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Chairman: Mr. Nemi Chandra KASLIWAL
(India).

AGENDA ITEMS 12 AND 80

**Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VIII
and IX) (A/5203, A/C.3/L.991/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.992)
(continued)**

**Advisory services in the field of human rights (A/5226)
(continued)**

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mrs. RADIC (Yugoslavia) regretted that the Third Committee had no more time to devote to consideration of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/5203), to which her delegation had always attached great importance since it provided the Assembly with its only opportunity to appraise the entire action of the United Nations in the social field. It was precisely because that field was so vast that it called for action of a consistent nature and required from the Assembly—which owing to its highly representative composition was particularly well qualified to direct such action—decisive measures to permit the solution of certain social problems.

2. Several new events which had taken place since the sixteenth session would influence the social activities of the United Nations and its related bodies. Mention might first be made of the General Assembly's decision, in resolution 1710 (XVI), to make the present decade into the United Nations Development Decade, during which special efforts should be put forth to accelerate progress in the under-developed countries. Reference might then be made to the conference on the problems of economic development, held in Cairo from 9 to 18 July 1962, which had brought together thirty-six developing countries and had considered the critical aspects of the present world economy; that Conference had emphasized the need for fundamental changes and had propounded basic directives for the solution of economic and social problems and for the acceleration of the economically backward countries' development, on a basis of equality and without political conditions. Today, therefore, that problem of the accelerated development of the new countries was a prime concern

for world opinion, and more especially for United Nations bodies.

3. At its thirty-fourth session, the Economic and Social Council had reviewed the entire activity of the United Nations in the social field, on the basis of reports from the functional commissions. In order to evaluate its results, it was necessary to determine the extent to which the activities of the various bodies met present needs, particularly the needs of the new countries. Today it was necessary to concentrate the main effort on essentials and to press increasingly towards practical action.

4. The Yugoslav delegation thought it could say that such had indeed been the trend during the past year. The various organs of the United Nations, and more particularly UNICEF and the Social Commission, had apparently endeavoured to make their action in the social field part of development activities as a whole.

5. The decisions taken by the Executive Board of UNICEF in June 1961 and June 1962 concerning long-term policy showed that UNICEF's activity with respect to the protection of mothers and children was being directed along those lines. The new fields into which it was penetrating—primary education and help with the training of personnel—showed the dynamic nature of that organization which, perhaps more than any other, had been able to adapt its activities and methods to the needs of the modern world.

6. At its fourteenth session, the Social Commission likewise had focused its attention on the main questions of the day: balanced economic and social development, housing, and social services. The Council had adopted most of its recommendations, and one of its most important concrete decisions had certainly been the establishment of the special Committee on Housing, Building and Planning (resolution 903 C (XXXIV)). She hoped that, with the close co-operation of the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies, especially the ILO, WHO and FAO, the new Committee would find practical means of helping countries to solve that complex problem.

7. The information assembled on balanced economic and social development, and especially the eleven case studies prepared on that subject, showed: first, that the economically under-developed countries realized the need to plan their development and saw in that process a means of mobilizing their material and human resources and expediting their expansion; second that the planning of balanced economic and social development was nevertheless an internal problem which varied according to the individual conditions in each country and in part depended, particularly in its social aspect, on internal political decisions; and third, that the balance was not an end in itself, the real aim being the raising of the population's material and cultural level of living.

8. In that context, the under-developed countries had shown a great desire for more thorough study of that question, and counted on practical assistance from the United Nations. New case studies on other countries would provide a broader background on which to base practical action. The case study on Yugoslavia (E/CN.5/346/Add.8) had clarified many aspects of the problem of balanced economic and social development. She thought that it would be very useful to study other aspects of that problem, more particularly the distribution of national income. In any case, it would be well if the regional economic commissions and their dependent bodies, such as the planning institutes, were associated more closely in the work on all those questions.
9. The United Nations Development Decade would provide an opportunity for intensifying work in other social fields as well. Although the basic aim—to increase the national income of the under-developed countries by 5 per cent—was economic, it would be necessary to take into account all factors, particularly the social factors, which might contribute to smoother and speedier achievement of the aim. The task set was a modest one, but would call for an exceptional effort by the international community, as well as by the new countries themselves, given the level from which they were now starting. On the social plane, the United Nations should concentrate on the solution of those problems which attended any process of economic development and whose settlement could best help to accelerate it. Thus, social action would be an integral part of general development—contrary to the theory that social problems should be given priority and dealt with independently. It was obvious that balanced development in all fields was not possible in the under-developed countries, which possessed only limited material resources and had to concentrate on key problems. There was increasing recognition of the fact that it was first necessary to create the proper material conditions for the solution of social problems, some of which were directly connected with economic investment.
10. Since the human factor was one of the most important elements in economic development, it would be necessary to identify in connexion with the Development Decade, the problems which were the most urgent in that respect. In the opinion of her delegation, the problem of highest priority was the gradual establishment of satisfactory health conditions such as to eradicate mass disease. Then came investment in education and housing construction in industrial areas.
11. The training of national personnel at all levels and in all specialities was a task of paramount importance. It called for the evolving of a long-term policy and, on the part of the United Nations, the adoption of principles of general application. In no other field was there such an obvious need for co-ordinated action by UNESCO, the ILO, FAO, WHO and others. It was for the Economic and Social Council to prepare that long-term programme of action, and for the specialized agencies to find the most effective methods for its implementation. The organization of regional and national institutes, capable of training in the shortest possible time the national personnel which the countries needed for their development was a task to which the international community should devote greater efforts.
12. Turning to the activities of the functional commissions, she praised the excellent work which had been done in the past by the Commission on the Status of Women, especially its efforts directed towards the conclusion of important international instruments regulating the political and legal status of women. At its sixteenth session, the Commission had dealt more fully with the questions of equal pay for equal work, the education of girls and the establishment of institutions for the children of working mothers: those were undoubtedly key problems from the standpoint of equal rights for women. At the Council's thirty-fourth session, the Yugoslav delegation had supported all the Commission's recommendations; but it had also pointed out—and she would like to repeat the observation—that henceforth the Commission should devote more attention to problems arising from more active participation by women in the life of their country. Today the question of the status of women no longer arose on the purely legal and political level; it was the eminently practical one of the inadequacy of the means enabling women to exercise the rights which they had won. The real and complete equality of women would henceforth depend on the solution of such problems as higher education for women and institutions for the children of working mothers; it was to those problems, therefore, that the Commission should give priority in its future work, while of course at the same time enlisting the aid of organizations, such as the ILO, which dealt with them more directly.
13. The recommendations made by the Commission on Human Rights at its eighteenth session showed that that Commission was endeavouring to solve the complex problems raised by the protection of human rights. It too, however, should be concerned to a greater degree to create the conditions calculated to ensure the full exercise of those rights: from that point of view, her delegation felt that the question of economic and social rights should be given increasing attention by the Commission both at the theoretical and at the practical level.
14. The various bodies ought to be able to adapt their action and methods to the needs of the modern world, without it being essential to change their terms of reference. If however there were cases in which such change proved necessary, it would be the duty of the Assembly to draw attention to them.
15. Mrs. KIRILOVA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the period covered by the report under discussion had been marked by the accession to independence of many countries, which had at last succeeded in their struggle against colonial domination. In that connexion, she congratulated the Algerian people on its great victory and welcomed its representative to the Third Committee. It should be remembered, however, that 70 million people were still subject to colonial exploitation and that much remained to be done to implement the decisions on that subject adopted by the General Assembly at its fifteenth and sixteenth sessions. The new States of Africa and Asia set the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council many complex problems, for special attention must be given to them in order to help them eliminate the after-effects of colonialism. In that respect, international co-operation had an essential part to play.
16. The United Nations and the specialized agencies had secured clear results at the humanitarian and social levels; but the rate of social progress, which was dependent on economic progress, was still far from the same in all countries. Hundreds of millions of persons still lived in poverty; and, as the President

of the Economic and Social Council had said in his introduction to the Council's report, the unprecedented speed of technical progress led to ever-increasing disproportions between those already possessing capital, knowledge and know-how and those still working hard to remove the basic hindrances existing in the initial stages of development. That disparity was all the more striking in view of the waste of a huge portion of the national incomes of the developed world on purposes of potential annihilation. Her delegation had already stressed that the problem of the development of the under-developed countries was closely linked to the problem of general and complete disarmament which would make it possible, not only to establish an era of peace, but also to work for the economic and social development of all countries. In that connexion, it should be noted that the Council had unanimously adopted resolution 891 (XXXIV) on the economic and social consequences of disarmament; it was natural for peoples to be disturbed at seeing the accumulation of weapons of mass destruction and the increase of military expenditures, while the amount of resources devoted to economic and social development remained stationary.

17. The United States representative had said that the Government of her country was making a sincere effort to solve the problem of disarmament (1150th meeting). In fact, no such effort had been made. The President of the United States of America had said, at the beginning of 1962, that United States military power had increased, that the rate of construction of Polaris submarines had more than doubled, and that weapons had been modernized. The military budgets of the United States and of all the NATO countries were colossal; the eighty-seventh Congress of the United States of America, which had just completed its work, had substantially increased the country's military budget and had rejected some programmes for health, education and social welfare. In those circumstances, one could but hope that the disarmament programme submitted by the Soviet Union (A/5233) would be put into effect: it would permit the release of resources sufficient to enable all developing countries, within one generation, to make up for their economic backwardness and to attain the level of industrialization obtaining in countries such as the United Kingdom or France.

18. The United States representative had also contended that the socialist countries, by reducing their imports of coffee, had exercised a baneful influence on the coffee market. In reality, the base prices of primary products could not be stabilized so long as monopolies were able to obtain substantial stocks when conditions were favourable and to dump them on the market in order to lower prices. The socialist countries had always purchased small quantities of coffee and it was not, therefore, they that could bring about a drop in market prices.

19. As for the Economic and Social Council's report itself, her delegation noted with satisfaction that the principle of planning for development was being ever more generally accepted, in that respect, the socialist countries could help the developing countries by sharing the results of their experience with those countries. The Ukrainian SSR itself, had succeeded in becoming industrialized in record time, thanks to planning. The increase in production, especially steel production, had made possible an improvement in the level of living: during the past five years, the income of Ukrainians had risen by more than 50 per cent; in 1961, a large share of the general budget had been devoted to social

welfare, education and public health; more than 11 million Ukrainians were engaged in regular studies, and a special effort had been made in the field of housing.

20. Considering that an even more favourable future could be anticipated under the twenty-year plans, it was understandable that the Ukrainian SSR should wish to give the newly established States the benefit of its experience in order to help them to wipe out all social evils. It did so now within the framework of the international organizations, since it participated in the technical assistance programmes and in the programmes of the Special Fund; but it also furnished substantial aid under bilateral agreements. Under bilateral agreements it was at present financing the construction of 270 industrial undertakings in countries such as Afghanistan, Yemen, the United Arab Republic, Cambodia and India. The plants concerned were steel-works, chemical products factories, power stations and food-processing factories—which showed that the aim of that bilateral aid was primarily to strengthen the economic independence of the recipient countries; the Ukrainian SSR attached no political condition to its assistance, nor did it in any way seek to infringe the sovereign rights of States. When the United States delegation asserted that bilateral aid was given for political ends, it was probably thinking of the case of the United States itself, which only furnished assistance subject to certain political conditions and in most cases sought simply to increase the military potential of the countries it helped.

21. Turning to chapter IX of the report, she said that the United Nations had certainly accomplished something in the field of human rights, by drawing up a large number of declarations, conventions and recommendations. Yet the situation with respect to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights was still far from satisfactory in certain parts of the world. It was also distressing to have to record many manifestations of national and racial intolerance and to see the rebirth of nazi and fascist ideology. The indigenous peoples of South Africa, Angola and various other territories were still victims of inadmissible violations of their fundamental rights, while in many countries human rights, although in theory guaranteed, in practice were not observed. Thus much remained to be done, and the Commission on Human Rights should pay greater attention to the consideration of specific problems and the making of concrete recommendations with a view to the elimination of the most flagrant violations of human rights; it should also recommend appropriate measures to ensure the actual observance of the rights of each individual.

22. In conclusion, she drew the Committee's attention to the draft resolution submitted by her delegation (A/C.3/L.992). The twelve-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.991/Rev.1) should be strengthened by a reference to the results obtained and by an expression of hope that all human rights would really be observed.

23. Miss WACHUKU (Nigeria) wished to congratulate the First Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board of UNICEF and the Director of the Bureau of Social Affairs on the excellent reports they had presented to the Committee (1149th meeting). Her delegation had noted with satisfaction the remarkable work done by the United Nations, and by the various specialized agencies, in the under-developed countries of Asia and Africa.

24. The provisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council to intensify action of planning for balanced economic and social development, within the framework of the United Nations Development Decade, would be very helpful to countries that wanted to use that method. Nigeria, with a population of 42 million, was beginning to implement a six-year development plan (1962-68), costing approximately £676,500,000, which gave priority to education and agriculture. The cost would be shared among the regional governments and the Federal Government, which, in the field of education, would devote approximately £33 million to primary, secondary and technical education, teacher training, the establishment of a university at Lagos and the expansion of the University of Ibadan, grants to regional universities, and scholarships. The regional governments would allocate £61,700,000 in all to education; there was already free primary education in some regions, and it was available to girls as well as to boys.

25. The development plan provided for the allocation of approximately £24,200,000 for town planning; that sum would be used mainly for land development and housing. It should be noted, further, that self-help already played a large part in that field, at the county council level.

26. Under the medical and health scheme, £17,900,000 would be used throughout the Federation of Nigeria to improve already existing hospitals, children's clinics and vaccination centres.

27. In addition, many voluntary organizations, especially those organized by women, contributed to social progress through the organization of day nurseries and of homes for the aged, participation in adult education, and education of women in the use of their social and political rights.

28. The United Nations and its specialized agencies had a tremendous task to perform in meeting the many social and economic needs of the under-developed countries, and it seemed doubtful that the target of an over-all economic growth of 5 per cent could be reached; Nigeria, for its part, had set itself a target of 4 per cent, because of all the requirements it had to satisfy.

29. With respect to human rights, Nigeria was among those countries which had included in its Constitution a declaration of the fundamental human rights of its citizens, and its problem was now to train its citizens to use their rights.

30. Mr. BOUQUIN (France) would not consider in detail the question of planning or that of assistance to developing countries. His delegation had frequently had the opportunity to state its position on those two very important problems. At the previous session, he had outlined the characteristics of the French system of planning—a democratic and decentralized system under which the urgent requirements of development and the attachment of the French people to freedom could be harmonized. As for assistance to under-developed countries, he would do no more than recall that France's contribution, from 1956 to 1960, had represented 2.2 to 2.5 per cent of the gross national product, which, when per caput income was taken into account, placed France in the front rank of the contributing countries.

31. He would like, in the present statement, to compare chapters VIII and IX of the report of the Economic and Social Council—the former dealing with social

questions, and the latter with human rights—and in that way to identify the differences and analogies between the social and humanitarian activities of the United Nations.

32. With regard to procedures and machinery, the differences could be seen in the structure alike of the United Nations policy-making bodies and of the Secretariat services. For human rights, the main bodies were the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women, together with the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and a number of special committees, the two most recent, which were already active, being the Committee on the Right of Everyone to be Free from Arbitrary Arrest, Detention and Exile, and the Committee on Periodic Reports. His delegation wondered whether the Sub-Commission, which had just been enlarged and had practically concluded its programme of work, could not become a human rights sub-commission which the Commission, in order to avoid the multiplication of committees, could entrust with special duties. It should also be noted that the members of the Sub-Commission were experts but were elected to their posts in the same way as were members of the various committees.

33. For social questions, the main body was the Social Commission, which set up groups of experts from time to time (for example, on family levels of living, community development, the organization and administration of social services, and housing and urban development), whose members, unlike those of the Committees of the Commission on Human Rights, were appointed by the Secretary-General. His delegation considered that if those experts were not elected by the Commission, it should at least confirm their appointment. The most recently established body dealing with social questions was the Council Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, whose members, though experts, would nevertheless be appointed by the Governments of eighteen Member States elected by the Council. Although that Committee was set up in the same way as the Social Commission, it would report to the Commission, as well as to the Committee for Industrial Development and to the regional economic commissions. That was a welcome initial step towards co-operation, which his delegation hoped would become more systematic, between bodies dealing with related questions. There should therefore be an organizational link without the establishment of a new body—between the Social Commission and the Committee for Industrial Development. The terms of reference of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning were moreover broader than its title indicated, since it would deal with problems of urban development and population movements relating to development. Moreover, various congresses had been organized for social matters, such as the congress on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, to be held next in Sweden in 1965, and the World Population Conference, which would be held a second time in 1964 or 1965.

34. The Secretariat services concerned with human rights and with social questions likewise differed in structure, for the former were organized to correspond to the two main Commissions and the Sub-Commission, the latter by branch of activity. As a result, the programmes prepared respectively by those two groups of services reflected some difference of outlook.

35. A review of the development of the Council's technical commissions, which had originally been set

up to continue the activities started by the League of Nations, showed that the main concern of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women had been to define human rights and fundamental freedoms and to lay down standards and principles. Consequently their work had mainly consisted of drafting. By contrast, though the Social Commission had not neglected those activities, since it had drafted the Declaration on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 1386 (XIV)), its work had from the outset tended to be more practical and operational. It should not be forgotten that technical assistance had been created in 1946 in the Department of Social Affairs, when the General Assembly had instructed it to continue the consultative social service work of UNRRA, and that the Social Commission had recommended the establishment of UNICEF. Since that time the operations of the Department of Social Affairs had been steadily expanding with the growth of the technical assistance and Special Fund programmes and of its work in co-operation with UNICEF. Though its research activities were important—as was shown by the numerous studies, reviews and bulletins which it published, and by its Report on the World Social Situation—they were often directly linked with its operational activities.

36. But research played a much more important part in the work on human rights, as could be seen from the numerous studies made by the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights, particularly those concerning the prevention of discrimination. One or the other of those two Commissions had also produced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a large number of conventions, the draft covenants on human rights, and various draft declarations. Nor should the Human Rights Yearbook, and the periodic reports prepared by Member States every three years on developments in human rights, be overlooked. They enabled States to take stock of progress or retrogression; they facilitated exchange of experience; and they constituted the only international authority for national activity in the sphere of human rights. The Commission on Human Rights, to which summaries of the reports were submitted, had decided on the recommendation of the Committee on Periodic Reports to maintain the present system and to transmit the summaries to the Sub-Commission and to the Commission on the Status of Women for their comments. It had also requested non-governmental organizations—a highly important step—to transmit their comments and observations.

37. Operational activities concerning human rights were carried out under the programme of advisory services and were of three kinds: the assignment of experts, the organization of seminars, and the grant of fellowships. Hitherto very few countries had taken advantage of the first of those kinds of assistance, but the seminars had been very successful. Three seminars were usually organized each year: two on human rights and one on the status of women; up to the present they had been held on carefully-chosen and precisely-defined subjects, so that highly-qualified experts had been able to take part; furthermore, since they were organized regionally, they had permitted a fruitful exchange of experience. His delegation believed that, when a number of regional seminars had been held on one subject, thought could be given to the organization of an international seminar to consolidate the regional gains.

38. Many countries had recently shown greater interest in the fellowship system. His delegation believed that, as had been suggested in the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council by the French delegation, in order to ensure that those fellowships bore fruit, a series of courses or lectures on human rights should be organized under United Nations auspices. Those courses, which could be conducted by well-known international authorities (for example, teachers, magistrates, senior officials or trade-union officers), would be intended for students and for officials—such as police officers—whose work was related to human rights. Such persons would derive the greatest benefit from the fellowships.

39. Despite the differences which he had outlined, common trends could be seen in the fields of human rights and of social affairs. Certain similarities could be seen in the development of activities in the two fields. The Social Commission had at first been mainly concerned with groups in need of special protection; later it had turned its attention to ways of raising the level of living in under-developed countries. For some time past the work of the Commission on Human Rights had taken a similar direction, as could be seen from the relevant resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-fourth session.

40. UNICEF was developing likewise: originally set up to provide emergency assistance for the children of the countries ravaged by the Second World War, it had become a permanent body concerned with underprivileged children throughout the world. By expanding its geographical sphere of activity, it had also expanded its programmes; for, after concentrating its efforts against hunger and disease, it had extended them to include maternal and child welfare and professional training, and later the new fields of social services and education. It had recently entered a new phase of its work: in June 1961 it had declared its willingness to help countries to evaluate and draw up their programmes; and it was also prepared to consider programmes of types which it had not previously assisted. An organization should not, of course, spread itself too thin and should see to it that it responded to the specific needs of the child, but UNICEF's recent decisions had been sound and likely to enhance considerably its influence and effectiveness. Beneficiary countries should take account of the needs of children in their general plans. Donor countries should bear them in mind in their aid programmes. UNICEF not only did humanitarian work, but also played a part in the economic and social progress of the countries which it assisted. That was a point which should be stressed in connexion with the United Nations Development Decade, and to which reference had been made in several of the resolutions adopted at the Council's last session.

41. His delegation was convinced that the United Nations Development Decade would enable a fresh impulse to be given to social activities; but, as it had had occasion to state before, it regretted that questions relating to human rights were not included among those which would be given special attention during the Decade. It had therefore requested that suggestions concerning a development decade for human rights should be considered by the Commission on Human Rights at its nineteenth session.

42. Social activities and activities in the field of human rights had a common objective; while economic and social development were interdependent, there was

a similar interdependence between social progress and progress in human rights, between social progress and freedom. Those were two inseparable concepts, so that as the social activity of the United Nations was strengthened, its activity for human rights should be strengthened likewise. As the draftsmen of the Charter of the United Nations had well understood, mankind must be permitted to strive for a higher level of freedom. It was not an accident that the Declaration of the Rights of the Child had been conceived by the Social Commission, had been drafted by the Commission on Human Rights, and now guided all UNICEF activity. That example illustrated the essential unity between those three bodies' work which gave it its true meaning.

43. Mr. DONKOR (Ghana) thanked the First Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board of UNICEF and the Director of Social Affairs for their interesting statements. On chapter VIII of the Economic and Social Council's report, his delegation shared the view of the members of the Council that planning was essential for rapid economic and social growth. It should, however, be borne in mind that other factors, such as the available resources, the assessment of priority, and the allocation of the resources to the appropriate social sectors, must inevitably influence planning. On the national level it was always preferable to make long-term plans, which could be carried out by stages, so that economic and social development could proceed at the same pace.

44. Ghana had always attempted to maintain a healthy balance between economic and social expenditure. In the financial year 1959-1960, 35.8 per cent of its budget had been spent on social and community services and 31.3 per cent on economic services. In the following year the corresponding figures had been 32.8 per cent and 33.7 per cent. Since developing countries lacked experience in establishing priorities and allocating resources to the various social sectors, his delegation welcomed Council resolution 903 (XXXIV), paragraphs 1 and 5 of which were of particular interest.

45. In regard to housing and urban development, the report rightly stressed the shortage of housing in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Housing was a difficult problem which his Government was making every effort to solve. Since the establishment of two statutory corporations—the Ghana Housing Corporation and the Rural Housing Corporation—several thousand houses had been provided for the people, partly through subsidized rents and partly through hire-purchase. In addition, private individuals could buy building materials from the Government on long-term credit. Experiments were also being carried out on the construction of low-cost housing with local materials. The Ghana Building Society was encouraging individual savings for house purchase, and it was hoped that other similar institutions would be founded in due course. The Ghanaian delegation believed that developing countries could only solve their housing problems through an international housing programme, and therefore supported Economic and Social Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV) on the establishment of a Committee on Housing, Building and Planning. The new committee should, however, try to avoid duplication and over-centralization. The report contained no mention of slums, although many countries had found that new buildings might easily and rapidly be turned into slums by the tenants. The Ghanaian delegation hoped that the Council

would conduct research on that problem and on possible solutions.

46. The Committee was aware that Ghana took pride in its reputation for community development. Its programme included adult literacy, women's work, nutrition, child and family welfare, and self-help projects. When the Ghanaian Government had launched its second development plan, 3,966 village development committees had been formed, each with its own plan based on local needs within the framework of the national plans. The public authorities had allocated over £2 million in grants-in-aid for the execution of self-help projects, and also provided technical assistance. The results obtained were noteworthy: by the end of 1960, 1,501 projects, mainly concerned with road building, schools, community centres, lavatories and the like, had been completed and 1,132 were in progress. Elementary adult education was conducted in local languages and in English. In June 1962 the President of the Republic of Ghana had ordered the launching of a national mass attack on illiteracy with the help of teachers and students in elementary schools, secondary schools and universities.

47. Women's work was carried out mostly in the rural areas. UNICEF had made an important contribution by providing experts in home economics, granting fellowships, and supplying regional and national women's training centres with transport and with teaching and demonstration equipment. Women were extremely interested in those activities, and district and regional exhibitions had been organized for handwork, cooking, child care, and sewing.

48. The Ghana urban welfare services included, first, child welfare services, comprising a children's home, a school for the blind, and day nurseries, many of which had also recently been opened in rural areas. Youth work consisted mainly in preparing young people to become useful citizens. The Government was also concerned with family welfare. The social service attached to the juvenile courts was very active. Four special schools provided training for delinquent children; enrolment had increased from 385 in 1958 to 451 in 1960.

49. The Ghanaian Government believed that education was the key to progress and had therefore launched a large-scale education programme. In 1950 the number of children in primary and middle schools had been 204,000, or less than 30 per cent of the school-age population. In 1951 the Government had introduced free primary education, and the enrolment in primary and middle schools had increased to 600,000 in 1960. Similarly, the number of pupils attending secondary and commercial schools had increased considerably; secondary education would soon become compulsory and free also, as middle school education had in 1961. There were three universities. Peace Corps teams had done excellent work in recently-opened secondary schools.

50. In public health, the Ghana Government had collaborated with UNICEF, WHO and FAO in programmes of malaria and tuberculosis control, environmental sanitation, maternity and child welfare services, nutrition, health education, and other work. Ghana had become the headquarters of a malaria research centre; it was believed that 10 per cent of Ghanaian children died of malaria. It had invited a team from WHO and UNICEF to study the local mosquitoes, their resistance to insecticides, and the most effective methods of spraying. Through its co-operation with WHO, Ghana

had received the reports of experts and committees on specific problems, and information about the major communicable diseases, so as to enable it to take the necessary precautionary measures.

51. The greatest difficulty facing the Ghanaian Government was finding qualified doctors to work in the hospitals and health centres. In 1950 there had been one doctor for every 20,000 persons in Ghana; at present there was one for every 18,000, and the Government was determined to bring the ratio down to one for every 7,000. To do so it was awarding scholarships: 292 scholars were studying medicine and 141 were studying other medical subjects. In addition, the United States Government was helping Ghana to set up and staff at the University of Accra a medical school and teaching hospital, which would probably be opened in January 1963. The National Institute of Health of the United States and the Ghanaian public health services were also jointly establishing a medical research laboratory. Ghana expressed its appreciation to the United States Government for its valuable aid.

52. With regard to control of narcotic drugs, the Ghanaian delegation appreciated the efforts made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and considered it essential, above all, to extend the control provided for in existing treaties to cover control over the cultivation of the various plants from which narcotic drugs were made. It also supported the recommendation for research into the social, economic and medical aspects of drug addiction, to enable countries to evolve programmes for the treatment of addicts. The Council stated in its report that many Member States had not yet signed the United Nations Opium Protocol of 23 June 1953 or the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961. Recalling that Ghana had signed the Single Convention on 30 March 1961, he appealed in the name of humanity to all States to follow its example.

53. The human rights situation seemed to leave much to be desired in certain countries and territories. In Ghana men and women had equal civil, political and social rights. Women were parliamentarians, doctors, lawyers and administrators; one woman was a judge of the Supreme Court and two were ministers. Owing to a reorganization of the educational system, girls were now studying subjects which had formerly been reserved for men.

54. Like many others, the Ghanaian delegation considered that programmes intended to promote respect for human rights should be included in the United Nations Development Decade, since there could be no real economic and social advancement without concurrent progress in human rights. Accordingly the usefulness of seminars and fellowships for study of the subject could not be over-estimated, and the Ghanaian delegation would support the establishment of human rights institutes to train personnel from various countries to carry out human rights programmes.

55. Mr. RIOS (Panama) congratulated the Economic and Social Council on the interesting report it had prepared on problems whose solution could bring happiness to millions of human beings. The Panamanian delegation had also appreciated the statement made by the Polish representative (1151st meeting), although it could not share his views on coffee imports or the Berlin wall. Indeed, nothing could justify the building of walls of hate to separate brothers.

56. One of the most important sectors of work for economic and social development was the organization

of regional seminars on specific aspects of planning. Those seminars must be very carefully prepared in advance if they were to give the best results with a minimum loss of energy, time and money.

57. Housing was vitally important to the Panamanian delegation, since the housing shortage caused incessant difficulties in Panama. The present Government had set out resolutely to deal with the problem, but the rate of interest on loans was still so high that the situation remained dangerous. The United Nations would perform a highly beneficial task if it could find a way of implementing the Economic and Social Council's recommendation of a special fund to finance assistance for housing. The various measures proposed by the Council, particularly the establishment of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, would considerably help the Panamanian Institute of Housing and Town Planning in its work.

58. He agreed that a campaign should be launched to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect, and understanding between peoples. A study of what had already been done would constitute a good point of departure, and the Peace Corps could provide very useful information from its experience. Exchanges of students were being conducted on too small a scale and should be increased, for it was well known that hostility between peoples often arose from their lack of knowledge about each other, and that mendacious propaganda deepened their ignorance. The establishment of youth organizations under the auspices of UNESCO would undoubtedly yield excellent results: trained to respect the peaceful ideals of the United Nations, they would be the best defenders of a noble and generous cause.

59. The Panamanian delegation considered that the Declaration of the Rights of the Child had an important place in the United Nations Development Decade and that countries should devote themselves unremittingly to improving the health of children. In the less developed countries in particular, health and medical teams should be trained and tour rural areas demonstrating simple methods of promoting health. As had already been pointed out, too many communities in those countries were left to their sad fate, and the first step towards improving their living conditions was to send a teacher and a midwife, or a person trained in the skills of both.

60. He attached considerable importance to narcotic drugs, since the drug traffic, though punishable by the law of Panama, was increasing there. The disastrous effects of drug addiction on human beings called for energetic preventive action, in which all Member States should co-operate.

61. His delegation unreservedly supported every effort to promote respect for human rights throughout the world. The Panamanian Government had abolished all discrimination, and all residents of Panama, without distinction of race, colour, religion or opinion, enjoyed the same rights and must fulfil the same duties. It was battling against the discriminatory system in force in the Panama Canal Zone, which was part of the national territory of Panama and had been ceded only provisionally to the United States for the construction and maintenance of the canal crossing the isthmus. Despite its constant protests and the Treaty of mutual understanding and co-operation, signed between the United States of America and Panama on 25 January 1955,^{1/}

^{1/} United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 243 (1956), No. 1 3454.

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the wage scale of American workers was much higher than that of nationals of Panama or other South American countries. The Panamanian delegation believed that that discriminatory practice, condemned by the United Nations, could not continue much longer; relations between friendly peoples must not be poisoned in that way.

62. There was no discrimination against women in Panama. Under the Constitution of 1946 women enjoyed the same rights as men, including political rights. They had free access to education, and in some professions there were now more women than men.

63. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the list of speakers in the general debate should be closed at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 17 October, and that the time-limit for the submission of draft resolutions should be fixed at 3 p.m. on Thursday, 18 October.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.