would grow provided donor countries were fully convinced of its efficacy, and recipient countries could contribute to that end by making the best use of the aid received.

Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines), introducing the draft resolution E/AC.6/L.395/Rev.1, said it was based on the assumption that principles, directives and guidelines for action would be agreed upon before the second Development Decade was launched. It reflected the importance of bringing them to the attention of the general public in order to gain its wholehearted support for the Decade. The need for the political will to achieve economic and social development (third preambular paragraph) had been emphasized by the Secretary-General in his opening statement to the Council. In connexion with the fourth preambular paragraph, which mentioned the participation of the agencies, it was gratifying to note the tripartite agreement by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on agricultural education, science and training. Such agreements could help to mobilize opinion in both the developed and the developing countries. Operative paragraph 1 recognized the leading role of Governments in ensuring that there were no barriers to understanding and agreement at the national level. In connexion with operative paragraph 3, the sponsors of the draft resolution wished to express their appreciation to the Netherlands Government for making \$200,000 available for the activities of the proposed Centre for Economic and Social Information.

The adoption of the draft resolution would be the first measure taken by a major United Nations organ to organize the participation of peoples and leaders in a dynamic development process. A realistic assessment of the achievements of the first Decade showed that little had been done and that much remained to be done. Awareness of the magnitude of common problems and dedication to the achievement of common ends, which had been so woefully inadequate in the past, could provide the determination needed to ensure a fruitful and meaningful second Development Decade.

Mr. POZHARSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that while fully appreciating the purposes of the draft resolution, his delegation could not support the call for the widest possible dissemination of the principles, directives and guidelines for action to be adopted in the United Nations second Decade, since they

did not yet exist. Naturally everyone hoped that agreement would soon be reached on them, but, until then, the action called for was premature; this delegation would therefore have to abstain if any vote were taken.

Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) said that although his delegation intended to vote for the draft resolution it regretted the implication that public opinion was not at all awake to the problems of development. That implication was in line with the impression given by many speakers at the current session that practically nothing had been done during the first Decade to assist the developing countries. The draft seemed to reflect the isolation from world realities of those who spent much of their time in the hermetic atmosphere of international organizations. His delegation had referred earlier to the wide support in the Netherlands for development assistance. The Belgian public was also engaged in a major assistance effort: apart from the 0.75 per cent of the gross national product provided in the form of official aid, the Belgian people were furnishing private aid equivalent to \$7 per head of the population.

Mr. BLAU (United States of America) pointed out that until the General Assembly formally declared another "Development Decade", it was strictly speaking inaccurate to refer to "the second United Nations Development Decade", as was done in the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

He took it that the activities requested of the Secretary-General would be financed out of the general contribution by the Netherlands Government, but he would like to hear a statement on financial implications by the Secretariat before voting for the draft resolution.

Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines), replying to the first point made by the United States representative, said that the sponsors had taken care to avoid the use of an initial capital letter in the word "second", referring to another Development Decade.

He drew the attention of the Soviet Union representative to the words "to be adopted" in the first preambular paragraph. That should make it clear that the principles, directives and guidelines were not yet in existence.

He assured the Belgian representative that the sponsors of the draft resolution had not intended to give the impression that there had been no response on the part of public opinion to the needs of the developing countries. It was their hope that a greater response would result from the mobilization of public opinion in the developed and developing countries with which the draft was concerned.

Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) said that in the light of the explanation given by the Philippine representative, the word "décennie" should, to comply with French usage, be written with a small "d" throughout the French text of the draft resolution.

Mr. KITCHING (United Kingdom) said he could accept either "next Development Decade" or "second Development Decade". He fully supported the draft resolution's basic purpose, but like the USSR representative he felt it might be somewhat premature. However, that objection would be overcome if the sponsors would agree to replace the words "47th session" in operative paragraph 2(c) by "48th session". He assumed that the action mentioned in operative paragraph 2 would be undertaken at the appropriate time, when the second Development Decade had been officially proclaimed. He supported the United States representative's remarks concerning the financial implications.

Mr. MOSAK (Director, Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies and Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the draft resolution had no financial implications, since the activities it called for could be undertaken by the Centre for Economic and Social Information, in co-operation with the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies.

Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said that in view of the Philippine representative's explanation, he could accept the term "second Development Decade".

Mr. CHOLLET (France) said he fully realized the importance of mobilizing public opinion in all countries in favour of the second Development Decade; but he agreed with the USSR representative that the adoption of a draft resolution on that subject at the present stage might be somewhat premature. The acceptance of the United Kingdom amendment would solve the problem, however, and he therefore supported it.

Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) accepted the United Kingdom amendment on behalf of the sponsors.

The CHAIRMAN observed that as a result of the acceptance of that amendment, the words "24th session" in operative paragraph 2(c) should read "25th session".

Mr. MURIN (Czechoslovakia) said that although he was convinced of the need to mobilize public opinion in support of the second Development Decade, he could not vote for the draft resolution at the present stage, since it called for the "widest possible dissemination" of "principles, directives and guidelines for action" which had not yet been defined.

Mr. POZHARSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the acceptance of the United Kingdom amendment did not, unfortunately, overcome his own reservations regarding the advisability of adopting the draft resolution at the present

stage. He would be able to vote for the draft resolution if it was submitted to the proposed inter-sessional meeting of the Economic Committee.

Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said the sponsors felt that the time was ripe for a decision on the draft resolution; he therefore proposed that it be put to the vote immediately.

Draft resolution E/AC.6/L.395/Rev.1, as amended, was adopted by 20 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said he had voted for the draft resolution because he agreed that the mobilization of public opinion in developed and developing countries was of the greatest importance for the success of the next Development Decade. However, he had grave doubts as to whether the words "principles, directives and guidelines for action" were appropriate in the context.

Mr. CRANE (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that FAO would be glad to place at the disposal of the Secretary-General and the other organizations of the United Nations family the experience it had gained during its Freedom from Hunger Campaign, which was designed to mobilize public opinion in developed and developing countries in support of agricultural development.

Mr. FIGUEROA PLANCHART (Venezuela), introducing draft resolution E/AC.6/L.397/Rev.1, said that the text had been drawn up after long and arduous discussions to which all delegations, and particularly those of France and the Soviet Union, had made a most constructive contribution. The sponsors had made two further changes in the text now before the Committee. The following new preambular paragraph had been inserted after the third preambular paragraph: "Recognizing that planning on a long-term, continuing basis would contribute towards the realization of the goals and objectives of the next Decade". The order of the third and fourth preambular paragraphs of the existing text should be reversed.

The draft resolution embodied an idea which was accepted by all the members of the Committee, namely, that Governments should be associated at an early stage with the preparation of the guidelines and objectives for the next Development Decade. The need for a global development strategy had been stressed at the recent joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, where the executive heads of the specialized agencies had stated that the lack of such a strategy had been one of the main reasons for the relative failure of the first Development Decade. If the strategy was to be fully effective, however, Governments must participate in its formulation, and the Council had an important role to play in that connexion, as the Belgian representative had pointed out earlier. The draft resolution was largely self-explanatory, but the sponsors attached particular importance to operative paragraphs 4 and 7.

Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) said that in view of the impact which the draft resolution would have outside the United Nations system, his delegation wished to propose an amendment to an otherwise excellent text. There was a tendency in United Nations circles to use some words in a way which differed slightly from their original meaning - the one usually attributed to them in the world at large. As the Belgian representative had pointed out at the 468th meeting the primary meaning of the French word "application" (operative paragraph 7) was a legal one, namely the automatic and unchallengeable application of the law. It was his understanding that the corresponding word in the English text, "implementation", was also of legal origin and had similar implications. The greatest possible flexibility should be retained with regard to the method and means of attaining the objectives of the global strategy, so that development tactics could be adapted pragmatically to requirements of a continually evolving situation. He therefore proposed that in the French text the words "d'application" should be replaced by the words "de poursuite fructueuse" and that in the English text the word "implementation" should be replaced by the words "successful pursuit".

Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said that because of the accommodating attitude of the sponsors to amendments of substance suggested by his delegation he was in a position to vote for each separate paragraph of the draft resolution. He had only two comments to make. The first concerned the use of the word "agreement" in the original third preambular paragraph and in operative paragraph 4. Presumably the word was not meant to refer to final, irrevocably binding agreements, since it was impossible to predict what measures of agreement would be necessary for a period as long as a decade; it might be necessary to modify policies and targets as the years went on. The second related to the special task being conferred on the Economic Committee. He assumed that Governments would be free to choose whom they wished to represent them when the Committee met to perform that special task; representatives might not be the same people as attended the normal meetings of the Committee.

In all his experience of the Anglo-American legal system, he had never heard of "implementation" used as a legal expression. He did not like the word, which was a neologism, and would be happy to accept the English wording suggested by the Belgian representative, since it was better English.

Mr. CHOLLET (France) said his delegation too had reservations about the use of the French word "application", not only because of its legal connotation, but because of the misunderstandings it had caused between the developed and developing countries in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In view

of those misunderstandings, its use in a document as important as the draft resolution would automatically provoke a negative, defensive reaction on the part of the French authorities. His delegation had no wish to alter the substance; it was prepared to accept the Belgian representative's suggestion or to accept any other expression with the same meaning. Another word which caused him difficulty was the word "politique" used as an equivalent for the English word "policy". The English word was much more flexible than the French one. The formulation or co-ordination of any "politique internationale" was the attribute of the Government. He hoped that a satisfactory formula would be found. He also suggested a redrafting of the last phrase in operative paragraph 11, which read oddly in French.

Mr. POZHARSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) could not say that his delegation was entirely satisfied with the draft resolution, which was natural since it was a compromise, but it was prepared to vote for it. The point about different shades of meaning in equivalent French and English terms applied also to many terms in Russian; the Russian word for "policy", for example, did not have exactly the same connotation as the English word. Moreover, the Russian text was far from perfect, and he trusted that the necessary corrections would be made. It would be extremely useful if standard equivalents of words and expressions in all the working languages could be compiled, so that time need not be wasted clearing up difficulties of language.

Mr. ABE (Japan) said that being a compromise, the text was not entirely satisfactory to some delegations, including his own. His delegation would vote for it because its purpose seemed to be to provide an additional means of preparing for the next Development Decade. The matter would be discussed further by the Council, the General Assembly and the Economic Committee itself, and his delegation reserved the right to vote and act as it might see fit in those forums.

THE CHAIRMAN asked the representatives of France and Belgium if it would be sufficient for their comments to be reflected in the summary records; otherwise the draft resolution could not be put to the vote until the language problems had been cleared up.

Mr. CHOLLET (France) said he would prefer his comments to be included in the Committee's report to the Council. He would, however, try to ascertain the views of other French-speaking delegations on the points he had raised before the report was considered in plenary, to see if an agreed solution could be found. If so, it would be unnecessary to mention the matter.

Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) said he would like the report to indicate his delegation's view that the French word "application" had a legal connotation. Although he had reservations about the use of the word in the draft resolution, he was prepared to vote on the text as it stood. He hoped a solution would be found before the report was considered in plenary.

Mr. KREPKOGORSKY (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that it was not customary for reports to reflect the views of individual delegations, and amendments were only reported if action had been taken on them.

Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) said there were precedents: reservations of individual delegations had been mentioned in some previous reports.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that if the Committee agreed, the points raised by the French and Belgian representatives could be included in the report.

It was so agreed.

Mr. MOSAK (Director, Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies and Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said he had consulted the competent services at Headquarters about the possibility of holding a two-week session of the Economic Committee before the end of 1968. A convenient two-week period might be found during the session of the General Assembly, between the two short resumed sessions of the Council. On that basis, a session of the Economic Committee was unlikely to result in additional expenditure. The extent to which meetings of the Committee in 1969 might have financial implications could not be foreseen; it would depend on the number of meetings held, their timing and their duration, all of which would have to be approved by the General Assembly on the basis of recommendations of the Committee on the Calendar of Conferences.

Mr. KITCHING (United Kingdom), explaining his vote, said he wanted to make it clear that he had voted for the draft resolution on the understanding that any work undertaken by the Economic Committee in formulating an outline for a development policy before the comments of Governments on the documents referred to in operative paragraph 6 were available would essentially consist of collecting in one document agreements already reached on aid and development policy, and that all work of formulating that outline would be based on agreements or on areas of agreement reached and would not raise issues in the Economic Committee which had been contentious or disagreed in other forums. He had, moreover, been instructed by his Government to draw attention to rule 34 of the Council's rules of procedure and to say that it had voted for the resolution on the understanding that no supplementary estimates above the normal budget of the Council would be involved.

Mr. DUBEY (India) said that while his delegation agreed that the Economic Committee would work on the basis of agreements reached in other forums and would not take up issues being considered by other bodies such as UNCTAD, it considered that that would not preclude the Committee from considering any issues normally dealt with by the Council or its subsidiary organs under their terms of reference.

Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said that in view of the statement on financial implications, he was compelled to say that his delegation had voted for the draft resolution on the understanding that any session of the Committee held in 1968 would not last as long as two weeks. In view of the state of preparation of the documents which the Committee would study and the time required for obtaining comments on them from Governments and from the different organizations concerned, his delegation considered it unlikely that the Committee could do more in 1968 than agree on the organization and methods of its work and instruct the Secretariat on the documents it would require.

The CHAIRMAN declared the discussion of item 4 concluded.

DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES (item 9 of the Council agenda)
(E/4467/Rev.1, E/4472, E/4483 and Add.1) (resumed from the 468th meeting)

OUTFLOW OF TRAINED PERSONNEL FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (item 10 of the Council agenda)
(E/4483 and Add.1) (resumed from the 468th meeting)

Mr. LIDGARD (Sweden), supported by Mr. NYIRABU (United Republic of Tanzania) and Mr. MURIN (Czechoslovakia), suggested that since no draft resolutions had been approved on item 9, apart from the two on youth (E/AC.6/L.393 and L.394), the Committee's report should include some statement reflecting the importance the Committee attached to the development and utilization of human resources, especially in connexion with the preparations for the second Development Decade.

Mr. GREGH (France) agreed with the suggestion, although he did not think it went far enough. The Committee should report not only that it had discussed the item at length, but also that it considered that much remained to be done. The reports submitted to it had been progress reports, and many Governments had still not sent their comments to the Secretary-General. A fairly full statement was desirable.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the following wording might be suitable to cover both items 9 and 10:

"The Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/4483 and Add.1) and the report of the Commission for Social Development (E/4467/Rev.1) as well as chapter VI of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/4472) and after a full discussion reaffirmed the importance which it attaches to this aspect of development being given close and continued attention and due emphasis by the members of the United Nations system of organizations, particularly in connexion with the preparations for the second Development Decade."

Mr. GREGH (France) said he assumed that the wording suggested by the Chairman would be preceded by some account of the discussion on the two items. The use of the words "this aspect" in the text made it appear that only one item was being referred to. Moreover, something might be added urging the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariats of the other organizations in the United Nations system to continue their work.

Mr. POZHARSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the Chairman's suggestion in principle. The words "this aspect" might be replaced by the titles of the two agenda items.

Mr. GREGH (France) suggested that if the Committee agreed to the general tenor of his remarks, it might be left to the Secretariat to prepare a final draft.

It was so agreed.

CONCLUSION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee's work was concluded.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.