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Chairman: Mr. Carlet R. AUGUSTE (Haiti).

AGENDA ITEM 26

Report of the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/4478) (continued)

At the Chairman's invitation, Mr. Sherwood Moe, Representative of the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, took a place at the Committee table.

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at its 213th meeting the Committee had decided to adjourn discussion of the item once the general debate was concluded in order to enable delegations to reach agreement on a draft resolution. Efforts to do so had unfortunately not produced the desired result and it was unlikely that further debate on the eve of the adjournment of the session would prove fruitful. It would therefore seem preferable to resume consideration of the item at a later date.
2. Mr. RIFA'I (Jordan) asked the Chairman to explain what he meant by "a later date".
3. The CHAIRMAN replied that he was not yet in a position to give an exact date. The Committee would have to fix the date when the session resumed in March.
4. Mr. RIFA'I (Jordan) took it that the item would still be on the Committee's agenda when the session resumed.
5. Mr. MOE (Representative of the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) read out a statement which he had been asked to submit on behalf of Mr. Davis, the Director of the Agency, who had been obliged to leave New York.
6. In his statement Mr. Davis noted first of all that in preparing the three-year programme outlined in the annual report (A/4478) he had been guided in large measure by the provisions of resolution 1456 (XIV), particularly operative paragraph 6, in which the Agency was directed to continue its programme of relief for refugees and, as far as it was financially possible, to expand its programme of self-support and vocational training. Every one of the forty-five delegations which had taken part in the general debate had expressed satisfaction with the three-year programme. In the

light of that encouraging support he proposed to implement the programme more aggressively by taking a number of steps: first, to expand vocational training to the point where 2,500 young people would graduate each year as compared with the 300 graduates the previous year; second, to increase the number of scholarships awarded annually to students beginning college from 90 to 180; third, to improve the elementary and secondary education programme as a means of supporting the first two steps and relating the Agency's work to the educational trends within the host countries; fourth, to continue its loan-grant programme for helping qualified refugees to utilize their skills productively; fifth, to maintain basic relief services near present per caput levels in order to place maximum emphasis on helping young refugees to develop their abilities.

7. As the Director of the Agency had already stated, he would implement those policies to the fullest extent which the Agency's resources allowed. The aggregate expenditure for the three-year period would exceed the total expenditure for 1960 by \$16.2 million. Of the \$4 million which should be forthcoming from sources other than regular contributions, including World Refugee Year donations, the Agency was definitely assured of \$2.5 million. It would persevere in its efforts to reach the \$4 million goal. The remaining \$12 million would presumably have to be provided by Governments, and the Agency would proceed on the assumption that the amount would be collected.

8. It should be repeated that the programme was not a panacea which could solve the refugee problem; its purpose was simply to improve at least in part the stultifying environment which was now preventing young refugees from making use of their talents. Unless the young people received specialized training when they were ready for it they would be seriously handicapped in the future. Such was the case with the 150,000 young refugees who had reached maturity in the refugee camps, and it would remain a fact regardless of the nature of any political solution of the Palestine refugee problem which might emerge. The programme did not claim to offer such a solution but was a significant step towards giving new hope and opportunity to those under-privileged young people.

9. The Director of the Agency thanked all the members of the Committee for the understanding they had shown of the plight of the Palestine refugees and for the moral and financial support which their Governments were giving the Agency.

10. Mr. COMAY (Israel) said that in view of the misinterpretation by another delegation of the Chairman's statement concerning the adjournment of consideration of the item, "to a later date" he would like to make his own delegation's position clear. There was no justification for re-opening the discussion of the item at the resumed fifteenth session. In the first place, the Committee had thoroughly examined the report of the Director of the Agency (A/4478), to which it had

devoted at least sixteen meetings, and the representatives of forty-five countries had made statements. Secondly, the General Assembly was not expected to take a decision at its fifteenth session concerning the Agency's mandate. Thirdly, the Pledging Conference had already taken place. Fourthly, the only new element in the report of the Director of the Agency was that which had reference to vocational training and other practical measures. It was clear from the statement just read out by the representative of the Director of the Agency that the Director considered that the Committee had already approved the programme of the Agency, and that he was accordingly authorized to put it into effect. Fifthly, the agenda item related solely to the report of the Director of the Agency and the Committee had nothing further to examine in that connexion. To reopen the debate would therefore be a waste of time and might even aggravate tension without serving any practical purpose.

11. Mr. SHUKAIRY (Saudi Arabia) said that the Chairman's statement suggesting postponement of further consideration of the item until the second part of the session was entirely in accordance with the rules of procedure. The general discussion on the item had taken place. It should be followed by a discussion of the measures to be adopted. That was the important phase of the Committee's work, for some decision should be reached. As the representative of Jordan had said, the date of the discussion would be fixed later, when the session resumed and a draft resolution was submitted. Thus the item was still on the agenda. There was no need for the Committee to vote on the matter, since it involved only the normal application of the rules of procedure.

12. Mr. DIMECHKIE (Lebanon) recalled that during earlier sessions the consideration of the item had always been concluded with the adoption of a resolution. It was therefore obvious that the item was still on the agenda and that consideration of it could be resumed during the second part of the session.

13. Mr. BEELEY (United Kingdom) supported the Chairman's statement. The item was still on the agenda. The general debate had been concluded. It remained to consider whatever draft resolution might be forthcoming. The date on which its consideration was to begin could be fixed only when such a draft was submitted.

14. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) associated himself with the views expressed by the representatives of Saudi Arabia and Lebanon and protested against the manoeuvres of Israel.

15. Mr. HOOD (Australia) noted that the Committee had not completed its examination of the agenda item under discussion, but thought it could confine itself to approving the statement by Mr. Davis which had just been read out. The item could then be referred to the General Assembly's sixteenth session.

16. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he had assumed that all the delegations would

accept the eminently reasonable suggestion made by the Chairman and supported by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and the United Arab Republic. He therefore found it most surprising that the representative of Australia, without giving any supporting arguments, should have offered a suggestion which might well give rise to a bitter and fruitless discussion. That would be all the more regrettable in that many delegations, including those particularly affected by the item in question, were now engaged in other very important discussions in the General Assembly. Now that the general debate had been concluded, it remained to proceed to the second stage, that of taking decisions. That should be done after the session resumed, when the more active members of the Committee would be able to take part in the discussion. He therefore expressed the hope that the Australian representative would consider the procedure usually followed, and withdraw his suggestion, which had no chance of winning majority support. A vote would thus be unnecessary. If the Australian representative nevertheless insisted, the Chairman could first ask if there were any formal objections to the suggestion made by him at the beginning of the meeting, and if so, he could put that suggestion to the vote without further delay.

17. Mr. COMAY (Israel) observed that it was not he, but the representative of Jordan, who had opened the discussion by asking for clarification of the Chairman's statement. There would be no point in voting, since no formal objection to the Chairman's suggestion had been voiced.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that it would be useless to reopen the discussion since the general debate on the item under consideration had been concluded. A vote would likewise be unnecessary, since it would suffice to abide by the rules of procedure. The matter was still pending and a draft resolution would doubtless be submitted and examined after the fifteenth session resumed.

Suspension of work

19. Mr. SHUKAIRY (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the delegations of the ten Arab countries, Mr. BEELEY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), speaking on behalf of all the States of the Commonwealth, Mr. WILCOX (United States of America), Mr. BARADI (Philippines), Mr. HSUEH (China), Mr. ATTOLICO (Italy), Mr. DA COSTA (Portugal) and Mr. COMAY (Israel) paid tributes to the Chairman and the other officers of the Committee for the ability and impartiality they had displayed throughout the debates.

20. The CHAIRMAN, speaking for himself and on behalf of the other officers of the Committee, thanked the representatives for their kind words and wished them a happy New Year. He declared the work of the Committee suspended.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.