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Chairman: Mr. Salvador P. LOPEZ (Philippines).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (A/4820 and Corr.2, A/C.3/L.947 and Add.1-3, A/C.3/L.954-955, A/C.3/L.956/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.957/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.3/L.958 and Add.1, A/C.3/L.959/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.963-964, A/C.3/L.965/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.966-967) (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Lady TWEEDSMUIR (United Kingdom) said that, while the six-Power draft resolution on the eradication of illiteracy (A/C.3/L.959/Rev.1) was in many respects an improvement on the original Ukrainian proposal (A/C.3/L.959) and incorporated some of the ideas of the co-sponsors of the eight-Power amendments (A/C.3/L.965), it did not meet all the objections of the latter; on their behalf she therefore presented the revised eight-Power amendments (A/C.3/L.965/Rev.1).

2. The first revised amendment called for the deletion of the reference to General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV); the latter was completely irrelevant to the purpose of the draft resolution under discussion, which dealt with illiteracy and not with colonialism. The second restored to the fourth pre-ambular paragraph that part of the original second amendment which did not appear in the revised draft resolution and which the co-sponsors considered essential. True development of peaceful and friendly relations among nations and peoples could come only if those who had learnt to read had access to publications giving all points of view and informing them of events and opinions in all parts of the world. The third revised amendment called for the deletion of the reference to technical education, which it was invidious to single out from among the types of education for which UNESCO was primarily responsible. The phrasing of the paragraph might also appear to diminish the importance of the work of other specialized agencies interested in technical education, especially the ILO. The fourth revised amendment proposed a text of operative paragraph 2 identical with that submitted as the sixth amendment in the original draft (A/C.3/L.965) and was more in harmony with the remaining paragraphs which were concerned exclusively with the work of

the United Nations and UNESCO in the field of education.

3. The co-sponsors had endeavoured to keep the revised amendments to a minimum and she hoped that the sponsors of the revised draft resolution would be able to incorporate them in the text, thus ensuring unanimous support.

4. Mrs. DICK (United States of America) believed that the six-Power draft resolution on the eradication of illiteracy had been improved through revision but that the revised eight-Power amendments would improve it still further and make it more widely acceptable.

5. While sympathizing with the laudable objectives of the Romanian working paper (A/C.3/L.955), she thought its immediate consideration premature, for reasons given by earlier speakers. She hoped that the Romanian delegation would agree to defer consideration of its proposal until the seventeenth session of the General Assembly.

6. She did not oppose the Yugoslav working paper on balanced and co-ordinated economic and social development (A/C.3/L.964) in principle, but thought that the proposed text was out of place in the ten-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.956/Rev.1) and hoped that it would not be pressed to a vote. She also wished to express her delegation's satisfaction with the various measures taken by the Economic and Social Council to strengthen the work of the United Nations in the social field and to strengthen the Social Commission itself.

7. In regard to the sixteen-Power draft resolution on the strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the social field, (A/C.3/L.958 and Add.1) she recalled that the Social Commission, at its thirteenth session, had been faced with an entirely new set of circumstances, aspirations and needs, especially in Africa, arising from the great political, geographic, economic and social changes which had occurred during the two years since it had last met. At the same time, increasing importance had come to be attached to the impact of social factors on economic development and vice versa, and it had been realized that the adverse social changes which inevitably followed rapid economic growth must be foreseen and avoided. On the other hand, many social programmes, which contributed to the stability of the home and the community, strengthened sound economic development; almost 20 per cent of the gross national product of the United States during the current fiscal year was being devoted to the promotion of such programmes by both public and private groups. As the President of the United States of America had said to the General Assembly (1013th plenary meeting), political sovereignty was but a mockery without the means of meeting poverty, illiteracy and disease.

8. During discussion of the question of increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations in the social field, most delegations at the thirteenth session of the Social Commission had agreed that the Commission had become less effective.^{1/} The increase in membership of the United Nations had made it imperative to enlarge the Commission and the United States had strongly supported such a step. It had also agreed that biennial meetings were no longer adequate for the making of evaluations and recommendations for balanced development in a world in the process of undergoing profound and accelerating social and economic change. The Social Commission had moreover recognized that in recent years it had focused increasingly on programmes at the expense of its responsibilities in formulating social policy and it had taken steps to reappraise its functions and its basic direction. Her delegation welcomed the request of the Economic and Social Council (resolution 830 J (XXXII)) that further reappraisal should take place at the Social Commission's fourteenth session.

9. The rapidity of the changes taking place in African countries had caused a shortage of personnel trained to meet social needs, and requests from Africa for United Nations assistance in the social field, especially in family and child welfare, community development and town planning, had tripled in the past two years. The added burden of work placed on the Bureau of Social Affairs and the regional commissions made the provision of additional staff imperative, and her delegation welcomed the action of the Fifth Committee in approving staff increases^{2/} although, for budgetary reasons, not on the scale recommended by the United States.

10. The establishment of the ad hoc groups of experts envisaged in operative paragraph 1 of the sixteen-Power draft resolution was both realistic and timely. The problems they would study were among the most critical facing Governments, particularly in countries in the earlier stages of development, and expert advice could prevent costly mistakes. Her Government attached great importance to close co-ordination between all related programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and strongly supported the specific recommendation in operative paragraph 2. New insights might be gained into the actual relation between economic and social development if, as mentioned in operative paragraph 4, the annual debates of the Economic and Social Council on world economic trends and the world social situation were combined into a single debate. The draft resolution as a whole embodied many of the measures which the United States believed would be most effective in strengthening the work of the United Nations in the social field.

11. Mr. KUNTOH (Ghana) pointed out that persistent efforts were being made by African nations to overcome the problem of illiteracy. His delegation had therefore welcomed the Ukrainian draft resolution and had co-sponsored the six-Power revised version. It had also found great merit in the eight-Power amendments proposed to the original text.

^{1/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 12.

^{2/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Fifth Committee, 878th meeting.

12. Objections had been raised to the second preambular paragraph of the original draft resolution on the grounds that it had political significance and should not be included in a resolution seeking to redress a social situation. The fact remained that the literacy rate had risen considerably in African countries since the attainment of independence, as was illustrated by the figures for his own country. In the interest of obtaining unanimous approval of the draft resolution, the Ukrainian SSR had agreed to delete the paragraph and to replace it by a reference to General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), which had been approved without dissent.

13. The second revised amendment would be better dealt with when the Committee came to discuss the draft Convention on Freedom of Information (agenda item 36). The proposal stated a desirable goal, but it would not serve an immediate purpose; the emphasis of the draft resolution was on letters and not on the flow of ideas, to which even illiterate people had made great contributions.

14. He recognized the force of the argument against the sixth preambular paragraph of the original draft resolution; however, the solution was not to delete but to improve it and that had been done in the revised text. Operative paragraph 2 had also caused a difference of opinion as some delegations had contended that there should be no reference to bilateral assistance. The six co-sponsors of the revised draft resolution had tried to accommodate those views but the revised eight-Power amendments attempted to remove the element of bilateralism entirely from the resolution. That appeared unfair, since no provision would then be made for those States willing to give assistance by direct agreement. It had always been the policy of his Government to accept multilateral aid as far as possible, but not to discount bilateral assistance. The two groups of sponsors might hold further consultations with a view to reaching a compromise on that paragraph. Lastly, while his delegation felt that such an important question as the eradication of illiteracy should be the subject of a recommendation by the General Assembly to all States, the co-sponsors of the revised draft resolution had again come close to the terms of the original amendments by substituting the phrase "Expresses the hope" for the word "Recommends" in operative paragraph 3. The problem of illiteracy affected all countries, although in different degrees, and he commended the revised draft resolution to the Committee for its unanimous approval.

15. Miss KUBOTA (Japan) said that her delegation attached great importance to the eradication of mass illiteracy, for it was a social disease which Japan had had to confront; indeed, her country had already accomplished much towards its extermination. Japan was also aware of the economic and social implications of the question; the eradication of illiteracy, like the development of education in general, was not an end in itself but the necessary foundation for social progress and economic advancement in all countries. It was perfectly right for the Committee to wage a vigorous campaign against illiteracy and for the development of education generally, and her delegation appreciated to the full the initiative taken by the Ukrainian delegation in that connexion.

16. However, she would not have been able to support the original text of the Ukrainian draft

resolution, partly because it was not comprehensive in scope and partly because it introduced an entirely irrelevant subject, namely, colonialism. It was much more important to find ways of wiping out illiteracy than to attribute it to one cause or another. Her delegation greatly appreciated the spirit of co-operation shown by the Ukrainian delegation, together with five other delegations, in submitting the six-Power revised text, which in many ways represented an improvement over the original. She regretted, however, that she found the revised text also unsatisfactory because it contained a reference to a resolution which had no direct connexion with the subject of illiteracy. Such a reference was entirely out of place in the present draft and her delegation, as a sponsor of the eight-Power amendments, hoped that the point could be corrected.

17. She was happy to be able to support all the other draft resolutions before the Committee. Japan was particularly interested in the question of urbanization and would be glad to exchange its experiences with other countries; it hoped that the eight-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.963), of which it was a sponsor, would be unanimously adopted. It also hoped that the Committee would adopt the two other draft resolutions of which it was a sponsor, namely, that of the thirteen-Powers on UNICEF (A/C.3/L.957/Rev.1) and that of the twenty-one Powers on human rights fellowships (A/C.3/L.947 and Add.1 and 3).

18. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) recalled that his delegation had found nothing to which it could not give its support in the original Ukrainian draft resolution on the eradication of illiteracy. The same applied to the six-Power revised draft resolution. But, the eight-Power amendments, he believed, would be entirely detrimental to the purposes of the draft resolution. His delegation therefore wished in turn to submit certain amendments (A/C.3/L.967), in the hope that the sponsors of the joint amendments would be able to accept them and perhaps withdraw their own.

19. The United Kingdom representative had objected to the inclusion, in the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, of a reference to General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), on the ground that it was irrelevant. He would, however, remind her that one of the preambular paragraphs of that resolution stated that the continued existence of colonialism impeded the social, cultural and economic development of dependent peoples. What the Committee was discussing was precisely such development, and if the thwarting of the social, cultural and economic progress of some peoples was due to colonialism—as the speed of their development upon emancipation appeared to demonstrate—then it was perfectly proper to refer to colonialism in the present context. The reference to resolution 1514 (XV), however, ought not perhaps to be linked, in the same paragraph, with references to Economic and Social Council resolutions on other subjects. His delegation therefore suggested, in its first amendment, that the two references should appear in two separate paragraphs.

20. In the third amendment, the sponsors asked for the deletion of the words "including technical education". But that was the most important kind of education today, when the scientist was in the forefront of world affairs. In other spheres—in

those of literature and the creative arts, for example—education was perhaps less important; native intelligence and imagination could suffice. In the sphere of science, however, training was indispensable; the scientist must know the work of his predecessors so as to be able to build upon it. In a sense, technical education must be the goal of all education at the present time. He was convinced, therefore, that the words in question should be retained in the fifth preambular paragraph and UNESCO, he submitted, was the agency primarily concerned with education and the eradication of illiteracy. In order, however, to meet the point raised by the United Kingdom representative, he would suggest—and that was his delegation's second amendment—the addition of a reference to the ILO in the fifth preambular paragraph.

21. He noted that, while anxious to delete the words "including technical education", the sponsors of the joint amendments nevertheless wished to include in the preceding paragraph the words "provided written news, comments and political opinions are made freely available". That appeared to suggest that they were prepared to educate the illiterate on the understanding that they might, in so doing, indoctrinate them with their own ideology. A person, although illiterate, probably already had political views and he was in any case already subjected to a bombardment of political propaganda by radio and television. It was hardly necessary to suggest that written propaganda should be thrust at him the moment he could read. Those words would be out of place in the draft resolution and he would vote against their inclusion.

22. He regretted that the sponsors of the draft resolution had not retained operative paragraph 2 in its original form. Bilateral assistance towards the eradication of illiteracy could be very useful in supplementing the help given by the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Those who did not wish to give such assistance need not do so, but he saw no justification for deterring Governments from providing such help for that purpose when no objection was raised to the bilateral provision of millions of dollars for military purposes. His delegation therefore wished to reintroduce that idea into operative paragraph 2, as was suggested in its third amendment.

23. He hoped that his delegation's amendments would receive the favourable vote of the Committee, and urged the sponsors of the other amendments to reconsider their proposals with a view to preserving the purely technical character of the present draft resolution and not injecting into it undesirable political elements.

24. Mrs. LEFLEROVA (Czechoslovakia) noted that the ten-Power draft resolution, of which her delegation was a sponsor, was the product of a co-operative effort on the part of a number of delegations. The text reflected the widely held position that economic growth affected social development and that a balance between the two was most important, especially in developing countries. She hoped that the revised draft would gain the Committee's unanimous support.

25. Her delegation also viewed with interest the suggested amendments contained in the Yugoslav working paper; the equitable distribution of national income was an important aspect of balanced eco-

conomic and social development, particularly in developing countries.

26. The six-Power draft resolution was also the result of conciliatory efforts by various delegations and since it would contribute significantly to the worthy cause of eliminating illiteracy, her delegation whole-heartedly supported it. The revised eight-Power amendments to it would weaken the text and introduce elements which had no bearing on the question of illiteracy. She was furthermore surprised that certain delegations should object to a reference to General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV); the sponsors of the draft resolution were clearly not interested in raising political issues but simply in pointing out the pertinent fact that the consequences of colonialism reached into the sphere of literacy and education.

27. She believed that the financial implications of the twenty-one Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.947/Add.2) should be referred to the Fifth Committee for consideration. With respect to the Romanian working paper, she had already expressed her delegation's full support for the proposed declaration. She would vote in favour of the thirteen-Power draft resolution on UNICEF and the eight-Power draft resolution on urbanization.

28. Mrs. SIVOMEY (Togo) expressed her profound gratitude to UNICEF for its fine accomplishments in protecting millions of children from hunger, want and disease. She was pleased that UNICEF, in the current stage of its development, was to reinforce its programme of action on behalf of the world's children within the more extensive framework provided by the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 1386 (XIV)). In that connexion she welcomed most heartily UNICEF's new Survey on the Needs of Children (E/ICEF/410 and Add.1-2) and the illuminating remarks made about it by the Chairman of UNICEF's Executive Board (1105th meeting). States would be encouraged to establish long-term programmes in the knowledge that international assistance better adapted to their particular needs would be forthcoming. Her Government was especially grateful to UNICEF for the projects to which it had contributed in Togo. Needless to say, her delegation gave its whole-hearted support to the thirteen-Power draft resolution.

29. Her delegation was a sponsor of the twenty-one-Power draft resolution on human rights fellowships and warmly recommended its adoption. She could vouch personally for the value of the seminars on human rights, having taken part in the 1960 Seminar on Participation of Women in Public Life, held at Addis Ababa from 12 to 23 December 1960. The seminar had brought together representatives from all parts of Africa and its proceedings and decisions (ST/TAO/HR.9) had been of such enormous significance that it would certainly go down in African history. It had demonstrated the African woman's new awareness and her determination to struggle for her total emancipation. She hoped, furthermore, that the Secretary-General's preliminary report (E/3493 and Corr.1-2) on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries reviewed at the thirty-second session of the Economic and Social Council (A/4820 and Corr.2, para. 640), would be followed by a second report outlining assistance programmes to be undertaken in conformity

with the Council's wishes. She was happy to note that additional scholarships were to be made available to enable women from developing countries to specialize in human rights. A further step, and one which should be taken at an early stage, would be to send women experts to young States to assist in the planning and execution of national social service programmes, in close co-operation with local women, so that they might have an opportunity of performing practical work in the field.

30. Her delegation had agreed to co-sponsor the sixteen-Power draft resolution on balanced economic and social development, because of the vital relation between the questions concerned and the achievement of a stable world peace. Motivated by the purpose set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom", her country supported all efforts to improve the living conditions of peoples, first and foremost of the less privileged peoples.

31. Mr. HENDRANINGRAT (Indonesia) recalled his earlier statement on balanced economic and social development (1111th meeting) and noted that the ten-Power draft resolution, of which his delegation was a sponsor, had benefited from a number of constructive observations made in the course of the debate. The tasks of the United Nations family of organizations in the matter of balanced development were, in his view: first, to encourage and assist Governments, especially those of the less developed countries, to obtain relevant information; second, to give technical assistance when requested; and, third, to recommend to Governments practising policies unfavourable to the less developed countries, that they should bring their policies into line with the modern conception of the interdependence of nations. As the ten-Power draft resolution was intended to strengthen international efforts on behalf of the less fortunate nations of the world, his delegation hoped that it would receive unanimous endorsement by the Committee.

32. His delegation had also co-sponsored the eight-Power draft resolution dealing with the urgent question of urbanization. The less developed countries faced a particularly difficult problem, as they lacked the material resources to cope with the physical needs of growing urban populations. Clearly, they needed wide and effective assistance from the world community. But since the best help in such matters was often self-help, the countries concerned must make a beginning themselves although, if some of them required assistance even in that preparatory phase, they should of course not be denied it.

33. His delegation could not support any of the amendments of the eight Powers to the six-Power draft resolution on the eradication of illiteracy. It opposed the first amendment because the evils of colonialism could not and should not be ignored. The fact that mass illiteracy also existed in countries that had been independent for a long time was implicitly recognized in the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution; indeed, there was one independent country which had a particularly high illiteracy rate because of its discriminatory policies towards the majority of its population. The second amendment was unacceptable because it ignored the relevant provisions recently adopted by the Committee in the draft Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights. He would also vote against the third amendment, for technical education was a matter in which the less developed countries needed international assistance from as many sources as possible, including UNESCO. In fact, in other subjects such as the humanities, international assistance should be kept to a minimum, so that each country might develop in keeping with its own national character. Lastly, as operative paragraph 2 had already been modified in the light of suggestions made during the debate, he would vote against the final amendment. He would thus vote for the six-Power draft resolution as it stood and he hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

34. The Tunisian amendment (A/C.3/L.966) to the sixteen-Power draft resolution would make the latter much more specific and he would therefore support it. Regarding the draft resolution itself, he would request separate votes on the words "and to convene it annually" in operative paragraph 1 and on the whole of operative paragraph 5. In the former case, his delegation doubted the advisability of convening the Social Commission annually and in the latter, it was his view that any enlargement of the social staff of the Department of Economic and

Social Affairs should await the decision on the Report of the Committee of Experts on the Review of the Activities and Organization of the Secretariat.^{3/}

35. On the question of human rights fellowships, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the annual appropriation available for advisory services in the field of human rights allowed for the granting of one or two fellowships each year, in addition to the holding of three seminars. It could not endorse, however, the creation of an artificial demand for human rights fellowships, to be financed out of the regular United Nations budget to which all Members, including the less developed countries, contributed. Furthermore, since human rights seminars seemed most necessary in the early stages and would probably be held less frequently as time went on, larger portions of the appropriation for advisory services could then be used to meet any spontaneous demands for additional human rights fellowships.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

^{3/} *Ibid.*, Sixteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 61, document A/4776.