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Item 10

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON WATER CONTROL AND UTILIZATION

Summary of a statement submitted by the National
Association of Manufacturers, a non-governmental
organization granted consultative status in
Category B

The Secretary-General has received the following
summary of a statement, which is circulated in
accordance with paragraphs 22 and 23 of Council
resolution 288 B (X):

Dated: 9 February 1951

Received: 20 February 1951

The NAM wishes to restate its willingness and desire to co-operate in working out a realistic and effective Program for Underdeveloped Areas, and to comment briefly on Item 10 of the Agenda which would deal, in part, with this Program.

We note the General Assembly has requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on "practical measures adopted for the study of the problems of arid zones and on the technical and financial means employed by the specialized agencies for this purpose."

NAM endorses the request of Members of the Economic and Social Council that the Secretary-General's report be enlarged to survey the entire field of water

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control and utilization. NAM also urges the survey cover work of regional and local governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as that of Governmental and specialized agencies.

In the United States there is a large library of data that can and should be drawn upon in any attempt to build a program of international co-operation in the field of resource development, whether it concerns water, soil, or timber. Our experience shows the fallacy of developing water resources of an area or a whole nation solely on the basis of anticipated agricultural needs, only to discover in later years that the area requires water resource development for industrial and residential growth. Wastes in money, labour, and time are the results of attacking resource problems in the absence of a well-rounded and well-defined resource policy. There is no reason to believe that results would differ materially on an international basis.

Illustrative of data that might be drawn upon is the recent study, "Water in Industry", by the NAM Conservation Committee and The Conservation Foundation.

Until the publication of "Water in Industry" there was no comprehensive national or regional index to industrial water use practices, and no basis for stating with certainty that American industry or its component parts was in need of revising certain water use practices in order to conform to a sound water use policy. Now, the data are available for industry, government, the general public, and for the nations of the world as an approach to the problem.

The facts set forth below are revealed by this study as more-or-less "rules of thumb" in the utilization of water in manufacturing:

1. Few industrial plants using large amounts of water account for the largest part of aggregate industrial use.

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2. Increase in scale of operations (growth in number of employees) over the past ten years has been partly responsible for increase in intake of water by industry.

3. In all plants covered by survey, most important use of water was for industrial process purposes, although water for cooling purposes is more important in large water using plants.

4. About half of industrial plants covered by study had their own facilities for treating water. (Principally among larger plants.)

5. A greater percentage of large plants than of small plants treat waste water. Small plants tend to dispose of waste through municipal sewers.

Recent experience in many areas of the US, including arid and semi-arid regions, shows that manufacturing, agriculture, and cities frequently compete aggressively against one another for water supplies that are inadequately developed.

Such conflicts can be avoided if all the facts on potential water supply and demand are assembled and considered in the formation of a conservation and use policy for an area, region, or an entire nation. Initial planning of water resource use and development in the under-developed nations should provide for precautions against undertaking a program containing the seeds of eventual resource conflicts.

These comments concerning Item 10 are submitted to point to the broad factors which exist in practically all water resource problems, and to suggest that study be devoted to existing data that are pertinent to such problems in the under-developed nations of the world.
