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MEETING**

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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, A/C.3/L.950, A/C.3/L.954-955) (continued)**

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. THOMAS (Liberia) congratulated the Economic and Social Council on its comprehensive and illuminating report, which dealt with extremely important problems affecting the peoples of the world. It was clear from that document, as also from the Report on the World Social Situation,<sup>1/</sup> that it was urgently necessary not only to study the problems involved in balanced economic and social development but also to devise practical means for the solution of those problems and for the implementation of immediate programmes to improve the situation of the less developed countries.
2. His delegation would like to know what measures were being contemplated to ameliorate the conditions described in the Report. He shared with others the hope that constructive steps would be taken in the near future.
3. Mr. MALITZA (Romania) said his delegation had long taken the position that documents such as the Report on the World Social Situation should appear more frequently, and he was happy to note that the next issue would be ready sooner than was customary.
4. The current world social situation offered a picture that was far from encouraging. The Report recorded the modest progress achieved in the past five years and made it quite evident that the widening gap between the less developed and the industrialized countries was affecting the social situation. Unfortunately, it did not present sufficient statistics to describe adequately the appalling conditions in many parts of the world, such as chronic malnutrition, low levels of education, extensive unemployment, and high child mortality rates. It also failed to analyze the causes of stagnation in social matters. It did not, for example, mention the fact that social development would be greatly accelerated if the enormous

material and human resources being poured into the arms race were directed towards more worthy ends. The benefits which general and complete disarmament would bring in that regard were fully evident. Nor did the Report attach the necessary importance to the unequal distribution of the national income among the different social groups of the population. The General Assembly, at its thirteenth session, had already recognized the need for positive action in that matter when it called for the consideration of social programmes and policies to "raise family levels of living by, inter alia, avoiding an inequitable distribution of national income" (resolution 1258 (XIII)).

5. Echoing certain unscientific, neo-Malthusian views, the Report tended to blame population growth for the failure in some parts of the world to effect social changes. In reality, the problem was not increasing population but under-development and inequitable distribution of wealth. In his view, documents such as the Report should spread confidence in man's ability to solve development problems rationally through science and technology and through the better organization and use of resources. However impressive the figures on population growth, the figures on scientific and industrial development were far more striking and gave every reason for optimism. Data on the rate of economic growth in the socialist countries—data which the Report failed to present adequately—furnished eloquent proof of his thesis. Industrial production in his country, for example, was now increasing at a rate of 16 per cent annually.

6. With relation to balanced economic and social development, he wished simply to indicate the manner in which that principle had been implemented in his own country. The object of economic development in Romania was a continuous rise in the people's level of living, and the principal element in the forging of a prosperous economy was the socialist industrialization of the country; the success of that process could be seen from the fact that industrial output during the first two months of 1961 was roughly equal to that for the entire year of 1938.

7. Where the distribution of national income was concerned, three-fourths of that income in Romania was used to satisfy the material and cultural needs of the population. Housing construction and rural electrification, for instance, had been undertaken on a vast scale. Completely new towns were springing up in conjunction with large industrial projects. Having been built to meet modern city planning requirements those towns, in addition to housing facilities, also contained a full complement of social and cultural institutions. The Romanian people also enjoyed low rentals; average rentals, which in 1938 had represented about one-third of salary, had been reduced to some 5 per cent by 1955 and now stood at about 3 per cent.

<sup>1/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: 61.IV.4.

8. A development in Romania which might interest the Committee was a scheme to bring the backward areas of the country up to the level of the more industrialized areas, so that the entire nation might enjoy a harmonious economic development. The siting of certain important industrial projects in backward areas had brought with it a general modernization of local urban communities and the construction of new theatres, schools, hospitals, cinemas and sport facilities. Village life was also undergoing radical changes thanks to socialist agricultural co-operation and the consequent vast improvement in living conditions. His country's experience had proved to the Romanian people that constant and rapid social progress was possible only through the development of a strong and stable national economy complemented by a policy of applying economic achievements towards giving the working people a better life.

9. As the result of a proposal by the Romanian delegation the General Assembly had, at its fifteenth session, adopted resolution 1572 (XV) on measures designed to promote among youth ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples. That resolution, *inter alia*, invited the appropriate specialized agencies, and especially UNESCO, to consider ways of intensifying international, national and voluntary action in that field, including the possibility of formulating a draft of an international declaration setting out the basic principles concerning the promotion among youth of those same ideals, and to report on those considerations to the Economic and Social Council, if possible at its thirty-second session. There was a reference to the matter in the report of the Economic and Social Council, not, however, in the chapters to be considered by the Third Committee but in the chapter on constitutional and organizational questions. While it was true that UNESCO's Executive Board had, at its fifty-ninth session, considered what action it might take to implement the resolution, the Director-General of that organization had informed the Council at its thirty-first session that he would not be able to report on the matter until the Council's thirty-fourth session.<sup>2/</sup> He hoped that that would not mean a great delay in achieving positive results.

10. As his delegation together with others had stressed in the Third Committee at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly (1050th meeting), the chances of peace and international understanding depended on the education of the young in a spirit of

respect for the rights and cultures of other countries and not in a spirit of hatred and racial, national or religious prejudice. The events of the past year had only confirmed the anxiety of those delegations. The intensification of the arms race and the increases in military budgets and military actions had at every step been accompanied by the intensified psychological preparation of the younger generation for war. It was encouraging, however, to note that young people had shown their desire for peace and mutual understanding as, for example, at the meeting of youth organizations held at Moscow during 1961 and at the International Seminar of Student Editors, held in Romania from 16 to 20 August 1961, and attended by representatives from Europe, Africa, America and Asia.

11. The time had come to draft an international declaration, as suggested in the resolution to which he had alluded, and his delegation would like to offer the Committee a possible text for such a declaration (A/C.3/L.955). The six principles contained in it were designed to serve as a guide for the education of youth towards the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples. His delegation hoped that its suggestion would meet with a favourable response on the part of the Committee.

#### Organization of work

12. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the President of the General Assembly had asked the Chairman of the Main Committees to take measures to speed up the work of the Assembly, which was considerably behind schedule. That applied to the Third Committee, and he would urge members to help to expedite its work by such voluntary means as arriving early for meetings, preparing statements in good time and submitting draft resolutions at the earliest opportunity.

13. In accordance with the schedule of meetings approved by the Committee (1061st meeting), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would be arriving in New York within a day or two. He suggested that the Committee should interrupt its consideration of the present item in order to hear the High Commissioner and also the Foreign Minister of Togo, who had indicated his desire to address the Committee on that topic.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

<sup>2/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-first Session, 1149th meeting.