

ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL

UNRESTRICTED

E/AG.6/SR.52
20 July 1949

Dual Distribution

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Ninth Session

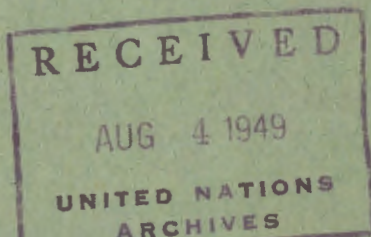
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 12 July 1949, at 3 p.m.

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Present:

Chairman: Mr. SANTA CRUZ

Members:

Australia	Mr. PLIMSOLL
Belgium	Mr. HUYBRECHTS
Brazil	Mr. MOSOSO Mr. CAMPOS Mr. de ALMEIDA
Byelorrsian SSR	Mr. ASTAPENKO
Chile	Mr. SCHANKE
China	Mr. TSAO
Denmark	Mr. IVERSEN
France	Mr. BORIS Miss LISSAC
India	Mr. ADARKAR Mr. KHILNANI
Lebanon	Mr. HAKIM
New Zealand	Miss HAMPTON
Peru	Mr. ALVARADO
Poland	Mr. RUDZINSKI
Turkey	Mr. SARPER
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Mr. MOROZOV
United Kingdom	Mr. LEDWARD Mr. WARNER
United States	Mr. STINEBOWER
Venezuela	Mr. GONZALEZ GORRONDONA

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

International Labour Office	Mr. SOTO
Food and Agricultural Organization	Mr. McDOUGALL
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Mr. TERENCE

International Bank for
Reconstruction and Development

Mr. LOPEZ-HERRARTE

World Health Organization

Dr. CALDERONE

Consultants from Non-Governmental Organizations:

Category (b)

International Council of Women

Mrs. DREYFUS-BARNEY
Mrs. CARTER

Liaison Committee for Women's
International Organizations

Mrs. DREYFUS-BARNEY
Mrs. CARTER

Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom

Miss BAER

World's Young Women's Christian
Association

Mrs. FOX

Secretariat:

Mr. Weintraub

Director, Department of
Economic Affairs.

Mr. Dumontet

Secretary to the Committee.

1. AVAILABILITY OF DDT INSECTICIDES FOR COMBATING MALARIA IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS (Item 11 of the Council Agenda) (Documents E/1353, E/AC.6/36 and E/AC.6/37)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the communication from the Director-General of the World Health Organization (Document E/AC.6/36) drawing the Council's attention to the resolution adopted by the Second World Health Assembly on 30 June 1949 instructing the Director-General to request the Economic and Social Council at its next session to give careful consideration to the proposal that governments waive customs duties on materials for insect control. He also drew attention to the joint draft resolution presented by the representatives of Brazil, China and the United States of America (Document E/AC.6/37).

Mr. MOSCOSO (Brazil) presented the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of Brazil, China and the United States of America on the problems arising in connection with the use of DDT insecticides for combating malaria in agricultural areas. He hoped the draft resolution, which represented an effort to reconcile the interests of various countries, would facilitate the Committee's work.

He noted that the Secretary-General's excellent report on the subject (Document E/1353) presented two paradoxes.

The first was that whereas there existed, principally in the United States of America and the United Kingdom, considerable manufacturing capacity for the production of insecticides which was either unused or applied to the manufacture of other products, there was a great need for DDT insecticides in several areas affected

by malaria. According to the report, only 20% of the United States potential production had been utilized in 1948, and only 30% in the early part of 1949. There was no easy way out of that first paradox. The solution must be found in a combination of various measures. A short-term programme should be supplemented by long-term solutions. The immediate measure required was to increase trade in DDT and other insecticides by removing the customs barriers against insecticides and the raw materials and equipment used in their manufacture.

He recognized, however, that customs barriers were not the only, and possibly not the most important, obstacles to an increase in world consumption of insecticides. Exchange difficulties and shortage of foreign currency were largely responsible, together with the price of formulated DDT, which, unlike that of the basic product, was fairly high. All those factors were likely to increase the difficulties of the under-developed countries in that field.

The second paradox was the fact that insecticides, particularly those of the anti-malarial type, were needed chiefly in the under-developed countries of the tropical areas, whereas the production of such insecticides was concentrated in the industrial countries which stood in less need of them. The long-term solution would therefore be to re-site the production centres so as to bring them nearer to the consumption centres. If in some countries lack of chemical raw materials or other difficulties made the local production of insecticides impossible, other countries which possessed an embryonic chemical industry might attempt to produce basic DDT or other insecticides, as well as the formulations containing them. In his opinion, it ought also to be possible to study the possibility of transferring to the under-developed countries, as

an investment, unutilized plants located in the big industrial countries. The United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and governments themselves should facilitate access to the technical resources necessary for increasing the production of insecticides in under-developed countries.

It was that complex problem of the development of industrial facilities for the production and utilization of insecticides that was dealt with in the second paragraph of the operative part of the draft resolution submitted to the Committee.

He wished to thank the representatives of China and the United States of America for their aid in evolving the joint draft resolution and hoped it would meet with the Committee's approval.

Mr. TSAO (China) wished to thank the Brazilian and United States delegations for their co-operation in drafting the resolution (Document E/AC.6/37). He also expressed his appreciation to the Secretary-General and the Specialized Agencies for their excellent report which contained not only useful and basic information, but also a summary and conclusions of which the drafters of the resolution now before the Committee had taken full advantage. The draft resolution had been worked out in a spirit of co-operation between insecticide-producing and under-developed countries. That field was one where the Council could do useful work.

Miss LISSAC (France) wished first to pay a tribute to the Secretariat for having submitted within a very short time the report for which the Council had asked it, a report which from the economic standpoint supplemented the studies on the question of insecticides carried out from the health point of view by the World Health Organization. The Report contributed new elements to the study of

In order to demonstrate the importance and urgency of the problem, she reminded the meeting of the vast programme of drainage and reclamation approved by the Assembly of the World Health Organization as a fundamental part of the anti-malaria campaign.

The French Government was for its part most anxious that the campaign against malaria should be conducted on as large a scale and as rapidly as possible. It must not be forgotten that what was required was international action of a general nature and of far-reaching scope.

The French delegation had been struck by the fact that in several places in the report it was stated that the Secretariat had been unable to assemble all the necessary information in the short time available. Moreover, the report indicated that the Secretariat had at present at its disposal only very scanty information on tariffs and import restrictions. Yet those questions had been singled out as particularly important; and the French delegation was of the opinion that on those subjects the study should be expanded to include information not only on tariffs and restrictions on the import of insecticides but also on equipment for the manufacture of insecticides and on solvents.

The Secretary-General's report (page 6) reproduced an extract from the report of the First Session of the Expert Committee on Malaria of the World Health Organization dated 1947, which suggested that the use of DDT had not yet been completely worked out on a scientific basis. The French delegation understood that since then that Committee had submitted other communications, which might well have been taken into account since the text quoted ran counter to the aim in view.

of basic DDT a month (in addition to other insecticides), or almost 1,200 tons a year, that was to say a figure almost six times greater than that given in the report. For the time being, French production aimed only at satisfying the needs of metropolitan France and the territories of the French Union, but production could be expanded. Imports were negligible, notwithstanding the figures mentioned on page 11 of the Report. That was not to minimise the value of the Secretariat's Report, but to indicate that the Secretariat must be given more time to produce a comprehensive and up-to-date document.

With regard to the draft resolution, the French delegation approved its basic principles and was ready to support it. It attached particular importance to the last paragraph, since a complete survey of the economic factors affecting the production and distribution of insecticides should make it possible to take all necessary measures.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the question of the reduction of tariffs and the elimination of import and export restrictions was wholly a matter of national sovereignty, and that reference to it in a draft resolution would be inappropriate. He proposed that the second and the third operative paragraphs of the draft resolution be combined as a single paragraph, to read as follows:

"RECOMMENDS that, in view of the seriousness of the question of increasing the production of insecticides and of combating malaria, technical assistance be rendered by the United Nations, specialized agencies and Member Governments of the United Nations to those under-developed countries in which the necessary pre-conditions exist for the economical development of the production of DDT."

Mr. LEDWARD (United Kingdom) stated that the United Kingdom

promote, the important anti-malarial projects now given so much emphasis within the organs of the United Nations, and had noted with satisfaction the emphasis on the joint projects of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization in pages 255 ff. of the Secretariat report on technical assistance for Economic Development (Document E/1327/Add.1).

His delegation, therefore, approached the problem in a constructive and sympathetic frame of mind. Moreover, both from the consumption and from the production angles, United Kingdom experts had had very considerable experience of anti-malarial work, both in laboratory research and in the field, experience which could be of great value to the United Nations in its consideration of the problem.

The first point which that experience had driven home was the dynamic state of scientific research on the choice of suitable insecticides for the various species of the malaria mosquito. He noted that the draft resolution did not refer to DDT by name, but simply to "insecticides" without specification; the reference to DDT in the heading was doubtless an accident, and he hoped the Committee would agree to delete it.

As was stated, moreover, in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report, there was need for close study of the total effects, and for consolidation of scientific opinion on a number of points, before a more definite conclusion could be drawn as to the effects of the new insecticides on the protection of crops, and even as a means of malaria control under widely varying conditions.

That was a wise precaution. Scientific opinion in the United Kingdom was aware, and had publicised the fact, that DDT had been used with remarkable but varying success as a residual treatment in houses, and to kill mosquito larvae, in Mediterranean countries, and in certain parts of India and Southern

and Central America. In British Guiana particularly great success in controlling malaria had been achieved. On the other hand it had been found that, for instance, in Uganda, DDT was not as toxic to three very common species of malaria vectors as it appeared to be to the other species effectively dealt with elsewhere. In both East and West Africa the effect upon those mosquitoes of various oil solutions and wettable powders of DDT had been merely to irritate and repel them with such speed that large numbers escaped death. Though, in any large area so treated, large numbers of mosquitoes would have repeated contacts with the insecticide and ultimately die, the process would be slow and the cost disproportionately high.

British malariologists had therefore been developing with considerable success the experimental use of BHC and other insecticides in those areas, notably in Uganda and the Belgian Congo. It was obvious, therefore, that any large scale campaign launched in Africa or elsewhere on the assumption that DDT, or, indeed, any one insecticide, would be lethal to all mosquitoes, might prove very disappointing. It was important to realize that the world was in the first stages of the study of the formulation of synthetic insecticides for mosquito control. It was known, for instance, that simple oil solutions of both DDT and BHC, though highly toxic to many special species of adult mosquito, were ineffective, or at least quite uneconomical, when applied to the mud walls of African huts or other porous surfaces. Some emulsions were not absorbed to the same extent and some wettable powders were better still, but their use raised other technical difficulties. He would stress that the problems to which he had referred were by no means the only ones confronting the anti-malarial experts. Research in this field, however, was in its infancy and was

In any attempt to estimate the availability of insecticides for combating malaria, full consideration should be given: first, to the fact that DDT might often not be the most effective and economical insecticide to use and that it was soon likely to be completely out of date; secondly, to the apparently greater activity of BHC in killing certain common and dangerous species of malaria-carrying mosquitoes which indicated the need of taking into account insecticides other than DDT; and, thirdly, to the present very inadequate data on the effectiveness of improved, and as yet untried, formulations of synthetic insecticides, and on the best methods of applying them. It would be upon the understanding that those points would be borne more constantly in mind by the Secretariat than in the report so far submitted that he would support continuation of the Secretariat's study as proposed in the Joint Draft Resolution. It was natural that in the short time available the Secretariat had concentrated on the material and conditions nearest to hand.

He would next turn to the economic aspect of the problem. It had been impossible to collect full statistics of his country's substantial productive capacity in time for inclusion in the Secretariat's Report, which had naturally stressed the production figures most readily available, those of the United States of America. In the United Kingdom, however, there was now available plant for the production of eight to ten million pounds per year of BHC, and also ancillary plant which could produce about 250,000 pounds per year of lower intensity BHC, as well as additional equipment for the manufacture of related formulated products. That capacity was not at present fully employed, and production of BHC

The prices of the various BHC formulations manufactured in the United Kingdom depended, of course, on the extent and nature of production but were generally competitive in the world market, which took a very high percentage of the total production. With increased demand, prices might well be lowered below the present level of between 1/6d. and 2/6d. per pound.

The United Kingdom also exported 85 to 90% of her production of DDT and DDT compounds and emulsions. Some 2,000 tons annually were exported, mostly to countries within the British Commonwealth, but, given a demand from elsewhere, that quantity could be trebled at comparatively short notice.

The United Kingdom, as a major producer, would welcome any step taken by the Council which was likely to increase the demand for insecticides, though it did not wish to foist scientifically inferior products on to the under-developed countries and was equally unwilling to see the under-developed countries constructing expensive plant to produce chemicals which were likely to be comparatively expensive and out-of-date by the time the plant was ready for operation.

The Secretariat must have realised in their studies to date, and he hoped they would take into very full account in any further studies authorised by the Council, that the balancing of supply and demand of anti-malarial insecticides at a price reasonable to all concerned would by no means solve the entire problem. There were many associated problems, both of supply and manufacture, such as the production of equipment for the application of insecticides, which might well prove just as thorny. The most important, and possibly the most abiding, of all was the shortage of expert malariologists with knowledge of

the latest developments; in that connection he again drew attention to the plans of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

On the whole, he strongly supported the joint draft resolution. He had one slight reservation, however, concerning the reference to the reduction of tariffs and import and export restrictions, on which comment had also been made by the Soviet Union representative, who might be satisfied by the amendment he would propose. He considered the evidence at the Council's disposal was not sufficient to justify a recommendation to Member States to lower their tariffs. He therefore proposed the deletion of the last eleven words of the second operative paragraph, namely, "by appropriate measures with regard to tariffs, import and export restrictions". He would of course have no objection to a study of that aspect of the problem being made by the Secretary-General in conjunction with the appropriate organs of the United Nations. It seemed to him indeed a suitable question for the negotiations now proceeding at Annecy.

Dr. CALDERONE (World Health Organization) expressed his Organization's gratitude for the Council's interest in the new organic insecticides for use against the malaria-carrying mosquito.

He was bound to state that he could not share the concern evinced by some representatives about the effect that a lowering of customs tariffs for insecticides would have on their finances. Humanitarian considerations surely outweighed any other.

While he recognised that every drug was in time superseded, he felt that was no reason for halting manufacture of one of a group of drugs which constituted perhaps the greatest advance in modern times

in the field of public health. Modern insecticides should be produced in maximum quantity while newer ones were being studied.

He was not unduly concerned with the shortage of malariological experts. Only one or two malariologists and some sanitary engineers were needed for the execution of an anti-malaria campaign. For the actual work of application, the population as a whole could be used, if it worked under intelligent guidance.

The United Kingdom representative had referred to scientifically inferior products. He pointed out that the fact that one or two species of mosquito gained immunity from a given insecticide did not prove its inferiority; it might remain highly effective on other species.

He hoped the Council would express the opinion that the production of all insecticides should be developed to the greatest possible extent and that all barriers to their distribution should be removed.

In conclusion he drew attention to the communication from the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in which the importance of accurate labelling was emphasized.

Mr. KHILNAMI (India) stated that his country was much interested in the use of insecticides for the control of malaria and as aids in the reclamation of land for food production. He expressed his thanks to the Secretary-General for the able report he had compiled with the collaboration of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization, both of whose work was intimately connected with the development of the under-developed countries.

He supported the Joint Draft Resolution and felt that further action should be taken on the suggestion of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, contained in Document E/AC.6/36,

although he suggested that the last paragraph of that Resolution might more appropriately begin with the words "CALL THE ATTENTION of governments" than with the words "RECOMMEND governments".

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the World Health Organization representative's comments on the question of tariff reduction quite irrelevant to the point made by the Soviet Union delegation, which was that tariffs were a matter wholly within the competence of the various governments, and that it was therefore not within the purview of the Council to attempt to exert any pressure whatsoever in that field.

The problem of the availability of insecticides could best be met by increasing their production. That aspect was clearly brought out in his delegation's amendment to the joint draft resolution.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) had noted with satisfaction that the discussion so far had revealed that a remarkable number of representatives were in agreement with the essential part of the draft resolution which had been jointly submitted by the representatives of producing and non-producing countries that illustrated the identity of interests existing in that field. The essence of the problem was to produce more insecticides for combating malaria, without waiting for the results of research, which might take a long time.

The price of insecticides would not necessarily fall if production of insecticides was begun in all countries in which they were needed to combat malaria. As far as he knew there were no significant restrictions on the export of insecticides, but he had

no objection to the inclusion of the reference to export restrictions in the draft resolution. He could not understand the objections to the inclusion of recommendations about tariffs and import restrictions, since nothing in the resolution would be mandatory; if the draft resolution were adopted without amendment, it would be left to each individual government to decide what measures with regard to import and export restrictions were "appropriate" to facilitate the freer flow of insecticides. The Soviet Union representative had urged the deletion of the recommendation about import restrictions because "they were matters wholly within the competence of national authorities"; but surely the measures for providing technical assistance impinged on national sovereignty in the same way. If the Soviet Union representative's argument were pursued to its logical conclusion, the Council would never be able to pass any but the most pious and empty resolutions. The fact that there was little information about restrictions on the import of insecticides was no reason for not including a recommendation about such restrictions. The adoption of the amendments proposed by the Soviet Union and United Kingdom representatives would throw the draft resolution out of balance. If the United Kingdom representative's proposal were adopted, the words "wanting to import insecticides" etc. should be added after the words "Member Governments" in the second operative paragraph. He did not think that the further study requested from the Secretary-General, which formed the subject of the last paragraph of the draft resolution, would necessarily require a debate by the Council, unless it led to the discovery of significant new facts or unless a delegation or the Secretary-General so desired. The Council was too prone to leave on its Agenda items which required no further discussion by it.

If the efforts made by the representatives of the Soviet Union and United Kingdom to reduce the operative part of the draft resolution were successful, there would remain little more than a pious resolution expressing the hope that malaria would be eradicated.

Mr. LEDWARD (United Kingdom) said that his amendment was not aimed at protecting national sovereignty or reducing the competence of international organizations. He was in favour of the adoption of the whole resolution, except the words which he had proposed should be deleted. As stated in paragraph 51 of Document E/1353, there was very little information about restrictions and duties on imports of insecticides, and certainly not enough to warrant the inclusion of those words. He hoped that the Council would take all the action which the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization wished it to take on the item under discussion, but that it would judge from the data before it and not be carried away by emotional bravado.

Mr. HAKIM (Lebanon) whole-heartedly supported the draft resolution, especially those parts relating to the provision of technical assistance to less-developed countries needing insecticides with which to combat malaria.

Mr. CAMPOS (Brazil) said that by his reading the Soviet Union representative had in effect proposed that the reference to the need for technical assistance in the setting up of formulating plants and in improving methods of application be deleted from the draft resolution, and that the Committee recommend that the production of DDT be begun in countries which were not at present producing it. He also pointed out that the words proposed by the Soviet Union representative referred to DDT alone, whereas he believed that the Committee wanted to recommend an increase in the production of the most suitable insecticides

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Soviet Union delegation's proposal, in contrast to the joint draft resolution, included a recommendation to promote the production of DDT in countries where it was not at present being produced. The words that he had proposed drew attention to the most important of the aspects of the problem of increasing the availability of DDT for combating malaria. The representative of the United States of America had said that there was nothing mandatory in the joint draft resolution, but member governments were not in any event bound to comply with a resolution passed by the Council. The Council should not make a recommendation in regard to tariffs and import and export restrictions, since those were matters which lay wholly within the competence of national authorities. He knew of no Council resolution containing recommendations about import or export restrictions.

Mr. SCHNAKE (Chile) said that the statement of the representative of the World Health Organization prompted him to express his approval of the recommendations formulated by the delegations of Brazil, China and the United States of America in the resolution they had submitted to the Committee. He saw no objection to a recommendation to States Members of the United Nations to grant greater facilities to the under-developed countries to help them to improve the health of their population.

With a view to increasing the practical scope of the resolution he would suggest a modification of the second paragraph of the operative part of the resolution. He proposed that the words "the freer flow into" ("la libre entrée") be replaced by "the availability in", so that the text would read as follows: "Recommends that Member Governments facilitate as much as possible the availability in the countries where they are needed of insecticides . . . "

He also proposed that the same paragraph be amended to read:

". . .by measures which they deem appropriate with regard to tariffs. . ."

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) said that he could agree to the substitution of the words "measures which they deem appropriate" for the words "appropriate measures"; however, he thought that the substitution of the word "availability" for the words "freer flow" would confuse the meaning of the second and third operative paragraphs, which covered different aspects of the problem, namely, availability by trade and availability by production.

Miss LISSAC (France) said that the French delegation would prefer to retain the two paragraphs as they stood in the resolution, inserting the words "which they deem", as suggested by the Chilean representative, in the second paragraph of the operative part of the resolution.

Mr. CAMPOS (Brazil) pointed out that the literal meaning in English of the words in the French text corresponding to the words "freer flow" was "free entry", which was not the same thing.

Mr. SCHNAKE (Chile) drew attention to a contradiction in the French text, which mentioned first "'la libre entrée' into the countries where they are needed of insecticides. . ." and subsequently of "appropriate measures with regard to tariffs, import and export restrictions". But "libre entrée" meant the abolition of all tariffs. It was for that reason that he had proposed the substitution of the term "disponibilité" (availability) for "libre entrée". In that form the paragraph would more closely reflect the intentions of the authors of the resolution. Nevertheless, he would not press his proposal, and would ask the Committee to examine the proposal of the Brazilian representative, which had prompted his own remarks.

The CHAIRMAN ruled that the English version was authentic.

Having ascertained that the representatives of the three delegations which had submitted the draft resolution would agree to the substitution of the words "measures which they deem appropriate" for the words "appropriate measures" in the second operative paragraph, he ruled that the draft resolution under discussion by the Committee had been amended by the substitution of those words for the words "appropriate measures".

Mr. RUDZINSKI (Poland) proposed that the Soviet Union representative's amendment be amended by adding at the end of it the words "as well as the setting up of formulating plants and the improvement of methods of application".

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed.

Mr. KHILNANI (India) proposed that an additional paragraph be added immediately after the second operative paragraph reading "calls the attention of Member Governments to the recommendations of the World Health Organization regarding the correct labelling of insecticides. (The recommendations are attached to this resolution)".

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that since no proposal could be put to the vote unless it were made by a member of the Committee, the proposal of the representative of India, although it was similar in substance to the recommendations of the World Health Organization, was a new proposal; since it was not only a new proposal, but also covered a technical point, it was difficult for him to express an opinion about it immediately.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) said that the proposal made by the representative of India was simpler than the proposal made by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Moreover,

the World Health Organization document on which it was based had been before the Committee since 7 July.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the proposal of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as amended by the representative of Poland; it was rejected by 10 votes to 3 with 4 abstentions.

Mr. TSAO (China) urged that the new paragraph proposed by the representative of India should be placed immediately after the third operative paragraph, and not after the second operative paragraph as the representative of India had proposed.

Mr. KHILNANI (India) agreed.

The Committee adopted the proposal of the representative of India that a paragraph reading: "Calls to the attention of Member Governments the recommendations of the World Health Organization regarding the correct labelling of insecticides. (The recommendations are attached to this Resolution)" be inserted immediately before the final paragraph of the joint draft resolution (Document E/AC.6/37) by 13 votes to 0 with 4 abstentions.

The Committee rejected the proposal of the United Kingdom representative that the words "by measures which they deem appropriate with regard to tariffs, import and export restrictions" be deleted from the second operative paragraph of the joint draft resolution was rejected by 7 votes to 5 with 5 abstentions.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) fully supported the proposal of the United Kingdom representative that the reference to DDT be deleted from the title of the resolution; he had always deprecated the rule whereby the title of a resolution should coincide with the description of the item of the Agenda to which it related.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the rule had been established a long time, and was observed both by the General Assembly and by the Council. The Committee had no right to disregard it.

Replying to the CHAIRMAN, Mr. LEDWARD (United Kingdom) said he would abide by the Chairman's decision.

Mr. KHILNANI (India) said that although it might be argued that the Committee had to follow the rule, the Committee could point out to the Council that it was desirable ~~that~~ the title of the resolution should differ from that of the item of the Agenda to which it related.

The CHAIRMAN said that all things considered it would be better if the draft resolutions presented by the Committee to the Council bore the same title as the Agenda item to which they related.

The Committee adopted by 17 votes to 0 the joint draft resolution submitted by the representatives of Brazil, China and the United States of America (Document E/AC.6/37) as amended, for submission to the Council.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had voted in favour of the adoption of the joint draft resolution as amended, but wished to record his opposition to the inclusion of the recommendation about tariffs and import and export restrictions in the second operative paragraph.

2. MEASURES TO INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF FOOD
(Item 10 of the Council's Agenda) (Documents E/1339, E/1388
and E/AC.6/W.43) (Resumed from the fiftieth meeting)

Mr. ADARKAR (India) said he was presenting a draft resolution on measures to increase availability of food (Document E/AC.6/W.43) in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Committee at its fiftieth meeting. It was somewhat more comprehensive than the amendment (Document E/AC.6/W.42) which he had proposed to the United States draft resolution (Document E/AC.6/W.40).

The view of his government was that it was an intolerable situation when there were unused surpluses of food in some parts of the world, while malnutrition and famine were rampant in others. Such a situation called for urgent and helpful action.

The General Assembly by its Resolution 202(III) had asked the Council to study the problem of taking measures to increase the availability of food, and at its eighth session the Council had adopted what was clearly a provisional resolution on the subject (Resolution 183 (VIII)). It was also clear that the Council had had in view a comprehensive resolution in response to the Assembly's invitation to study the question fully in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization and other specialized agencies. He was not sure that the provisional resolution of the Council had done justice to what was a very important question. In that resolution the Council had recommended that measures to increase food production should be undertaken in all countries, and in particular under-developed countries, and also that measures be taken to decrease food wastage in all countries; but it was doubtful whether a decrease of food wastage in under-developed areas could be really helpful to those areas because such savings as could be effected would only scratch at the surface of the real problem of shortages.

Some might say that the Council should not interest itself in the problem over much, and that it was the function of the Food and Agriculture Organization and other bodies to take effective action in that field. They might even say that the Food and Agriculture Organization and other specialized agencies and the governments concerned were already dealing with the problem as adequately as they could, but such statements would not be based on a proper understanding of the functions of the United Nations, which had to give general guidance to the specialized agencies and act as the main forum for discussion about measures calling for economic co-ordination. The Council should not wash its hands of the problem by merely asking the Food and Agriculture Organization and other specialized agencies to continue their tasks, but should draw pointed attention to all serious economic and social situations wherever they arose. If the Council failed to take further action on the problem at the present session, it would not be discharging its duties towards the specialized agencies and the General Assembly.

At the last session of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the question of surpluses had been discussed, and it would appear that the Director-General had been asked to study the question further and submit a report thereon to the Council or the Organization at its next session. The question would then be discussed by the Council or the Organization and also presumably at the annual conference towards the end of the year. It might appear that if the Council or the Organization was still considering the question it would be better if the Economic and Social Council refrained from adopting a resolution on the question until the Food and Agriculture Organization had concluded its study. But the question was not a new one, and the fact that it was being studied by the Food and

Agriculture Organization was no reason why the Council should put back discussion of it to the Greek kalends. Moreover, the Food and Agriculture Organization had already presented provisional comments on the problem in the report which the Council had discussed at its eighth session. There was enough material in that report to enable the Council to take useful provisional decisions on the question of surpluses.

The draft resolution he was presenting was not the last word on the question, nor was it complete or comprehensive.

He wished to explain what was meant by the words "arrangements. . . to facilitate the economic disposal of surpluses and to avoid restrictionism" in the final paragraph. He was not concerned whether such agreements were bilateral or multi-lateral, or whether they formed part of the arrangements concluded by the International Trade Organization or of any other arrangements. It would be best to leave the question of the extent to which prices could be reduced to those who might enter into such bilateral or multi-lateral agreements. That was why there was no mention in the draft resolution of the word "concessions" or of discriminatory arrangements. He was sure that attention would be paid to both short-term and long-term considerations when the question of prices was discussed, that producing countries would not be so short-sighted as to cut the ground from under their feet, and that the parties concerned would reach mutual agreement on the question of prices. Some representatives had mentioned "guaranteed markets". The demand for guaranteed markets was legitimate. If producing countries were asked to avoid "restrictionism", they should also be assured of markets for a long period. However, the question of guaranteed markets was part of a vicious circle. If restrictionism existed and if prices in

external markets remained high, then surely there could be no question of guaranteed markets and no-one could blame consumer countries if they decided to revise their production programmes and to do the best they could to improve their food situation and aim at ultimate self-sufficiency. A guarantee of markets implied a guarantee of cheap and sufficient supplies of food. The solution he was suggesting was, he thought, at least for the present and some years to come, the ideal solution, since the agreements, whether they were short-term or long-term, bilateral or multilateral, would provide sufficient guarantees to all concerned. He formally proposed the adoption of the draft resolution (Document E/AC.6/W.43).

Mr. de ALMEIDA (Brazil) said that he supported in principle the draft resolution presented by the representative of India. However, certain parts of it gave rise to minor difficulties. The second paragraph beginning with the word "CONSIDERING" was controversial, and gave rise to the whole question of balances of payments and terms of trade. It might be said that prices of food still continued to be high because the terms of trade were momentarily favourable to agriculture, but the prices of agricultural products were lower relatively to manufactured products than they had been before the slump after the first world war. He suggested that that paragraph of the resolution should either be deleted, or re-worded so as to meet his objections. The paragraph beginning with the word "RECOMMENDS" should also be amended, since an increase in the production of food was necessary not only in the thickly populated areas of the world, but also in countries where productivity was low. In the final paragraph the words "and exporting" should be added after the words "the principal food producing", and before the word "countries", since

were among the principal food producing countries of the world. He would vote in favour of the draft resolution if it were amended as he had suggested.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) said he could not disagree with the representative of India that the question of measures to increase the availability of food was one of the most important economic and social problems of the world. But it was not a new problem; any difference between the approach of his Government to the problem and that of the Indian representative derived from the fact that a specialized agency had been set up to deal with the problem. The work of that specialized agency should not be duplicated by another body. The representative of India himself had drawn attention to the resolution passed at the eighth session of the Council (Resolution No. 183 (VIII)) directing the attention of the Food and Agriculture Organization to the problem. The report of the Food and Agriculture Organization made it clear that it was dealing with the problem as part of its normal functions, and would have done so whether or not it had been requested to by the Council. The representative of India had urged the adoption of the draft resolution because the problem would be the object of the Food and Agriculture Organization's attention for a considerable time to come; but the longer that organization spent studying the problem, the better would be the fruits of that study. He agreed with the representative of Brazil that the second paragraph of the draft resolution beginning with the word "CONSIDERING", was highly controversial. Referring to the paragraph beginning with the word "RECOMMENDS", he pointed out that specialized agencies could not "take prompt and comprehensive measures to secure an increase in the production of food"; they could proffer advice, but they could not

produce food. The representative of India himself had said that the arrangements mentioned in the last paragraph might be bilateral or multi-lateral, long-term or short-term. He did not want to endorse texts which were so vague and obscure.

Mr. PLIMSOLL (Australia) said that he also had misgivings about the draft resolution; partly for the reasons adduced by the representatives of Brazil and the United States of America. It was correct to prevent "restrictionism" but the farmers in food exporting countries must be enabled to earn a living. The final paragraph of the draft resolution, if adopted, would provide little guidance, since it was extremely vague. Any decision which the Council might take in regard to the problem of measures to increase the availability of food should be sufficiently firm to provide useful guidance.

Since proper consideration of the relevant activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization and of the question of farming was essential to reaching any useful decision about the problem, it would be wise to appoint a study group to study the draft resolution and all relevant matters. The Committee itself could hardly do so. He suggested that the group be composed of five members, including the representatives of India and Brazil and of food producing countries such as Denmark.

Mr. SCHNAKE (Chile) associated himself with the remarks made by the speakers who had preceded him. The complexity of the problem made it essential to take particular care to see that the recommendations in the resolution were clearly formulated.

The Brazilian representative's proposal, he considered, did not entirely coincide with the aims pursued by the representative of India, who wished the problem of surpluses to be examined in relation to that of the under-nourished populations.

Other organizations before the Economic and Social Council had tried to solve that problem and to make certain surpluses available to populations with a low purchasing power. Moreover, a large number of countries had given their assistance to the under-nourished countries even when no surpluses had existed. It would be incorrect to believe that all the foodstuffs needed by the under-nourished populations already existed in sufficient quantities. The Washington Conference had examined the problem of wheat. There might eventually be a surplus of wheat; and steps had been taken to make agricultural products available at lower prices. The representatives of certain countries had declared, however, that the wheat price fixed by the Washington Conference represented a charge of several million dollars on their national budgets.

The Brazilian representative's proposal that the second paragraph beginning with the word "CONSIDERING" be deleted would therefore appear a wise one, unless the paragraph were amended as suggested by the United States representative.

It should be stressed that a production surplus inevitably raised the problem of prices, or, in other words, that of producers' interests. Even in the event of over-production it would always be necessary to pay producers the price of their labour if a domestic crisis was to be avoided. In any case, the burden of the international aid contemplated would be borne not by producers alone but by each country as a whole.

He agreed with the United States representative's observation that the Food and Agriculture Organization and the other specialized agencies could not alone take the measures required to increase agricultural production. It would therefore suffice in the

penultimate paragraph of the resolution to recommend to the Food and Agriculture Organization and the other specialized agencies that they continue the studies they had put in hand.

In conclusion, he considered the Australian representative's proposal acceptable, as calculated to shorten the debate.

The CHAIRMAN hoped the Committee would take a decision forthwith about setting up a subsidiary body to discuss the draft resolution before it; such a decision would be expedient.

Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said it would be premature to take such a decision before the Committee had concluded its debate on the problem.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.