



Chairman: Miss Maria GROZA (Romania).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters VII (sections A, except paragraphs 234 to 239, and B), IX, X (section D), XI (sections A, K and M) and XIII (sections A and B)] (continued) (A/7929, A/8003 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/8174/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.1769-1771, A/C.3/L.1813, A/C.3/L.1832, A/C.3/L.1835, A/C.3/L.1838, A/C.3/L.1840, A/C.3/L.1843, A/C.3/L.1844, A/C.3/L.1846)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS
(continued)

AGENDA ITEM 58

Technical assistance in the field of narcotics: report of the Secretary-General (A/8003, chap. XI, sect. A; A/8033/Add.1, A/C.3/L.1813, A/C.3/L.1841, A/C.3/L.1842)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the following delegations had asked to be included in the list of sponsors of the draft resolutions indicated, concerning agenda items 12 and 58: A/C.3/L.1832: Dominican Republic, Niger; A/C.3/L.1841: Afghanistan, Cyprus; A/C.3/L.1842: Afghanistan; A/C.3/L.1844: Algeria, Kenya, Mali, Niger.

2. Miss McPHERSON (Australia) paid a tribute to the delegation of Turkey for its part in preparing draft resolution A/C.3/L.1832, which her delegation was happy to support; however, because of her Government's doubts about the effectiveness and appropriateness of an emergency fund for natural disasters, and because of its policy on extra-budgetary funds, her delegation could not support the proposed amendment (A/C.3/L.1835).

3. Although her delegation abhorred the policy and practices of *apartheid*, it could not support the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1501 (XLVIII) or the Saudi Arabian amendments (A/C.3/L.1840) because, *inter alia*, it considered much of the subject matter to be outside the Committee's competence.

4. Her delegation would support the draft resolutions recommended by the Council in its resolutions 1510 (XLVIII) and 1511 (XLVIII) and the amendment to the latter in document A/C.3/L.1846, but it would have preferred that, if there had to be a reference to disarmament in the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft recommended in Council resolution 1511 (XLVIII), it had been to "general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control"; it would also have preferred the word "including" to "in particular" in the latter part of that paragraph.

5. While agreeing wholeheartedly with the representative of Saudi Arabia on the importance of the family, her delegation doubted whether it was appropriate for the Committee to set the limitations envisaged in the third amendment in document A/C.3/L.1838.

6. Her delegation was prepared to support the two draft resolutions concerning agenda item 58 (A/C.3/L.1841 and A/C.3/L.1842), on technical assistance in the field of narcotics, because it recognized the need for more effective action, both national and international, to combat the narcotics problem; however, since her Government's views on extra-budgetary funds remained unchanged her delegation's support should not be taken to mean that a contribution to the fund in question would be forthcoming.

7. With regard to chapter IX of the Economic and Social Council report (A/8003 and Corr.1), she said that her delegation considered it important to evaluate the progress made thus far in the field of human rights and to assess what remained to be done. Her Government fully subscribed to the principles of the United Nations Charter, and in Australia the processes of law, an independent judiciary and responsible Government provided broad safeguards for civil liberties. At the international level, substantial progress had been made in the drawing up of conventions. However, the denial of basic rights of peoples and minority groups in some countries clearly indicated that formal legal undertakings, whether at the national or international level, did not necessarily guarantee the enjoyment of human rights by individuals. Her Government condemned discrimination of any kind and firmly upheld the rights of peoples and minorities to live free from fear and suspicion and to enjoy their cultural and religious heritage. In that connexion, her delegation wished to place on record the serious concern expressed by Jewish communities in Australia over the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union, a concern with which her Government sympathized. She wished to appeal to the Soviet Union to desist from policies or practices of discrimination against citizens of Jewish origin and to permit them to emigrate if they so wished. Not to do so would clearly be incompatible with the letter and spirit of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

8. Mr. EVDOKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that the

flagrant violation of the human rights of the aborigines in Australia was leading to the physical destruction of that people.

9. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), introducing his proposed amendments (A/C.3/L.1840) to the draft resolution recommended in Economic and Social Council resolution 1501 (XLVIII), expressed surprise that the Australian representative should say she could not support them before he had had an opportunity to explain them. His first amendment, which would add the words “more effectively than heretofore” after the word “intervene” in operative paragraph 11, had been proposed so as to avoid the stereotyped phraseology of similar resolutions of previous years. He was not, however, advocating the use of force; in fact, any United Kingdom Government which used force to bring down the Smith régime would itself fall overnight. Nevertheless, he was confident that, since United Kingdom interests were threatened by the continued existence of that régime, the United Kingdom Government would find other ways of intervening more effectively.

10. Mr. REBAGLIATI (Argentina) said that from the beginning his country had firmly opposed racial discrimination, and all its inhabitants enjoyed full equality before the law. At the international level, too, his country had supported measures designed to uphold human rights and to combat policies of racial discrimination and *apartheid*. For example, it was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. His delegation could not, however, support the draft resolution recommended by the Council in its resolution 1501 (XLVIII) because of the condemnation expressed in operative paragraph 13: it felt that the rupture of diplomatic relations would not be conducive to the success of the common cause and that failure to recognize the importance of political dialogue could do that cause grave harm. That failure was exemplified in the use of the word “condemns” in the draft resolution instead of the word “regrets”, as in General Assembly resolution 2547 B (XXIV). With a view to increasing support for the draft resolution, his delegation requested a separate vote on operative paragraphs 13 and 14.

11. Mr. SATHE (India), referring to operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution recommended by the Council in its resolution 1501 (XLVIII), drew attention to the present situation of the persons concerned. Mrs. Winnie Mandela, wife of Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress who was now serving a sentence of life imprisonment, and twenty-one other Africans had been detained under the Terrorism Act from May to June 1969. In October 1969 they had been brought to trial under the Suppression of Communism Act, charged with offences less serious than those to which the Terrorism Act related. They had been acquitted in February 1970 by the court for lack of evidence, but had been immediately re-detained under the Terrorism Act. After protests in South Africa and abroad, charges had been brought against nineteen of those prisoners and Mr. Benjamin Ramotse, who had been under detention for two years. The three others had been released: one of them had had to be hospitalized because of torture in prison. In September 1970 the court had acquitted the nineteen and later had convicted and sentenced Mr. Ramotse. The Government had appealed against

the acquittal but had lost. Meanwhile, the nineteen Africans—women, trade unionists, students and journalists—had been released from prison, but the Government had issued stringent orders confining them to their homes at night and on weekends, and prohibited them from attending meetings and engaging in other activities.

12. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1501 (XLVIII) and the amendments thereto in document A/C.3/L.1840.

The first amendment, concerning operative paragraph 11, was adopted by 72 votes to 1, with 10 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 11, as amended, was adopted by 66 votes to 11, with 12 abstentions.

The second amendment, calling for the insertion of new operative paragraph 12, was adopted by 71 votes to 11, with 16 abstentions.

In a separate vote, taken at the request of the Argentine representative, operative paragraph 13 was adopted by 55 votes to 26, with 10 abstentions.

Sub-paragraph (a) of the third amendment, concerning operative paragraph 14, was adopted by 27 votes to 23, with 38 abstentions.

Sub-paragraph (b) of the third amendment, concerning operative paragraph 14, was adopted by 45 votes to 22, with 24 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 14, as amended, was adopted by 42 votes to 23, with 28 abstentions.

The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 66 votes to 1, with 29 abstentions.

13. Mr. VAN WALSUM (Netherlands) wished it to be recorded that he had inadvertently voted against operative paragraph 11, as amended, whereas he had intended to abstain.

14. Miss LOPES (Portugal) said that her delegation had voted against the draft resolution since it set forth grave, unfounded charges against her country, including charges of mass killing of suspected opponents of the régime, and the practice of forced labour. Her delegation categorically rejected allegations of mass killings, allegations which, in fact, constituted interference in the domestic affairs of her country, and ILO investigations into the alleged practice of forced labour had revealed nothing which might justify such accusations. With regard to the sale of agricultural products of African farmers, she said that Portuguese African farmers already benefited from the free market system called for in operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, as did those in metropolitan Portugal, for all Portuguese citizens, irrespective of race or colour, were equal before the law. Finally, the draft resolution as drafted fell outside the Committee's competence.

15. Mr. EL SHEIKH (Sudan) said that he had been obliged to vote against the first of the Saudi Arabian amendments

in document A/C.3/L.1840 and had consequently had to abstain in the vote on the second amendment. He had also abstained in the third amendment; the substitution of the words "urgently consider breaking" for the word "break" would diminish the force of operative paragraph 14 of the draft resolution and, in any case, it was unnecessary since there were other General Assembly and Security Council resolutions calling for a break with the régimes concerned.

16. Mr. MAGONGO (Swaziland) said that he had been obliged to vote against former operative paragraphs 13 and 14 of the draft resolution because, although his country maintained no diplomatic relations with South Africa, its currency was based on that of South Africa and it shared a customs union with that country.

17. Mrs. DINÇMEN (Turkey) said that she had voted in favour of the draft resolution. If a separate vote had been taken on operative paragraphs 2 and 5 and on sub-paragraphs (j) and (k) of operative paragraph 7 she would have voted in the affirmative because she fully endorsed them in substance although she had doubts as to their wording. She would, however, have abstained from voting on sub-paragraphs (n) and (o) of operative paragraph 7 because of the lack of reliable information on the matters to which those sub-paragraphs referred. She had voted in favour of former operative paragraph 13, whose inclusion she considered entirely justifiable, since the measures envisaged by the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions had not yielded the expected results. However, her delegation had reservations with regard to the way in which that paragraph was worded.

18. Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom) said that she had voted against former operative paragraphs 13 and 14 because her Government was opposed to calling upon Governments to break off relations with South Africa. She wished to make it clear, however, that the same objection did not apply in the case of relations with the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia.

19. Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights) said that before proceeding to a vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1510 (XLVIII) the Committee might wish to take into consideration the fact that in its discussion concerning the composition of the Secretariat the Fifth Committee had decided to include in its report¹ to the General Assembly a text² it had agreed upon which, *inter alia*, noted that women were under-represented in the Secretariat, particularly at the senior level, and requested the Secretary-General to take certain steps to remedy that situation and to include in his report on the composition of the Secretariat to be submitted to the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly data on women employed in the Secretariat.

20. Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said that although the Commission on the Status of Women had made significant contributions to the advancement of women, as shown by the various instruments adopted by the General Assembly

for the promotion of women's rights, complete eradication of practices and laws discriminating against women was still to be achieved. In a world of increasing interdependence of nations, there was a growing awareness of the importance of women in national, regional and international affairs. In its early years the Commission had recognized that if women were to play a greater role in all United Nations activities more of them would have to be represented in the delegations of Member States and appointed to higher positions in the Secretariat. While more women were being included in the permanent missions to the United Nations, no such improvement could be seen in the secretariats of organizations in the United Nations system. The draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1510 (XLVIII) constituted an appeal to the United Nations system to set an example by affording opportunities to qualified women for employment at senior and other professional levels. Her delegation therefore hoped that that resolution would receive the unanimous endorsement of the Committee.

21. Her delegation also supported the draft resolution recommended by the Council in its resolution 1511 (XLVIII) concerning a programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women. According to a recent survey, most countries had already accorded civil and political rights to women, but there were still discrepancies between laws and practice. With that in mind, the Commission on the Status of Women was now concentrating its efforts on the implementation of established and accepted norms. At its twenty-third session, held from 23 March to 10 April 1970, the Commission had adopted a draft resolution³ clearly defining a programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women, which was reflected in the text recommended for adoption in Economic and Social Council resolution 1511 (XLVIII).

22. The basic aim of the unified, long-term programme provided for in the draft resolution was to seek new methods and techniques for achieving the goals established by the United Nations for the advancement of women throughout the world. Since problems relating to women could not be considered in isolation, programmes for their advancement should form an integral part of national development plans, and the success of such programmes would depend on the priority accorded them by Governments. The programme outlined in the relevant draft resolution envisaged ways of adding a new dimension to the practical measures at the national, regional and international levels which might most effectively be used to advance the status of women in the contemporary world. For that reason, she was confident that the Committee would not fail to endorse it.

23. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) observed with regard to the Saudi Arabian amendments in document A/C.3/L.1838 that the programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women, which was the subject of the draft resolution concerned, had been drawn up by the Commission on the Status of Women with the utmost care and attention. Each paragraph had been considered in detail

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 82, document A/8098.

² Document A/C.5/XXV/CRP.36/Rev.1.

³ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 chap. XIII, draft resolution II.

before it had been adopted, and the members of the Commission had not hesitated to ask for the advice and assistance of the specialized agencies. It had received the support of the Economic and Social Council and should also be supported by the Committee. Her delegation would have a great deal of difficulty voting for the amendments, particularly the third one, which would impose certain conditions in respect of the participation of women in public and government life at the local, national and international levels.

24. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said he was sorry that the representative of Morocco had seen fit to express her objections to his amendments (A/C.3/L.1838) before he had been given a chance to explain his reasons for submitting them. Many pioneers in the movement to obtain equal political rights for women conceded that the family was the backbone of society and that every measure should be taken to preserve it. His amendment was aimed, first and foremost, at the preservation of family life. During the two world wars women with young children had been compelled to work in factories and offices in order to support themselves while their husbands were away fighting. Their children, in many cases, had grown up to be socially and psychologically maladjusted, and it had since been shown

that the lack of maternal care and affection in their formative years was at the root of their difficulties. After those wars women had continued to work even when it was no longer economically necessary, and society had never produced so many misfits as at the present time. The African and Asian countries in particular should be very careful to take measures to preserve the family as an institution, for when family life eroded, society disintegrated.

25. With regard to his second amendment, he pointed out that family planning should be the concern of men as well as of women. It had been shown that many contraceptive devices were dangerous to the health of women and their children, and he did not consider that drawing their attention to risks they might be incurring constituted interference with their rights.

26. As to his third amendment, he had tried to make it more attractive to certain representatives by indicating in a final sentence that even women with young children should not be deterred from participating in public life provided that their children were not neglected.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.