



Chairman: Miss Maria GROZA (Romania).

**AGENDA ITEM 55**

**Youth, its education in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/7921 and Add.1, A/8003, chap. IX, sect. K; A/C.3/L.1764, A/C.3/L.1766/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.1767, A/C.3/L.1772-1776)**

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS**  
(continued)

1. Miss WEEKES (Barbados) commended the Yugoslav delegation and the other sponsors on their efforts in preparing draft resolution A/C.3/L.1767, but felt that the text was not completely satisfactory. The Committee should adopt a more positive text which would not confine itself to reaffirming hallowed concepts. She therefore proposed that the beginning of operative paragraph 4 should be amended to read:

*“Emphasizes the urgency of the participation of youth, including the handicapped, in the social, economic, political, cultural and other domains of human activities . . .”*

2. In addition, she noted that several passages in the draft resolution referred in one way or another to the conclusions or activities of the World Youth Assembly. Since it was difficult for many delegations to reconcile the high ideals intended to be reflected in the text under consideration with what had actually happened at that gathering of the young, it might be advisable to combine the references to the Youth Assembly in a single paragraph of a general character which would be less likely to lead to differences of opinion.

3. Mr. PENTCHEV (Bulgaria) welcomed draft resolution A/C.3/L.1767 and said that, with some changes, it was capable of gaining the almost unanimous approval of the Committee. To that end, and in a spirit of co-operation, his delegation was submitting the amendment contained in document A/C.3/L.1776, the purpose of which was to improve and amplify the text. The proposed change was modest in scope and was designed solely to add to the text a simple two-part recommendation. The first part merely highlighted the fundamental importance of the question of youth in the present-day world, which had been emphasized at many seminars, meetings and scientific studies. The second part of the recommendation reflected the concern which various delegations had expressed regarding the

harmful influence on youth of propaganda for war, racial hatred and enmity, and the need to put an end to it.

4. Mr. LISITSKY (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) felt that, with the co-operation of all concerned, the form of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1767 could be changed so as to make it satisfactory to all delegations. With that aim in view, his delegation had submitted the amendment contained in document A/C.3/L.1775, which enlarged on a concept already expressed in operative paragraph 6 of the original text. Ten years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, colonialism still existed and there were some Powers which refused to implement the provisions of that instrument. As was recognized in General Assembly resolution 2548 (XXIV), peoples still under colonial domination were waging a legitimate struggle to assert their rights. Despite the legitimacy of that struggle, the colonialist and racist régimes were endeavouring to crush the liberation movements by all available means, and even resorted to armed force, thus earning the condemnation of the United Nations and a large number of States. Among the subjugated peoples, the younger generation was playing an active part in the struggle against colonialism and racism and in that endeavour it enjoyed the support and solidarity of progressive youth the world over, as shown by the report of the Commission on World Peace of the World Youth Assembly.<sup>1</sup> Young people's protests against colonialism, racism and the suppression of national liberation movements revealed their awareness and political maturity, as well as their impatience with injustice, and belied the assertion that the young were passive and apolitical. It was the duty of the Committee to strengthen that positive aspect of youth and to support its aspirations, stating unequivocally its conviction that it was important for young people in all countries of the world to take a stand against the suppression of the liberation movements of the peoples under colonialist and racist domination and to support their struggle for self-determination.

5. He wondered what meaning could be attached to the expression “as appropriate” in operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1767, since it could not be anything other than appropriate for youth to participate in the legislative and other decision-making organs whose activities affected political and social life in society.

6. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) said that the changes made in the Saudi Arabian draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1766/Rev.1) did not affect the substance of the text and that they had not caused her delegation to change its position. All delegations shared the ideals on which the text was based,

<sup>1</sup> See *World Youth Assembly*, document 56/WYA/P/10, p. 10.

but the means proposed for achieving them were questionable and unrealistic. Consequently, the adoption of that draft resolution might give public opinion the impression that the United Nations was merely an academy which devoted itself to making abstract statements. As had already been pointed out, there were other means whereby the energies of young people who were opposed to joining the armed forces could be used for the benefit of mankind, such as giving them the opportunity to serve in the developing countries. In Italy, such an alternative had been established in law, and expansion of the combined programme of exemption from compulsory military service and of assistance to developing countries was now being studied in the context of the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

7. Consequently, she suggested that the nineteen delegations sponsoring the draft resolution introduced by Yugoslavia (A/C.3/L.1767) should consider the possibility of inserting a new paragraph welcoming the adoption of measures to enable young people who were subject to military service to serve in a civilian capacity in the developing countries instead. In that way, the Committee would avoid having to vote on the Saudi Arabian draft resolution and could devote its attention to a single text, which would enhance the likelihood of unanimous approval of a draft resolution on the important item under consideration.

8. Despite the laudable efforts of the sponsors of document A/C.3/L.1767, she did not feel that the results were entirely satisfactory, primarily because the text in its present form could not command the unanimous support of the Committee. Her delegation attached particular importance to that matter and believed that such unanimous support could be achieved, since there had been no major differences of opinion in the general debate other than that relating to the message and reports of the World Youth Assembly. The draft resolution was not acceptable because it set forth more ideas and concepts than were necessary, yet failed to include others which were fundamental, such as the role of the family in the education of youth in respect for human rights and the contribution already being made by young people through volunteer services. Although the sponsors had already stated that they would not be willing to amend certain controversial paragraphs, she wondered whether, if the alternative was approval of the draft resolution in its present form with many abstentions and even negative votes, the sponsors would not feel it was better, in view of the importance of supporting the efforts of young people to agree to some such changes after all. Her delegation intended to submit an amendment calling for the insertion in operative paragraph 1 of a reference to General Assembly resolution 2445 (XXIII), on the teaching in schools of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the structure and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, with particular reference to human rights. As to the other proposed amendments, she considered that some would improve the text whereas others would make it even more controversial. The Committee should redouble its efforts to avoid disunity and division within its ranks, so that on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, when a channel of communication had been established for the first time between the United

Nations and the young, the resolution on the subject of youth might receive unanimous support.

9. Mr. LORCH (Israel) said that Israel was a young country and that students constituted one-third of its population. Young people participated in all spheres of activity and some of the most rewarding efforts in technical co-operation were concerned with youth. Thus, neither Israel nor its representatives could be accused of indifference towards youth. It was precisely because of the importance his country attached to youth, its education in respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development, that it was obliged to take issue with the references contained in draft resolution A/C.3/L.1767 to the positive efforts of the World Youth Assembly, which had in fact been an example of how not to educate youth. It was well known that in that Assembly freedom of expression had been suppressed, certain delegations had been prevented from speaking and others had been physically removed from the rostrum. Certain "professional youths" had actively devoted themselves not to fostering a spirit of harmony and co-operation but rather to imposing certain resolutions that were to the liking of their countries or Governments. Some delegations had even refused to speak to others on account of their origin.

10. His Government had welcomed the idea of the Assembly, since it considered that such meetings had great educational value and fostered wider contacts among young people from all over the world. Unfortunately, the World Youth Assembly had not been such a meeting and, consequently, his delegation was not in a position to support draft resolution A/C.3/L.1767, even though it undoubtedly included certain valuable ideas.

11. It was said that wise men learned from the mistakes of others and ordinary men from their own mistakes, while fools learned neither from their own mistakes nor from those of others. It was to be hoped that the Committee might at least learn from its own mistakes.

12. Mr. CSATORDAY (Hungary) said that in his view the Saudi Arabian draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1766/Rev.1) presented a unilateral and controversial approach to the youth problem and he doubted whether it would meet with the general approval of the Committee. The draft resolution in document A/C.3/L.1767 was, on the other hand, much more acceptable, although it was not perfect. He wished to suggest two minor amendments to the latter text. In the first place, the reference to the "sad image of the world" in the second preambular paragraph seemed inappropriate since, although it was true that many problems had not yet been solved and certain evils such as racism and colonialism persisted, there was also good reason to view the future with a certain amount of optimism. One encouraging sign was the fact that, in the ten years since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, many new nations had been born and were already playing an important role on the international scene. A resolution on youth should not convey a pessimistic attitude but should instead approach problems with faith and determination. He therefore proposed that the phrase in question should be replaced by the words "complex problems".

13. His second amendment was in connexion with the expression "power politics" in the seventh preambular paragraph, which was ambiguous. Power was inevitably linked with politics and could not be flatly condemned without making a distinction between the good and the bad purposes for which it was exercised. Power could be used to oppress and subjugate a people and as such should be opposed; but it could also be used by a nation to win its independence, its freedom and its rightful place in the world. The expression should therefore be replaced by the word "militarism", which expressed the negative aspect of power politics and which he was certain reflected the intention of the sponsors.

14. Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom) said that, while she recognized the lofty ideals and purposes that had moved the Saudi Arabian delegation to submit its draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1766/Rev.1), the text posed difficult problems which made it impossible for her delegation to support it, despite the fact that the United Kingdom did not at present have compulsory conscription and its legislation contained provisions for conscientious objectors who refused to serve in the armed forces. Important and complex questions of policy and legislation were involved which went far beyond the item on youth or the competence of the Third Committee, and many of the paragraphs posed difficulties of substance.

15. Draft resolution A/C.3/L.1767 seemed to provide a good starting-point and she hoped it would lead to unanimous agreement, provided certain necessary amendments were introduced; unfortunately, in its present form it was not entirely acceptable and she wished to propose two amendments. The first, which referred to operative paragraph 3, was submitted on behalf of her own delegation and those of New Zealand and the Netherlands. She wished to recall in that connexion that her Government was one of those which had made the most substantial contributions to the organization of the World Youth Assembly; it had done so because of its desire to associate the youth of the world with the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. Although the results of the Assembly had been somewhat discouraging, the experience would probably be worth repeating in the future. However, she did not think that Governments should be asked at that stage to take a firm position as to how and when future assemblies might be held; indeed, she felt that no decision as to whether future youth assemblies should be held at all ought to be taken until the results of the recent Assembly had been studied and the considerable expenses to which it had given rise had been paid. Furthermore, the youth of the world had other opportunities for exchanging views and ideas, such as those provided by United Nations regional seminars and by all the contacts provided by existing youth organizations. For all those reasons, her delegation, together with those of New Zealand and the Netherlands, proposed that operative paragraph 3 should be replaced by the following text:

*"Recognizes the valuable contribution to international understanding made by youth organizations, both national and international, and calls upon them to intensify their efforts to encourage contacts between youth in the world;*

*"Decides to bear in mind the possibility of convening another World Youth Assembly in the future;"*<sup>2</sup>

16. Under her second amendment, which was also sponsored by the Italian delegation, operative paragraph 4 of the same draft resolution would be replaced by the following text:

*"Emphasizes the importance of increasing the participation of youth in the social, economic, political, cultural and other domains of human activities, and welcomes the generous contribution to voluntary services which youth is already making."*<sup>3</sup>

17. As could be seen, the reference to the participation of youth in legislative and executive organs, which presented difficulties for several delegations, had been eliminated, while, on the other hand, a reference to the contribution of youth to voluntary services had been added. In her country and, she presumed, in many others, young people were providing very valuable services and doing excellent work which it was only fair to recognize.

18. Mr. RATTANSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) said that draft resolution A/C.3/L.1767 reflected the high principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. He was in agreement with practically all the paragraphs of the text but hoped that before it was put to the vote a solution to one or two problems might be found so that the draft could receive unanimous support.

19. In operative paragraph 6 Governments were urged to respond to the aspirations of youth and to take further urgent and effective measures to support, *inter alia*, the struggle for the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to eradicate racism, *apartheid* and all other forms of discrimination, including, if the USSR amendment submitted orally at the 1752nd meeting was accepted, nazism. Although the United Nations had already adopted many resolutions to that effect, the Fascist régimes of South Africa, Rhodesia and Portugal continued to defy them with impunity.

20. At the World Youth Assembly, the young participants had clearly stated that the existing situation was a desperate one and that vigorous measures must be taken to find an urgent solution to the grave problems facing the world. Youth was calling for effective action and he urged the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1767 to give further consideration to the deliberations of the World Youth Assembly with a view to incorporating more positive provisions in their text.

21. For those reasons he supported the amendment submitted by the Byelorussian delegation (A/C.3/L.1775), which gave greater force to operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1767.

22. As to the Saudi Arabian draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1766/Rev.1), he wished to state, without prejudice to any later comments he might make in that connexion, that

<sup>2</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.1778.

<sup>3</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.1779.

he felt it was a positive proposal aimed at curbing wars of aggression and all wars which were contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and at bringing about peace, justice and progress.

23. Miss ABAYI (Gabon) said that her country attributed great importance to the training and education of youth and it could accordingly support the draft resolution in document A/C.3/L.1767. However, she was not in favour of the seventh preambular paragraph, which mentioned the desire that the United Nations should become a universal organization, for certain countries had demonstrated that they were not capable of showing due respect for the principles set forth in the Charter. Also, as her Government had not yet officially received the reports of the World Youth Assembly and the Belgrade seminar, it would be unable to support the paragraphs taking note of those reports.

24. Mr. MAHMASSANI (Lebanon) said that on the whole he could support draft resolution A/C.3/L.1767, which was a balanced text and which basically reflected the opinions expressed during the debate.

25. With regard to the ninth preambular paragraph, he said that in it the Secretary-General should be asked to distribute to the participants in the World Youth Assembly the draft resolution to be adopted by the Committee and the relevant summary records so that the young people concerned could be made aware of the action taken with respect to their activities.

26. He supported the amendment submitted by the Syrian delegation to the ninth preambular paragraph (A/C.3/L.1772), since the proposed addition was a matter of elementary courtesy to the youth of the world. He also supported the amendment proposed by the delegation of Iraq (A/C.3/L.1773) and that submitted by the delegation of Byelorussia (A/C.3/L.1775); in the case of the latter, however, he proposed a sub-amendment consisting of the insertion of the words "occupation or" before the word "colonial".

27. The amendment submitted by Bulgaria in document A/C.3/L.1776 did not seem to him very clear and he would prefer that the word "war" should be replaced by the word "aggression". It must be recognized that in many cases peoples were forced to fight for their liberation or to wage war in self-defence, and such a modification was therefore indicated.

28. With reference to the observation made by the representative of Israel at the end of his statement, he said it was true that fools did not learn from their own mistakes and did not realize that domination and occupation of foreign territories could not continue forever and that young people had always rebelled to the fullest extent of their capacity against subjection and occupation.

29. Mr. AL-SHAWI (Iraq) endorsed the observations of the representative of Lebanon and stressed the importance of the position taken by youth against colonialism and repressive military action. For his part, he suggested that in the Byelorussian amendment (A/C.3/L.1775) the words "military occupation and" should be inserted between the

words "peoples still under" and "colonial or racist domination".

30. Mr. RYBAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that there was an error in the English version of the amendment contained in document A/C.3/L.1774, which had been submitted by his delegation at the previous meeting; the words "socialist progress" should read "social progress". At the same time, he wished to modify the text of his amendment so that the words "between countries with different social systems" would be replaced by the words "between countries, irrespective of their social systems".

31. Mr. DABROWA (Poland) said that he felt that draft resolution A/C.3/L.1767 was a positive contribution to the work of the Committee and would provide a useful basis for the formulation of definitive recommendations with respect to item 55. The main deficiency of the text was that it did not properly reflect the very important recommendations approved at the Belgrade seminar, particularly recommendation (7) (see A/C.3/L.1764, para. 3), to the effect that the United Nations should urge Governments to guard young people against the harmful influences of war propaganda, militarism, racism, the cult of violence and immorality and other forms of human repression. However, that omission and others in the text, would be taken care of by the incorporation of the amendments proposed by the USSR (A/C.3/L.1774), the Byelorussian SSR (A/C.3/L.1775) and Bulgaria (A/C.3/L.1776), which reflected important concepts and had the support of his delegation. Also, he was in favour of the changes proposed orally by Hungary and he supported the oral amendment of the USSR to operative paragraph 6 in accordance with which nazism would be included among the evils whose eradication Governments should seek, for he considered the eradication of Nazi and neo-Nazi ideology from the minds of young people to be of fundamental importance.

32. Although he recognized the efforts made by the delegation of Saudi Arabia to improve its draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1766/Rev.1), he said that that text still did not coincide, in general, with the views of his own delegation, mainly because the questions to which it referred were dealt with in very different ways by the laws of different countries.

33. In conclusion, he said that he thought it would be best for the Committee to approve only one draft resolution on item 55, preferably that contained in document A/C.3/L.1767, with the amendments to which he had referred, since that text most accurately reflected the deliberations on the subject.

34. Mr. AKYAMAÇ (Turkey) said that the two draft resolutions before the Committee had two striking characteristics in common. With regard to form, both were quite lengthy, particularly in their preambles, reflecting an effort to incorporate as fully as possible the ideas expressed in the debate even at the risk of losing sight of the most significant elements. With regard to substance, although they stressed the need for the United Nations system to concern itself with the problems of youth, both recognized the very important fact that it was primarily the obligation of Governments to take the action necessary to solve the problems of youth in each country.

35. The Saudi Arabian draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1766/Rev.1) enunciated what was still an ideal but within ten or twenty years might become a reality, despite the constitutional and legislative problems which it raised. Whether or not it was put to the vote, the Saudi Arabian representative's text would be a milestone in the march towards the realization of the aspirations of all mankind. Nevertheless, the speaker, in whose country young people were given the opportunity to continue their education without interruption until the age of thirty-three and even beyond, would find it difficult to support operative paragraphs 1 and 4 of that draft.

36. Turning to the draft resolution which had been introduced by Yugoslavia (A/C.3/L.1767), he said that he was opposed to the use of the expression "the sad image of the world of today" in the second preambular paragraph, despite the fact that it had been taken from a statement by the Secretary-General, because he felt that it would be better to stress positive elements and avoid contributing to a feeling of pessimism among the young. Noting that the two concepts expressed in the paragraph did not form a very felicitous combination, he suggested that the words "and their awareness of the sad image of the world of today" should be deleted. A reading of the third preambular paragraph gave the impression that those who were not included in the category of youth had been indifferent to the realization of human rights and of the purposes and principles of the Charter. It would not be good to create that impression, since it might lead young people to mistrust the other elements of society. As amendments to that paragraph had already been submitted, he would confine himself to expressing the hope that its sponsors would bear that observation in mind when revising the draft resolution. The Hungarian representative's remarks concerning the seventh preambular paragraph were to the point, for phrases or expressions which lent themselves to

controversy should be avoided. It would be preferable to replace the last part of the paragraph by the following phrase: "in order to achieve better international relations and better world conditions". Also, in the same paragraph, after the words "a truly universal organization" the words "under the conditions envisaged in the Charter" should be added. With regard to the third operative paragraph, he said that he thought that the significance and results of the World Youth Assembly should be fully evaluated before the convening of other assemblies in the future was recommended. Since other amendments to that paragraph had been submitted, his delegation would reserve its position with regard to the final text. In operative paragraph 4, it was "the urgent character of the question of youth's participation . . ." in the various domains of human activities which should be emphasized rather than "the urgency of youth's participation", for while such participation was desirable and advisable, the form which it should take was a matter for the competent authorities to decide. He was entirely in agreement with the concepts expressed in paragraph 6, but he felt that it was incomplete and proposed that the words "and independence" should be added after the words "territorial integrity".

37. With regard to the USSR amendment (A/C.3/L.1774), as orally revised, he said that he felt the underlying intention was commendable but that it should not be forgotten that the wishes which it expressed would become reality depending on the attitude adopted by each Government. For that reason, he would like to suggest to the representative of the USSR a small change: instead of "the efforts of young people should be directed mainly towards strengthening peace", the text should read "the efforts of young people should be directed mainly towards impressing upon their Governments the need for strengthening peace".

*The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.*