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Chairman: Mrs. Turkia OULD DADDAH
(Mauritania).

AGENDA ITEM 51

**Town twinning as a means of international co-operation:
report of the Economic and Social Council (A/7674)**

1. Mr. SOW (Senegal) recalled that, in its resolution 2058 (XX), the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to take all suitable measures to encourage town twinning as a means of international co-operation. The delegations of Chad, France, Madagascar, the Upper Volta and Senegal regretted that there had been insufficient time to consider so important an item at the current session, and they proposed that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly give priority to the consideration of the question at its twenty-fifth session.

2. Mrs. BEGMATOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that town twinning was a useful method of promoting cultural relations, and her delegation noted with satisfaction the activities carried on by the United Towns Organisation, which had in general adopted the correct approach to the subject. Nevertheless, she believed that the basis for town twinning must be direct contact between the towns concerned, without any outside control or interference. Only in that way would it be possible to achieve in the various countries mass participation in the task of strengthening cultural ties between towns and peoples. Towns and cities themselves were in a better position than any international organ to solve the problems involved. Far from contributing to mutual co-operation, regulation of such activity would be prejudicial to the voluntary nature of town twinning. Accordingly, no preference should be given to one particular type of town twinning as opposed to another.

3. Mr. SANON (Upper Volta) said that town twinning could make a positive contribution to certain United

Nations or UNICEF development programmes, for example. Consequently, he considered that the United Nations had a very important role to play in such activity and must fulfil its task effectively. Town twinning, which helped to unite mankind, was advantageous not only between towns in developed and developing countries respectively, but also between towns in different developing countries. He hoped that the Committee would be able to consider the question in detail at the twenty-fifth session, and he wished to express his gratitude to all those towns which had established relations of that kind with towns in the Upper Volta.

4. Miss MAKOLO (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said she too regretted that consideration of the item had had to be postponed and she therefore supported the proposal introduced by the representative of Senegal.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, she would take it that the Committee decided to adopt the proposal introduced by the representative of Senegal.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 58

**Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social
and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil
and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:
report of the Secretary-General (A/7682 and Add.1)**

6. Mrs. BEGMATOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her country had signed both the International Covenants on Human Rights, since rights even broader than those enunciated in the Covenants were not only embodied in the Soviet Constitution but were guaranteed in practice to individuals in the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, her delegation did not underestimate the value of the Covenants and the way in which they could help to bring about wider recognition of the fundamental rights and freedoms of mankind. Unfortunately, some States were refusing to sign them in order to remain free to implement policies which violated the economic and social rights of the working masses.

7. She felt compelled to call the Committee's attention to the inhuman treatment accorded to political prisoners in Greece. An appeal signed by 1,200 political prisoners in Greek concentration camps had recently been made to the French, United Kingdom, United States and Soviet Union authorities, seeking their support for the democratic forces

in that country. The appeal had stated, for example, that the fascist régime was engaging in torture and setting up concentration camps to isolate political prisoners from their families, who were now going hungry. Moreover, political prisoners were not even granted the elementary rights of convicted criminals, and the situation was growing worse. The policy of the Greek military régime was not only incompatible with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, but was also a gross violation of the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which Greece had subscribed. Her delegation shared the international concern at the events which were taking place and appealed for world support to bring those violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms to an end.

8. Mrs. BARISH (Costa Rica) said it was clear from the report of the Secretary-General (A/7682 and Add.1) that the entry into force of the International Covenants and the Optional Protocol, which were of such importance to the protection and implementation of the human rights set forth in the Universal Declaration and in the United Nations Charter itself, was still very remote. That was why her delegation considered it important to have effective machinery for the implementation of those rights. So far, only six countries, including his own, had ratified the Covenants and only three had ratified the Optional Protocol. It was to be hoped that greater progress in that direction would be seen in the coming year. The fact that the rights in question were already implemented in a particular country was no reason for its not becoming a party to the instruments and thus contributing to their rapid entry into force.

9. Mrs. DAES (Greece) said that the Soviet Union representative's attack on her country had been out of order in the discussion on the present item and constituted intervention in the national affairs of Greece. She recalled that the Soviet Union delegation had objected strongly when the United Kingdom representative had raised the question of the inhuman treatment of the Soviet intellectuals who had been sent to Siberia for having sought to exercise the rights to freedom of expression, and it had also contested the right of the United States representative to refer to the problem of the Jews in the Soviet Union.

10. She had taken note of the Soviet Union representative's unlawful and unjust attack and hoped to have the opportunity to reply in detail on another occasion. The fullest respect for the ideals of human rights was inculcated in Greeks from earliest childhood, and the Greek people did not recognize the right of anyone to intervene in their national affairs. She was aware that the Soviet Union delegation had received last-minute instructions from its Government to disrupt by any means the collaboration among members of the Committee. Her delegation was a free delegation and had the right to try to work in a constructive manner vis-à-vis all other delegations. She would therefore refrain from attacking the Soviet Union for its inhuman practices, despite the availability of ample evidence.

11. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/7682 and Add.1) and

request the submission of another report on the item to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

It was so decided.

Conclusion of the Committee's work

12. The CHAIRMAN said that, although the Third Committee had concluded its work for the current session, its decisions represented a further point of departure which would lead to continued action on the part of the United Nations. She expressed the hope that the resolutions adopted by the Committee would not remain inoperative, but that their noble objectives would indeed be achieved and thus serve as a source of inspiration for the members of the international community.

13. The Committee's principal achievement in the field of socio-economic development was unquestionably the adoption of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, a new instrument which would take its place alongside those designed to protect man in all aspects of his life. The very existence of the Declaration would exercise a beneficial influence, particularly in the vital field of aid for development. Moreover, it had been adopted at a particularly opportune moment, since the United Nations was now engaged in preparations for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the Declaration formed a natural part of the collective endeavours in that respect. Such a contribution by the Third Committee was even more important in view of the widening and increasingly dangerous gap separating the developed and the less developed countries.

14. In its consideration of the Declaration, the Committee had been obliged to examine matters not normally within its competence, such as disarmament, UNCTAD and the sea-bed. She was convinced that the Committee was playing an increasing and extremely important role in the general activities of the United Nations; for it appeared inevitable that the work of a body dealing with all aspects of human life should also encompass matters of a political and economic nature. The main point was not to lose sight of the Committee's terms of reference and to keep, so far as possible, within reasonable and realistic limits. A determination to conform to the areas of competence assigned by the General Assembly, and better co-ordination among the Main Committees, could in the future prevent some of the digressions which had occurred during the current session.

15. However, even in the consideration of item 57, relating to violations of human rights, when an atmosphere of tension had sometimes prevailed, delegations had generally explained their views quietly and with dignity. Representatives had once again worked together with determination and humour and in a manner which clearly disproved the claim that the Committee sometimes failed to take its work seriously. The submission of at least 100 amendments and sub-amendments during the elaboration of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development might have seemed excessive. Nevertheless, the fact that more than 100 nations had taken part in that task was sufficient explana-

tion in itself, and the final result bore witness to a collective will to co-operate and succeed.

16. She wished to pay tribute to the spirit in which the debates had been conducted and to the respect shown by delegations both to one another and to the officers of the Committee. As a result, her own task had been greatly

facilitated and she had never for a moment lost her faith in the United Nations and its ideals.

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared the work of the Committee concluded.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.